

An Phoblacht

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HUNGER AFTER JUSTICE

by FIONN Mag OISÍN

LIES by members and officials of the Dublin government are nothing new to Republicans or to others who have suffered under a bigoted sectarian regime since the founding of the Irish Free State.

But it is not in this context alone that the inaccurate statements of last week by Cooney and his men on the Mountjoy Jail hunger strike should be viewed.

Word was reaching the politicians towards the end of the third week of the fast that the ordinary people were becoming concerned and angry. Many who have felt remote, for one reason or another, from the struggle at present centred in the Six Counties were being forced to recognise that, by their inaction, they might be, in effect, sentencing the eight men to their deaths: Joe Cahill, Belfast; Colm de Altún, Baile Átha Cliath; Dónall de Barra, Feamnach; Pádraig Mac an Bhaird, Tír Chonnail; Dónall Mac Cárthaigh, Corcaigh; J.B. O'Hagan, Armagh; Gerry O'Hare, Belfast; and Pat Reynolds, Meath.

Street politics

The indications to the career politicians were clear, that if the hunger strike were not over by Friday of last week, huge crowds could be expected in Cork, Dublin and Limerick to demand forcibly that the Dublin regime give way to the hunger strikers.

It would have been the real beginning, in a big way, of street politics in the 26 Counties, an event awaited with dread by the ward heeler. It would have been a hint of the wrath of the risen people.

The strikers' demands, after all, in the view of the ordinary man in the street, were not unreasonable, not outlandish, hardly likely to imperil what the Dublin regime likes to call "security" or "law and order." Nor was it a unique demand, alien to Irish tradition and experience.

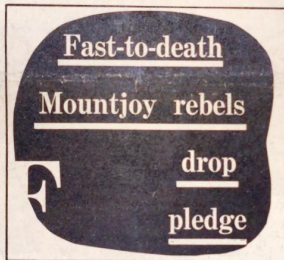
Why not recognise what everyone knows to be a fact, that these prisoners were behind bars for political reasons, and treat them accordingly? Are they not recognised to be the most dangerous political enemies of the ruling class? Were they not sentenced by specially picked judges who owe elevation to the bench, in most if not all cases, to political services rendered? And were they not tried and sentenced by a special political court created specially for that very purpose? Was not altered law, as it concerns the law of evidence, traditional so that they might be caught in its meshes?

Politicians scared

This was the talk of the man in the street, in the field, in the factory and office, in the kitchen and the shop all last week and it scared the politicians badly for they were quite obviously losing grip.

But pressure was coming on the Coalition from other quarters. There were the representations made by both Roman Catholic and Protestant clergymen. There were the hints from the Opposition that they might end their bipartisan approach on this issue and that they might make political capital out of the fast.

A discredited Fianna Fáil is desperately anxious



● O'Reilly's Independent line, in the 1913 tradition...

for a respectable cause and what could be more respectable than common decency, common humanity?

Internationally, too, pressure was building up. World opinion was finding it difficult to understand why the Dublin government was so unwilling to give the same treatment to its political prisoners as had been won from Willie Whitelaw in the embattled north-east. It became known, even, that London would not be averse to some sort of a deal, to reduce the heat and dam the tide of international propaganda.

So something had to give. And, as the brutal threat of "let-them-die" did nothing to weaken the protesters' resolve but, rather, reacted sharply against those who uttered it, a formula had to be sought, one that would do the trick, one that would give the prisoners what they wanted, but one, also, which could be covered in a mist of lies, half-truths, sneers and complacent grunts about what they were allowed to concede by law (as if the provisions made in the Offences Against the State Act, 1939, never existed).

Bigger, more intelligent and less arrogant men than the individuals in charge today in Leinster House would have given way with better grace, might have made some lighthearted excuse about "playing these things according to ear" or some such chiche and, had they been really perturbed about the letter of the law and ignorant of powers under the O.A.S.A., even could have promised retrogressive legislation, an event not unknown in the history of the state.

Peevish resentment

But no. Vent had to be given to peevish resentment and an effort had to be made to give the impression that it was the hunger strikers who had been forced to surrender.

We leave it to our readers and to the public in



THE anguish on a mother's face: she is Aine Bean Mhic an Bhaird, Burtonport, Co. Donegal. Her son, Pádraig, of whom she has every reason to be proud, was one of the hunger strikers. He was also one of the three who became very ill — he never really recovered from last summer's hunger strike, again for political rights, in the Curragh Internment Camp.

general to decide where lie honour, integrity, bravery, resolve, leadership and truth, and who is telling the lie, who is the coward, who cannot stay the pace.

We reproduce here, with only very slight editing, the statement issued by the prisoners themselves in Mountjoy Jail:

"The Republican prisoners of D Wing wish to inform the general public of events leading up to the ending of the eight-man hunger strike and passive resistance campaign. On Tuesday night Oct. 2, the Governor of the Prison visited each hunger striker and informed him that he was speaking as the representative of the Government and not as the Prison Governor or for the Department of Justice.

"He informed us that under no circumstances would the Government accede to our demands. Each hunger striker told the Governor to convey back to the Government his determination to carry on.

"At 4.45 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3, the Prison Governor stated that he wished to speak to all the hunger strikers and the rest of the Republican Prisoners engaged in the passive resistance campaign. He had received a communication from the Free State Government which stated:

● "Segregation would be given. The non-politicals to be moved out within a few days;
● "Free association to be granted immediately, with late nights negotiable with the Prison Governor's office; and

● "Remission of sentence to be automatic as that, because of certain peculiarities, such as they, the Free State Government considered that by maintaining our wing this constituted prison work.

"At this point the Governor withdrew and our own Prison Council met to decide on these offers. At this point there was no mention of political status or special category.

"Clarification was sought by our three representatives (Éamonn Mac Thomáis, Joe Cahill and Séamus Twomey) on this question at 5.45 p.m.

"At 7 p.m. they were sent for and informed that, whilst the Free State Government had never in its history labelled prisoners, they recognised that, because of certain peculiarities, such as Northern men, etc., and by "granting" our other demands, "You are in a different position to other prisoners".

"The Governor also stated that we would not be doing prison work such as woodyard, bakers, tailoring, etc. We quote again what was said: "Just maintain your own wing and we will be happy".

"The Council met again and sent for the hunger strikers. The following conclusions were reached:

● "Segregation had been achieved;
● "Free association had been achieved;
● "Remission had been achieved (all political

prisoners when segregation was in operation maintained their own wing).

● "The Government on our own point of clarification had conceded, through their representative, that we were 'Special Prisoners'. Only missing is the word 'category' to distinguish us from our comrades in the North;

● "All punishments to end immediately. Visits, parcels and letters to be restored.

"This, to us, meant total victory.
"We would remind all those who were quick to call this 'a surrender' that, as late as Tuesday night, the Government had informed us that they would not change their attitude. Within 24 hours we have achieved our demands.

"Unlike the Government, we were unable to communicate our statement until today. We thank those responsible journalists who advocated treating the Free State Government with reserve.

"We deplore the gutter headlines in the 'Irish Independent', which accused our gallant hunger strikers of giving in. Good journalists never give opinions or verdicts until they have heard both sides of any dispute.

"We thank all those who helped us achieve our victory."

Clarification sought

Among those to whom the political prisoners will always be grateful for their support are the ordinary prisoners of Mountjoy Jail. They went out of their way to show their support for the politicals. Man after man eagerly sought out representatives of the Republicans so that he might tell of his personal concern, his hopes and his desire to sign a document indicating full support for the fast and its objectives.

It remains to point out that the Republican demand for segregation is based on the natural desire for the political prisoners to be all under one roof, for reasons of control, recreation and such education as is possible under the Victorian rules of Irish penal institutions.

Republicans are committed fully to prison reform and their demands are spearheading and speeding it. What the politicals win today will be the right of all prisoners tomorrow.

Unfortunately, it remained to a tiny political group to try to discredit and misrepresent the demands of the fasting Republicans, and play the imperialist game of Westminster and its Irish puppet assemblies.

Perhaps that was a hasty and thoughtless reaction, better forgotten now in the spirit of the agreement between both groups to reduce tension between all who should have the same objective — to break the connection with England.

In their hour of victory, the Republicans of Mountjoy Jail, and their supporters, at home and abroad, can well afford to treat the dog-in-the-manger statement with the disdain it deserves — and forget it.

An Phoblacht

Imleabhair 4. 12 D. Fómhair 1973.

Uimhir 35

44 Ceannóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Éire.

Guthán: 47611

ESSO is the trade name of an oil company in these islands in the more shady side of the news at present because it patronised the ploughing contests in Co. Wexford and thereby, according to its critics, helped to strengthen the illegal, racist regime of Rhodesia, one condemned and banned, as far as it is possible to make such action effective without force, by the United Nations.

Esso stands for Standard Oil, a huge monopoly capitalist organisation in the United States and elsewhere not exactly famous on the grounds of democracy, international peace and fairplay generally. But Esso may not have realised what it was letting itself in for in patronising the ploughing contests. On the other hand, it may have been very well informed, with instructions from executives in Britain and the U.S. to do as it has done, the intention being to be nice to the racists who have such powerful friends in both Britain and the U.S.

The present British government is not exactly an enemy of Rhodesia where many prominent Unionists and Tories have important investments. Apartheid has an economic basis for, as long as the black man can be kept down, like the poor Catholic or Protestant or atheist in the Six Counties, the greater the opportunity to increase profits and to exploit in general what is, in reality, the property of the black man.

No doubt some of our readers may care to expand on that particular theme and they are welcome to do so though we would ask that their letters, and all letters, be kept as brief as possible, the demand on our space being as heavy as it is. It is not on that particular aspect that we intend dwelling this week but on a rather less complicated issue and on a principle that has been clouded by prominent people and the media. It is the pretence that politics can be divorced from sport. It is not an uncommon subject. It is not difficult to explain it. Nevertheless, there has been a lot of confusion.

