

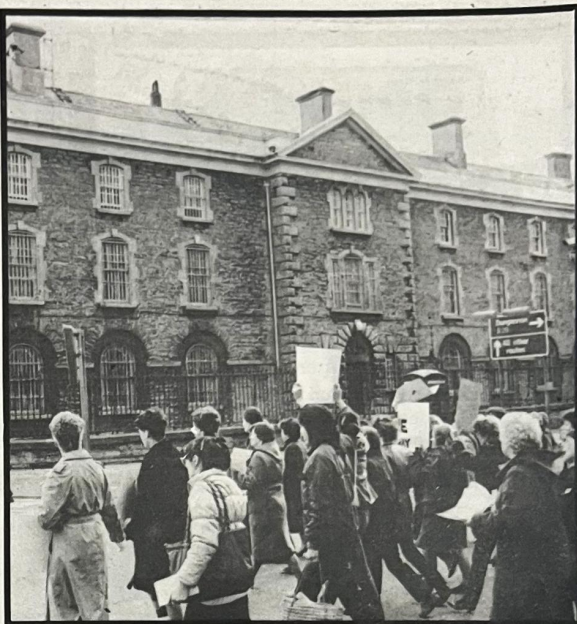
AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Sraith Nua Imi 6 Uimhir 10 Deardain Marta 8 Thursday 8th March 1984 (Britain 30p) Price 25p

Armagh outrage



Armagh Prison Picket
Sunday 11th March
Everyone welcome
Buses to Armagh

Belfast: Leave Dunville Park at 1pm. Tickets from Falls Women's Centre (£2).
Dublin: Leave 5 Blessington Street at 11am. Bookings from 308783 (£6 waged, £5 unwaged).
Fermanagh: Bookings from 26854.

IF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY means anything in Ireland, it must mean the highlighting of the obscene treatment of the republican women prisoners in Armagh Jail at the hands of the British administration.

The struggle to end the repression of women generally — as in the case of all oppression — can only be achieved in the context of an Ireland which is united and free. Those women who have taken up that primary struggle and have suffered imprisonment for doing so, are being subjected to particular violations in addition to the general discriminations against their sex.

BARBARIC

The barbaric strip-searching of women prisoners — introduced in November 1982 — is still being systematically enforced in Armagh.

A staggering total of 1,216 such strip-searches were carried out during

1983. One woman was strip-searched 84 times in that period.

Not satisfied with this particular perverse persecution, the prison administration in recent weeks has continued to use every possible new petty harassment to inflict further suffering and attempt to break the spirit of the prisoners.

Cell switches and searches have been stepped up, the limited choice of recreational and handicraft facilities have been further curtailed. The gymnasium is now out of bounds for 'security reasons'.

MALICIOUS

Spot-checks on cells are used by malicious prison

staff as a constant invasion of privacy, the movements and comments of prisoners are constantly logged.

Moreover, any prisoner who breaks even the most trivial rule has a punishment meted out — without the right of legal representation — which can include loss of association, loss of so-called 'privileges' (letters, visits and recreation) and loss of remission.

And remand prisoners can find themselves losing remission even before their trial, verdict and sentencing. Indeed, it is the women remand prisoners — under British 'law' presumed innocent until 'proven guilty' — who are the main targets of this persecution policy.

The conditions in Armagh Prison amount to an international outrage, they are very much what International Women's Day is all about.



OPINION

The American Connection

MARCH is the month when Leinster House politicians jet to the USA to hob-nob with the elite of a world super-power.

With attention focussed on matters Irish around St Patrick's Day, these politicians will, as always, pay tribute to the enterprise of American multinational investors in Ireland and cry for more of the same.

They will fawn and crawl before politicians and big-business men who couldn't care less about Ireland and will lecture ordinary Irish-Americans as to what they should or should not think, do or say about Ireland's British problem.

Free State politicians embark on this yearly crusade to win Irish-Americans away from the 'men of violence', seemingly forgetting that these same Irish-Americans are the children and grandchildren of the 'men of violence' of earlier generations. Their ancestors were forced to leave their native land because of social and military oppression as delivered first by the British and then by their Free State successors.

These Free State politicians will see no contradiction in mouthing ritual condemnations of Ireland's freedom fighters while applauding the active role played by Coalition leader Garret FitzGerald in a military hardware deal between the US and British governments in the shape of the Shorts contract.

So much for the pretence of Irish freedom when a Free State leader will pursue massive business contracts to shore up the rotten, sectarian six-county state.

So much for the pretence of Irish neutrality when that deal involves military aircraft which may be used to bolster the presence of US troops in Central America and the Middle East.

And when President Reagan comes to Ireland in June will he be asked to 'publicly disassociate' himself from the men of violence who have, with his blessing, brought death and destruction to the poor people of the Philippines, El Salvador and Lebanon? Will he be asked to publicly renounce his nuclear brinkmanship?

The new US ambassador to Ireland, Robert Kane, told a blatant lie this week when he said that Reagan's visit is prompted by personal rather than political considerations.

Reagan's aim is two-fold: to win pre-election support from the Irish-American community by discovering his 'roots' and to draw the Dublin government even closer to the Western alliance.

While the acquiescence of FitzGerald & Co is certain, Reagan will have to do more than wear shamrock and visit Ballyporeen to convince Irish-Americans that he is interested in Irish affairs.

With Gary Hart making a determined bid for the Democratic vote, and with his declared support for Irish unity (something we have, of course, heard on other occasions from other presidential candidates), Ireland may yet figure as an issue in the forthcoming elections.

On the basis of Reagan's record of ignoring the plight of the H-Block hunger-strikers, of supporting Margaret Thatcher, and of persecuting Irish support organisations such as Noraid during his term of office, apart from the rest of his foreign policy, he merits no welcome from the Irish people when he visits here in June.



● An RUC Transit van sits in the driveway where William McConnell was executed by the IRA

H-BLOCK DEPUTY KILLED

demanding that a lock-up be called first. After this incident, McConnell admitted to another governor that he had 'over-reacted'.

"Perhaps that would be the proper epitaph for McConnell: a man who always 'over-reacted' in his zeal to oppress POWs. He has left his mark on Long Kesh, and on prisoners in Long Kesh. Let us hope the other bullies learn the lesson of this event."

UDR SOLDIER KILLED

On Friday morning, March 2nd, a UDR soldier was killed in Castleberg, County Tyrone, as he left his home for work. He had just climbed into his Department of Environment water services van and driven a short distance when a bomb, previously placed in the vehicle, exploded. He died a short time later.

NEWRY BARRACKS BOMB

On Monday, March 5th, South Down Brigade IRA placed a bomb in the Ardmore Hotel, Newry, the proposed site for a new RUC barracks. The bomb, however, did not detonate. In a statement, the IRA said:

"The RUC have been informed of this and, despite the risk to civilians, have taken no action. This is obviously a sinister propaganda exercise on the part of the RUC, hoping for civilian casualties in order to discredit the IRA. The IRA also warn those civilian workers who actively assist the RUC and British army, that they will receive no 'special consideration'."

ARMAGH DEATH

On Saturday morning, March 3rd, a 36-year-old man in Armagh city was killed when he triggered a bomb intended for members of the crown forces.

The bomb had been placed at the door of a garage on the Alexander Road in Armagh. The IRA, in claiming responsibility, expressed their "deep regret at this tragic accident."

THE IRA's Belfast Brigade struck a demoralising blow to the North's prison service and demonstrated its resolve to defend its prisoners with the execution of H-Block Deputy Governor William McConnell, on Tuesday this week, March 6th.

William McConnell was leaving his home in Hawthornden Drive on Belmont Road, in East Belfast, around 8.15am, when two IRA Volunteers, who, along with a third, had taken over the house opposite the night before, walked up and shot him several times in the head. The Volunteers then drove off in the car belonging to the couple whose home they had commandeered.

In their statement claiming responsibility, the IRA identified McConnell as the man chosen "to break republican opposition to the allocation of mental and degrading work tasks."

The IRA also made it clear that his execution "does not herald a new campaign against prison officials, but it should come as a salutary lesson to those in the administration presently advocating a return to a policy of beatings as a means of controlling political prisoners."

McConnell had a long history of involvement in beatings and was well-known to most republican prisoners. He was deeply involved in the assaults on republicans in A-Wing, Crumlin Road Jail, in October 1974, following the burning of Long Kesh. At one point in the beatings which occurred, McConnell took a baton

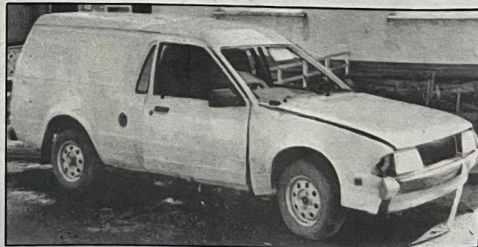
and personally beat prisoners who were being dragged from A-Wing to 'the boards'. During the blanket protest, McConnell built a reputation as a sadistic governor, overseeing beatings and insulting men on the boards while they were on the starvation diet.

PRISONERS

According to a statement smuggled out from the prison following McConnell's death the republican prisoners said:

"McConnell played a major role in supervising the orgy of retaliatory violence which followed the great escape last September, and over 60 injured POWs in one block alone bear testimony to the vicious nature of these assaults."

"Since the Hennessy report, McConnell was governor over three H-Blocks and only a few Sundays ago he called a riot squad in, needlessly, to one block when the prisoners remained in the canteen at lock-up, waiting for Mass while McConnell



● The booby-trapped van in which a UDR man was killed on March 2nd

HUME AND FITZGERALD AID SECTARIAN JOB POLICIES REAGAN FUNDS JOBS BIAS

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

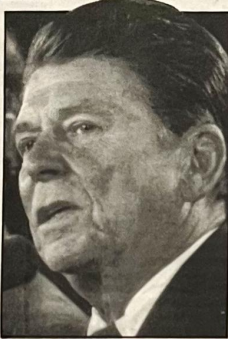
A MAJOR endorsement of sectarian job discrimination in the North has been given by the United States president, Ronald Reagan, in granting a £150 million defence contract to Short Brothers Ltd in Belfast, where only 5% of the workforce is drawn from the nationalist population.

And both John Hume and Garret Fitzgerald were instrumental in glossing over the sectarian job policy at the firm.

Shorts has always been known for its sectarian employment practices. The Fair Employment Agency survey of engineering companies in Belfast, which revealed the statistical reality of the discrimination, took from 1977 to 1983 to complete because of reluctance by firms involved to co-operate.

Shorts have responded to the exposure of its unbalanced workforce by insultingly blaming "the lack of suitably skilled Catholics" and "the poor rate of applications from Catholics".

Traditionally, however, nationalists, when they have been able to find work, have been kept to menial and unskilled employment and deprived of both training and promotion opportunities — a pattern borne out by successive FEA reports on both public and private sectors.



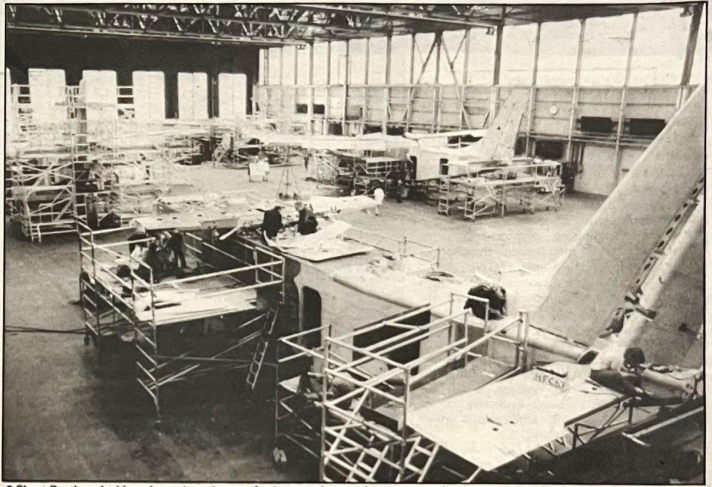
● RONALD REAGAN

counter Irish-American efforts to demand that any contracts granted be insistent on an end to discrimination.

Before this, it had seemed that the campaign of information by Irish-American groups would sway enough members of the US Congress to prevent the Reagan government from signing the contract, or at least demanding solid guarantees from Shorts.

