

# REPUBLICAN NEWS

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## *No Response from British Government*

# SINN FEIN DEMAND FREE ELECTIONS

THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE from the British Government yet to the terms laid down by Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Fein for contesting the British General Election to be held on Thursday, 28th February. This is the position as we go to Press (11th February). The following statement was issued by the Ard Chomhairle following meetings last Saturday, during which the Election was considered at length:—

*"Sinn Fein calls on the British Government to take the following steps immediately: (1) Transfer the Winchester Eight prisoners to Ireland; (2), Revoke the ban on Sinn Fein; (3), Give a guarantee to end harassment of the population by British Forces so that a free election can take place."*

The statement added: "The Ard Chomhairle awaits a reply not later than 12 noon on Thursday, February 14."

By the time this issue is on sale, the Ard Chomhairle will have met to discuss the British Government's re-action, if any, and decided what Sinn Fein will do in regards to the election.

The latest time for accepting nominations for the election by the presiding officers is 3 p.m. Monday, 18th February. If the ban on Sinn Fein by the British Government wasn't lifted by noon last Thursday, we can then be certain that this will not be a free election and that genuine freedom of political expression will be suppressed by the British Government by the use of British troops, the R.U.C. secret police and by the manipulation of T.V., and other news media.

One of the demonstrators at a picket organised by the Troops Out Movement, in Colchester, explains to a member of the British Army recruiting team. T.O.M. wants British troops out of Ireland. (Photo courtesy T.O.M.)



The action of the R.U.C. storm-troopers in Divis Street, Belfast, in October, 1964 when they used pick-axes, crowbars and sledge-hammers to smash their way into the Republican Election H.Q., will be uppermost in many people's minds now who worked for and supported the Republican candidates in that election. The violence of the R.U.C. against Republicans who were using the ballot box in 1964 is still fresh in many minds.

At least in 1964, internment was not in force. Now with over 2,000 men, women and children held in concentration camps and jails, those who would go forward as candidates for a banned political party or who would work or vote for such candidates would need nerves of steel and courage of a high order.

It can not be disputed that many of our people possess these qualities and that they would be willing to risk internment, long prison sentences, batoning, raiding of their homes, and perhaps worse because of their loyalty to the cause of Irish freedom. Whether it would be right to ask them to endure all this is a matter for long and serious consideration by the Republican leadership.

It is certain beyond any shadow of doubt that the election will be fought on entirely different issues in the Six Counties from those in England, Scotland and Wales.

Sinn Fein is further handicapped as at least 500 of its members are in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, Armagh and Portlaoise jails. Many experienced Sinn Fein election key workers like Mrs. Mary McGuigan, Leo Martin, Frank Card, Dan Turley are behind bars.

Over 2,000 Irish political prisoners who would be likely to vote or work for Sinn Fein candidates are not allowed to receive "Republican News" or "An Phoblacht," two newspapers who are likely to give 'a fair crack of the whip' to Sinn Fein candidates if the British Government permitted a genuine free election. The loss of so many dedicated potential election workers makes it almost impossible for Sinn Fein to contest the election on an equal footing with the collaborating political parties.

Republicans have contested Westminster elections in the past. There is nothing in Republican tradition or policy to prevent this. It has always been Republican policy to abstain from sitting in Westminster. This is still our policy.

Some Republicans may question the wisdom of contesting elections in a war situation. However the 1918 and 1921 General Elections were contested in a very successful manner by Sinn Fein during a war situation: "the four glorious years."

We know that the National Leadership of the Republican Movement will do their utmost to make a wise, prudent decision about the forthcoming election. We know also that the members of the Movement will do their utmost to support the Leadership in whatever decision they may make.



## TROOPS OUT CALL IN LIMERICK

The Campaign for English withdrawal continued making progress in Munster, with several meetings in the Limerick area over the week-end.

The capacity crowd at the meeting in the I.T.G.W.U. Hall in O'Connell Street, Limerick, passed a resolution calling on the Irish Rugby team to make a public protest at the next International on behalf of the Winchester 8.

Four of the speakers who were from the North, got a rousing reception, and Sean McKenna of Newry "called on all Irishmen regardless of Political affiliation to make themselves heard in the call for an English withdrawal and the peace and unity of our land."

The Northern Party also addressed meetings at Rathkeel and Glin which were well attended. The tour ended at Newcastle West with a very enthusiastic meeting and a crowd of over 1,000 people attending.

## NEW SINN FEIN CUMANN

Members of Sinn Fein in Birmingham, travelled to London on 2nd February to picket Brixton Prison for 2½ hours as part of the Political Hostages Release Campaign.

A statement was issued by those involved "deplored the practice of force-feeding as an assault on the individual and as being in direct contravention of the Strasbourg Convention of Human Rights."

The statement also deplored the participation in this vile practice by members of the British Medical Association and called on the B.M.A., to disassociate themselves from such inhuman activities.

Sinn Fein cumainn in Birmingham have plans to picket Gartree Prison where Hugh Feeney is being tortured, in the near future.

A new Cumann, called the Ann Parker-Michael McVerry Cumann, has been formed in the Sparkbrook area of Birmingham. This means that there are now five cumainn in the city.

Those interested in joining Sinn Fein in Birmingham, should contact: - The Secretary, 123 Princess Road, Birmingham 5.