Sport and politics

In the thirties, when Hitler was coming to power, the same defence of sport, as opposed to politics, was used. Yet any intelligent person of the time could see very easily that Hitler was using the Olympics to increase the prestige of his state. Today, the intelligent person can see the same objective in international sport generally, the Olympics included.

All the great powers, particularly the Soviet Union and the U.S.A., use international sports to increase their prestige and, although much of international sport is supposed to be amateur, in fact it is heavily financed by the great powers and the so-called amateurs in reality are professionals, playing a rôle parallel to public relations officers, diplomats or what-have-you. The trouble is that so many unthinking but well-disposed people have not taken the trouble to check the meaning of the word 'politics' in a dictionary.

Wyld's Dictionary defines politics thus: "The science or art of government or of the administration and management of public or state affairs." It goes further: "The management, conduct of private affairs; motives, aims, interests, etc., which inspire private or public action."

Suppose one wants to give one's village or parish a boost: how does one go about it? By employing a P.R.O., by advertising, by getting together a good hurling, handball or football team, by training a band, by founding a branch of Conradh na Gaeilge or

Comhaltas or Cumann Luthchleas Gael. All of these moves are political.

Of course, the Rhodesian attempt goes further. It is a state subject to boycott because other states do not think it respectable. This disreputable image can be improved by having Rhodesia accepted at first on the basis of such innocuous gatherings as ploughing contests or football matches. These can be used as steps on the stairs to respectability, acceptability, tolerance. The U.N. ruling can be nibbled at until it becomes nonsense and is withdrawn: thus the argument.

The British Tory government has adopted this tactic which becomes rather too obvious in the provision of British passports for Rhodesians whose home passport would not get them very far because of the U.N. ban.

The most surprising thing about the ploughing contests was the presence of a Kenyan team and the fact that its members did not withdraw as soon as it became obvious that a Rhodesian team would be taking part.

The support given to the event by some of the papers was nauseating. Here, there was no excuse. But Esso is a valuable customer, a good advertiser, and must not be incommode. So much for the ethics of the so-called free press.

It is very surprising and disappointing that, apparently, the leaders of important Irish farming bodies cannot see the Rhodesian team's Irish visit in true perspective, as an exercise in propaganda or public relations.

They can hardly be oblivious to the significance and import of such vehicles for enemy propaganda abroad as the "British-and-Irish" touring team or the "British" team which has a number of Irish citizens on it or that peculiarity of British papers which changes a man's nationality without any reference to him: when a winner, he is "British"; when a loser, "Irish".



From the heart: at Mountjoy and Crumlin Road

I ARRIVED at Mountjoy Prison early in the morning to visit my husband as I had heard that the 14 days punishment was up and the political prisoners were being allowed visits.

Within ten minutes I was told "no visits". Then I asked to see the Deputy Governor. I wanted to know how my husband was and why I was told by the warden at the gate that my husband was receiving my letters when, in fact, he wasn't.

How was I to know how my husband was in no communication in or out of the prison? How long would this punishment continue?

A senior warden came to me 15 minutes later and asked me I was prepared to wait "10 or 15 minutes" to see the Deputy Governor.

I said "yes", I'd wait. I was left waiting 165 minutes despite phone calls to the Deputy Governor during that time to remind him I was still there.

I even asked to see the senior warden who had spoken to me originally. I said if the Deputy Governor would not see me I wanted to see the chaplain. I was informed that the prison chaplain was in Lourdes.

At 1.15 p.m. Deputy Governor Byrne arrived. He was abusive, rude and informed me he hadn't time to deal with people like me.

I was wasting his time. He was

a very busy man. I put my four questions to him, despite interruptions from him, that I was wasting his time, etc.

He said my husband was "allright". If anything happened him I'd hear it through the newspapers, Television, etc.

There was no communication allowed in or out but he refused to comment on the fact that I had been told the contrary at the prison gate.

The 14 days punishment was up that day but the prisoners had got another 14 days and this would continue. I asked him why. He said the prisoners were not complying with the rules. I asked: "in what way?"

Again he refused to answer and went to walk away. I said: "Just a minute I'm not finished speaking to you. You sent one of your senior wardens down to me at 10.30 p.m. saying you would see me in 15 minutes. It is now 24 hours later."

"Why could you not have let me know I'd be waiting here all this time?"

"I've left two children at home, one of them sick? and, had I known I'd have to wait all this time I would have left."

He made no comment except to say he had no time to be ringing down to tell me when he could see me and when he could not.

I said: "out of humanity, had you no thought for a distressed wife waiting to inquire about her husband?"

a chara

He said I wasn't to be going there, wasting his time. He also informed me that a Father Walsh (from St. Patrick's) was seeing to the men.

A more rude, abusive, insulting man I have never in my life met.

I am not an aggressive person. All I wanted to know was how my husband was and, as he was the only person I knew could have enlightened me, I asked for him.

This man gave me exactly a three-minute interview, if you could call it that, after 24 hours.

If this is the treatment a civil inquiry gets it boggles one's mind what treatment the prisoners are getting.

This man is a senior warden, deputising until Governor O'Donovan of Portlaoise takes over. Others were left in a far more distressed situation. Mrs. Annie Cahill asked about her husband, who is on hunger strike, and got the same treatment. My cross is minute in comparison with hers.

A political prisoner's wife. Full name and address supplied but not published at the request of the writer.

Crumlin Road

FOR a long while I, like hundreds of others, have been kept in a filthy, dreary hole which the British call a prison.

During that time I have watched the heroic struggle of the Republican people against the British army of occupation. I have been filled with awe at the brave efforts of these equally brave men and women against tremendous odds. Each day the conviction that "we are right" grows stronger within me.

But, at the same time, I have watched and been filled with anger and dismay at the actions and words of men (if you could call them that) who are doing everything within their power to discredit and stop the Republican people in their struggle for justice and freedom.

The fact that these same people are Irishmen makes it sicken. There are many of these people but I refer in particular to the S.D.L.P.

This bunch of quislings hardly deserves the wasting of good writing paper on them but the recent hysterical mouthing of Assembly man Tom Daly was the last straw for me. I just had to say something.

This bunch (I hate calling them men) of no gooders promised the minority the sun, moon and stars in their recent pre-election campaign. Since then what have they achieved. It's just

The official policy of the Republican Movement is expressed in statements issued by Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Bureau and the leadership of the Republican Movement.

Views expressed here, by letter writers, by regular columnists and in other signed contributions, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the publishers.

the same old story. No, it's not just the same old story. It's worse, much worse. The continuing catalogue of British army and R.U.C. atrocities grows bigger. There are more doors kicked in and more houses wrecked more internees, including 15-year-old boys and girls, more political prisoners. Day and night the arrests hardly ever cease, not only in Belfast but throughout the Six Counties, and, of course, not forgetting the B.A. and police murders. They go on and on.

Meanwhile, the U.V.F., U.D.A., S.A.S., and company calmly murder Catholics and blast chapels to rubble and enjoy

complete freedom to do so. And how many internees has the Whiteclaw released since the Assembly elections? But why should he, when he has the blessing of the S.D.L.P. They have even condemned peaceful protests in support of these men.

Of course, we have got a Castle Catholic in some high position of the R.U.C. How wonderful! Some of the chaplains in the British army are Catholics, too. This, coupled with the recent spate of anti-republicanism by Cosgrave, is, in no small way, the major part of the S.D.L.P. "achievements".

Tom Daly I would like to say: "Do you feel proud of yourself for belonging to such a bunch of lickspittles and liars? You, yourself in true S.D.L.P. style, got all frothy around the mouth because the Irish Republican Army killed a foreign soldier in Pettigo. But, funny enough, Tom, I don't recall hearing you squealing so loudly when Michael Leonard was murdered by the R.U.C."

"Nor did you make such a fuss over the death of Mr. Duffy at Beico recently. It was your friends, the R.U.C., who are to blame for his death. Why don't you go off, cap in hand, to this big knuck Catholic who has got a top job in the R.U.C. and ask him for an inquiry?"

"Maybe you could even raise your voice about Leonard's

Continued - page seven.

Where wives may not kiss husbands

THE long and peaceful protest by the Curragh political prisoners tends to be forgotten more than ever in the wake of the Mountjoy and Crumlin Road demonstrations. Yet, in many ways, our situation is worse than the others.

At least half of our number suffer from severe headaches. Two men have since trouble; three, migraine; and one man has dermatitis.

The medical authorities agree — at least privately — that the headaches are the result of the enclosed surroundings and the consequent restriction of the internee's view to between 40 and 50 yards.

The day Bishop Daly paid us a visit a volley ballnet was made available to the detention barracks. It has not been seen since. We also got fried eggs for tea in honour of the bishop.

All internees on arrival and departure are forced to strip naked in front of four to seven warders (screws) to be searched.

In 1972, the visiting conditions were acceptable. They became unacceptable with the installation of a table at least four feet wide with a 12 in. glass screen and a screw (warder) between internee and visitor.

On occasions the screw has taken out a note book and written down what has been said.

No physical contact was allowed on these visits. Several times internees who went to embrace their wives had a baton thrust between their faces.

A cycling machine is available for exercise but, because of cramped conditions, normal everyday exercise is essential.



In the middle of last week women in Dublin staged a sit-down protest in support of the eight Mountjoy Prison hunger strikers. They sat down on the North Circular Road and a heavy traffic jam resulted. Eventually they were removed with what was described by onlookers as unnecessary force by the Gardai. But their point had been made, peacefully.

Lies by staff

A prisoner from Fermanagh was informed one evening in April that his brother had been injured seriously in a car accident in England.

Next morning he was told at 7.30 that the duty officer had rung England at 6 a.m. and the brother was still same. At 9.30 the prisoner asked Staff to ring at his expense and was told that his brother's condition was still the same.

At approx 11 a.m. the prison chaplain informed the prisoner that his brother had died at 9.00 p.m. the previous evening.