A few weeks before visits to the North by American trade unionists and a group of Congress members last August, Shorts unveiled what it described as an "affirmative action programme to encourage Catholics to apply for jobs".

This window-dressing exercise has only meant a vague, token meeting between Shorts management and some principals from Catholic schools in Belfast.



● Short Brothers Ltd has always been known for its sectarian employment practices

But since the contract was announced last Friday, Shorts have declared that the basis on which they will recruit is "ability to do the job", which necessarily maintains the bias in favour of the already skilled loyalist engineering workforce.

DISMAYED

The award of the US air force contract to Shorts, which was welcomed by the DUP's Peter Robinson as a defeat for 'the voice of the IRA' in the United States, has dismayed many Irish-Americans, who have seen for themselves the terrible unemployment situation among Northern nationalists.

"It will be interpreted," said Noraid spokesperson Martin Galvin, "as a signal that, in addition to accepting British colonial rule in the

North, the Reagan administration also accepts the sectarian system used by the British to maintain partition."

Another big contract, worth £30 million, was announced last Friday, this time from the British Ministry of Defence, and has been granted to another Belfast company notorious for its bigoted recruitment practices — the Harland & Wolff shipyard.

The reality of trade unionism in the North was also all too clearly exposed in the comment of ICTU Northern officer Terry Carlin, who hailed Friday as "one of the better days for industry in Northern Ireland".

STATISTICS

Unemployment figures released this week, however, tailored by

Thatcher's civil servants, give a clearer view of the grim facts of life. The jobless statistics rose again for February to 122,537 — an increase of 10,000 in the year.

The highest rates of unemployment are, as they have always been, found in predominantly nationalist areas — Strabane 42%; Cookstown 39%; Dungannon 36%; Newry 34%; Derry 30%.

Those figures are again a reminder to all those who would believe the propaganda peddled by the British government through its embassies, aided and abetted by Garret Fitzgerald and John Hume. The six-county state has not been reformed under 'benevolent' British direct rule, but is what Irish nationalists have always claimed it to be — irreformable.

No shaking off Coalition bug

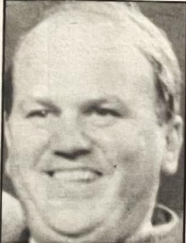
BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE BUGGING scandal that is proving such an embarrassment to the Free State government is stubbornly refusing to go away, in spite of the Coalition's twisting and turning to try to get rid of it.

In contrast to the long-delayed investigation into the bugging of the Moynas' home, the gardai produced almost instant 'proof' that the four Special Branch men on Brian Lenihan's list, handed to Free State Minister for Justice Michael Noonan in Leinster House last Wednesday, could not have been involved in the bugging.

The fifth name, of a man who works for a commercial company, was not referred to.

Within 24 hours, the gardai had completed their investigations into the whereabouts of their four colleagues, who are understood to be involved in undercover surveillance work, and 'proved' that all four were conveniently in Dublin Castle at the time of the bugging.



● MICHAEL NOONAN

Fianna Fail are still challenging the gardai story and promise more revelations.

Last week, two men, neither of whom have any connection with the Republican Movement, were stopped and arrested by gardai who planted telephone mouthpiece microphones in their car in a childish attempt to implicate them in the affair.

The men were later released without charge, though the gardai had said that the microphones were stolen from a telephone booth.

ASSERTION

This attempt to frame people not connected with the IRA, fits in with the decision to water down the Free State government's assertion that the IRA did it. Significantly, Noonan, who earlier was saying that the IRA were responsible, said in an RTE radio interview on Sunday that 'a subversive organisation' was to blame, and after questioning he admitted that the case was open to all possibilities, including 'maverick gardai'.

HIGH NOON FOR KAVANAGH?

BY JACK MADDEN

THE COALITION boycott of Sinn Féin elected representatives is certain to cause more headaches for Liam Kavanagh, the minister most associated with the boycott policy, when he visits Donegal this Friday.

Kavanagh, as Coalition Environment Minister, will be travelling to a mid-day reception in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal town, which will mark the official opening of the new Ballintra by-pass by Donegal County Council.

By attending this function, Kavanagh will come face-to-face with Eddie Fullerton, a Sinn Féin elected representative on Donegal County Council and the same person who Kavanagh steadfastly refused to meet as part of a delegation to Leinster House on February 1st.

Indeed, the Fullerton boycott on that occasion marked the beginning of a series of such actions by Labour Party ministers. Within a fortnight, there followed similar boycotts of a Sinn Féin councillor in Longford, Michael Nevin, also by Kavanagh, and of the Sinn Féin chairperson of Gorey town commission, John Sheehan, by Ruairi Quinn.

Because they had already nailed their

anti-democratic colours to the mast, Labour ministers then insisted that their boycott policy be adopted by the entire Coalition cabinet on Monday, February 20th.

EMBARRASSMENT

Commenting on this policy, which was highlighted last week by the inclusion of Galway Sinn Féin Councillor Frank Glynn on a proposed delegation to Leinster House, a spokesperson for Sinn Féin said:

"Given the clear embarrassment suffered by the Labour Party with their humiliation at the hands of Sinn Féin's Christy Burke in the Dublin Central by-election in November last, it is hardly surprising that it was they who suggested the boycott policy. "Nor is it surprising that the two ministers most identified with this policy, Dick Spring and Liam Kavanagh, were both considering defecting to the ranks of Fionn Gael along with former Labour Party leader Michael O'Leary before the prospect of increased power within the Labour Party was offered to them."

"When even their commitment to the tame conservatism of the Free State Labour Party is questionable, it is small wonder that these same people should react in a hysterical fashion to the threat of the real radical alternative offered by Sinn Féin."

A year of occupation

BY JACK MADDEN

MORE THAN a year after their protest began, the 14 workers occupying Ranks flour mills in Phibsboro, Dublin, are as determined as ever to continue their fight for jobs.

However, in recent months the occupation, which began on February 4th 1983, has encountered increasing financial problems and continuous company pressure, directed at the 14 men through their former workmates in No. 12 Branch ITGWU.

Harry Fleming, a spokesperson for those occupying the mills, points out that the funds which they had been given by sympathisers a year ago and which they themselves supplemented with a public collection last autumn, finally dried up last month.

Further pressure has been applied by the Department of Social Welfare, which has adopted a hardline and vindictive stance in dealing with benefit applications which the Ranks occupiers submit.

Two months ago, one of these, Alan Trimble, lost his social welfare entitlement, while the other occupiers have been forced to provide weekly evidence of job applications when they are signing on.

POLICY

According to Harry Fleming, the pressure being applied by social welfare indicates a policy decision at a higher level. He said:

"It is hardly coincidental that of the 220,000 signing for social welfare benefit we are singled out for this treatment of constant checks, even though such checks are supposed to be done at random. Ever since Alan Trimble got cut off, the welfare people have got really heavy, not the ordinary workers behind the hatches but some of the supervisors who seem to have a personal grudge against us. In fact, the bloke who had Trimble cut off has said that he wants to sit in at his appeal because he has a personal interest in the case."

Throughout this long dispute, the company, Ranks Hovis McDougal, have victimised former colleagues of the protestors, hoping that they in turn would pressurise the 14 occupiers to submit. While office staff and craft-workers within the Phibsboro mill and all the workers from the Limerick mill have been given redundancy payments above their statutory entitlement, different standards have been applied to all members of the No. 12 branch ITGWU in the Phibsboro plant.

Whether involved in the occupation or not, they have been refused the same level of redundancy payments as other former employees of the firm.

PENSIONS

This discrimination has, it appears, extended even to the pension fund, with form-



● Alan Trimble and Harry Fleming, who, along with 12 other Ranks workers, were jailed last year in the fight to save jobs, look back on their struggle. (Inset February 1982: relatives of the jailed Ranks workers occupy the plant)

er employers of the No. 12 branch being offered only 40% of the value of the pensions they were owed.

It now appears that Ranks had, over the years, withheld payments to the workers' pension scheme, which operated through Irish Pensions Trust Ltd. Whereas the balance owed was paid on behalf of most employees, Ranks have not made the payments owed on behalf of No. 12 branch workers.

Workers belonging to this branch are getting less in exchange for their pensions than any other former employees, even though they have up to three times more years of service. One such worker has been offered £1,100 even though his actual entitlement is £2,750.

When representations were made on behalf of some of these workers, the company made it quite clear that they were being punished because of the continued occupation of the Ranks mills by a number of their former colleagues.

DEFICIT

Replying to one such representation, the former finance director of Ranks (Ire), Simon Funge, admitted that there was a deficit in the pension fund and that the available money was distributed by Irish Pensions Trust Ltd according to his instructions. He added:

"I must point out, however, that the

major cause of this most regrettable situation is the unlawful sit-in which is still taking place at the mill. This action has cost an enormous amount of money, not just to the company but also to former employees."

This attempt to blame the occupation for the financial short-fall in the company has been firmly rejected by Harry Fleming and his colleagues, who point out that any financial penalties which the company has imposed have been directed against former members of the No. 12 branch and not against the workforce in general. This, they add, "demonstrates the level of moral blackmail to which Ranks will sink".



Inniu le dúnadh?

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

DEALRAÍONN sé anois go mbeidh deireadh leis an nuachtán *Inniu* sar i bhfad. D'fhógair Rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath go mbeidh siad ag baint an deontas díobh nuair a bheidh socraithe déanta le haghaidh nuachtán nua a fhoilsiú. Ábhar bróin agus ábhar imní an scéal sin dúinn go léir.

Tá *Inniu* á fhoilsiú anois le breis is daichead bliain agus tá éacht oibre déanta ag lucht *Inniu* i rith an ama sin do chúis na Gaeilge. Choinnigh siad an nuachtán beo i rith an ama sin go léir in ainneoin na rialtais éagsúla a raibh siad ag brath orthu.

Níor cuireadh dóthain aiguid ar fáil riamh díobh agus ní bhfuair siad an seans chun forbairtha. In ainneoin seo, go léir, bhí díolaíocht

de suas le fiche míle cóip acu trath. Bhí an chuid is mó den díolaíocht sin sna scoileanna. Nuair a thug Rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath cúl le cuspóir Athbheochan na Gaeilge thit an díolaíocht go tubaisteach sna scoileanna.

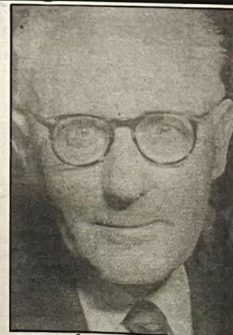
CEACHT

Níor méadóidh an suim aiguid ar fáil le fáil mar dheontas le fada an lá. Mar sin ní raibh dóthain aiguid ann leis an bhfoireann a

íoc agus b'éigean iad a ligint chun siúil diaidh ar ndiaidh. Tá cúrsaí imithe chomh hola anois nach bhfuil ach an t-aon fhear amháin fágtha ar an bhfoireann irisoiríreacht.

Ar ndóig, ceacht maith is ea é seo, dá mba ghá é, do lucht na Gaeilge ar chaimiléireacht agus uisce faoi thalamh Rialtais Bhaile Átha Cliath. Léireoidh pointe beag amháin an scéal go beacht. Dhíuaitigh rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath an chabhair do *Inniu* le timire díolaíochta a fhostú ar an ábhar go mbeadh áisíníocht díolaíochta fhoilseacháin Gaeilge le bunú ar ball agus go ndéanfadh siadsan, an obair. Ach nuair a cuireadh AIS ar bun níor chuidigh sé le díolaíocht *Inniu*.

Cá go bhfuil díolaíochtai subs-



● Clárán Ó Nualláin, nach maireann duine de bhunaitheoirí *Inniu*

taintiúla idir dearcadh *Inniu* agus dearcadh na Gluaiseachta s'againne is fíor a rá go raibh an nuachtán sin náisiúnach agus Gaeilch i gcónaí. Ní raibh siad faoi smacht ag dream ar bith.

Beidh an nuachtán nua á fhoilsiú na Gael Linn. Is cinnte nach mbeidh an saoirse eagarthóireachta acu is atá ag *Inniu*. Fantaídh mé tamall go dtí an bhfeicfidh mé eagrán nó dhó sula ndéarfadh mé a thuilleadh faoin gceist seo.