### IRISH POLITICAL HOSTAGES CAMPAIGN TO PICKET BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

*The I.P.H.C. will place a strong picket on the Head Office of the British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1, at 2.30 p.m. (1430 hours), on SUNDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 1974, to protest against the refusal of the B.M.A. to comment on the ethics of its members who are force-feeding the four prisoners Hugh Feeney, Gerry Kelly and Dolours and Marion Price.*

*The I.P.H.C. wrote to the B.M.A. several weeks ago asking for their views on the question, and this protest will highlight the B.M.A.'s failure so far to reply.*

# sinister moves against hunger striker's relatives

Mr. Laim Kelly, father of Gerald Kelly, one of the four young Republicans who are on hunger strike in English jails told our reporter this week that he had reason to believe that attempts were being made to plant articles in the homes of relatives of the Winchester 8 in order to undermine and counteract the rapidly mounting effective campaign being waged in Ireland and Britain to have the young Republican prisoners transferred to prisons in Ireland and granted political status.

Mr. Kelly believes that the sinister activities of British soldiers in Belfast, are calculated to discredit and harass the relatives who are active in appearances at demonstrations in support of the hunger strikers. His home has been raided frequently recently. His daughter's home was raided at 1.00 a.m. last week. His son was raided last Saturday morning, a soldier went into the roof space and shouted to his mates: "I have got something." He came down with 5 bullets. Mr. Kelly (Sen.) and his son are convinced that these were planted and they deny all knowledge of them.

Mr. Kelly, (Sen.), Gerald's wife and baby (4 months) visited Gerald last Saturday. This was the first time they saw him since he was sentenced on 14th November, 1973.

The visit was in an unheated room with an open window. He was naked apart from a blanket wrapped around his shivering frame. Mr. Kelly reckoned that Gerald had lost 2½ to 3 stone.

This is his recollection of the visit: "Gerald was a waxen colour. He spoke in a weak voice and showed me his gums which are raw flesh. He is kept in solitary confinement. Surgical instruments are used daily on his gums and jaw muscles as part of the force-feeding. He had difficulty in speaking to us. He complained of internal bleeding. Some of his teeth are broken due to forcible opening of his mouth with some type of lever.

"He has not been allowed any newspapers since 22nd December. He is refusing medical examination by the prison doctors as some false medical reports were issued from the prison about his condition. He wants to see his own doctor but this request was rejected.

"An Assistant Governor sat in the room during the visit taking notes of our discussion, Gerald told me that a letter sent from my daughter in Canada to him four weeks ago was not received by him.

"The Assistant Governor, without consulting my daughter-in-law or myself, left the room briefly and returned carrying a tray with 3 cups of tea and one empty cup. He offered tea to Gerald's wife and myself which we declined. He then proceeded to drink tea himself in our presence."

Mr. Laim Kelly still bore visible signs of his harrowing experience from visiting his son as he spoke to our reporter in a voice full of emotion and heartbroken.

There is no doubt that the torture being inflicted on the four hunger strikers is also effecting their relatives who are suffering mental agony and now actual harassment at the hands of British troops in Belfast, who must be acting on orders at a high level.

Mr. Liam Kelly and the other relatives are most grateful to all those who are trying to support the hunger strikers and to make things a little easier for their families.

## SINN FEIN AND THE ELECTIONS

The Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle at the weekend commenting on the coming British Elections issued a three point demand to the British Government. A reply to their demands is asked for by noon Thursday 14th February.

The three point demand from the Ard Comhairle is as follows:-

1. THE TRANSFER OF THE WINCHESTER 8 TO IRELAND.
2. THE LIFTING OF THE BAN ON SINN FEIN.
3. AN END TO THE HARASSMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

These three basic demands by Sinn Fein, the importance of which can be gauged by a deeper study that will enlighten the

people just what these demands stand for.

Their first demand which is centred on the Winchester 8 is most important because when this is met it will then ensure a halt of FORCE-FEEDING and the granting of POLITICAL STATUS to all political hostages as a right and not as a concession from England.

The second demand referring to the ban on Sinn Fein is of interest, bearing in mind the fact that Sinn Fein is the only purely POLITICAL ORGANISATION proscribed under the Emergency Provisions Act (Updated version of the Special Powers Act). This demand is a demand which seeks the right to freedom of political expression. For the British Government to proscribe Sinn Fein leads to

the conclusion that by this shackling of free political expression England hopes to bolster up a crumbling 6 County Statelet, which is purely dependant on immoral and unjust laws such as proscription of Sinn Fein.

The third demand, calls for an end to harassment of the people. When one asks what harassment is, the answer should be made clear to every one as follows:- Harassment is the use of internment and detention, the swamping of areas with British Forces, the access use of the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act. The continued use of torture centres operating under the guise of R.U.C./British Army posts. The partisan approach by the Crown Forces both R.U.C. and British Army. All this is HARASSMENT. All this must end NOW.

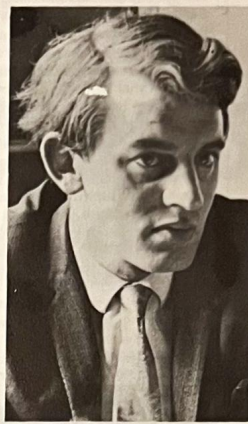




**GERRY FITT**—From the workers' republic to the corridors of power!



**JOHN HUME**—Minister of Commerce. In a unique position to fulfil his promise of 'jobs for the boys'.



**AUSTIN CURRY**—Minister of Housing. The Caledon 'squatter' plans to put an end to the squatting problem in the North.



**PADDY DEVLIN**—Minister of Health and Social Services. In charge of the dole queues!

A man in political life must run on his record. So must a political party and that goes for the S.D.L.P. What is their record? What are their achievements? What have they achieved to warrant the confidence and support of the general public? Is support of the S.D.L.P. justified on the record?

The record shows that since the formation of the S.D.L.P. in 1970, they have not brought about the passage of a single law, good or bad. The S.D.L.P. has not a single reform measure to its credit. The party has drifted from one crisis to another.