The mother of a Donegal prisoner was in a Dublin hospital for a cancer operation. He asked Governor Comm. Jeremiah Enright if Staff would telephone hospital to find out how his mother was.

The Governor said: "Where do you think you are? If I ring for you I will need a man on phone all time to ring for everybody's domestic problems".

A prisoner from Dundalk with a baby son in hospital suffering from burns asked the prison authorities to ring on his behalf to find out how the child was. The request was refused.

Another Poblacht man imprisoned

GERRY O'Hare (32), who was picked up by the Special Branch while in Dundalk on journalistic work for this paper on August 24, last week was jailed, on Fleming's opinion, that he was a member of Óglagh na hÉireann.

Even though an article by Gerry O'Hare, on the Derry coroner's verdict, appeared in this paper about the time of Gerry's arrest, the opinionated Chief Superintendent said he had never seen any of O'Hare's work in print.

Gerry O'Hare is the husband of Rita O'Hare and last week on page eight we published a diary of this family's persecution by the agents of "law and order" on both sides of the Border, a story which illustrates only too clearly and brutally the present merciless hunting of Republicans by the imperial power and its puppet

state. After being convicted Mr. O'Hare said he was before the Court simply because he was a political activist which he had been for the past five years. He and his family had been forced to flee from the city in which they lived because of discrimination, intimidation and religious bigotry.

"Forced to flee"

They were forced to flee from that part of the State over which this state claimed sovereignty and which had said it would not stand idly by about what was going on in the North.

"We were forced to defend ourselves. I have been interned for my political beliefs and the man who interned me was sitting behind a curtain, and the man who has interned me today just walks into the dock and nods, and there is no difference between them," he added.

Mr. O'Hare said he was on hunger strike for political status. That court, he declared, was a political court. It had all the trappings of political skulduggery.

He demanded that if he was sent to Mountjoy prison he should be given political status. He said that Mr. Cooney, Minister for Justice, had said they were being misled by people giving them directions.

"No one gives me directions, I am on hunger strike for a principle — political status and like our comrades I am prepared to die for it," said O'Hare.

Those willing to help in our fund-raising activities on behalf of the dependants are invited to attend any Tuesday night at 44, Parnell Sq., Dublin, at 8.30 p.m. or to call to our sale any Saturday at 5 Blessington St., Dublin.



Pat Arrowsmith arrested again

ANTI-WAR activist Pat Arrowsmith was arrested at a British army married quarters in Warrminster, Wiltshire, on September 22 for distributing British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign leaflets to soldiers.

She was charged with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace, she was cleared of a similar charge at Colchester on September 14 after distributing the same leaflet at a military tattoo. She is to appear at Warrminster Magistrate's court on November 13.

Five British soldiers have been given residence permits to live in Sweden after deserting to avoid being posted to Northern Ireland. The Swedish National Immigration Board announced that the permits had been granted "for personal reasons, not because they were deserters."

NERUDA — AND POET'S DUTY

PABLO Neruda, the Nobel Prize-winning poet, died on September 23 in Santiago, Chile.

I write for the people though their rustic eyes cannot read my poetry.

A moment will come when a line, when a breeze which stirred my life, will reach their ears, and then the labourer will lift his eyes, the miner will smile as he breaks his stones, and perhaps they will say: "He was a comrade".

The triumph of Pablo Neruda's life is that he succeeded in gaining the ear and the respect of the semi-literate and illiterate ordinary people of Chile.

He did this as much through his poetry as through his lifelong fight as a socialist militant against the influence of U.S. capitalism in Chile.

More than that even, he became a representative voice of Latin America in its struggle for independence from imperialist exploitation.

The son of a train driver, he was a prodigy; and one of his best known books, "Twenty Poems of Love and a Song of Despair" (1924), was published when he was only 20 years old.

With other poets, such as Cesar Vallejo and Nicolas Guillen, he developed a new type of poetry which was violently opposed to the literary elitism of the time.

"I have been convinced," he wrote, "that it is the poet's duty to take his stand along with the people in their struggle to transform society, betrayed into chaos by its rulers, into an orderly existence based upon political, social and economic democracy."

He brought the rhythms and words of ordinary speech to his epic poem, "Canto general" (1950), in which he covered the whole cultural and historical development of Latin America and the world class-struggle.

The bloody hand of North American capitalism has once more stretched out to strangle the Chilean revolution. The right-wing coup is a tragedy for Chile and a major set-back for the people of Latin America as a whole; but the spirit of the people, which Neruda succeeded so well in representing through his poetry, will rise again to overthrow imperialism and its wealthy collaborators in Latin America.

Dick Mc Bride

BALLYFINAGLE FILE

AT A news conference in the Prince Charles Hotel, Victoria Square, Ballyfinagle, it was announced that Toronto Minerals (Eire) Ltd. are to begin open-cast copper mining in scenic Glendawillogue, 10 miles east of Ballyfinagle.

Speaking at the conference on behalf of the government, the Minister for Extradition, Mr. O'Grady, brushed aside protests from An Taisce about the proposed operations.

"It is of the utmost importance that operations begin at once," the Minister said "In fact, I would like to see them start this very night. Think of the employment! Think of the money coming in!"

The An Taisce spokesman replied: "Mr. Minister, let me remind you that the Glen is a former Gaeltacht area. All the able-bodied people have gone. There is nobody left able to lift a shovel around there."

"Besides, it has always been known that mineral deposits existed there; but, until today, it has been claimed by the state and by mining companies alike that these deposits were of no value. Why rush into this now? Can't it wait at least another five years, to let the trees grow?"

The Minister rose to reply but, before he could do so Mr. Hubert Bootfist, president, Toronto Minerals of Canada, expostulated: "Are you some kind of nut? In five years the Provos will have won!"

Seán Sabhat Gharrdhaí Eoghain

"Marafodh Seán Sabhat Aréir" le Mainchín Seoihe. Sárseal agus Dill.

I 1964 a foilsíodh an leabhar seo den chéad uair, ach tá sé fós ar an margadh go mór, agus is maith sin. Mar a bheif ag súil leis ní raibh a fhóilsíodh gan conspóid agus cibéal ina fhochair.

Bhí dán breá le Críostóir Ó Flainn, a bhí ar suil in éindí le Sabhat, mar réamhlé leis an leabhar. Ach bhí dhá thagairt ag Críostóir do dhaoine sa dán - daoine móra sa saol poiblí ab ea an bheirt acu - agus toisc gur tugadh faoina n-easpa náisiúnachais agus a néaspa choiniasa phoiblí, tháinig an chinsireacht i gceist.

Dob é toradh an seil ar fad gur foilsíodh dhá eagrán ar fad den leabhar - ceann don Chlub Leabhar mar fágadh 85 faoin gcéad den versafocht ar lár, agus ceann eile gan an chinsireacht.

Dhein Mainchín Seoihe, an scoláire Gaelach úd ó Luimnigh a bhfuil cion fir deanta ar son an chultúir dhúchasacha aige, éacht oibre de bheathaisnéis Sabhat.

Thug sé léargas beacht ar na toscaí a thug an t-áine náisiúnta an locha: ar na tuairimí a bhí aige i leith chuid mhaith d'fhadhbanna na tíre ag an am; agus, thar aon ní eile, ar na hiarachtaí móra a dhein Seán Sabhat i leith na ngeithéirí agus den tsaoire a thabhairt i gcrích.

Leagann an t-údar beim ar a thugha is a bhí Seán don Ghaeilge, ar an mbeocht a chuir sé sa ghluaiseacht sin i gceathair Luimnigh trí na grúpaí eadúla a chuir sé ar bun maraon le fóilsíú trí, etc., agus ar a shaothar féin scríbhneoireachta, saothar a raibh an spiorad is an mothúcháin céanna ann is a bhí i saothar an Phársaigh.

Níos tabhachtach fós ná an cur síos beacht, tá léargas tugtha ar thealsúnacht Sheáin, agus an réiteach a chonaic sé ar seol na hÉireann. Is minic tugtha faoi bhealsúnacht seo, agus b'fhéidir ná fúil sí is fearr chun Sabhat a thuiscint, na daoine a thug faoi a míochadh.

An tSochraid na mhó

Bhí an tsochraid is mó riamh le cuimhne na ndaoine in Éirinn aige; bhí an tír ar fad corraithe chun mainchín is chun tírghrá ar a bhá; agus ba de bhar a fobairt siúd is fobairt Fheargail Uí Anluain is mó a toghadh ceathair iarthoiri de chuid Sinn Féin in olltoghchán na bliana 1957.

Go gairid tá éis a bháis, labhair Mr. Costello ar an raidió chun é a chéineadh. Cháin na heaspáig é. Agus scríobh Ernest Blythe (faoin ainm cleite "Beann Mhadagán") alt mór ar "Imniu" chun a chur ina luí ar mhuintir na hÉireann nár chun leas na hÉireann, ach a mhalairt, a bhí Seán.

Cháin Seán Mac Réamoinn, atá anois ar údaráis RTÉ, Sabhat agus a chairde go poiblí, leis; gan trácht ar an oiread eile polaiteoirí agus siófomadóirí atá go maith sa ó shin.

I measc an lucht cáinte, chomh maith, bhí roinnt daoine shíl bheith ina bhealsúinn bhéirge a bhain úsáid as ardan árd na hioibairte ar mhairte leo féin. Agus le déanaí arís, lucht an mhórpátrúin, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (i.e. an fear atá i gceannas RTÉ), Dhein an "B" and "L.C.O." ("British and Irish Communist Organisation") droch-aistriú go Béarla ar shliochtáil as leabhar Mainchín Seoihe, chun tuairisc ar bheatha Sabhat a chlaonadh as a riocht.