Tá cinneadh Aire na Gaeltachta cáinte to doir ar Conradh na Gaeilge i ráiteas:

*"Tá an-díomá ar an gConradh go bhfuiltear chun deontas *Inniu* a tharraingt siar. Tá seirbhís do-sháraithe tugtha don náisiún ag *Inniu* le breis is dhá scór bliain. Tá traidisiún fíorluachmhar bunaithe aige arbh fíú go leanfaí leis agus go ndéanfaí forbairt air. Tá súil againn go ligfead do *Inniu* maireachtáil, fiú má táthar chun páipéar eile a bhunú. Tar éis an tsaoil bhí dhá nuachtán Gaeilge ann go dtí le déanaí."*

Má dhúntar *Inniu* caithfeadh féachaint chuide go mbeidh ar a laghad pinsean cóir le fáil ag obrithe *Inniu* i ndiaidh a ndearna siad de shaothar ag fionamh don náisiún.

BELFAST AND DUNGANNON BY-ELECTIONS

Campaigns under way

BY EAMON TRACEY

BOTH SINN FEIN election campaigns in the North for the two local council by-elections are now well under way, with fund-raising, constituency meetings and posterage having begun.

In Dungannon, where Peter Sherry is standing for the vacant seat in Urban Area 'D' of Dungannon District Council, Sinn Féin reacted angrily last week to spurious allegations by Michael McLaughlin, the former nationalist councillor who resigned his seat and created the by-election, that Sinn Féin had forced him to withdraw from the contest.

According to Sinn Féin, when McLaughlin did resign "he did not mention his desire to stand again for the same seat, and it is worth noting that in an area where there is a unionist majority his resigning could lead to a unionist winning the seat". The statement continued:

"Therefore, Sinn Féin views as highly suspicious Mr McLaughlin's accusation that we had deprived him of the right to continue his campaign 'to gain access to council accounts'.

"For the record, Sinn Féin selected their candidate some three weeks ago; the candidate was ratified by the Sinn Féin ard chomhairle at their meeting on February 18th. Nomination day was Friday, February 24th. It was on the eve of



● The message is clear in Belfast's Lower Falls

nomination day that Mr McLaughlin approached us concerning the possibility of us standing down and giving him a clear run. It was explained to him that such a decision lay with the Sinn Féin ard chomhairle and could not be taken at local level."

BELATED

"Sinn Féin suspects that Mr McLaughlin's belated approach to us was the result of pressure applied on him by the SDLP, who knew that if they were to field a candidate in the forthcoming by-election they would once again be faced with Sinn Féin topping the poll for the nationalist veto. Such a result would prove highly embarrassing to the SDLP leadership.

"It is sad that Mr McLaughlin has allowed himself to be duped by the SDLP, the same party who

handed the seat of Fermanagh/South Tyrone to a unionist."

On Monday night, March 5th, about 40 Sinn Féin election workers met to draw up an election manifesto, plan the canvass campaign and assess how the free-post was progressing. Independent Councillor Seamus Cassidy and IIP Councillor Plunkett O'Donnell attended and pledged full support for the campaign.

The meeting stressed the need for highlighting the high unemployment in the area and the sectarian way in which it is distributed, with most jobs going to loyalists. The value of Sinn Féin's constituency service was also emphasised.

HOSTILITY

Inevitably, Sinn Féin election workers have already begun to ex-

perience the hostility of the RUC and British army. On Monday night, March 5th, a group of election workers who were erecting posters along the Springfield Road for Sean McKnight, who is standing in the Area 'F' by-election for Belfast City Council, were surrounded by a large force of heavily armed RUC.

The RUC man who appeared to be in charge demanded to see one of the posters, some of which were already on lamp-posts in plain view. The election workers were held at gunpoint on the street.

The previous day, Sunday, March 4th, Sean McKnight spoke at a crowded meeting of Sinn Féin election workers in Clonard.

He outlined the importance to Sinn Féin of the coming election and particularly its importance to the people of the area, which had

returned a strong republican vote during the Assembly and Westminster elections. McKnight also warned against the danger of complacency. He said:

"Sinn Féin, through its advice centres and constituency service, has been instrumental in winning many concessions from local government authorities, especially in the fields of housing and welfare benefits."

ATTACK

Criticising the latest Housing Executive attack on the less well-off, he said:

"This latest policy will result in more people being dragged before courts in an attempt to recover arrears. This, coupled with the proposed increase of over 4% for people whose homes are serviced by district heating, will be opposed strongly by Sinn Féin. This was a particularly callous decision in view of the fact that the Executive are currently engaged in consultations with people on the removal of the district heating systems."

Sean McKnight also attacked the cynicism of the SDLP in their attitude to the people of nationalist areas, and the lack of any SDLP attempt to provide a constituency service.

He pointed out that three weeks before the Westminster election the SDLP opened an advice centre on the Falls Road, their first ever in West Belfast, and they closed the centre two weeks after the election.

Dungannon pressure succeeds



● Michael Donnelly and son with Sinn Féin's Peter Sherry

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A LONG-STANDING safety hazard to young children in Dungannon's Fairmount Park Estate was removed this week after pressure from Sinn Féin and persistent campaigning by local tenants.

Two years ago, three-year-old Patsy Hanratty fell 15 feet from a fence onto a road. The fence, which was made of several planks fixed at intervals horizontally between wooden posts, had been built by the Housing Executive to act as a barrier along a section of footpath which is raised about 15 feet above the adjoining road. Given the ladder effect of the fence, children inevitably and regularly climbed it.

Patsy Hanratty was hospitalised, but he fortunately suffered no lasting injury. But in

spite of the obvious danger, the Executive refused to provide a proper fence which young children could not climb.

Last Friday, March 2nd, another three-year-old child, Michael Donnelly, luckily escaped injury when he too fell off the fence and banged the back of his skull. His father, Michael Donnelly, had approached the Executive on three occasions prior to last week's incident to have the fence replaced as he feared for his four children's safety.

Sinn Féin's local council candidate in the forthcoming Dungannon by-election, Peter Sherry, had also been pressurising the Executive, and on Friday again contacted them but was told they could give no commitment. However, on Monday, March 5th, Executive workers began replacing the fencing, which, although welcomed by the tenants, is not only long overdue but if installed three years ago could have prevented considerable anxiety for many parents and at least two accidents to young children.

DUKES IN HOT WATER

COALITION Finance Minister Alan Dukes found himself in hot water last Monday night when faced with 700 angry constituents in Leixlip, County Kildare.

Dukes attended a meeting called by the Leixlip Combined Residents Association to discuss water and refuse collection charges, which Kildare County Council are attempting to collect. The Coalition minister, who represents the area in Leinster House, was constantly heckled during his defence of the imposition of rates and there were many angry references to the 19% pay-rise that deputies had awarded themselves.

The protest against the local authority rates was linked to the PAYE campaign and the need for extensive local government reform. Household rates are fearful that the charges for domestic water supply and refuse collection will increase and they will be faced with rising rates bills as well as paying for such services through taxation.

The anger and resentment of Leixlip residents was heightened by the recent contamination of the local water supply — on two separate occasions — by the poisonous chemical Phenol. The source of the pollution has not been made public and no prosecution has yet been launched.

In addition, the water is constantly heavily chlorinated, suggesting other pollution, and is often discoloured.

Monday night's meeting ended with an almost unanimous vote to withhold water and refuse collection rates in Leixlip and to begin a campaign to make the protest as extensive as possible.

CITY PROTEST

A protest was also held outside Dublin City Hall during Monday night's meeting of the city council. The Dublin regional council of the National Association of Tenants Organisations (NATO) handed a letter in to the council, urging councillors to oppose the charges, saying that the demand for water rates was just the beginning of a plan to reintroduce household rates, which were abolished in 1977.

At the meeting in City Hall, councillors were shown bottles of discoloured and 'foul-smelling' water taken from domestic supplies to areas in the north of the city.



● Monday night's Dublin protest against service charges

BIGOTRY ON DISPLAY

BY JANE PLUNKETT

AT ITS MEETING on Thursday last, March 1st, Belfast City Council once again voted to deny much-needed leisure facilities to the people of North Belfast, after a vicious display of bigotry which publicly exposed the bureaucratic manoeuvres by which the loyalist majority on the council repeatedly attempts to mask its sectarianism.

Despite continued lobbying by local community groups, Belfast City Council has repeatedly refused in recent years to build a leisure centre in the north of the city, apparently because the only suitable sites are in predominantly nationalist areas.

In 1981, plans for a leisure centre to be built in the Oldpark area, which had already been approved by the NIO, were vetoed by the council, which agreed instead to build a centre in loyalist Ballysillan, at a substantial extra cost.

Since then, the council have refused to consider building a full leisure centre in the mainly nationalist Antrim Road area, but granted approval for a more limited recreation and community centre at a site in Queen Mary's Gardens, in the mixed Waterworks area, and not far from the staunchly loyalist Westland Estate.

In recent months, however, the project has been subjected to repeated bureaucratic delays. Following intensive lobbying by the DUP, the council's general purposes and finance committee recommended that the project be deferred 'on financial grounds' - even though it would cost an estimated £100,000 (compared with a £200,000 sum the council has happily allocated



● Belfast City Hall



● The DUP's George Sawright is opposed to a North Belfast leisure centre on 'good, honest sectarian grounds'

to resurface a car park at Belfast Zoo).

At last Thursday's full council meeting, this bureaucratic cover for the sectarianism of the DUP and Official Unionists was blown by 'honest' bigot George Sawright of

the DUP who, stating that he would have happily opposed the centre on "good, honest sectarian grounds", provoked uproar when he revealed: "I was told that the opposition of other members was because it would provide facilities for Fen-

ians but that it would be opposed on financial grounds."

DEFEATED

Following a 90-minute debate, which was remarkably vicious (even by the experienced standards of Belfast City Council), an SDLP amendment to approve the project was defeated by 19 votes to 16.

The following day, Alliance's Councillor David Cook, apparently still smarting from hearing the party termed 'gutless' and 'the Sinn Fein Alliance' by their fellow unionists of the DUP, referred the council's veto to the toothless Ombudsman, on the grounds of 'sectarian maladministration'.

The Ombudsman, or Commissioner for Complaints, is in fact powerless to reverse the council's decision, but nevertheless the SDLP (whose Councillor Brian Feeney later amazingly asserted that "the days when public representatives can oppose a project because it's for Catholics are long gone") is already committed to joining All-

lance in this futile exercise.

Meanwhile, the play-centre already established on the site, which has provided much-needed facilities for children aged from two to 12 years old, is apparently still scheduled for closure.

Belfast City Council's long-standing failure to provide a full leisure centre in North Belfast has been strongly condemned by both Sean McKnight, Sinn Fein's candidate in the forthcoming council by-election, and by Sinn Fein's Councillor Alex Maskey, who pointed out that Thursday's meeting had at least exposed the sectarianism underlying the loyalist councillors' often-repeated 'financial excuses'.

COLLEGE

Using similar tactics, also last Thursday, the council refused to grant £3,600 to fund a research survey currently being carried out to determine the need for a further education college to serve the greater West Belfast area.

During the debate, loyalist councillors produced a range of excuses for denying the grant, claiming variously that the relatively small sum involved would put a strain on council finances or would set a precedent. Sammy Wilson, for the DUP, opposed the grant by labelling the college as an attempt by the "Proxies to show their concern for community issues".

But finally, the loyalist majority on the council plumped for the more discreet expedient of passing the buck to the Belfast Education & Library Board, which they claimed was responsible, arrogantly ignoring the reality (pointed out by Sinn Fein's Alex Maskey) that the proposed college is intended as a community project, and should thus be supported by the council.

Sinn Fein speakers in England

WHICH WAY for the Labour Left? was the theme of a fringe meeting, organised by Labour Briefing, at the London Labour Party regional conference in Camden, London, on Saturday and Sunday, March 3rd and 4th.

The meeting was chaired by Nadine Finch and also on the platform were Jane Stockton, Tariq Ali, Ken Livingstone and Mitchel McLaughlin, chairperson of Derry Sinn Fein.

Addressing the meeting, Mitchel McLaughlin congratulated those activists in the British labour movement who had forced discussion on Ireland in the Labour Party, often in the most difficult circumstances. He greatly appreciated the opportunity to continue the dialogue recently opened, he said, and he was certain that this contact would be increasingly prioritised as Labour moved closer and closer to a commitment to British withdrawal from Ireland during the next Labour administration.