In July of 1971, two (2) civilians were killed by the British army in Derry. The S.D.L.P. demanded a public inquiry but like all its "demands," the party lacked substance and support. The British government refused to conduct an inquiry. The S.D.L.P. was helpless. They then decided to boycott Stormont but S.D.L.P. members were careful not to resign. That would have meant the loss of their salaries. (It also would have created a monumental crisis for the British government but the S.D.L.P. patrons in the Lynch government did not want to see this come about — so it didn't).

Since August 1969, the S.D.L.P. leaders have been financially subsidised by the Dublin government. In this way, the Lynch administration controlled S.D.L.P. leaders. The Lynch government and the government in Dublin decided in 1969 that a political front had to be created to stifle Republican activity. A political arena required the formation of a "Catholic" party to act as the Queen's loyal opposition. At this late date, no one believes that Mr. Fitt and his associates agreed to end their petty, personal politics and become the loyal opposition without recompense. In Irish politics, there is a price for everything.

In August 1971, internment was instituted. The S.D.L.P. "protested" and made lengthy speeches but it never went beyond the talking stage. The party made no attempt to organise massive resistance to British concentration camps, a move approved by Edward Heath and the British Cabinet and Brian Faulkner the same Brian Faulkner the S.D.L.P. was to embrace as the North's "new leader" some time later.

In March 1972, Stormont fell and direct rule was instituted. S.D.L.P. members were not out of jobs however, the British government continued to pay their salaries even after the Assembly elections and prior to the transfer of any authority to the Assembly.

Early in 1973, the British White Paper was made public. The S.D.L.P. promptly announced that it would not participate in a government which continued internment. Later however, S.D.L.P. leaders attended the Sunningdale conference. Each and every one of their demands were totally rejected by the British government. They failed to win a single point. At Sunningdale, the Unionists were given a veto over the transfer of any real power to the Council of Ireland and there remains today a consultative body with no legislative powers.

On January 31, 1973, Austin Currie stated publicly:-

"Stormont was brought down largely because of Catholic alienation from Faulkner and what he stood for. You are mad if you believe that a new, acceptable administration can be built around the same Faulkner."

In January 1974, Austin Currie publicly stated that Irishmen should welcome Brian Faulkner as their new "leader." Mr. Currie did not tell us what changed Brian Faulkner within a period of 12 months. Many consider Currie's statement as an insult to the intelligence of the Irish public.

Cashing in on the achievements of others is a favourite S.D.L.P. ploy. Stormont was destroyed by the I.R.A. Brian Faulkner said so publicly. So did the editors of the London Telegraph, the voice of English Toryism. Yet, Mr. Fitt and his associates insist that the credit should be given them.

The blackest part of the record of the S.D.L.P. lies in its co-operation with the same British government which still enforces internment. S.D.L.P. participation in the Assembly and local elections during 1973 allowed the British government to present the "new Ulster" as a showcase of democracy and the British government lost no time in presenting it as such in the world press. However, the most telling indictment of the S.D.L.P. is found in the words of the editors of the Sunday Times. In its edition published on December 30th, 1973, the paper stated: "... their (S.D.L.P.) co-operation makes a separate Northern state more likely to last, not less, than it was before."

It is little wonder that the British government considers it advantageous to pay S.D.L.P. members 3,100 pounds a year and S.D.L.P. Executive members a whopping 6,000 pounds a year. The question is, who is the S.D.L.P. serving, the Irish people or the British government?

# IS THERE A SINN FEIN CUMANN IN YOUR AREA ?

*THERE SHOULD BE A SINN FEIN CUMANN IN EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IN IRELAND! IS THERE A CUMANN IN YOUR LOCALITY? IF NOT, WHY NOT?*

*Let there be no mistake about it. The political arm of the Republican Movement is Sinn Fein and no other group can claim this title! Sinn Fein can be more effective. You can help to achieve this by joining if you are not already a member, by forming a cumann if one does not exist in your area, and by being an active member if you have already joined.*

Write now to the General Secretary, Sinn Fein, Lr. Kevin Street, Dublin, or to the Secretary, Ulster Executive, Sinn Fein, 77a Andersonstown Road, Belfast BT11 9AH for more details.



Every day of the working week I pass by the Amsterdam Stock Exchange or De Beurs, as it is known here. Walking down the busy Damrak, one could hardly fail to miss this large brick-built building with a red-tiled roof and a flat-topped clock tower at its southern end. Over the clock on this tower hangs a big church-like bell. During my more humorous moments I often wonder about the reason for this big tintinnabulum. Is it there to call the speculators to worship at the altar of Mammon in De Beurs, or is it to let them know when there is another run on the British pound?

In every individualist capitalist economy in the Western world a Stock Exchange is a vital component of the general financial and economic system. It is a means through which money invested in business concerns of one kind or another is kept in a liquid state. By means of the Stock Exchange, for instance, a person who has invested money in a business making chemicals can readily convert his stockholdings into cash again simply by selling his shares to another person. Were it otherwise capital would become frozen and immobilised and the financial system of every individualist capitalist economy would quickly grind to a halt.

Among revolutionaries it is almost a point of dogma to aim for the immediate abolition of capitalist institutions such as stock exchanges; and anything less than this is often regarded as a betrayal of revolutionary ideals. Such an all or nothing approach may be productive in the case of a profound revolutionary upheaval amongst the masses in which the lines dividing the battling parties are very sharply drawn and no quarter is given or can be given by either side. But even then the victorious group may go too far too quickly in its fanatical attempts to destroy every vestige of the old order. The course of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia is an example of this. And it was precisely because Lenin realised that the Bolsheviks had been too doctrinaire and had gone a step too far, at least along the state capitalist road, that a partial return to individualist capitalism was made in the 1920's through the adoption of the New Economic Policy.