Ní beag san de lucht cáinte Sheáin. Ba mhó an dealbh chuimhneacháin air na náisiúntóirí is na Poblachtaigh de gach saghas a sheas ar son aidiúneann an Phársaigh. Éire a bheith saor is Éire a bheith Gaeilch. Alt ina iris, "Gath", 1956, ba achiomha é ar a aigne: "Éire agus i saor dá bhí sin, is é sin, Gaeilch. Ní Poblacht X, ach Poblacht Róisín. Is é an Pharsach thar chách a chuir an doimheas agus an airde seo i 1916. Chuaigh sé ar scoil go dtí daoine. Chuaigh sé go Conradh na Gaeilge, go Conamara agus go filí d'áine. Chonaic sé go raibh staid saoihe aithu. Ach chonaic sé cad dó, cad dó a raibh an tsaoire aithu".

Scríbhinní Sheáin

An té a bheadh mífhásta agus é ag léamh go macánta faoi Sheán Sabhat, "an té a bheadh mífhásta faoi chuid de na tuairimí a bhí i gceist, ba cheart dó a raibh le rá ag Seán féin a léamh go cúramach. Gheobhadh sé amach ansin ná raibh locht ar thealsúnacht an locha seo, ach amháin, b'fhéidir, claonadh i leith an 'generalisation' i gceistá creidimh.

Is é bus an leabhair seo le Mainchín Seoihe, go bhfuil athchóir ar chuid mhaith de scríbhinní Sheáin féin ann, seachas bheith ag glacadh le "Dúirt-bean-liom-go-núidirt-bean-ly" maidir leo, Fairis sin, tá caibidil iomlán sa leabhar a rianáinn stair Óglagh na hÉireann ón gConradh anall go tréimhe Sheáin.

An chúis a raibh an meas thar cuimse ag an bpobal ar Sheán Sabhat, tá an aigne sin léirithe in amhrán de chuid na ndaoine in Luimnigh: "He died beneath a Northern sky, O'Hanlon by his side".

Is iontach mar a chuaigh Sabhat i bhfeidhm ar aigne na ndaoine. Tá amhrán breá eile ag an Sands Family Folk, a thugann deardach na n-Ullach air: "Where is the red-haired soldier, Who spoke the Gaelic tongue?"

Ba as an gcumas seo a mhair i Seán Sabhat tar éis a bháis, ar dhul i bhfeidhm ar an bpobal, a d'fhís an iliomad nithe a scríobhadh is a cumadh ina thaobh.

Tuairim Bell

Lasmuigh den leabhar seo ag Mainchín Seoihe, is i leabhar Bowyer Bell, "The Secret Army", atá an cur síos is fearr le fáil air, cur síos a thugann leis ó thaobh stíle, fíú, spiorad Sabhat.

Dúirt an té atá anois i gceannas ar Government Information Bureau Rialtas na 26 Contae, ag scríobh dó san "Irish Times" tamaíl ó shoin, ná fuil mórán scríbhneoireachta Gaeilge ag teacht as an rud a dtabharadh sé "an chorrall sa Tuaisceart" air.

Ní gá a rá ná raibh an ceart aige, agus ba tharcaise mhór uaidh a raibh le rá aige faoi na daoine atá i ngeithéirí sa Churach, a bhfuil ollscoil Ghaelach dá gcuid féin ar bun acu. I mBéarla a thagann gach eolas ón G.L.B., afach.

Tá saothar scríbhneoireachta, i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla, ag teacht ón gcóradh ar son na saoirse sin SÉ Chontae. Tá seo amhlaidh toisc gur é an cúla céanna atá i gceist is a bhí le "Marafodh Seán Sabhat, Aréir". Agus is é an cúla sin, iarracht bhuan na hÉireann ar fad ar son a saoirse.

Cópia líne as amhrán de chuid na ndaoine i mBéal Feirste, Éiríonn siad seo: "All the radio said was another man dead. And he died with a gun in his hand. But they never said why Billy Reid had to die..."

Daithí Ó hÓgáin



Dragon awake at last?

EMYR Roberts is not a political sort of person.

Rev. Roberts (58) has been a rather calvinistic Methodist preacher for 15 years.

Last August he won a medal at the Welsh National Eisteddfod for a very political piece of prose. The work, entitled, "Today Has Been", is set in Wales at the end of the 20th century. In his piece, Mr. Roberts sees Wales, with its own government, and its language revived, acting as a bulwark against destructive cosmopolitanism.

Almost at the other end of the age-scale, 25-year-old Alan Ioyd Roberts, who makes no claim to a non-political status, became only the third person this century to win both the Bardic Crown and Chair.

Together, these victories were seen by many who attended the National Eisteddfod in Ruthin, Wales, as the tip of a controversy which is renting the whole fabric of Welsh language and cultural activity.

Crown Bard Roberts, whose poem "Gwaed gnerbyn y Gwyll" (A Cry Against the Dark) was written under the nom-de-plume of "A Cry Against Oppression," took part in the now famous four-day hunger strike at the University of North Wales in protest at the investiture of Charles Windsor as Prince of Wales, because he believes that the investiture was a way of making Wales subservient to England.

To sound of chains

Thirty lines of Gwaed yn erbyn y Gwyll criticise the ceremony and ask why "Welsh people danced in the streets to the sound of their chains and why they rejoiced in their bondage".

In 270 lines of scathing satire and parable, he hits the conscience of Wales on a raw nerve: "Wake up before all that is Wales is lost for ever" - that is his message.

Sections of the British press have described the poem as anti-English; in one case, at least, before the journalist concerned (a non-Welsh speaker) had even bothered to get a translation.

Roberts was bitterly disappointed at this type of "black propaganda". They had missed the point of seven months hard work.

Blinded by rubber bullet

The piece that got him chaired, entitled "A Cry on Behalf of the Minorities", is a brilliant three-part ode. In the first part, "A Song of the Green Race", he describes the case of Mrs. Emily Groves, who was blinded with a rubber bullet by the British Army.

Mrs. Groves is used as a symbol for the whole of Ireland. The other two parts deal with the genocide of the Red Indians, and what Roberts sees as the approaching doom of the Welsh language and culture.

Mr. Roberts himself describes his poem as being about three nations facing the threat of genocide.

Two of the three adjudicators were in favour of "A Cry Against Oppression" winning the Crown, but the third, Mr. Alan Llewellyn Williams, a lecturer at Roberts's old university at Bangor, dissented.

The story was leaked that "Mr. Williams had made it known that he did not consider any of the 32 entries worthy of the Crown", and this served as the unofficial official explanation of the vote. However, this version was discounted by all the young people I spoke to. To them, this dissenting vote was intimately connected with the controversy which is threatening the whole Eisteddfod. The row - almost a carbon copy of the famous Pearse v. Hyde controversy, which split Conradh na Gaeilge in the years before 1916, in its essence about whether the Eisteddfod should "go political" or "stay cultural". To paraphrase, should the Eisteddfod aim to make Wales "not Gaelic merely, but free as well".

Pressing the "political" case are the young militants of the Welsh Language Society, supported, paradoxically enough, by some of the veterans of the movement. Opposed to these and organised around the cry to "keep politics out of the Eisteddfod", are those who could loosely be described as the Establishment - providing always that one remembers that, in Wales, the Establishment is likely to be the local Labour Councillor rather than the high Tory squire.

This controversy was, like the rain, not part of the official programme, but constantly intruding, sometimes to the exclusion of all else.

The president of the Eisteddfod, novelist Miss Marion Eames, took the political bull by the horns in her presidential address. "The future of the Welsh language is today a political issue", she said, "and I make no apology for devoting the whole of today's address to it."

"This is what is in danger of disappearing. This is the heart of the Eisteddfod. Without this, the Eisteddfod is nothing. The right of the people to its language is inseparable from its right to its own civilisation".

Miss Eames represents what could be called the centre in this controversy; those whose heart lies completely with the youth, and recognise that, unless the more political tradition continues, the Eisteddfod may find itself cut off from all that is alive and vital in Welsh Wales today.

From ROSEMARY SULLIVAN in Machynlleth, Wales



INQUIRY INTO BEATINGS DEMANDED

LEINSTER House deputies in Co. Mayo have been urged to request the Minister for Justice, Mr. Patrick Conney, to hold a public enquiry into allegations of police brutality against three Mayo men who were detained and later released following the recent ambush of R.U.C. reserve constables at Killyree Lower, Westport.

A delegation from the Mayo Comhairle Ceanntrí of Sinn Féin has urged the Deputies to have the inquiry begun.

This was stated by Mrs. Margaret Murray, chairman of the Mayo Comhairle Ceanntrí, at a press conference in Balla.

The conference originally had been fixed for Castlebar — nine miles away — but was later switched to Balla because, Sinn Féin claimed, the Imperial Hotel in Castlebar was being kept under Garda surveillance and also that two meeting

rooms in the hotel had been "bugged".

The spokesman said they would produce three men who, they alleged, had been assaulted by Special Branch men while being questioned in Castlebar and Westpark Garda barracks, following the ambush.

It was also stated that a doctor would be present to give evidence of the injuries sustained by the men.

Doctor's reluctance

A doctor examined two of the lads and promised to attend the press conference. At the last minute he refused. Another local doctor (Balla) was asked to come and examine the men during the press conference. He refused, also, on hearing who the men were and the background.

All the press men present were aware of this (there were 10 present).

The chairman then invited the press to get a doctor themselves (the doctor's fee to be covered by the Comhairle Ceanntrí).

The press did not take up the offer.

One pressman present, who lived near one of the men, said that the man seemed to have become a physical wreck since he had last seen him less than a week before.

Another member of the press said he was well aware of the dreadful conditions of the cells in the Westport Garda Barracks as he had seen them himself.

Two of the men complained that they had been slapped in the face and punched in the stomach

Continued - back page.

UNDER MY EYE

Brugha would have wept

"IT IS up to the Unionists to decide how far they will go to meet the Southern Government, and the Nationalists to solve what is really their own problem. Indeed, they should realise that if they do not make an effort to bring about a normal state of affairs in Ireland the British may do it for them".