● ALEX MASKEY
aging to the workers' struggle in Ireland," he said.

McLaughlin concluded: "A British withdrawal, economically, politically and militarily from Ireland, should be regarded as an unalterable principle of socialism and the work of winning that position within the British labour movement should be a priority for every activist."

The regional meeting also adopted two important resolutions: one condemning the sexual harassment of women subjected to strip-searching in Armagh Jail, the other recognising the contribution of the Greater London Council leadership



● Mitchel McLaughlin addresses the 'Labour Briefing' conference in London

towards ending the Irish deadlock and which, in addition, demanded the ending of the Diplock courts and the PTA.

OXFORD MEETING

Alex Maskey, Sinn Fein councillor on Belfast City Council, spoke at a meeting of the Labour Committee on Ireland in Oxford on Tuesday, March 6th. He said:

"The present policy of the Labour Party is, in essence, fundamentally the same as the Tory Party; both, in effect, guarantee the loyalist veto. The Labour Party's assert-

ion of the loyalist right to such a veto is a direct contradiction of a socialist policy, which should be based on the right of the Irish people to national self-determination, and is in fact an extension of the London parliament's undemocratic claim to sovereignty over another country.

"Sadly, an unconscious imperialist attitude still exists among many, even on the left of the labour movement, when it comes to Ireland. These people feel they have the right to decide what's best for our country, but as socialists and

anti-imperialists they must realise that the fundamental principle of Irish national sovereignty must be accepted. The Labour Party has accepted this principle in many other countries and it must do so in regard to Ireland and work without equivocation towards the decolonisation of our country.

"The growing disenchantment at grass-roots level at the Labour Party's present policy on partition and the loyalist veto has to be welcomed. However, the need to build on that concern is of the utmost importance."

"This is a form of imperialism, undermining the workers' struggle in Britain and, by extension, dam-

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ENGLISH JAILS EVIDENCE EXAMINED

THE PLIGHT of innocent Irish political prisoners in English jails was highlighted on British television this week in the case of the Maguire family, convicted of the possession of explosives in 1974.

First Tuesday, on ITV on Tuesday, March 6th, examined the evidence produced against Ann and Patrick Maguire, their two teenage sons, Ann's brother, a neighbour who had called at the house, and Giuseppe Conlon, who had just arrived from Belfast.

The evidence, already well-publicised, was based on one forensic test, carried out by a 17-year-old trainee, followed by the destruction of the sample swabs.

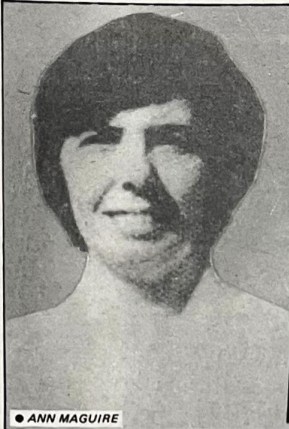
At the trial, the man who had developed the test gave evidence for the defence. John Yallop said that the test had been done wrongly, did not prove the presence of nitro-glycerine, and could have shown the same results from several domestic cleaning substances, or tobacco.

Nevertheless, on the basis of this evidence alone, Ann and Patrick Maguire were both sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, their sons Vincent and Patrick, then 16 and 14 years old, were sentenced to five years and four years respectively, and their uncle, Sean Smith, to 12 years. Patrick O'Neill, a neighbour who was in the house at Ann if she would look after his two little girls as his wife was in hospital, also got 12 years, as did Giuseppe Conlon who had arrived from Belfast only hours before the police raid to visit his son Gerard, arrested and later wrongly convicted of the Guildford bombings of October 1974.

Ann and Patrick Maguire are still in prison, nearly ten years later, the others having been released after serving their sentences. Giuseppe Conlon died in a prison hospital in 1980, still protesting his innocence. He had tuberculosis and had been ill for years.

REFUSED

The British government has refused to reopen the case in spite of pressure from many and diverse quarters because it would also



● ANN MAGUIRE

open up the circumstances of the other Irish prisoners convicted on 'evidence' based on the same forensic tests.

The Maguire family and their co-accused were, like many other Irish people convicted and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, the scapegoats for the British government in the wake of the hysteria after bombings in England.

HIGHLIGHTED

The victimisation of Irish prisoners in England by the British government was also highlighted last week by Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, who, in a statement, cited the case of Stephen Blake from Letterkenny and Paul Nomey from Belfast who have both been held in solitary confinement since May last year following the Albany Prison roof-top protest. In Stephen Blake's cell there is no natural light or ventilation



● APRIL, March 1st 1980: IRA Volunteers once again admit responsibility for the Guildford bombings and focus attention on the frame-ups of the 'Guildford Four' and the Maguire/Conlon families

and, like the majority of Irish prisoners, he is kept in isolation.

Adams also attacked the interference with letters to the prisoners which are often never received, and he also pointed to the British government's 'double standards' regarding its refusal to repatriate Irish prisoners. He said:

"The brutal treatment of Irish prisoners by the British government and the accompanying hardship to their families exposes the vindictive and savage nature of British oppression in Ireland."

GALWAY

Raymond McLaughlin, recently released from prison in England, spoke at a meeting in Galway, which was organised by the Sinn Féin cumann in University College Galway, on the treatment of Irish prisoners in English jails.

He said that psychiatric drugs and long

periods of solitary confinement are two of the methods used against the prisoners in an attempt to break them. In one incident, Eddie Byrne, a republican prisoner sentenced to 14 years, was forcibly injected with a drug after the Albany protest which made him lose consciousness for three days.

The tranquillising drug Valium, Mogadon, a dangerous, sleep-inducing drug, and Largactil, a particularly strong drug used in psychiatric hospitals and which has unpleasant side-effects, are all used liberally in the prisons.

Isolation units which are used to hold Irish prisoners are totally cut off from the main prisons. They are specially designed to disorientate prisoners and are painted either white or in drab colours, with frosted glass in the windows to cut out natural light. Communication between prisoners is forbidden and the whole concept is designed to break the prisoners' will.

Crucial stage in show trial

ONE OF the 16 defendants, all from Derry, in the Quigley show trial walked free from Belfast Crown Court on Monday after charges against him were thrown out by Judge Hutton. Thirty-year-old Desmond Baldrick had been facing two charges of allegedly assisting the IRA.

The previous Friday, Hutton had also rejected alleged 'conspiracy to kill' charges against defendants Eamon Doherty and Gary Fleming, and also threw out a charge of alleged IRA membership against Gerard O'Brien, leaving 81 charges still standing against the 15 remaining defendants.

But despite Quigley's glib performance in the stand as

the crown's principal 'witness', which included contradictions, self-styled 'mistakes' and an apparent admission by Quigley that in his statements to the RUC he had falsely implicated an innocent man, Diplock Judge Hutton refused defence applications that the perjury's evidence was so unreliable that it would be unsafe to convict on the basis of it.

This week, defence lawyers began calling witnesses, but despite the crucial stage the trial has now reached, on Tuesday, Hutton refused to grant a re-trial to three defendants whose senior counsel, top barrister Richard Ferguson, has not appeared in court since February 15th. (On Wednesday, Ferguson claimed in a Belfast newspaper that he is being treated by a Harley Street specialist for 'stress and strain' and would not be returning to the North.)

When the re-trial was refused, one of the three men involved, 25-year-old Pat McCloskey, who later criticised in



● Robert Quigley with his wife Linda

court the 'unprofessional conduct' of Ferguson, dismissed his remaining legal representa-

tives and on Wednesday was apparently seeking alternative legal representation.



● MARTIN MCGUINNESS

REMAND STABBING

DERRY'S Sinn Féin elected representative, Martin McGuinness, has demanded a full public explanation from the Northern Ireland Office about an incident in which three Gallagher brothers from Strabane were assaulted by members of the RUC when they

attended a remand court hearing in Belfast on Monday, March 5th.

Brendan, Andrew and Willie Gallagher were attacked and beaten by several RUC men at the remand court. Andrew Gallagher was stabbed in the back during the assault and required stitches in the wound. McGuinness said:

"I have spoken with Assistant Governor Meredith, of Crumlin Road Prison, and he has confirmed that the incident took place when the brothers were in RUC custody. 'I am now calling on the NIO to make a full statement about the circumstances surrounding this incident.'"

International

IN SPITE OF some widely publicised reforms dealing with discrimination against women, there has been little change in the lives of the mass of Irish women in the South. The increasing awareness of their oppression has merely served to highlight the lack of commitment to effective change.

Legislation on equal pay and equality of treatment in employment in relation to access, opportunity for training and promotion has not become a reality and discrimination against women in employment is still widely practised.

The Employment Equality Act of 1977 made it illegal also to discriminate against women on the grounds of sex or marital status or in recruitment for and conditions of employment. Women also have the right to 14 weeks' maternity leave, and to return to their jobs if they want to. For many women, returning to work is not a matter of choice but of necessity, but the difficulty in finding, and the high cost of, child-care, imposes an intolerable burden, particularly on single mothers.

A woman's right to work is also being particularly eroded with the rising unemployment rate. Irish women workers are traditionally concentrated in the clothing and food-processing industries, and in light factory work, the industries that have been worst hit by the recession.

Legislation on equal working conditions and treatment has not changed attitudes to women in work. Eileen Flynn, a teacher employed in a convent school in New Ross, County Wexford, was sacked because she had a baby, the child of a man who had been married before but who has been separated from his wife for several years. Her dismissal was, incredibly, upheld by the Labour Court.

SOCIAL WELFARE

In 1982, the Social Welfare Act was amended to entitle married women not living with or maintained by their husbands to unemployment assistance. Roisin Conroy, separated from her husband for many years, had taken a case to the High Court to challenge the discrimination earlier that year, and it was this case that forced a change in the law.

However, there are still many discrepancies in dole and social welfare payments to women, married or single, including the duration of time for which unemployment benefit is paid, although women pay the same PRSI contributions. A Campaign for the Unification of the Social Welfare Code is active in challenging such discrepancies and discriminations.

In the area of women's health, cut-backs in the Free State government's spending has seriously affected services. A vigorous official policy of closing down maternity units which, according to the Health Boards, do not have the required 'quota' of births means that women in rural areas face journeys of up to 50 miles for pre-natal care and delivery. An equally vigorous campaign by local people and by the Association for the Improvement of Maternity Services has, in some cases, reversed decisions to close a few units, as in Dundalk last year, but such victories have been few.

The withdrawal of medical cards, and the restrictions in

granting new ones, have also caused severe hardship to women and there have been cases of particular callousness in withdrawing medical cards from families with handicapped children. The redefining of what is available on prescription to medical card holders has also badly affected women and children, and the provision of a network of local women's health centres is as far away as ever.

CONTRACEPTION

Contraception legislation has, if anything, made it more difficult for women to obtain advice and help in getting safe contraception, with the power to refuse or grant such provision in the hands of local GPs. Well Woman Centres and family planning clinics are still only based in the large cities, as are services and help for unmarried mothers.

The tragic case of a 15-year-old girl who died giving birth to her baby, who also died, in a churchyard in Granard, County Longford, exposed the isolation of young girls in this situation. The media reaction, with people from Nuala Fennell, Free State Minister for Women's Affairs down, using the tragedy to castigate anybody but themselves, was a sickening exercise in opportunism and buck-passing.

Last year's referendum on abortion, in spite of opening up the whole debate on contraception and the reality of Irish women in their hundreds seeking abortions, out of fear and desperation, in Britain, has had no practical effect, even though both sides of the argument pledged themselves to real support for mothers, married or not.

However, the glib suggestion that sex education and contraception is the answer ignores the real oppression of women throughout a society which enforces the inability of women to exercise real control over their bodies and their lives.

SEXISM

Sexism is endemic in Irish society. It pervades the schools, workplaces, hospitals, sports clubs, political parties and the media. A glaring example is the 'most popular' Sunday newspaper, the



Sunday World, whose main advertising slogan is:

"Are you getting it every Sunday?"

This paper pretends to expose injustices against women, but instead exploits women. Sensationalist stories of child pornography are juxtaposed with photographs of women in suggestive poses — both for cheap titillation.

An outraged National Busworkers Union have made a stand against the *Sunday World*, refusing to handle any papers from the Independent group following a particularly objectionable story which denigrated women busworkers.