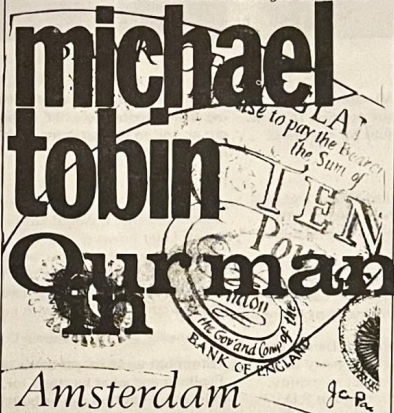
Now the Irish Republican Movement does not intend taking the road of the Bolsheviks. Neither does it intend to let itself become a slave to immature doctrinaire revolutionary dogma. Instead we adopt a realistic and pragmatic approach in our step by step campaign to achieve our ideal of a 32 county Democratic Socialist Republic; and Eire Nua — the social and economic programme of Sinn Féin — outlines the means through which such an ideal can be arrived at.

In the section of Eire Nua he added "Finance" we have a broad picture of the initial steps which the victorious Republican Movement will take in creating a financial system which will suit the needs of an Ireland freed at last from the grasping tentacles of British Imperialism. Eire Nua does not envisage the abolition of the Stock Exchange in Ireland. But it does see its function "restricted" to the role of raising finance for the private sector of the Irish economy. Trading in foreign shares would be forbidden. Legislation would be introduced curbing speculative unproductive acquisition of wealth by individuals but favouring raising capital for new productive ventures."

It would be easy for the Republican Movement to aim at ridding Ireland of the stock exchange system altogether. But this would only make our path towards a New Ireland that bit more difficult still. The roots of old capitalist ways have already grown deep down into the heart of the Irish body politic. And they will not be rooted out by the use of pure brawn and blunt pickaxes and sledgehammers. Too great and sudden an attack on such old capitalist ways by the victorious forces of the Irish Revolution will only create resistance and opposition among sectors of the Irish population where none need be encountered. A further point to be noted carefully in this respect is that by making too many enemies at home while in the course of pulling Ireland out of the orbit of British Imperialism we could weaken ourselves economically to the extent of becoming wholly dependent upon the support of some other Power which could thus be in a sufficiently strong position to modify our day to day policies and even determine our ultimate aim. As every sincere Republican will agree, this is the last kind of situation we want to get ourselves into, and, accordingly, we should take every precaution to ensure that it doesn't happen.

For a great many people terms like "Finance" or

"Financial System" seem so complicated that the mere thought of them is sufficient to boggle one's brain. To a certain extent a financial system is indeed a complicated thing. But it is in no way as complex as the high priests of capitalism like to make out. Ever since the time of Ancient Egypt those in control of society, i.e. the ruling class, (who control the means of producing society's needs), have always liked to create a wide gulf between themselves and the masses of ordinary people and to remain aloof from them. In the course of doing this they surround themselves and their manipulations of the political and economic system with a dense web of mystery. They like to give the impression that their expertise is of such a skilled and sophisticated kind that the difficulties and complications of running society are quite beyond the capacity of the masses to master. In old Imperial China, for instance, the ruling clique deliberately held back the natural development of the Chinese written language for some two thousand years — to the extent that a book written in China at the time of Christ can be read by the illiterate person of today. Over that whole long spell of time the complicated system of written characters remained almost unchanged as a deliber-



ate matter of policy by the ruling clique in China so that the broad masses of the Chinese people would remain illiterate and would thus be less likely to ever pose a threat to imperial rule and the feudal social order.

From the very first word on the section on finance Eire Nua seeks to demystify the conventional notion of a financial system. It says: "The purpose of a financial system is to provide, as well as a medium of exchange, a fund of credit whereby the economic surplus may be re-invested, thus enabling the economy to expand."

When stripped of its frills every financial system may be reduced to money — the actual coins and banknotes in our pockets and purses — and to the flow of money through the economic channels and pipelines of a given country. Money itself is nothing more than embodied Value. Every coin and banknote can be regarded as just a tiny bit of the total social cake; and it may be exchanged for an actual part of this social cake, which may be in the form of a tangible commodity such as a loaf of bread, or in the form of a service such as a busride or filmshow. So far as the average worker is concerned, money is a kind of ration card system. He goes to his work place where he sells his labour power, (capacity to do a certain kind of work) for a given sum of money which allows him to buy a certain amount of this and a certain amount of that to a highly limited extent — usually only enough to cover only his ordinary living needs.

It is only when we ascend to the dizzy heights of the financial world that the thick mists of mystification begin to cloud the surroundings. In this ethereal region, which is inhabited only by the financial gnomes, physical money as such ceases to be of relevance, for all transactions are done on paper. But in spite of this what goes on is the same kind of buying and selling process which is part of the everyday life of the masses of people at the lower levels. For example, the credit transactions of the ordinary person who buys a TV or a fridge on HP merely become larger in scale and involve tankers or jets or whole factories or office blocks. And the capitalist or financier who directs the movement of capital at this level gets a correspondingly gre-

proportion of the social cake.

Now so far as any given country is concerned, the total wealth produced in, say, a year by its primary producers, i.e. the working class, is distributed and utilised in a great number and variety of ways. The great bulk of the social cake is consumed. But a certain proportion is ploughed back into the soil of the economy. For just as part of every year's grain crop is resown so that yet another crop can be produced so a part of a country's annual social cake needs to be reinvested so that the supply of society's needs can be maintained. And if the economy is to grow and not just remain stagnant so a certain proportion of the reinvested social cake needs to be used for the building of new factories, roads, port facilities, and other economic undertakings.