That extraordinary statement was made at a Meeting in Rostrevor, Co. Down and is attributed to no less a man than Ruairi Brugha, son of the late Cathal Brugha. Ruairi now is Fianna Fail T.D. for Co. Dublin and one of Jack Lynch's backers in the collaboration policy with Britain.

His alleged statement at Rostrevor brings him right under my eye this week for I believe it is time to expose the many somersaults which Mr. Brugha has taken before he arrived in Leinster House and became a member of that parliament which his father gave his life to prevent being established.

I will start by recalling to Mr. Brugha a certain meeting held at his house in the summer of 1939. Ruairi will remember the attendees. They included the late Sean McNella, who died on hunger strike in St. Brigid's Hospital; the late Miles Heffernan; the late Jim Coulton; Seamus Mongan; the present writer; and a few others as well whom I do not wish to mention here. Ruairi will know the reason why.

He will recall, no doubt, the purpose for which we met on that occasion and why it was necessary to have "look-outs" all over the place in case we would be surprised by a visit from the Special Branch.

In case he has contracted the Lynch disease of forgetting, I will remind him the purpose for which the meeting was held to establish a Republican paper to be known as "Republican War News". The objective of that paper was to publicise the I.R.A. campaign in England, led by Sean Russell.

Concentration camp

Fianna Fail declared the I.R.A. to be an illegal organisation under the newly-passed Offences Against the State Act, and Ruairi Brugha was a prominent member of that organisation, as his father had been before him. In due course, Ruairi was arrested and interned in the Fianna Fail Concentration Camp at the Curragh.

Because of his name and of his family tradition, he was elected to the Camp Council and, as a member of that Council, he was one of those who ordered the burning of the Camp in 1940.

For that terrible crime he was brought before a military court and, as far as I can recollect, sentenced to five years penal servitude. The charge against him was arson. Ruairi Brugha, however, very conveniently did his sentence in parole. He went out of prison into hospital and never came back. His parole was extended and extended until five years were up. Then, very conveniently, he was released.

If Ruairi had found himself unable to go through the rough life of an I.R.A. man and was not able to stand up to British tyranny, as his father had done, he could very easily have retired from public life. But not at all. In 1948 we find him in the political arena when, as a candidate for Sean MacBride's Clann na Poblachta, he contested his father's old seat in Waterford against Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

On that occasion he was badly defeated and, for years afterwards, was unheard of. But Ruairi must always have intended to cash in on his father's record, for, suddenly, he takes a hop, skip and a leap into Fianna Fail. The next place we find him is as a member of the Radio Eireann Authority.

I notice, however, that he did not declare himself under the Fianna Fail banner until after his mother died. Here he was a very good judge for Cathal Brugha's wife never deserted the Republic and well does Ruairi know it. In due course he was nominated to the Seanad by Taoiseach Lynch.

Never on own

Lo and behold, when Boland, Blaney and Co., revolted against the open, imperialist policy of the Lynch government, they found to their astonishment that they had no more bitter opponent than Ruairi Brugha. I have been told privately that he went out to Kevin Boland's house and suggested that Mr. Boland go up to the Park and have a private talk with "Big Daddy" before he wrecked the party.

I don't know whether the rest of the story is true or not but a little bird told me that Boland replied: "The Holy Ghost doesn't live in the Park". In any case, I know that Ruairi never could do anything on his own. When he was in the College Company of the I.R.A. over in Earlsfort Terrace, he had always to run and consult the late J.J. O'Kelly (Seighin) who had been Cathal Brugha's wife's personal friend.

I wonder what would Seighin think of Cathal Brugha's son today. Seighin, as most of my readers should know, remained faithful to the Republic until the day of his death. He was a member of the Second Dail and presided at the meeting of that body which handed its powers to the I.R.A. Army Council in 1939.

Now, at this stage, Ruairi Brugha thinks that he can cod the Irish public by mouthing platitudes about national unity and security for the whole island in terms of Heath's bogus Council of Ireland. What a come down for the week-kneed son of a great father; but I don't intend to let him get away with it and for that reason, I will publish some lines of poetry written by myself while I was a prisoner in the Fianna Fail Concentration Camp.

These lines will, I hope, recall to Ruairi Brugha the ideal for which his father stood; and, perhaps, some day, he will hang his head in shame for ever having become a pillar of the Free State institution.

Next week, Deo volente, I will publish the verses in question.

CORMAC MAC AIRT

Northern children in Dublin homes

(From a Special Correspondent)

APART from normal political activities, paper selling, collections and protests, some Sinn Féin Cumann take on the task of arranging holidays in their areas for Northern children.

At the start of the summer the Martin Forsythe Cumann catered for 60 children in the Rathfarnham area of Dublin. Last month the McNulty and McArdy Cumann combined forces to look after a similar number in Dublin's Artna-Raheny-Coolock areas.

Preparation began well in advance for these holiday projects. In the case of the McNulty-McArdy venture, the first step was to ensure that adequate finance was collected for transport, insurance and the general needs of the children.

The money was collected at Sunday Masses only with the permission of the parish priest. Not all parish priests gave their permission for this worthy cause and, in such circumstances, it was necessary to collect outside their areas. While the McArdy Cumann covered the financial arrangements the McNulty Cumann busied itself in finding accommodation.

Meantime, the project leader was setting up the contacts in Belfast as he judged the gradual rate of success of the Cumann at work.

Finally, the third week in August saw the fruits of their labours when a bus load of boys and girls arrived for a week's vacation.

After the usual minor problems everything ran smoothly and it was with regret that they parted company at the end of that week.

A little story worth recording happened while taking photographs in Dublin's Gairdín Chiuineachán (Garden of Remembrance), Parnell Square.

On the day of departure one wee lad had collected himself 30p. by dipping his hand into the fountain waters and scooping up some of the many souvenir coins which may be seen on the fountain floor.

On arriving home our little friend informed his mother as to where he had obtained his newly acquired wealth. We are not too sure what happened next but we do know that the secretary of the McArdy Cumann received a postal order for 30p. and a letter of explanation and apology by return of post.

Finally, the cumann would like to thank the clergy, who granted permission to collect; the people, who donated so generously; and those great families who provided the accommodation.

* Our pictures show some of the children entertained in Dublin. On consideration, we believe it would be safer for both children and parents not to give names or addresses to facilitate the military in their revenge stories.

WHY 21,000 AMERICAN TROOPS IN BRITAIN?

IN THE July 10, 1973 "congressional record", the Honorable Ronald Dellums of California inserted facts of the United States troop commitment that are of precise interest to those of us concerned with the plight of the Irish people in their war of liberation against the British.

Mr. Dellums alludes rightfully to the necessity of the diffusion of the number of American soldiers in overseas bases. It can be asserted that the United States expends billions of dollars towards the defence effort of other countries, helping each individual state from its own defence commitment and allowing them other pursuits, such as the British suppressive military effort against the Irish.

The Japanese and Germans, once the embattled enemies of America, are now allies who are being placed on the U.S. military dole.

While these two Axis allies pursue their economic policies, which hurt the U.S. most, they can rest assured, knowing full well that they are backed defensively by the United States.

In another development, it is a well known fact that Britain supplied vital war materials to the North Vietnamese in their war against the U.S.

Ironically, Japan and Federal Germany are the two states which at present are causing the U.S.

From Dr. Fred Burns O'Brien in Boston

dollar to be placed in a horrendous position, and devaluing its prestige.

Former allies, Britain and France, are accepting the same military support and they, too, pursue monetary benefit at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer.

Obviously, the United States Government, as Congressman Dellums suggests, should make a curtailment in the overseas troop commitment, so as to stimulate the sagging U.S. economy.

The most blatant misuse of American military personnel is in Britain, the war-machine of present presuety is engaged in conflict with freedom-fighters in Ireland who seek only their national destiny and basic human rights.

Mr. Dellums asks simply: "What treaty requires a U.S. commitment of 21,000 military personnel stationed in the United Kingdom?"

This inquiry to the State Department by the California legislator was in the interests of all American taxpayers; but the Nixon administration persists in its efforts to maintain the U.S. military presence in Europe.

The answer to the Congressman's question is in basic simplicity an unambiguous "No". There is no treaty upon which the United States can be concretely bound. In essence of this consideration the average American might ask - "What is the necessity of a continued commitment in the United Kingdom or other nations?"

There is, of course, no reason and, further these states, being protected, can pursue economic matters while Americans pay hard-earned dollars to back their defence efforts.

It is ironic that there are about 20,000 British troops in the North of Ireland and 21,000 American military personnel in Britain.

The U.S. military appear to be acting the role of a national guard to protect the Brits who are off in Northern Ireland, putting Paday to the bullet.

It is time the United States withdrew its troops from Europe — and Britain, in particular — since they are engaged in a war giving rise to speculation that the U.S. must be offering support.

The U.S. should be appraised



'Special Branch men were searching my home'

AS the police step up their raids in the London area, 'peoples news service' received statements from two people whose homes were raided as part of a series of police raids in Birmingham. Here is Mr. A's statement: "I arrived home from work at 7.00 p.m. and found seven members of the Special Branch searching my home; after the search, in which political literature and newspapers were taken for examination, I asked for a receipt for these items. Then two members of the Special Branch held a whispered conversation and stated that I could come to the station and check them there.

"I was dubious of going to the station because I had heard that other people of various political views had been ill-treated in police stations by the Special Branch."

"I asked for an explanation of my rights and was told that I had no right to refuse as I was under arrest. I did not realise this as they never told me or cautioned me. I asked if this was a formal arrest and they agreed that it was.

"I was taken to Selly Oak police station and taken into an interview room. I was then asked for all my particulars and then they accused me of being in the IRA and that I had caused some of the recent explosions and that my house was a bomb factory and that lectures were given in my house on how to make bombs."