Women in the home, supposedly revered, protected and supported by the Free State Constitution, are in fact the most discriminated against of all. The 'family unit', upheld as the holy of holies by church and state, is in fact largely unprotected by law and vulnerable to abuse.

A Meath woman, for instance,



recently discovered just how much her family home and family unit were protected by the Family Home Protection Act, when she and her husband were jailed when they refused to surrender their house to a loan company.

The law banning divorce, and the meaningless 'separation' legislation, coupled with the Catholic Church's hypocritical attitude to children in a legal tangle impossible to understand. The Free State, blind eye to what is, according to their own laws, bigamy.

Illegitimacy is still a stigma and a legal reality, in spite of the verbalising of Nuala Fennell and her cronies, desperately looking for a word to replace 'bastard'.

STRUGGLING

There are very many dedicated and committed women struggling to overcome the repressive laws and oppressive attitudes that Irish

women suffer. The Women's Centre in Dublin's Dame Street provides a meeting place for women despite a chronic lack of funds. The Well Woman Centres and Family Planning Clinics, the women's refuges and advice centres all provide as extensive a service as they can in the face of prejudice and hostility.

The producers and presenters of the RTE radio programme *Women Today* and, on TV, *The Women's Programme*, raise issues of importance to women. Women in trade unions fight sexism in the workplace and discrimination in employment, and in the many campaigns on specific issues women battle on, undaunted by the opposition to change.

But the experience of recent 'reforms' in regard to women and the reality of women's continued oppression has enforced the belief that the only way to real freedom for women lies in the achievement of radical change in society at every level.



IN THE six counties during British colonial administration, benefits have deepened the men.

Nationalist women, who since the republican state have borne the brunt of their problems as women, have been further discriminated and by repression forces.

On numerous occasions in 1983, already decaying homes have been further damaged by destructive British army raids.

Last August, a 71-year-old grandmother from the Ardoyne area of North Belfast, Rose Harvey, was among 85 people convicted on the spurious evidence of Christopher Black. She was given a suspended sentence.

The intensified strip-searching of republican women prisoners in Armagh Jail represents the most extreme aspect of the sexual harassment which nationalist women and young girls are regularly subjected to on the streets

Parents Don't

THURSDAY, March 8th, is International Women's Day, and with the growing realisation of the nature of their oppression this has become a day of increasing significance for Irish women.

While, North and South, women have emerged at the forefront of protest actions on a range of social issues from drugs to violence against women, the curse of partition weakens the possibility of strength from unity on these issues as it does in the case of all repression, whether political, social, cultural or economic.

The republican analysis maintains that only in a united and free Ireland can justice emerge in all these areas, but the struggle for that freedom includes the fight against all these forms of repression. It is as true for women's issues as it is for any other.

In the articles below, *AP/RN* reporters Siobhan O'Malley and Jane Plunkett examine the position of Irish women, North and South, on International Women's Day 1984. They assess what has been achieved so far and examine what still remains to be won.

A married woman in the North has fewer rights to her family home than she would in the South, and it can be sold by her husband without her consent if her name is not on the deeds.

The patriarchal attitudes which underlie such laws were recently aired by the DUP rump remaining at the Assembly, which has been considering a possible revision of some aspects of family law. A recent delegation from the Women's Law and Research Group, which presented evidence on the issue to the Assembly's Finance and Personnel Committee, was told bluntly by DUP committee member George Graham that "the father is the head of the house" and that 'biblical' marriage "has nothing to do with equality insofar as men and women are concerned". It only, presumably, turns DUP bigots into gods.

ATTITUDES

Yet defying such sexist attitudes, increasing numbers of young girls in the six counties are learning traditional 'male' skills such as carpentry and metalwork. But they are denied further opportunities by the North's catastrophic unemployment and, in the case of nationalist women, by the sectarian discrimination practised by employers and loyalist-dominated trade unions alike.

In a particularly positive development, women are slowly organising to challenge the sexist male attitudes responsible for sexual harassment at work and for sexual violence.

Sexual harassment at work, which can range from leering and jokes to actual physical assault, was discussed by the ICTU — for only the first time in its history — last month, at the congress's annual women's conference.

HARASSMENT

Several days later, the issue was highlighted when 18-year-old Belfast girl Julie Mortiboys was awarded £1,000 by an industrial tribunal after she was effectively forced out of her job by constant sexual harassment.

Julie Mortiboys had started work as an apprentice motor mechanic at a garage in the Orangefield area of the city in August 1982, but left last summer because of the constant verbal abuse from her male colleagues. On one occasion, she was 'pawed' so violently that she suffered bruising and her employer, who had failed to prevent the harassment, was found guilty of unlawful sexual discrimination.

The case was the first successful court action since the introduction of the Sex Discrimination Act, but the financial award will be little consolation to Julie Mortiboys, who has possibly lost her chance to train in the job she loved.

The related issue of rape and other forms of sexual violence will be highlighted tonight, International Women's Day, by two marches in Belfast. In the west of the city, women will march from the Falls Women's Centre to Turf Lodge, an area in which several brutal attacks have recently taken place, and another ad-hoc group of women has organised a 'Reclaim the Night' march through Belfast city centre.

counties during the past year, spiralling unemployment and the social administration's creeping cut-backs in social services and deepened the burden of poverty on many thousands of wo-

men, who since the foundation of the seaborne the brunt of social deprivation, have as women intensified by sectarian dis- by repression at the hands of the crown

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment among women in the six counties last month stood officially at 33,027 and has virtually doubled during the past five years. These figures exclude most married women and the true unemployment rate among women is certainly considerably higher than this figure.

According to a recent survey commissioned by the British government-sponsored Equal Opportunities Commission, the number

of women workers in the North has fallen drastically, by over 13,600 in the three years to 1982. Many married women who once relied on part-time work have now abandoned in despair all hope of obtaining work.

Despite the Equal Pay Act and other measures supposedly designed to 'reform' women's social inequality away, women on average still earn considerably less than men, and in recent years their relative position has been worsening, as women remain a source of cheap labour for employers.

CHILD-CARE

The lives of many thousands of women are restricted by the minimal level of state childcare provision. Most women in paid work must rely on relatives, friends or child-minders, often themselves living in overcrowded conditions, to look after their children. In Belfast, the DHSS has been considering cut-backs in

INEQUALITY

Women's legal rights also continue to be restricted. Anti-democratic and sexist loyalist ideologies have helped ensure women's inequality under laws dealing with the family, marriage and domestic violence.

A father continues, for example, to have more legal rights to his child than does the mother.



● GERRY Mac LOCHLAINN

Students meeting

FORMER republican prisoner Gerry Mac Lochlainn was the speaker at a meeting in the Central London Polytechnic on Thursday, March 1st, on the subject "What is republicanism?"

Mac Lochlainn outlined briefly the history of Irish republicanism from 1798 to the present day, concentrating the major part of his speech on the period from 1969.

Questions from the students at the well-attended meeting reflected growing interest in Sinn Féin's policies and recent political developments in both parts of Ireland.

The meeting was the second in the polytechnic in the last month to be addressed by a Sinn Féin speaker.

Death of Pat Shannon

THE DEATH has taken place recently of life-long republican Pat Shannon of Moylough, County Galway.

Born in 1899, he joined Fianna Éireann in 1913 and later graduated to the IRA. He was in jail in 1919 and again in 1920.

He took part in Sean Russell's bombing campaign in England in 1939, but was arrested and deported. On his return, he was interned in the Curragh from February 1940 until May 1945.

Shortly after his release, he was charged with shooting at a Special Branch man in a Dublin street and received a lengthy prison sentence but was released again after the change in government in 1948.

Drivers wanted

AN PHOBLACHT/Republican News requires drivers, holding full licences, to join their distribution teams in both Belfast and Dublin.

Applicants must be over 25 (for insurance purposes) and have a full driving licence with no endorsements. An accident-free record is essential. Vacancies are open to both men and women.

Applications should be made to the relevant AP/RN office (51/53 Falls Road, Belfast, telephone 246841; or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, telephone 747611).

Advice centres

WE have been asked to point out that the telephone number for the Short Strand Sinn Féin advice centre, in Moira Street, has appeared incorrectly elsewhere. The correct number is 731297.

Other full-time Sinn Féin advice centres serving Belfast's Area 'F' are at 51/53 Falls Road (phone 2302271); 3 Farset Path, Davis (222577); and 28 Bond Street, Markets (221495).

DUNDALK

The Dundalk Sinn Féin advice centre, at 57a Clanbrassil Street, is open from 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 5pm Mondays to Saturdays.

Republican literature and prisoners' handcrafts are also available at the centre.

FINGLAS

A new Sinn Féin advice centre is now operating in the Finglas area of North-West Dublin. The centre at 2 Church Street (opposite the Village Inn), is open from 2pm to 4pm on Wednesdays, and 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm on Saturdays.

BY JACK MADDEN

THE COMMITTEE for the Rights of Travellers launched a blistering attack on the Criminal Justice Bill when, at a Dublin press conference on Tuesday, they pointed out that, if enacted, the new Bill will intensify existing legal

bias and Garda prejudice against the travelling community.

Emphasising their point that such prejudice does exist, the committee released a press statement outlining the comments of Garda Superintendent Murray of Rathfarnham, who in a recent interview on RTE's *Today Tonight* programme, said:

"Well, itinerants are a fairly big problem and are pretty difficult to deal with because they are very mobile, a lot of them have similar names, they look very much alike... and so on. And in the city particularly, the crime is committed by the juvenile element mostly. The adults have a tendency to move about the country into rural areas and remote places and commit very serious crimes, particularly on old people living alone."

Asked whether such attitudes were typical amongst gardai, committee spokesperson Nan Joyce pointed out that while not all gardai "go around like Hitler's men" there are many "heavy gardai who make smart remarks to each other as they turn your caravan upside down".

Given such abuse and the fact that even now members of the travelling community are denied their rights while under arrest, the committee statement added that, under Section 3 of the new Bill, this situation would worsen given that:

"Gardai will have the power to detain any person on mere suspicion of having committed an offence. The above statement by Superintendent Murray would cast suspicion on all travellers."

LIFESTYLES

Opposing the Bill in its entirety, the committee has pinpointed a number of sections which demand specific personal information from people in custody while making no allowances for those people who, because they lead nomadic lifestyles or are illiterate, cannot provide such information and are therefore committing an offence. The statement adds:

"Obtaining statements from the deprived and underprivileged may be an easy way out for the gardai and government, but it will not stop crime."

Admitting that the legal community is as susceptible to prejudiced opinions against travelling people as other sections of society, Dan O'Sullivan, a solicitor who is a member of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), told the press conference:

"There have been attempts to compile recent statistics as to the disadvantages travellers suffer, particularly in the District Court. Their opportunity of getting fair play within the system of justice is negligible. Since the legal profession is prejudiced no less than is the rest of the settled community... it is more likely than not that travellers' rights would be ignored while in custody."

To counter these legal handicaps, a laminated card containing the names of sympathetic professional people who can be contacted following arrest is being prepared for distribution amongst the travelling community. Ironically, however, the Criminal Justice Bill, if passed, will render this card virtually useless because, under Section 4,

CRIMINAL BILL ATTACKED



● Tom Ennis and Nan Joyce, wearing a uniform similar to those worn by travellers in Hitler's Nazi concentration camps



● DAN O'SULLIVAN

gardai are only required to accede to a request for legal help "as soon as practicable".

Although Tuesday's press conference dealt specifically with the Criminal Justice Bill as it applies to the travelling community, an earlier public meeting on Thursday, March 1st, in the Mansion House, Dublin, dealt with this and other contentious aspects of the Bill.

Addressing the meeting in her capacity as a trade unionist, Padraigín Ní Mhurchu of the Women Workers Union said:

"This Bill is drafted by middle-class politicians to deal with the problems in society as they see them. And while we are seeing a situation of desperation growing

amongst unemployed people, this Bill does not, and is not meant to, correct these real problems."

Demanding that both the Labour Party and Workers Party state their position on the Bill, she continued:

"The Labour Party have it in their power to defeat this Bill, but if it is passed it must be contested in the Supreme Court since it challenges the fundamental principle of innocence until proven guilty."