As Eire Nua clearly states, it is precisely because this did not happen in Ireland before the investment boom of 1959 that the Irish economy failed to develop. And the reason why there has been economic development of a fair significance since the end of the fifties is because various Free State governments have been using public money on a large scale to encourage foreign multinational companies to base some of their enterprises there — not for the benefit of the people of Ireland but for the enrichment of themselves.

In spite of the building of large numbers of foreign owned factories on Irish soil the underlying causes of the lack of economic development in Ireland prior to 1959 still prevail — for the reason that contrary to what the Shawnees and Quislings would have us believe no fundamental change in the Irish economic system has taken place over the period since the late 1950's. And Eire Nua shows quite clearly why this is so.

It starts by reminding us of the stark fact that "the Irish financial system is integrated with that of England." And then it goes on to give us a brief rundown on the structure and workings of this system. After pointing out that the latter "consists of a banking sector and an insurance sector" as well as "a Central Bank under the 26 County administration whose function is purely nominal" it names those big banking groups which dominate Irish finance and shows how they are wholly tied in with the British banking system. It also points out that British domination is just as equally marked in the field of Insurance, which in the words of Eire Nua "is completely in the hands of the British companies in the Six Counties and mostly so in the 26."

If British domination amounted to nothing more than having Britishers running the Irish banking system from afar it would be possible for, say a Shawnee to argue that it was merely a matter of who flew which flags. But British domination of the Irish financial system means far more than this. Far from being something of interest only to those Irish people with spirit and whose patriotic pride is hurt at seeing Ireland in the grip of British Imperialism, this particular aspect of British domination is of direct and immediate concern to every man, woman and child. Because what it means is that the little bit of our country's annual social cake which is not consumed is, except for a small percentage, not ploughed back into the economy but is invested in Britain — to Britain's advantage. This is the major contributory cause of the failure of the 26 County economy to expand up to 1959. The savings of the Irish people instead of being put to work in Ireland are syphoned off down the huge greedy gullet of the British Bulldog.

While the effect of British control of our financial system is a shocking thing in itself it must never be forgotten that it is only one aspect of British domination of our country — which continues to be a colony of that Vampire Power across the Irish sea. For eight long centuries this blood-sucking Imperialist Country has feasted itself on our little land and its people. And whenever the most spirited and courageous sons and daughters of Mother Erin arose in anger against the enslaver of their beloved nation they were savagely smitten down by the sword or bullet or hangman's rope — or were incarcerated in British jails to rot or go mad. Today Ireland's sons and daughters are once again in a state of revolt against the tyranny and domination of the British Crown. Let this be the last battle. Let us finally rid ourselves of all tentacles, financial and otherwise, which bind us to John Bull. And then free at last we can begin to march forward again, boldly and confidently — an awakened nation once more carving out its own destiny.



# ULSTER-STYLE QUESTIONS IN POLICE RAID

DETECTIVES in Birmingham have used a special Ulster-style method of interrogation when they raided premises this week.

The technique is known as the 'army file'. The person being questioned is asked for a host of personal details and each of the answers is recorded on a printed questionnaire.

Questions include: name, address, date of birth, place of birth, name of mother and father, their address, occupation, place of work, names of all brothers and sisters, their addresses.

BY ALEX MITCHELL

This is believed to be the first time that the 'army file' has been used in Britain. It is constantly in use in Ulster in the hands of both the RUC and the army.

It forms part of essential 'low grade' intelligence gathering.

The premises raided in Birmingham are used to house the Long Kesh Co-op, a shop used to sell and distribute items made by internees.

Nineteen plainclothes police, and some uniformed officers, arrived at the house shortly after 7 p.m. on Tuesday, armed with explosive warrants.

They went over the premises 'with a fine tooth-comb' and even dug up the garden. After the detailed interrogation, they left without making an arrest.

A spokesman for the National Council of Civil Liberties said yesterday he was 'astonished' by the use of the questioning procedure. 'This is the first case we have heard', he said. 'It needs investigating.'

He said that an individual need not answer a single question. It was a legal right, except in special circumstances, to refuse to give even your name and address.

## No right

In the Birmingham case, he said, the police had no right whatsoever to conduct the elaborate questioning that they did.

The police had no right to do it, and the individuals involved had every right to refuse to answer', he added.

(Reprinted from "Workers Press")



## BALLYMURPHY BACKS HUNGER STRIKERS

These photographs were taken at the 24-hour fast held in

Ballymurphy recently and organised by the Liam McParland Sinn Fein Cumann in solidarity with the demands made by the Winchester Eight to be transferred to prisons in Ireland and granted political status.





# TORTURE VICTIMS

Deaf to the mounting pressure for the ending of the force-feeding and the transfer of the hunger-strikers and their comrades to Irish jails, the British Government has again affirmed that none of those who were convicted at Winchester on November 14th last will be sent back to the North to serve their sentences.

Replying to the Labour M.P. Mr. Paul Rose, Viscount Colville repeated the decision made by Mr. Robert Carr, the Home Secretary: "It would not be in the public interest to grant the applications made by these prisoners for their transfer to Northern Ireland to serve their sentences."

However, pressure on behalf of the four hunger-strikers is building up following a lobby of M.P.s organised by Sinn Féin in England and the Irish Political Hostages Campaign, which resulted in several Labour M.P.s. indicating they could continue the pressure on the Home Office.

Many resolutions have been passed throughout Ireland calling on the Irish government to have representations made to have the Price sisters transferred to a prison in Ireland.

During a 50 seconds surprise appearance at a mass meeting of over 1,000 staff and students at University College, Dublin in protest against the forced feeding of the hunger strikers, the girls' father, Albert Price made a brief statement:

"I would like to thank all who are helping to bring my daughters home. But at this time you will understand that I do not want to dwell on the present situation.