"In view of being accused of this, I asked if I had the right to see a solicitor and they said I had no right to legal aid. They then became very abusive and used foul language every time they referred to me; they then asked

me where the money was going to that Sinn Féin collected". "I denied all knowledge of any of this rubbish, and stated that, as far as I knew, all Sinn Féin money went to Sinn Féin in Dublin for the relief of prisoners' families. They most vehemently stated that Sinn Féin was being used as a cover by the I.R.A.

Friendly approach

After various questioning about my friends, etc, they left the room. Then Det-Supt., Pat Cooney came into the room. He started calling me by my Christian name and talked in friendly terms.

He asked me did I realise what I might be getting involved in and suggested that I knew the people responsible for the bombs. He said that if I gave him information on these people, they (Special Branch) could arrange a short prison sentence, to prove that I did not inform."

"I repeated my statement that I knew nothing of the bombers and he told me not to deny it but to think about it and he gave me the phone number Central 5000; he told me he would meet me any time anywhere in strict confidence to receive information from me."

"Another man came into the room and was identified by Cooney as the officer in charge of

As told in "People's News Service"

the inquiries. They both then left the room. Immediately afterwards five officers including Cooney came in: Cooney said that I could go home. This was unusual as they had told me I was arrested."

"One of the officers denied that I was ever arrested, and said I had come voluntarily to assist with inquiries. As I rose to leave, Cooney and the officer in charge left the room and the remaining three told me to sit down again, one of them started questioning me again about the bombs; another of them said to the officer questioning me: "You are wasting your time, I know how to fix him".

"He said they would go round the Irish pubs and put out rumours that I was an informer. He said that I would have a bomb or a bullet inside two weeks, and that if I gave them information they would protect me. I repeated that I knew nothing of the bombers."

Shook hands

"They left the room and another officer came in and told me I would be harassed if I carried on with my political views."

"He then became friendly and

insisted on shaking my hand; as we shook hands I heard a faint click in the next room, and, as there was a strange mirror on the wall, I am sure this was a two-way mirror and that I had been photographed shaking the officer's hand."

"I am sure this photo will be used to say that I am an informer. I was then taken downstairs and fingerprinted against my will, and released at 11.10 p.m." the statement ends.

Peeping Tom

Miss B. made this statement: "I live at the above address (address omitted - PNS) with my future father in law, and have already lost my job as a result of helping a friend who has been the victim of these raids."

"I have been taken in for questioning on two occasions - once for 4½ hours and once for two hours. At 6.55a.m. approx on September 19th, 1973, I was woken by the Special Branch, who were raiding my home."

"I asked them to leave while I dressed, and two of the men left, but one continued to peep through the crack in the door, between the door and the door

Workers of the International Meat Co. Ltd., march to their Union's headquarters on Parnell Square. It is understood that the men have rejected a £1 a week allowance to the trimmers, whose claim precipitated the dispute and the offer of a loan equal to wages lost during the dispute.

Huge profits are being made in the meat industry.

and was aggressive. I was then allowed to dress but was confined to my room.

"Later they took me back to the living room. After more searching and doing damage to the flat, they left."

"I rang a member of Sinn Féin with a camera to come and photograph the damage to our home, as I have read the statement in the paper that Sinn Féin is compiling a dossier on harassment of the Irish by the police."

"As soon as he arrived two policemen came and then two Special Branch men came and took him away to Ladywood Police station. I think they did this to stop publicity of the damage they did. They did not at any time prefer charges against anyone," the girl's statement concludes.

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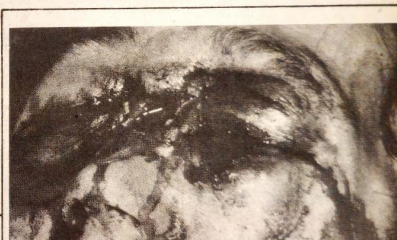
post; I asked him several times to look away but he continued to peep through while I dressed myself."

"I was then herded into the living room with my fiancé and my future father-in-law. They were searching the flat and throwing things all over the place, and were making an awful noise."

"Then Mr Hugh McKewen, a sergeant in the Special Branch, told a policewoman called Jill to take me to my bedroom and search me."

"She took me to my bedroom and would not let me close the door, and I could hear a Special Branch man outside; I finally got the door shut myself."

"She made me strip, under protest, but the embarrassing part was the internal search. She was as rough as possible all the time



A RUBBER BULLET DID THIS

Liberal plea for RB inquiry

Rubber bullets, used by the British to quell rioters, are intended to cause a painful but harmless wound to the legs. However, they can cause serious injury to vulnerable parts of the body and this woman in her fifties was hit by one between the eyes. She is now well but her eyes were destroyed.

the British Government and no adequate investigation has taken place.

"A detailed medical report by surgeons at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast has been produced but the Government has deliberately refused to acknowledge its contents."

Mr. Tope said questions asked by him in the House of Commons had been answered by a total refusal to make any statement at all on the subject.

"Our moral position in Northern Ireland politics cannot be maintained if the Government deliberately sweeps under the carpet evidence that is embarrassing to it."

"At this Liberal assembly I call for a vigorous investigation into the use of rubber bullets and other potentially lethal riot-control agents and a full Government statement at the earliest opportunity."

LIBERAL MP, Mr. Graham Tope has spoken of the indiscriminate use of rubber bullets in Northern Ireland and has called for investigation into the introduction of new riot-control weapons.

Speaking at a meeting organised by the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science at the Liberal assembly at Southport, Mr. Tope said:

"It is a tragic fact that many people have been seriously and permanently injured by the use of rubber bullets in Northern Ireland. One would have thought that these particular weapons were designed to temporarily incapacitate someone who was acting violently in a riot situation."

"Unfortunately there is evidence that rubber bullets have been misused, resulting in permanent injury and disability. Particular examples of people so affected have been presented to

OUR MILLION SHILLING FUND

Support Éamonn Mac Thomáis

THE GREAT AIM in life of our editor, Éamonn Mac Thomáis, was to make An Phoblacht a daily paper. One of his last acts before being whipped up by Cooney's Special Branch, was to launch "A Million Shilling Fund" for the purpose of getting the £50,000 necessary to make that dream come true. You remember the announcement in a recent issue. The fund was launched under the heading: "GIVE US A BOB".

Well, will you give us that bob? That is the best way of showing support for Éamonn. Make sure that your paper, An Phoblacht, comes out daily. Make sure that the voice of Republicanism becomes stronger and clearer. You owe it to the man who is suffering for you.

Send us that bob, and send it now.

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We hope to fill this page with small advertisements - articles sought, articles for sale - with YOUR help. Our opening rate: £1 per inch. Copy must reach us at latest one week before publication date.

Loot goes in for Irish in Britain

IN RECENT weeks there has been considerable harassment of the Irish population in England by the police. A particularly vicious series of raids was carried out on Irish families in Birmingham. These were no ordinary searches. Doors were smashed, furniture broken, police dogs brought into homes, men and women stripped naked and intimately searched, a Sinn Féin statement in Dublin points out.

The Sinn Féin organisation condemns these raids and calls on other organisations to do likewise. The ostensible reason given for these searches is the recent series of bombings in England. Yet not one person has been charged as a result of them. The real reason for them would appear to be deliberate harassment.

At this particular time Sinn Féin wishes to make as clear as possible its position, especially to the English people that their aim is to establish democracy in Ireland. This can be achieved only by ending the unnatural division of our country, which was an undemocratic injustice inflicted on us in 1921.

Mr. Heath and other British leaders admit that what they call the "Irish problem" is a dilemma, because, no matter what course they take, they will still be in trouble.

In one option which they have not had the courage to face is that of renouncing sovereignty over any part of Ireland. This is the only course which constitutes the basis for true peace and lasting friendship between the peoples of these two islands.

We have never advocated an immediate withdrawal from Ireland; we have always said "a phased and orderly withdrawal". This is the course for England to take, now.

The statement continues: The folly of British policies in Ireland must now be obvious to all. Surely the time has now come to release the political prisoners, declare a date for withdrawal and implement it over a certain period of time. Sinn Féin has made proposals for a regional structure of government which would give Ulster a parliament of its own, with real power, surely a more attractive proposition than either full integration with England or a meaningless assembly? It would give all the people of Ulster their place in a federal Ireland.

"Further repression, more internment camps, more sophisticated weaponry and harassment of the Irish population in England will only prolong the agony. If ever the English people needed wise leadership it is now. It is time they told their leaders to do the honourable thing and bring the 800 years of conflict to an end for ever", the statement concludes.

Why should any of us feel embarrassed?

If the I.R.A. actions, real or supposed, are hardening attitudes to Irish people here by the same token the jackboot tactics of the British Army in Northern Ireland are softening none held by very many exiles.

Far too many, though, hold the view that, because we find homes and employment and put down roots of a kind, we should eat crow. Columnist Dolan refers to the embarrassment the I.R.A. bombing causes Irish people here with their neighbours and associates. Why should any one of us feel embarrassed?

I work among Englishmen, meet a few socially and have a son

As a postscript, we publish these two further accounts of the bullying of the Irish by the British authorities.

Men in Leicester

Mrs. Mary Sheridan of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, writes to tell of the conditions in which her husband and two comrades are being held in the top security wing of Leicester Prison: Sean Campbell, Jerry Mealy and Phil Sheridan.

She writes: "All three are members of the Patrick McAdorey Cumann, in Luton. On August 9th, all three were arrested and taken to Luton police station where they were beaten up by Special Branch men.

The same day my house and the houses of the other men were raided by the Special Branch.

"The men have been on remand in Leicester Prison every week since Aug. 10th. They are classed as Category A prisoners. The security surrounding these men has been and is enormous. Until September 4th, the men were allowed to exercise. After that date, they were told to exercise in what amounts to a trench 14 ft. underground and covered in excrete wire and other rubbish.

"The men refused to exercise in such a place and have been locked in their cells ever since, allowed out only to pick up their meals.

"Today, Sept. 25th, Robert Carr, Home Secretary, visited the Prison. Jerry Mealy was out side his cell, getting his dinner. As Carr and Co. passed, he was in the face. He is now in the punishment block in the Prison.