Arnaud Cras, of UCD Law Faculty, noted the "poor level of reaction against the Bill", adding that its provisions are "far below the standards obtaining elsewhere", contrary to official claims that the Bill brings Irish criminal law into line with similar legislation in European countries. He added:

"Even in researching this Bill they have ignored previous research, such as the O Briain report, but what they have not ignored is an article in the Garda Review in January 1982 giving former Garda Commissioner Patrick McLaughlin's views on what changes were needed."

BREAKDOWN

According to Sister Stanislaus Kennedy, the Bill expresses both "a moral breakdown, the total misreading of the nature of crime, and the lack of imagination on the part of our legislation in dealing with crime".

Adding that the Bill would "increase distrust and generate new anger and violence", Sister Stan-

islaus continued:

"We're moving very fast towards a repressive punitive regime rather than a caring one."

Nan Joyce, of the Committee for the Rights of Travellers, stressed that the effect of the Bill would be to build further barriers between the gardai and poor people, adding that even at present:

"Young people either hate the gardai or fear them because we have always been harassed by the gardai."

CLASS BIAS

Emphasising the class bias of the new Bill, student leader Joe Duffy observed that, while concentrating on the joy-riding phenomenon, people could be certain that those who composed the Bill would draw a clear distinction between the joy-riding of young working-class people and the type of joy-riding which led to the crashing of a state car near Listowel, County Kerry, last year. Duffy added:

"This Bill was conceived and written in areas like Foxrock and Montenotte, and is clearly aimed against those in poorer social areas."

There will be a march held in Dublin this Saturday, March 10th, against the Criminal Justice Bill. Speakers at the march, which will start at 2.30pm from Parnell Square, include Bernadette Moliskey, Matt Merrigan, and Eamonn McCann. The address of the Campaign Against the Criminal Justice Bill is c/o ATGWU Hall, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (telephone 747995).



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One part of the whole struggle

BY RITA O'HARE

"BEFORE the revolution there was a lot of discrimination against women, and it was necessary because of that to work specifically with women in order to integrate them into society. Our experience is that this can only be done by organising with women, but not by feminist organisations only fighting for partial freedoms. This organisation must be involved in what is happening in all the society, not only what is happening to women," said Yolanda Ferrer, one of two representatives from the Federation of Cuban Women at a public meeting in the Irish Women Workers Union Hall in Dublin last Saturday.

Opening the meeting, Margy Delgado brought revolutionary greetings for International Women's Day from all Cuban women. While women in some countries had gained rights that had never been thought possible, she said, it must not be forgotten that many women are still fighting the oppression of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism in order to gain their countries' national liberation.

Women in Cuba, through the Federation of Cuban Women, had organised education and health care throughout the country. Without the participation and involvement of women it would have been impossible to solve the simplest problems, and that was true of everywhere in the world.

America's "incessant escalation of the

nuclear arms race" must be resisted, particularly by women, and developed countries should instead devote their energies to the ending of sickness, hunger and illiteracy, she urged.

Women in Cuba, before the revolution, led narrow, restricted lives, without control of their own lives or political influence.

Now there was a steadily increasing number of women in high positions in Cuba, and 45% of the grass-roots leadership of the workers movement were women.

From the earliest days of the armed struggle, women had played an important part in the guerrilla army and the underground movement, said Yolanda Ferrer. Thousands of women fought, for instance, at the CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion, and thousands also tended the injured.

Following America's threats against Cuba last year, two million women joined a special unit to fight in defence of their country.

EQUALITY

Margy Delgado's speech had highlighted the work of the Federation of Cuban Women in "the establishment of a new life and the exercise of full equality in all its spheres in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country. Women's problems were part of the whole society

and therefore linked to the struggle of all the people for liberation".

This aspect of the Federation's role was elaborated on by Yolanda Ferrer.

In a speech that had great significance for women in Ireland, she said that for the Cuban women there was never a conflict between organising as women to mobilise on issues that affected them while, at the same time, playing a full part in the revolution and in the defence of the country against imperialist aggression.

"The women's organisation is considered a very important arm of the revolution. It is not something isolated from the revolution. The Federation fulfilled the aims of mobilising women in every aspect of society, in fact teaching women the necessity of participation in the most important things. But this is not only a task of the Federation but an aim of our party."



Yolanda Ferrer and Margy Delgado; (top) militia women march through Havana

PARADE DILEMMA FOR FREE STATE

DAMIEN O'ROURKE

THE FREE STATE government, which has acknowledged the force of Irish-American opinion and decided not to boycott next week's New York St Patrick's Day parade, because of the counter-productive results of last year's attempted snubs has found itself faced with another embarrassing dilemma.

The Coalition has announced that even though Green Street escapes Michael O'Rourke has been named as honorary grand marshal for the New York parade - following last year's heated protest.

their coastal in New York will take his place on the reviewing stand. However, he has been instructed to wear the stand whenever guests which support the Irish republican cause march past.

are certain to cause both rancour and anger against the Dublin government, a further problem has been added by the announcements that Michael O'Rourke will be represented on the reviewing platform, throughout the parade, by his wife, Margaret Lish O'Rourke.

CONGRESS

Meanwhile, as O'Rourke remains in jail in New York, a group of Irish republicans, led by Michael O'Rourke, are certain to cause both rancour and anger against the Dublin government, a further problem has been added by the announcements that Michael O'Rourke will be represented on the reviewing platform, throughout the parade, by his wife, Margaret Lish O'Rourke.



MICHAEL O'ROURKE

partisan, a new move is under way in the United States Congress to defeat the effort to send him to prison in the Free State.

Representative's Senator Arlen Specter has introduced a bill to force US courts which

hearings into government misconduct in O'Rourke's case and allow him to remain.

A similar Bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman Robert Borski.

If hearings are established they will examine US govern-

ment intimidation of Judge Ernest Hupp, who withdrew from the O'Rourke case when about to enter judgement in O'Rourke's favour. Hupp had been constantly followed by two men whom he thought were supporters of O'Rourke, but who later turned out to be federal agents.

RESOLUTION

And New York City Council last weekend adopted a resolution congratulating O'Rourke on his election to the position of honorary grand marshal of the St Patrick's Day Parade.

Commenting on the resolution, Martin Galvin of Non-

aid said: "It is yet another reflection of Irish-American indignation with British occupation forces and the violence they have brought to Irish soil, as well as the abject pro-British actions of the Free State."



A kick in the teeth

A Chara,
I wish to bring to the attention of your readers the callous nature of the prison authorities here in Long Kesh as regards the medical treatment of republican POWs.

Some prisoners in H7's A-Wing have been waiting for dental treatment for two years. Two of these prisoners are in constant pain and another has been waiting a year to have teeth replaced.

Every time that these men complain to the prison 'doctor', they are told that they will be 'seen by a dentist soon', given two Disprin tablets and sent back to their cells.

This situation has worsened since last September's escape because prison officers refuse to take prisoners from their blocks to the prison hospital, which means that prisoners are left to suffer in silence. So much for the British government's claim of 'a prison with the best medical facilities in Europe'.

The prison authorities have shown that they are far better at kicking prisoners' teeth out (after the escape) than they are at putting them in.

PRO,
Republican POWs,
H7, Long Kesh.

Crime and punishment

A Chara,
Please allow me the opportunity, through your letters page, to reply to 'Belfast republican' (AP/RN, February 16th).

Your letter somewhat concerned me, especially the reference to the tragic deaths of two young children which were caused by joy-riders. I recollect similar terminology from other incidents of recent times: the RUC and Brits were shooting dead those who committed the offence of joy-riding — in some cases, 16-year-old youths.

It bothers me that the capitalist media have been so successful, in that they have secured for these youngsters the label of 'hoods'. We could expect such emotive utterances from the Northern Ireland Office in defence of the criminal behaviour of the security forces, but 'Belfast republican' should know better.

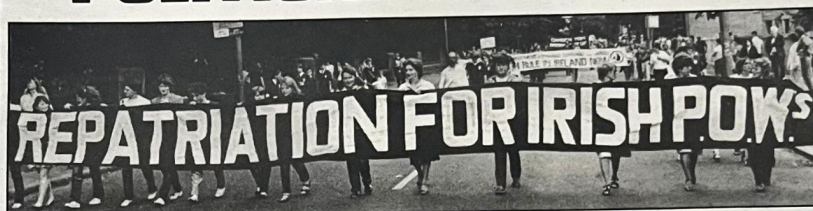
Are we totally divorced from our childhood and the problems we encountered while growing up? Have we lost track of many of our own irresponsible actions during that period of adolescence? I too was a joy-rider, but I



● Joy-rider Martin Kyles was shot dead by the British army in Belfast in February 1982

mála poist

POLITICAL HOSTAGES



REPATRIATION FOR IRISH POWs

A Chara,

On behalf of the republican POWs here in Parkhurst, there are a few points I would like to make concerning Shane O'Doherty and other non-republican Irish political prisoners here in England.

It is to be welcomed that Shane O'Doherty's case and that of the other Irish prisoners is being highlighted. As stated by Sister Sarah Clarke, a staunch supporter of republican prisoners, it's not for one or two years that our families have had to suffer the hardship of travelling all over England to see us, but ten years and sometimes longer.

In order to counteract this hardship which is suffered by our families, a repatriation committee for the POWs and the other Irish political prisoners has been established with the following five demands:

1. The release of Paddy Hackett on medical grounds;
2. The release of prisoners framed by the British police;
3. An end of solitary confinement and special control units;
4. The abolition of the PTA;
5. The repatriation of prisoners to Ireland on request.

Although these demands are very reasonable, the repatriation committee will be facing an uphill struggle to have them implemented because the British government will resist granting these demands just as they resisted the five reasonable demands of the H-Block/Armagh protesters.

William Whitelaw, the previous Home Secretary, stated publicly that his reason for refusing to transfer Irish political prisoners to prisons in Ireland was a punitive one. He therefore made

never knocked anyone down. On reflection, I consider myself as having been just another normal, average youth, if somewhat defiant. My behaviour was the subconscious expression of my alienation, brought about by the corruption and injustices of contemporary capitalist society.

Anti-social criminal behaviour has many causes other than those which seem the most prominent. Such behaviour is the result of individual, physical and social conditions, and often a product of the undersocialisation of the individual. Undersocialisation is the consequence of:

1. An innate genetic or physiological inability to be socialised;
2. A family background which was ineffective in the use of socialisation techniques in child-rearing practices;
3. A social environment which lacked coherent and consistent consensual values.

(I venture a gamble that the latter is synonymous with society in the North of Ireland.) It is indeed blatantly clear that many of the Northern youth will have no immediate, significant change of attitude while the present political, social and economic conditions prevail. The hypothesis that the concept of punishment is the solution to anti-social behaviour is analogous to cutting the weed and leaving the root; a temporary respite but never a cure.

As a caring, responsible revolutionary movement, the IRA

mands:

1. The release of Paddy Hackett on medical grounds;
2. The release of prisoners framed by the British police;
3. An end of solitary confinement and special control units;
4. The abolition of the PTA;
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should, and indeed do, show their concern for the nationalist people. The IRA will not accept a temporary respite, but are striving ahead for a permanent cure. I suggest that 'Belfast republican', instead of advocating the smashing of limbs, join his revolutionary brothers on the streets of the North in their struggle to educate the underprivileged nationalist youth. If we channel their alienation into more positive expression, we will significantly contribute to easing the suffering of the nationalist people.

I sincerely hope that the policy-change on the treatment of hands (youths) continues to be considered, but never reversed; that would be a serious mistake.

Eddie Byrne,
Long Lartin Prison,
England.

Second-class education

Dear Editor,

On February 6th, primary and secondary schools throughout Belfast were notified, by the North's Department of Education, of 130 teacher redundancies. Of these redundancies, 50 are in the 'maintained', or Catholic, sector of education. The worst hit area is that which covers Turf Lodge, Ballymurphy, Whitecourt, and Falls Road, this is one of the most poverty-stricken, socially-deprived areas in Europe.

Since the Conservatives have taken over, every year the number of teachers in West Belfast schools has been cut, but this year has seen the harshest cuts ever. Even St Louise's, the largest girls' comprehensive in Europe, will have eight teacher redundancies. The future of some West Belfast schools has now come into question with the Conservative axe cutting deeply into their staff numbers. Two schools in the Turf Lodge — Whitecourt area, Gort na Mona and St Peter's Secondary will have four and six redundancies respectively.

Reaction to the redundancies by local newspapers and established politicians has been muted.

public for the first time what republican POWs had known for ten years, that we are in fact political hostages.