"Come what may, it is the pressure of the voices of the people which will bring my daughters home, one way or another."

## DEMONSTRATION OF FEEDING:

At the University meeting a member of the Royal College of Surgeons said that the arguments that forced feeding is being carried out for medical reasons to keep the girls alive was untrue.

He added: "By all the evidence and knowledge we have of the technique and application of forced feeding we can honestly say it is not a medical act. It is nothing less than a form of deliberate torture."

A demonstration of forced feeding was given at the end of the meeting involving a first year law student at the College. A nurse carried out the operation, and after several attempts to manipulate the "tube" down the student's throat and into his stomach the demonstration ended.

The student was sick several times during the five-minute operation and at one point the tube went down the wrong way and into his lungs, causing his face to turn blue.

A petition signed by 3,000 students was handed into the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Garrett Fitzgerald calling for the prisoners to be returned to Ireland.

A group of lecturers from University College, Dublin picketed the British Passport Office at Merrion Square in protest against the forcible feeding of Irish prisoners in demand of their transfer to Irish jails for the duration of their sentences. There was support from other teaching groups and the picket line included teachers from national, secondary and vocational schools.

Members of Sinn Féin picketed the home of Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald in Dublin in protest against the failure of the Government to make representations on behalf of the prisoners.

## BARFOOT PROTEST:

Mr. Timothy O'Neill a landscape gardener of Everett Park, Bray went on a barefoot walk into Dublin as his personal protest. Mr. O'Neill, in his mid-30s and married with four children walked to the Taoiseach's office in Merrion Street where he handed in a protest letter for Mr. Cosgrave.

## FORCE-FEEDING ABHORRED:

A group of Irish medical doctors — 11 in all — joined together in expressing their abhorrence of the force-feeding of occupants of British prisons.

They have written a letter to each of the Medical Officers of Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Gartree Prisons demanding that the General Medical Council inquire into the behaviour of the prison medical staff.

The letter is as follows:-

We, the undersigned doctors, wish to express our abhorrence of force-feeding of occupants of British prisons. We have demanded that the General Medical Council enquire into the behaviours of the prison medical staff of Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Gartree Prisons where this is being perpetrated and who are responsible for the physical and mental welfare of the prisoners.

We know that the force-feeding of four Irish prisoners, Dolours Price, Marion Price, Gerald Kelly and Hugh Feeney is being carried out daily in these prisons.

These procedures offend against the standards of medical ethics which are accepted internationally and infringe the Geneva Convention of Human Rights to which Britain is a signatory.

These standards establish the principle that treatment may not be imposed on persons without their consent or the consent of their relatives. No treatment must degrade or debase the person treated and the object must be to improve the recipient's mental or physical welfare.

We call on those members of the medical profession who may be concerned in the force-feeding to cease the practice immediately. We call on all Irish and British doctors to add their weight to this plea, to stop this prostitution of our profession and to ensure that these procedures will not occur with our collaboration or under medical supervision.

## CIVIL RIGHTS PICKET:

About 700 people attended a Civil Rights Association demonstration outside the British Ambassadors' residence in Stepaside, Co. Dublin. The demonstration was attended by Mr. Albert Price, father of the two girls and a letter from his daughters in Brixton Prison was read by Capt. James Kelly, chairman of the Irish Civil Rights Association.

The Ambassador made a brief appearance, before the marchers arrived, to thank the police for protecting the embassy.

## PETITION ON HUNGER STRIKERS:

A strongly worded demand for action from the Government on the forcible feeding of the Belfast hunger strikers in English jails has come from a group of thirty two Irish professional people.

The group including Dr. Vincent Barry, director of the Medical Research Council's laboratory at Trinity College, Dublin, and Mr. Tomas McAnna, director of the Abbey Theatre, demanded that they be accorded the special category status given to the Republican prisoners in the North. Calling for an end 'to the torture' of the Price sisters, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly, a statement from the group said that if the prisoners died "the responsibility for their death would be shared by all those in political life here who have failed to protest."

It claimed that their trial at Winchester was conducted "in an atmosphere of naked bigotry and hatred." The presiding judge had sought to impose a sentence even more savage than the law, which he was supposed to be administering, permitted.

The statement said that the prisoners could die in the "atmosphere of hostile hatred in which they were sentenced."

"When Ian Smith imprisoned Judith Todd in Rhodesia two years ago, and forcibly fed her for a week, the cries of English liberalism mounted heavenwards, and the television screens were barred to the story and the newspapers spelled it out,"



The statement concluded: "The four hunger-strikers are Irish citizens. Why does an Irish Government remain silent while they are tortured?"

## ACTRESS HAD TO BE RESTRAINED:

Actress, Siobhan McKenna led a protest march of 400 strong through London and addressed a meeting outside Wormwood Scrubs Prison. Miss McKenna had to be restrained by her companions, Dublin actors Niall Buggy and Maire Ni Grainne from volunteering to be forcibly fed herself.

Miss Mary Molloy (19) a Co. Galway girl was a volunteer at the demonstration organised by the Irish Political Hostages campaign which is calling for the repatriation of four Irish prisoners now on hunger strike in British jails. Gerald Kelly, sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the London car bomb explosion, is being held at Wormwood Scrubs, Prison.

An elderly man, Charles O'Sullivan from Wexford was taken to hospital after he allowed himself to be force fed. Mr. Brendan McGill, national organiser of Sinn Féin in Britain, vomited almost immediately the tube used for artificial feeding was put down his throat by a doctor.

Miss McKenna said at the rally that the forced feeding of Marion and Dolours Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly was totally inhumane.

## MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER:

Dolours and Marion Price, now in their third month of their hunger strike at Brixton Prison, have for the past four weeks refused to be examined by prison doctors, according to their sister Claire who visited the jail last week. In an interview with the Irish Times Claire said that her sisters told her that they were more determined than ever to persist in their protest. "They will," she said, "go through with this for the next 19 years if they have to."

Both sisters were now quite weak, she said. "Dolours was first into the visiting room and as she walked in I noticed that she was dragging her feet. She raised her arms to kiss me and everything seemed to be an effort — it was as if she was in 'slow motion'."

Dolours, she continued, seemed to be more noticeably affected. She had dark rings around her eyes but both of them looked very ill. When they awake in the mornings they are filled with tensions as they prepare themselves for the force-feeding. This takes place at 10.00 am. each day. The food has now been increased to about 24 fluid ounces and the sickness lasts until after 2 p.m. "It never gets any easier" she said.

## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED:

A call for the mass resignation of all Irish doctors from the British Medical Association, unless the BMA demands an immediate enquiry into the constitutionality in human rights terms of forced feeding of prisoners in British jails has been made by Dr. Aidan Meade.

Dr. Meade says that if the BMA does not do this we should also—

- (1) Make immediate representations to the World Medical Association about the behaviour of British doctors.
- (2) Sever our ties with the BMA — particularly the one whereby we send a copy of the BMJ automatically to each IMA member.
- (3) Refuse to co-operate with the British Medical Registration Council unless it brings before it these doctors for investigation of their behaviour.

Dr. Meade goes on to say that it is about time that the medical profession in Ireland showed its independence from Britain and defended human rights.



The Officers and members of the Liam McParland Sinn Fein Cumann, Ballymurphy, wish to thank all the people who supported their 24 hour protest fast for the Winchester 8.

We demand an end to torture and force-feeding.  
"Blessed are those who hunger for justice."

## Disagrees With British Troops On Irish Soil

Dear Comrade,

Could you please tell me where I can get a badge like the one you display on the front page of "Republican News." I would like to wear it on my jacket with pride and support your fight against British Imperialism.

I disagree with British troops on Irish soil. I say they should be brought home.

I have worked with Irish people, they are a proud people but over here some of them are used as cheap labour and given the dirty jobs.

I wish you a speedy and just victory in your fight against the people who are robbing the Irish workers of their right; a united and free Ireland.

Your fraternally,

THOMAS LUNDIE,  
16 Craigie Road,  
Hurlford Ayr, Scot.

## Disgusted With Fitt

May I through the courtesy of your columns, express my disgust at the remarks made by Mr. Gerry Fitt, concerning the Price sisters, and their comrades. His remarks were, and I quote, "Internment would have ended long ago if it had not been for the activities of the Provos like Marion and Dolours Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly."

I detect a sign of anxiety in Mr. Pym's remarks, for it comes to mind that the S.D.L.P. need something spectacular to rescue them from the untenable position in which they find themselves, because after all, they did promise to secure the ending of Internment, before they would take part in the mock Government, which at the moment is shaking at its very foundations.

Now it seems they are going to use the Winchester as their platform to tell the people that they will have to "weasel" out of this election promise, because of the so-called and British-inspired "level of violence." Are they too, falling for this old British trick? I don't think so.

It seems very clear that the S.D.L.P. have been told in no uncertain manner, that Internment, especially with the spectre of a Protestant working-class awakening appearing on the horizon, is too valuable a weapon, and is here to stay, and that they (the S.D.L.P.) had better "con" the people into thinking that it is justified.

They are prepared to use the sufferings of the people and the Winchester 8 in particular, to try and cover up their own failure on the Internment and other issues.

Yours sincerely,

P.R.O.,  
Cage Seven, Long Kesh.

# HOSPITAL STAFF NOT BLAMED

"Once again, the Catholic population have witnessed the physical illustration of the determination of the British Army to pursue their shoot-to-kill Kitsonian philosophy in a vain attempt to suppress again the Irish people," stated The Public Relations Officer for Belfast Brigade, O'laigh na h-Eireann, in a press release on Monday night.

The P.R.O. said that the Republican Movement has continually warned the local Catholic population against the use of British Army undercover murder gangs operating from the precincts of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

He added: "These murders illustrate the determination of the British Army to provoke sectarian conflict on a vast scale. Acknowledging the difficulty of gaining admission to the hospital during normal working hours and the increased difficulty due to strengthened security measures at night, are expected to believe that sectarian assassins penetrated the highly-praised British Army security around the hospital with such ease and confidence?"

The statement which was signed by Sean Ryan, for the Belfast Brigade, went on: "The Belfast Brigade having talked to eye witnesses and

investigated this incident thoroughly wishes to highlight several points:-

1. The car carrying the assassins approached the Grovenor Road through the R.V.H. via military checkpoints at Broadway;

2. The occupants were able to wait for their victims, illustrating their confidence of an easy escape and unconcern for their personal safety.

3. The car had to leave via the same route, again through military checkpoints.

4. A familiar feature of many previous 'sectarian' murders was again present - the complete absence of British Army activity in the immediate vicinity.

"The Belfast Brigade is no way blame the staff of the R.V.H. for this incident, realising the constant 'pressure' they are under because of their close proximity to the British Army. We would ask the hospital authorities, however, when considering the neutral status of their hospital in the present war situation, and in view of the attitudes of some of their staff opposed to the continued armed occupation of the hospital by hostile forces to communicate to the general public their attitude on this subject."

## strong support for hunger strikers in london

A car cavalcade was held in London on 2nd February to protest against the plight of the Irish Political Prisoners. The protest was organised by Sinn Fein, with the aid of the Irish Political Hostages Release Campaign.