Minds censored

"Until recently we were able to give the men newspapers when they came to court. Now this has

been stopped. The papers were "An Phoblacht," "Irish News" and "Republican News".

"Three weeks ago I sent my husband by registered post a copy of "Freedom Struggle". He was told of its arrival at the prison but it was sent to the Home Office pending a check.

"It has not been given to him. This amounts to a censorship on what literature these men can read. Needless to say, the Carr incident was not reported in any news media here. In conclusion, a message from my husband and two comrades: "It is not those

who can inflict most, but those who can endure the most shall win."

"I salute them and all freedom fighters," the letter concludes.

At Brixton

And the way they play with you at the prison gate, as this letter describes:

"I went to Brixton Prison, London, on August 31st and Sept. 1st last to visit Paul Holmes with a letter from the assistant governor, Mr. Bailey of Brixton

Prison, reference JDW/DW Aug. 26th. 1973.

"When I got there on Friday, August 31st, at 4 p.m., with a parcel, I was told I was too late and they would not take the parcel. I was told to bring the parcel next day.

"So I called next day at 2 p.m. and was told again I was too late and they would not take the parcel for Paul Holmes 119084, even though I had my visiting letter for remand prisoners in accordance with the usual rules.

"So I had to return to Dublin without seeing one of the 10. I

Some of the members of the picket provided by the Irish Civil Rights Association last week on the court where R.U.C. officers appeared to identify Mrs. Rita O'Hara and speed her "extradition".

had written to Mr. P. Holmes to tell him I was going to see him. The letter is signed Patrick Hayward, 513 Pearse Villas, Ballynaginn, Co. Bhaile Atha Cliath.

Litreacha · Letters — Litreacha · Letters

Continued from page two.

murder. After all, you are an important S.D.L.P. Assembly man so I'm sure he could do something for you.

"And, Tom, didn't you hear about how Mrs. Cassin from Armagh was not only interned but also forced to sign adoption forms for her two young children? I know, Tom, it's not your area, but, sure, truth and justice know no boundaries, and I wonder how often have you visited the prisoners, or how often have you been to Long Kesh?"

"I could go on and on at this type of thing but if you have a conscience at all, you shouldn't need anyone to tell you these things.

"How you and your traitorous party can, in conscience, collaborate with the British overlords is beyond me. You run and talk and co-operate with Heath, Whitelaw and Co., yet these are the same men who are responsible for the slaughter of 13 innocents in Derry, and the countless other slaughters over

the last four years, not forgetting the planting of bombs in Dublin.

Again, I could go on and on, but I don't think there is much need to remind anyone of these things. If anyone looked at a history book he would see what collaboration the British has gained. The answer is "nothing", only more bloodshed, postponing the day when they will leave our land for good.

A British promise isn't worth a pinch of salt. It has become increasingly plain that there will never be peace in this tortured island of ours until the British leave for good. Everyone knows this, including the S.D.L.P. but it appears that all these cultures care about is their fat salaries.

They don't care one iota for the daily suffering of the Republican people nor for the scores of men and women who have died fighting to achieve a British withdrawal. If they do, then working the British plan and the selective condemnation of the freedom fighters which Tom Daly recently engaged in is certainly not the way to achieve it. The history books are proof of that. Thank God for men like Daithí O'Connell, Ruairí O'Bradaigh and Rev. Sean MacManus to name a few. Thank god that these croppies will not lie down. God help us if the S.D.L.P. had all the say.

The struggling people of the Six Counties are assured only of victory, and when it comes, Tom Daly and the rest of the native lackeys will be ostracised like the plague they are. We won't forget.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the people of Fermanagh on their recent boycott of the so-called elections. We were not conned by empty promises and lies. You can be proud of yourselves. I appeal for your continuing support for the Republican Movement. We, the prisoners, are fully behind it in its fight. God speed the day of freedom.

Republican Prisoner.
Full name supplied but not published at the request of the writer.

Young Socialists

SINN Féin (Kevin Street) held a meeting at the G.P.O. on Sunday (16/9/73) to protest against the coming to Dublin of Ted Heath. The Dublin Branch of the Young

Socialists had requested permission of Sinn Féin to have a member of the Young Socialists speak on Sinn Féin's platform. This request was turned down on the grounds that too many of the organisations had asked for permission to speak.

This attitude of the leadership in Sinn Féin must be questioned by all sincere and genuine Republicans and Socialist militants in the rank and file of Sinn Féin. The excuse of the leadership of Sinn Féin, can not be taken seriously. At a time when the Labour party has sold out the working class and gone into partnership with the Blueshirts it is now more important than ever for all working-class organisations fighting against imperialism to press for a united front against repression.

The young Socialists will continue to fight for a united front against repression and wished to make known to the rank and file in Sinn Féin our objection to not being let speak on your platform.

We also ask you to ask your leadership why it never demanded, as did the Young Socialists, that the Dublin Council of Trade Unions call a massive demonstration and general strike, like the one after the Derry massacre.

This sort of demonstration and general strike would have really shown Heath that the working-class does not want him or his troops in Ireland.

Also, ask your leaders why Desmond Fennell, who is well known for his fascist views, is allowed to write in "An Phoblacht". It is, indeed, a sad day for the Republican Movement when the working-class organisations such as the Young Socialists, are refused two minutes on a platform to speak to the working-class and yet the likes of Fennell is given space to write in your paper.

—Barney Harnnett,
Dublin, 2.

Mining tax

AFTER the treaty of 1921 it is said that a secret mineral rights agreement was signed between Dublin and Westminster, leaving the ownership of precious minerals to the British Exchequer.

As the extent of Ireland's mineral wealth was then unknown and unsuspected it was, perhaps, felt in Dublin that this agreement was of no great consequence.

When precious minerals were discovered in such abundance the Dublin Government, having no right of ownership, could not impose taxes and, to avoid exposing this unpleasant fact to the people, covered up with the smokescreen of 20 years tax free concessions to the mining companies (at the end of this period all mines would have been depleted of their mineral wealth).

The stupidity of such a concession being so obvious to any intelligent person it was not long before pressure began to mount on the Dublin Government to review the situation and these pressures were reaching alarming and embarrassing proportions.

Heath came and went, and a week afterwards, Dublin announced the decision to tax mining companies and, at the same time, reinstated extradition proceedings against Mrs. Rita O'Hara of Belfast.

Next came the false charges against Republican prisoners in Mountjoy, that they had made threats against the lives of prison officers and threats of bomb attacks against the people the object being to create an atmosphere of hostility against Republicans and excuse further repress-measures.

The time has come for the people of Ireland to suffer and die on hunger strike to illustrate truths that are already well known to all of us?

Let all organisations and all public bodies take the strongest measures available to them to demand that the Dublin Government release all political prisoners and repeal the diabolical Offences against the State Act.

Patrick McGlynn,

27, O'Connell Avenue,
Baile Átha Cliath, 7.

A third of Britain wants a united, free Ireland

A THIRD of the British electorate would like to see a united Ireland, independent of Britain, according to an opinion poll published last week.

A quarter of those asked, favour the total integration of the Six Counties with Britain and another quarter, a Stormont type of government.

No one solution to the conflict commands the support of a majority of the voters but the largest segments want to see unity, according to the survey-carried out by Opinion Research Centre for 'The Times'.

Underlying that viewpoint, it is pointed out, there may well be an element of "let's get Northern Ireland off our plate at any cost."

The figures may be read in another way: 47 per cent. of British voters favouring a solution within the present framework of the "United Kingdom", while 34 per cent would prefer a solution outside that framework.

The survey reveals a similar division in British public opinion of the possible consequences of the three choices and of the likelihood of any of them happening.

A third of the electorate believes that the

best way of restoring peace in the Six Counties would be through Irish unity, but only one in five thinks that is likely to happen.

Another third believes that a solution based on a provisional government in the North, responsible to the British Government, is the most likely. A quarter sees total integration of the North with Britain as most likely.

Of the three options examined in the survey, the solution based on a modified Stormont regime is thought least likely to cause increased warfare.

PAY FACT BAIT FOR WORKERS

By Jimmy Hope

THE CURRENT national wage agreement will expire early next year and the Coalition is very anxious to negotiate another.

The current one is the second in the series. It barely made it through Congress last year after two attempts. The average improvement in workers' wages as a result of it has been 15 per cent. but, during the same period, prices have advanced by more than 25 per cent.

Mr. Michael O'Leary, Labour's man with the present crowd, would very much like to persuade trade unionists into a third national pay agreement.

It would help to secure political stability for the men at the top, even if it did not result in price stability for those near the bottom.

Mr. O'Leary sees the negotiating of a third national pay agreement as an important feather in the cap, a political hurdle, that this so far not overworked minister somehow must cross. But workers should ask themselves, what is there in it for me?

A 20 per cent. increase over 18 months is being talked about but even if it is obtained, it is unlikely it will erode still further the real income of employees.

Over the next two years prices are likely to advance by more than the previous two years, indeed, a staggering 30 per cent. rise is forecast by many.

What use in these circumstances would a 20 per cent. bonus be? Not that wages are everything.

The search after wage increases can be a snare in itself. What greater control of his affairs, or of the plant in which he is employed, does it give to the worker?

It may enable him to buy a few extra items of consumer durables for his household, but it does precious little for his real life style, and it does not add one whit to his independence.

Indeed, if you analyse it, workers have become steadily more dependent upon the state and anonymous big business — more than 40 per cent. of your income goes in taxation, doesn't it?

They have, in fact, less and less control over how they would like to live, even where they would like to live. It is opportune, therefore, for the public, the unionists and socialists to confront this question; more wages certainly, but control of the means of production is now more necessary than when the theory was first uttered.

This will not be achieved by the fiddle faddle of a pair of "workers' representatives" upon a state board in which they are hopelessly outnumbered.