In any hostage situation, those holding the hostages will always want something in order to release them (or in the case of republican POWs, to transfer them). In view of this situation we are therefore suspicious, to say the least, that politicians like Hume, or churchmen like Bishop Daly, should call for our transfers at this time, especially as we are fast approaching the European elections.

We would, therefore, ask you to consider the following points:

1. Why should they call for our transfer now when they have been so sinistinely quiet for the last ten years?
2. How many times has John Hume raised the question of Irish

political prisoners in the European parliament?

When considering these and other points, you, the people, must bear it in mind that these opportunistic politicians and their fellow-travellers in the Church are seeking to make for themselves a political platform out of us prisoners and the plight of our families. By doing so, they would hope to recharge the flagging support for the bankrupt policies of the constitutional nationalists.

We therefore state very clearly that we will not be used by these people in any way, but if they are genuinely concerned about the plight of our families then they should have no qualms in publicly supporting the five demands of the republican POWs.

Ronnie McCartney,
Parkhurst Prison,
England.

Double standards have been applied by these same newspapers and politicians. When part of an RPG rocket hit a wall of St Aidan's Primary School on the Whitecourt Road, TV, radio, newspapers and opportunist politicians jumped on the anti-IRA bandwagon, accusing the IRA of endangering the children, but these same people conveniently remain silent when the Conservative government endangers the children's education and their future by their cut-backs — St Aidan's has two teacher redundancies.

Reaction from the teachers' unions has been the usual 'all talk and no action', and they will invite Nicholas Scott, the minister responsible for education and prisons in the North, to speak to them. And guess what he will speak on — the need for cut-backs etc.

So, once again it seems that the nationalist population of West Belfast is being shown that they are second-class citizens and that their education should therefore be reduced to that of second-class. A Belfast teacher.

IRA funerals

A Chara,

I believe that it is time for the Republican Movement to adopt a new policy regarding the funerals of Volunteers.

I think that all military-style funerals should be ended because they give the enemy an excuse to provoke and use violence whilst we are burying our dead. This is very upsetting for the relatives of the dead Volunteer and we must deny the enemy the opportunity he seeks to insult the memory of our dead.

There is also the problem of informers, undercover agents and



● RUC attack IRA funeral

the modern technology of surveillance used by the enemy. This makes the staging of military-style funerals a very dangerous exercise and provides the British with an opportunity to identify Volunteers, dumps and safe houses.

I believe that the Tricolour placed on the coffin of a dead Volunteer is a fitting tribute and is the only tribute that is necessary. Brendan Dowd,
Leicester Prison,
England.



Youth vacuum

A Chara,

As is commonly known, Sinn Féin, and the Republican Movement in general, derive a large degree of support from the young people of Ireland. It is from this section of the community that youthful energy is all too apparent, particularly at election time.

However, one finds that in the intervening periods, young people find themselves on the sidelines in the role of spectators.

Sinn Féin, in my view, should strive to seek permanent youth involvement so that youth's full potential can be realised. In addition to those established in Belfast and Derry, I believe there is a vacuum which can be filled by Sinn Féin youth bodies in such areas as Armagh, Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh/South Tyrone so that the youth can be prepared to take the banner from the hands of the older generation.

Area delegates should attend national youth meetings and should be in a position to raise proposals and query matters which arise from time to time.

An education programme (on policy, history, language etc) would, of course, be the main priority.

Barra Mac Giolla Dhuibh,
An Chraigh Mhór,
Contae Thír Eoghain.



The first casualty

A Chara,

"The first casualty when war comes is the truth" — US Senator Hiram Johnson, 1917.

Too often what is written, said and read bears little resemblance to the reality. The British state, of which the media is an integral part, consistently and deliberately distorts and misrepresents the war in Ireland, aided and abetted by Free State collaborators. That it is only to be expected, but it comes as a surprise when a self-confessed member of the British 'anti-imperialist' left indulges in similar activity over a recent incident involving myself.

I refer to my letter in AP/RN (January 19th), giving details of my arrest before Christmas under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), and a 'reply' by Tess McDonnell in AP/RN (February 16th). By even a cursory cross-referencing of both letters it is quite clear that her letter cannot be regarded as simply a misinterpretation of my letter but rather as a blatant and deliberate distortion.

I stand by my criticism of the Irish Freedom Movement/Revolutionary Communist Party. Their releasing of my name to the British media was both irresponsible and opportunistic, and had not been agreed with by either Sinn Féin (Britain) or the people handling the campaign against my arrest in Birmingham. The IFM/RCP can't have been very concerned about my being arrested because they have still made no contact with me, two months on. As the 'reply' was written in the first person singular, it would appear that the letter is in a personal capacity and that the IFM/RCP accept that they were out of order in setting me up as a target in the British press. I hope so.

During my time in Sinn Féin — the last 12 years — a number of English 'leftist' groups, one after the other, have tried to project themselves as the only 'real' anti-imperialists in relation to Britain's occupation of the six counties, changing their names with the seasons. As the following apt quote shows, these groups have shown up in other revolutions:

"They indulge in much 'left' phrasemongering. The thinking of such 'leftists' outstrips a given stage of development of the objective process; some regard their fantasies as truth, while others strain to realise in the present an ideal which can only be realised in the future. They alienate themselves from the current practice of the majority of the people and from the realities of the day, and show themselves to be adventurist in their actions" — Mao Tse Tung.

If the British left groups are serious about Irish solidarity work, and not just 'building the party' or posing, then they should heed the call of the Republican Movement for all groups to work together in an broad front, as possible to build a real withdrawal movement and end the endemic sectarianism that exists over here.

Alan O'Dwyer,
London.

REVIEW PAGE

TV

Sounds together

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

GREEN FLUTES finally got a showing on Channel 4 last Monday, March 5th, after being 'rescheduled' twice. It is a film about the James Connolly Flute Band from Govan in Glasgow, whose spirited performances at marches and rallies have made them a popular sight in Ireland from Belfast to Bodenstown.

The film shows the band as a vehicle for the members' political and social expression, a means of communication between themselves, their own community and the other communities they contact through their music.

One young member talked of the band 'opening my eyes to other people' and the most fervent and frequently expressed aim of one of the band leaders is to defeat 'the curse of sectarianism and bigotry'.

Their political awareness is impressive, as the conversations with the band members, their friends in the Govan Shamrock Flute Band and their families ranging from women's liberation to the Falklands war, and from the threat of nuclear war to the struggle to exist on the dole. One youngster, who looked about eight, urged a return to the barker system 'so that there would be no need for money'.

Their journey to Belfast to play at an anniversary of inter-

ment rally shows the same backdrop as in Govan, of high-rise flats, poor housing and neglected areas, but the welcome the band gets is far from depressing. They are a part of the community in Belfast as much as in Govan. Babies are admired, children played with, old friends greeted.

Back in Priesthill, described as 'the land of wooden curtains' because there are so many boarded-up windows, the band is again surrounded by children, and the patience and good humour of these young men and women as they teach the children to make music is a memorable part of this film.

Keith Joseph, British Minister of Education, was on various news broadcasts at the weekend because of his attack on teachers who gave pupils a 'one-sided view under the guise of teaching them to be kind and considerate to others'. He ad-

vised parents of older children to complain to him if teachers offered 'only one of the many views about national defence'.

He was objecting in general to the teaching of 'peace studies' as a separate subject in schools during a weekend conference in London of the National Council of Women.

What he is worried about is schoolchildren being told the truth about the stock-piling of nuclear weapons, about what 'national defence' costs, and about what will happen if there is a nuclear war.

In *Z for Zachariah*, BBC 1's *Play for Today* on Tuesday, February 28th, a schoolgirl, 15-year-old Ann Burden, is the only survivor of a nuclear attack. The family farm, in a secluded valley, has somehow been sheltered from the nuclear fallout.

Ann copes alone for more than a year, tending the animals and planting some vegetables for food. Suddenly, another person appears in the valley, a man in a protective suit that has saved him from death from radiation. Ann (Pippa Hinchley) hides from the stranger and watches as he swims in the polluted water of the river, water that



● Anthony Andrews as Loomis and Pippa Hinchley as Ann Burden in *Z for Zachariah* she has carefully avoided all this time.

The stranger, a scientist called John Loomis, becomes ill from the radiation in the river and Ann takes him into the house to nurse him. The progression of radiation sickness is shown in close-ups of Loomis' (Anthony Andrews) vomiting, his open sores and bald patches.

After Ann has saved his life by her care Loomis tells her they are going to 'build a colony' and tries to rape her. She escapes into the hills and hides there while he first tries starving her out and then attempts to cripple her by shooting her in the foot. Ann steals the radiation suit and leaves the valley in search of other survivors.

Loomis' treatment of her, in the context of the play, is not surprising. The inhumanity that led to the dropping of a nuclear bomb was the same inhumanity that Loomis showed to Ann.

Erskine Childers, executed in 1922 by order of William Cosgrave, wrote a book in 1903 called *The Riddle of the Sands*. The film version was on UTV on Sunday, March 4th in the *Murder, Mystery and Suspense* series and is one of those simple yarns of nasty German spies being thwarted by upper-class amateur detectives, with their plan to invade England from the East being foiled by the two heroes.

The Riddle of the Sands was published in 1903, long before any threat of war between England and Germany and was an uncanny prediction of the First World War.

BBC 2 are showing a series of Australian films on Sunday — and Thursday nights and *The Devil's Playground* was last Sunday's offering. Set in a Catholic boys' school in 1953, the film showed the effect on both pupils and masters of a rigid, narrow-minded and closed view of life.

Sex is a taboo subject, with the result that some of the boys in the school, which is run by the Christian Brothers, become obsessed by it. As one old Brother says:

"Our religion is supposed to be about love, yet we end up hating ourselves."

A pupil accidentally drowns during one of the ritual punishment sessions, which include whipping and burning each other, and the incident drags into the open all the conflicts and misery in the school.

Australian films are usually excellent, which makes *The Young Doctors* even harder to bear. It's an Australian soap-opera on UTV on Thursday afternoons, obviously considered good enough for day-time 'housewife' audiences. Everything about it — acting, scripts, production and sets — is irritatingly bad. It's also about 20 years old, judging by the clothes and hairstyles.

Definitely a suitable case for the surgeon's knife.

The wrong stuff?

BY EDDIE STACK

"SOME DAY I would like to stand on the moon, look down through a quarter of a million miles of space, and say, 'There certainly is a beautiful earth out tonight'." so said Lieutenant Colonel H. Rankin at the outset of America's space programme in 1963.

Lieutenant Colonel did you say? My God, does the military get in on everything in the land of Donald Duck and the electric chair? The answer is yes, almost.

Well, I mean, when some backwood US senator can waltz into town and convince presumably intelligent people to vote for him because he's got a smile like a baby's butt and goes to the same hairdresser as President Kennedy used to, then you can understand why the Yanks leave the really important decisions to people who at least have a coherent point of view. Enter therefore the US military-industrial complex.

As the big bad year of 1984 enters its third month, a movie has landed on our shores which outlines not just how important space travel is to the American war machine but how the USA really wears the hat it accuses the USSR of wearing, naturally to the detriment of poor little ole mankind who only have John Wayne and friends to turn to.

The Right Stuff, while trying to show American spacemen as

the peak of a system itself choc-a-bloc with power and heroism, really reveals that they are the willing dupes of a macho contest between America and the Soviet Union, a contest which, if present trends continue, will mean the annihilation of mankind before the dawn of a new century.

THE SPACE AGE

There was a time, of course, when the Space Age meant glamour and adventure. It wasn't just the cartoon strips of Flash Gordon — *Mutiny in the Furnace Room!* — or the soothing 'we can live together' message of *Star Trek* that got the human race so boggy-eyed.

Rather it was the thought that the technology which has proved so horrifying in the form of rocket warfare in the Second World War could be harnessed so usefully in exploring the unknown and prove to everybody the magic of mankind when they put their mind to a problem. But underlying all this was the reality of global politics.