Those taking part assembled outside the Lord Palmerston public house in Kilburn. Before the cavalcade moved off, police tried to provoke the protesters by consistently harassing the drivers taking part. Mr. Derek Highstead, Chairman of London Sinn Fein C.C., was "booked" for having a "bald" tyre. The tyre was changed and he was allowed to proceed.

Another Sinn Fein member, Maurice Foley, was warned by a motorcycle cop that he might be summoned. His "offence" was that he spat on the ground. These are only a few examples of the petty type of harassment tactics used by the police.

The cavalcade moved towards West London, through Oxford St., Holborn, Fleet Street, the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street and finally to Marble Arch.

Hundreds of balloons were released along the route. These carried various slogans about force-feeding and torture. Leaflets were distributed advertising details about the many events planned to highlight the plight of the Winchester 8.

Sinn Fein and the P.H.R.C. mounted a picket at Wormwood Scrubs the following day. Speakers included:- Tony Kearns, (S.F.) Bob Purdie, (I.M.G.) Sean Carson and Maureen Maguire, (P.H.R.C.).

Pickets will be maintained at this jail until the demands of the hunger strikers are met.

# Internees Condemn SDLP

I would like to express, through your columns, our total condemnation of the S.D.L.P. for their inhuman and callous disregard for the suffering of the Winchester hunger-strikers. Gerry Fitt is the Parliamentary representative of all four and Paddy Devlin lived almost beside them until he moved to a "better" area, yet none of the party leaders have taken any positive steps to end their suffering. In fact Messrs Fitt and Devlin etc. have become the mouth-piece of the British Government on this issue and have stated that they cannot be repatriated until violence ends.

They have gone even further and attempted to take the mass support away from their cause by saying it was the violence of the Price Sisters etc. and others that Internment could not be

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

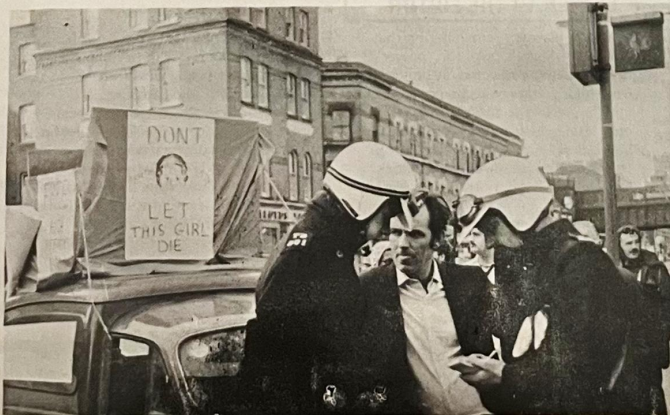
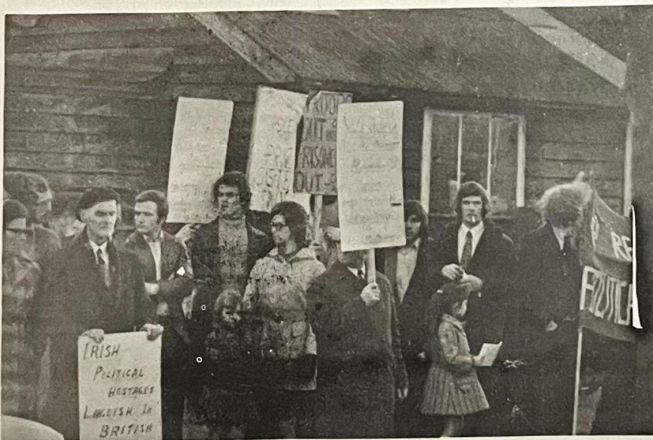
ended. It is worth remembering that during the Party's push for "power" they repeatedly rejected, as unjust, the British Government's same preconditions for an end to Internment. Surely now it is evident to everyone that the S.D.L.P. is unable to solve any problems, even by taking part in a mock government, from both the increased B.A. harassment in minority areas and the number of internees since the inception of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The "Motion No. 1 Committee" was formed within the party to pressurise its leaders into having internment ended and many M.P.s. have protested to the party and the British Government for their handling of the Winchester

hostages - all apparently in vain.

Now the once vociferous opposition have reversed the order to become part of an uncompromising Government unwilling to grant just demands. A tragic footnote to this whole spectacle is the recent news that Mr. Paddy Devlin has to diet to become a more "respectable" Minister of Health while remaining unconcerned about the health, which is at a dangerous level, of the Price sisters Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly who daily endure the torture of force-feeding to back up their demands to be able to serve their savage sentences at home.

P.R.O.,  
REPUBLICAN INTERNEES,  
Cage 6, Long Kesh.





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Another Sinn Fein member, Maurice Foley, was warned by a motorcycle cop that he might be summoned. His "offence" was that he spat on the ground. These are only a few examples of the petty type of harassment tactics used by the police. The calvalcade moved towards West London, through Oxford St., Holburn, Fleet St., the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street, and finally to Marble Arch. Hundreds of balloons were released along the route. These carried various slogans about force-feeding and torture. Leaflets were distributed advertising details about the many events planned to highlight the plight of the Winchester Eight. Sinn Fein and the PHRC mounted a picket at Wormwood Scrubs the following day. Speakers included: TONY KEARNS (SF), BOB PURDIE (IMG), SEAN CARSON and MAUREEN MAGUIRE, PHRC. Pickets will be maintained at this jail until the demands of the Hunger-Strikers are met.

Our pictures (from top left): The drivers of the car calvalcade discuss tactics as to what streets to drive down. 2, Picket outside Wormwood Scrubs. Another section of the picket outside the Jail. Bottom: Derek Highstead (SF, London), being summoned for having a "bald tyre" on his car. Top Right: Tricolour passes Wormwood Scrubs. Below: Marching to the Jail.