It can only be achieved by a system which will give all our workers control of every major enterprise and resource.

That is the aim, it should be a primary and immediate aim. It may as well come at the next phase of the national wage agreement, but one of the first steps could be taken on that occasion by making the direction next a blow may fall.

This will inevitably result in a "free-for-all" which governments and establishments everywhere abhor, and with good reason, for they never knew from what direction next a blow may fall.

If the strategy is right, however, these blows could result in an increased measure of control for workers and the nation in mining, banking, insurance, the resources of the sea, and the major sectors of the distribution system.

They are directed against your real interests at present; they syphon off the income from our pockets, they dictate interest rates, and how many homes should, or should not be built; they rig prices through fancy packaging and phoney competition.

BRITS TRAIN IN FRANCE

by J.M. Quelloc, in St-Brieuc.

THE MILITARY training manoeuvre, code-named "Force 73", was organised in the south of Brittany by the French GHQ.

From September 17 to 23, under French command, French and German soldiers have been engaged in extensive training and, for the first time in Brittany, British army units participated in the 2,380-man joint operation.

The Breton people have suffered social and cultural oppression from the French too long not to understand immediately the purpose of such "technical co-operation" and to express their warmest solidarity with the Irish freedom fighters.

Moreover, the last year particularly has seen Brittany in turmoil: the "milk war", when the small farmers hijacked lorries of the milk companies to protest against EEC-imposed rates of profit.

The successful three month strike of "Le Joint Français" workers in Saint-Brieuc, which rallied 15,000 small farmers in its first week and who provided free food to the strikers.

And the workers of other plants who extended the strike into France, a national scale. During the autumn there was another successful strike in Brest, where the workers set up a workers' council, to ensure that the bosses would not manoeuvre one way or another to curtail the gains obtained.

Finally, the case of nine members of the FLB-ARB (Breton Republican Army), which initiated a selective bombing campaign against the stations and income-tax offices, released under pressure the mass demonstrations all over Brittany.

All this, coupled with a firm stand of solidarity with their Celtic brothers, that those engaged in the Irish liberation war, should make the point that Brittany might not be such a safe training ground for the Brits.

Crowley - Ahern Memorial

ON Sunday, October 21 Clann Eireann Athletic Club, Mayfield, Cork, will promote the 10-Mile Road Championship of Ireland at Mayfield, Co. Cork. The race is being run in memory of Dermot Crowley and Anthony Ahern and to present a memorial trophy in their honour.

Both were members of the club and won track and cross country events with it. Both had the honour to represent their county in under-age, cross-country events.

Dermot Crowley's last athletic event before going north was the 15-mile road Championship of Ireland, where he finished ninth.

At the outset, it was the intention of the Club to present the trophy but it was believed that people who were associated with Dermot and Anthony outside athletics would like to be involved.

Therefore, a subscription is being opened and anyone who would like to subscribe may do so.

Subscriptions may be sent to Owen Dorney, 46 Kelleher's Buildings, Dillons Cross, Cork, or to Jack Kinney, 6 Iona Rd, Mayfield, Cork.

Reasonable Rates



Wealth from mines for the people

By a Special Correspondent

THE RAPE of our natural and mineral resources by foreign enterprise in collusion with the politically bankrupt governments of this state since its inception was the theme of a special public meeting held recently in the Clubhouse Hotel, An Uaimh.

The meeting was organised by a committee of local people whose aims are the establishment of a national movement to demand that Ireland's mineral and natural resources revert to her rightful owners, the people of Ireland.

The large attendance illustrated the public concern regarding the manner in which our natural resources are being exploited.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Liam McCarthy, organising secretary for the P.O.C.A. Mr. McCarthy is also chairman of the ad hoc committee formed with a view to launching the national movement.

The guest speakers were: Mr. Matt Merrigan, A.T.C.W.U., Mr. Niall Fagan, Sinn Féin (Kevin St.), Mr. Eoin O'Murchu, Sinn Féin (Gardiner Place), and Mr. Dermot Boucher (ex-member of the Labour Party) for he was expelled from the club.

Opening the meeting Mr. McCarthy stated: "The land of Ireland, the minerals, the ruins of Ireland, and anything that has been common property to the people of Ireland for generations until being confiscated by Plantations or otherwise, belongs to the people of Ireland." Then he quoted from James Connolly words that are true today as they were then: "The peaceful progress of the future requires the possession, by Ireland, of all the national wealth now denied to her."

"Only in such possession can the workers of Ireland seek security and stability for the fruits of their toil and organisation."

The committee was setting out to form a national movement to force the government to nationalize the natural and mineral resources of Ireland.

Mr. Merrigan stated that, to secure the natural resources of

Ireland legislation would be necessary to underpin the people's rights.

"The Mineral wealth of this country," he stated, "is the property of the people and this is enshrined in an act of parliament. No speculator can come in and develop the mineral wealth until he first gets a licence from the Minister for Industry and Commerce."

"We find in the tawdry and shady deals that have gone on in relation to the sell-out of, particularly, our mineral resources, that government ministers and government departments and, indeed, prime ministers of this country, have been manipulated by the foreign speculators who wanted to get their hands on the last remnants of a country that has not been developed to any extent as far as mineral wealth has been concerned."

"In spite of what one reads in the local press, concerning certain leading members of the Labour Party coming out in favour of privately-owned and privately-exploited mines, the policy of the Labour Party, adopted in Wexford last February 12 months, is for the nationalisation of mining in this country."

"And, in Killarney of this year, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions endorsed this policy."

"We could have in the next 10 to 15 years as high a standard of living as that in Sweden if the people had the vision and the courage to demand that these natural resources be operated by the state for the benefit of the people."

Mr. Niall Fagan endorsed what Matt Merrigan had said and went on to say: "There are an awful lot of apologists who are trying to justify the exploitation of our country's mineral wealth by private enterprise. These say we have not the capital to find, let alone, exploit the minerals."

"This is a blatant and utter lie and it must be nailed. Whether it was mouthed by a minister or a paid propagandist or a penny-a-line journalist it still is an infernal lie and it can be proved". £6,500,000 is the amount of money that has been spent so far in a period of six years on mineral exploitation.

"What did those exploiting Tara Mines spend so far? The last figure I saw was £650,000. It would not buy a computer."

"They say we haven't the

expertise to work the mines."

"On the Shannon scheme, we imported Germans to build and operate the plant and we paid them. When Irishmen were capable of running them themselves we said goodbye."

"Then they say we didn't find it and it's a finders, keepers sort of game. In the national interest this question of finders-keepers is all odd. Six out of the eight finds were found first by State-sponsored companies, mainly by An Foras Talántais."

"On Jan. 31, 1968, An Foras Talántais found in two areas of Co. Meath evidence of lead-zinc and other minerals. A paper read in the Royal Irish Academy on June, 1968, confirmed this. On May 28, 1969, a month before this report was made public, Tara acquired a licence to operate the Navan Mines."

"The substance of freedom demands economic freedom as much as the development of political freedom and democracy. What we in Sinn Féin demand is that the national and natural resources be nationalised, without compensation, except, perhaps, the repayment of the capital, less what was received back on dividend pay-outs."

"We believe in the establishment of a state-sponsored, development corporation to examine all the implications of our mining industry with an eye to the long-term effects on our environment, on the country, on employment, on future education, etc. It should extract, smelt and process Ireland's mineral wealth for the people."

"The question," stated Eoin O'Murchu, "is how this country is going to be the best thing for its people. We want to maintain in our country the maximum population. The only way we can do this is by a heavy and very intensified programme of industrialisation. The thousands upon thousands of pounds in Irish mining can provide decent houses for the people, can provide a decent social system and can bring an end to the system of emigration."

Mr. Dermot Boucher gave the figures published by the Resources Study Group in its booklet, "Navan and Irish Mining", and declared that, since its publication, the figures had increased to about three times that much.

Bronnadh na nduaiseanna ag an Oireachtas (6 ché) Aodh Ruairc, Cathaoirleach; Siobhán Ní Shúilleabháin, bualtóir; Eadhonn Mac Suibhne, do.; Mr. Oliver Casey, agus uachtarán an Oireachtais, an Canáchan Coslett O Cuinn.

Beaten up

(continued from centre)

during questioning at Castlebar Garda Station by Special Branch men.

All three men refused to give their names because they feared further police action.

One of them — a 19-year-old youth — said that when he refused to tell two Special Branch men in Castlebar Garda Station of his whereabouts on the previous Saturday night and Sunday, an owl was placed at the back of his head and a threat was made to have it pushed into his brain.

He also alleged that during his 48-hour detention his interrogators had slapped him about the face, punched him in the stomach, and threatened to hand him over to the U.D.A.

Another youth, aged 17, told newsmen that he was punched and kicked and had his head banged against the wall of a room in Castlebar Garda Station by Special Branch men.

Mr. Bernard Murphy, chairman of the Mayo Civil Rights Association, who presided at the conference, said he was appalled at what he had heard.

"There is no objection to people being taken in for questioning", he added, "But the fact that there was more like that which we associate with regimes of terror".

PRIVATE MEMBERS DRAW

PRIZE WINNERS

- 1 - Stereo radiogram, Anna McCone, Damoly, Mowham, Co. Armagh.
- 2 - Cassette recorder, Pádraigín Uí Mhurchada, 19 Pinewood Estate, Wexford.
- 3 - Canteen of cutlery, Miss Ann Heverin, Loona, Belcarra, Castlebar.
- 4 - Celtic cross, C. Cronin, 37 St Kildas Rd, Harrow, Middlesex, England.
- 5 - Wall plaque, Patrick Shanahan (junior), 32 Loretto Rd, Rathfarnham, Dublin.
- 6 - Harp, Tom Brady, Granard, Longford.

MOTORCYCLES

Wanted: used motorcycles and scooters in "needing repair" condition. Any year. Price must be reasonable. Write: M. O'Brien, Dillonsdowns, Blessington, Co. Chill Mhantain.