The tremors of fear that

FILM

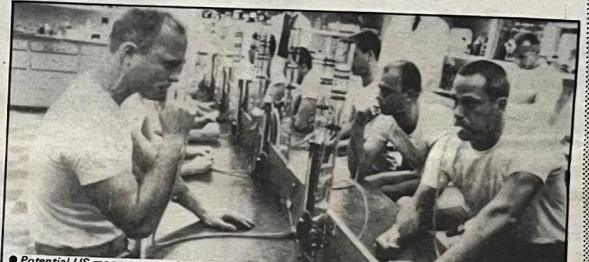
went through the American war machine when the USSR got the first satellite into space could only have been measured on the Richter Scale. Their belief that the Soviets had 'the high ground' meant that they received immediate funding for their own gigantic space programme. Once they had the bucks, then they had the Buck Rogers.

The race to the moon was massively expensive but it was funded by an economy still earning profits in those vital multiple industries. As the man says, moon rocks are okay when everyone is eating.

STAR WARS

Today, however, that Space Age is dead. The recession has killed off the move to Mars. What we do have is a more ominous development as outlined by President Reagan — *Star Wars*. Today, the Space Age's latest toy is the Space Shuttle, an unashamed collector of military information for the Pentagon. The move to escalate the nuclear weapons race into the earth's atmosphere by the USA is a determined attempt to squeeze the resources of the Soviets.

By concentrating on the arms race, where the USA has



● Potential US moon-men go through some laboratory tests

always held its own in technological advance, the Americans are trying for a substantial military advantage over the Soviets, and I have no doubt that as soon as the Yanks think they have got a 'winnable' nuclear war on their hands, they'll start one. They will feel they have no choice: the persistent and multiplying crises of capitalism propel them towards aggression and they can't afford to have the Soviet Union looking over their shoulder when they are on their knees.

So when President Kennedy, himself now getting very fashionable with the crisis-ridden Yanks, said at his swearing-in that the USA would fight any foe and pay any price to secure liberty, this is the money he was talking about.

Since 1968, the USA has spent \$5,000 billion on war, \$100 billion on space and, ahem, \$20 billion on community development and housing. Indeed, if you took the annual US defence

budget, you could pay for the entire population of India to stay in Dublin's Gresham Hotel with full bed and board for one year. Ain't life wonderful?

So where does *The Right Stuff* come into this? Hailed with all sorts of critical praises when it surfaced in America, this film has been resolutely ignored by the buck-paying moron. Why? Because, although ultimately this film purports to be a flag-waver for a nation desperately short of heroes, it was felt it didn't flag-wave enough. So, while *The Right Stuff* about showing that Lyndon Johnson was a Commie-hating moron I couldn't have written this portrayal better in my dreams, fab friends), and that if the Soviets didn't know how to spell the word rocket the Yanks would still be sending a donkey just to gawk at the moon, the film was actually cutting its own throat vis-a-vis the American public. Nor did they want to

go and see the film's portrayal of presidential hopeful John Glenn, first American to orbit the globe, and, if *The Right Stuff*, is anything to go by, a real self-righteous little berk.

I'm afraid, however, I can't recommend *The Right Stuff* either. At over three hours, it's much too long and despite its humorous moments, such as what one astronaut was thinking before the glorious moment of lift-off (he was dying for a pee), it is a very flat film indeed. I'd much prefer a Soviet film on how they got a woman into space when the Yanks were still blasting off chimpanzees. Indeed, the Soviets' track record make the recent, much-publicised 'Sally Ride' — American female in space' look like a lot of sexist hype.

Needless to say, the astronauts' wives in *The Right Stuff* are treated as useless appendages.

Include me out.

Stair, eolas agus comhairle

LE PÁDRAIG MAC AMHLAIGH

CAITHFIDH mé a rá gur an dú-shúla a bhain mé as an leabhar seo. Tá réimse leathan ábhair ann agus gach ábhar lán chomh suimiúil éis an ceann roimhe. Tá eolas ann nach mbeadh ag móran daoine, m.sh. eolas ar Ghluín na Buaidhe agus na fáthanna uaisle bunaidh a bhí ag na daoine a bhí páirteach ann. Gheibh muid eolas ar chomh dúthachtach agus a doibr na laochra seo ar son áiteanna.

Tá caint sa leabhar ar scríbhneoirí Uladh agus ní iontas ar bith é gurbh é Seasmh Mac Grianna is mó iomrá fríd an

LEABHAR

ag déanamh go bhfuil Proinsias ag teacht leis i dtaca le "Rí eigeas na nGael" de.

Ábhar mór imní ag an údar an neamhsuimh sa chreideamh a'éirigh le blianta anuas ach tá nithe eile a thógann a chroí, m.sh. gur éirigh an nÁisín seo ó n'mharbth cheana féin agus gur éirigh le Gaeilgeoirí an teanga a

choinneáil beo agus a chothú. Sna caibidil seo fá athbheochan na Gaeilge tá eagla orm go bhfuil barraíocht den athrann a chuireas isteach rud beag ar an leitheoireacht.

Deirim go bhfuil comhairle le tabhairt ag an údar sa chéad caibidil sa chaint láidir seo.

"Dealramh airm ba chóir a bheith ar lucht na hAthbheochana, ar na daoine sin a thuigseann rí-thabacht shlanú gur deanga náisiúnta agus atá sísta

a saol a thiomnú dá cúis."

Ach tá an t-éadrom i gcuideachta an troim sa leabhar seo agus is taitneamhach an caibidil ar úirlí ceoil agus colmáin agus ar an gíge mar athrach.

Síos fríd an leabhar, is léir an míshasamh agus an íteang a chuir an neamart a rinneadh sa Ghaeilge ag institiúidí éagsula sa tír, mar shampla an Eaglais Chaitliceach agus sa deireadh tá dóchas agus an gnáthdhuine agus as an ghnáthphobal a sheasfaidh le hÉirinn agus lenár deanga náisiúnta.

● *Téann Buille le Cnámh*, le Proinsias Mac An Bheatha. Foilsithe ag FNT. Clúdach cruu, lúach €5.



Transit terror gang

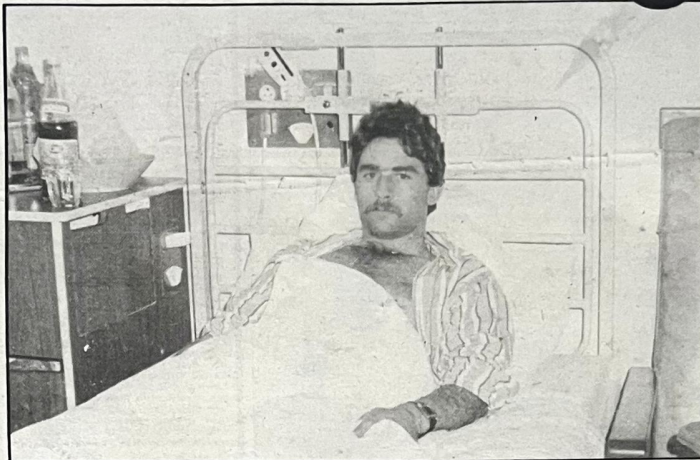
BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A YOUNG Newry man was abducted and savagely beaten last Friday night, March 2nd, by an armed loyalist gang claiming to be the notorious Protestant Action Force which has proven UDR links. Fortunately, the terrifying experience appeared to be restricted to a purely sectarian attempt to force the man into breaking off his relationship with his Protestant girlfriend.

Patrick McGuigan, aged 21, thought he was being offered a lift when a Transit van stopped next to him on the Rathfriland to Newry Road around midnight on Friday. But three hooded men, armed with revolvers and a shotgun, hauled McGuigan by the hair into the back of the van, where he was repeatedly kicked and beaten.

They made particular allegations about his frequent visits to a specific bar in Rathfriland, a predominantly loyalist town. McGuigan says:

"They forced me face down on the floor and accused me of being in the Provos; they said I was setting up UDR men. When I told



● Patrick McGuigan recovers in hospital from his injuries

them this wasn't so, they kicked me and told me I was a Fenian bastard and that they were going to shoot me.

"One of them stuck the muzzle of his revolver down my throat. I started screaming, for I thought I was dead, and I must have gone

unconscious."

McGuigan's abductors tied his hands behind his back and placed a hood over his head, contin-

uing to beat and threaten him. They drove to a quarry at Crowe, where they dragged McGuigan out of the van and told him he was going to be shot. McGuigan recalls:

"I was hit with something on the side of the head and I went totally unconscious for what must have been three or four hours."

LOYALIST FAMILY

When he recovered consciousness, McGuigan managed to wriggle the hood off his head and, with his hands still tied behind his back he staggered to a nearby house where a loyalist family refused to open the door or summon help.

Although in a confused state, McGuigan managed to reach a telephone kiosk several hundred yards away and, using his tongue, dialled 999 for an ambulance, before collapsing unconscious again.

Patrick McGuigan is still in hospital with head injuries and severe bruising to his arms, back and legs.

Jim McAllister, Sinn Féin elected representative for the area, has criticised the RUC for deliberately playing down this serious incident and has urged nationalists to be extremely vigilant.

Shannon suspicions

PEOPLE in the Shannon area of County Clare have demanded the speedy publication of a garda investigation into the death, in suspicious circumstances, of 24-year-old Bunratty Castle banqueting manager Patrick Nugent on February 10th last.

Locals fear that the investigation, led by Deputy Garda Commissioner John McMahon, may end in a cover-up. This fear reflects local anger that following Nugent's death, no post-mortem was held because a garda had attributed his death to a traffic

accident.

Indeed, it was angry local reaction which forced the gardai to begin an investigation, and a subsequent reconstruction of the events leading to Hogan's death has seemingly confirmed eyewitness reports that the death was not caused by a traffic accident but may have involved two local gardai.

ATTENTION

And in an apparent attempt to divert public attention from the Bunratty death, seven Shannon men, including four brothers, were recently arrested in a series of dawn

raids by more than 40 gardai. These arrests, supposedly in connection with an earlier bank raid in Tulla, County Clare, were followed by widespread publicity of the Northern origin of those arrested, even though none of them has any connection with the Republican Movement. They were all later released without charge.

Eugene Logan, of Shannon Sinn Féin, has issued a statement calling for a sworn public enquiry into the Bunratty death and condemning the gardai for "their continued harassment of Shannon's Northern community".

Castlederg cover-up?

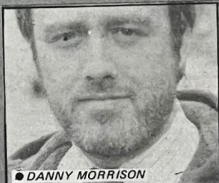
SINN FEIN have hit out at a recent spate of sectarian attacks in the Castlederg area. Sinn Féin's elected representative for Mid-Ulster, Danny Morrison, said that in the last few weeks there had been several incidents of cars driving at nationalists. Some of these had been reported to the RUC by locals but without any satisfaction.

"In an incident on the night of Saturday, February 25th," said Morrison, "a car containing three men drove down the Milldam Road, crossed the ramp onto the wrong side of the road and struck two young men outside the chip shop, Kieran Lynch (27) and Brian Duggan (19).

"Kieran Lynch was rushed to the hospital where his injuries were discovered to be a broken leg, broken arm and serious chest injuries. He underwent an operation and was also administered the Last Rites."

The driver of the car was identified as a local loyalist, Noel Graham, and one of the passengers as a UDR soldier named Spiers.

When witnesses went to



● DANNY MORRISON

the RUC barracks they found Graham there, on obvious good terms with the RUC. He was not breathalysed and the RUC would not take statements about the incident. No one has yet been charged.

Morrison also stated that on Sunday night, February 26th, several cars containing loyalists were driving at speed at nationalists in the Ferguson Crescent area.



● UDR harassment in Fermanagh is on the increase

UDR scare tactics

BY AINE MOORE

THE UDR saturation of nationalist areas in County Fermanagh has led to increased harassment of isolated nationalist families, according to Denis McCabe, a farmer from the Garrison area who has himself suffered a litany of harassment in recent years.

Situated close to the Fermanagh/Leitrim border, the McCabe family home has been raided ten times since the first raid in July 1974. And besides being subjected to regular surveillance, family members have been singled out at British army/RUC checkpoints for 'special' attention.

First arrested on April 20th 1976, Denis McCabe was most recently lifted on June 21st 1982 and held for three days in Gough barracks, Armagh. There he was subjected to physical and verbal attacks and was threatened by one RUC man that they would 'get' him any time they wanted.

Following his detention in Gough, McCabe has been increasingly victimised at RUC and UDR checkpoints. When stopped recently at one UDR checkpoint, on Friday, February 17th, McCabe was

ordered out of his car, which was then searched by the UDR soldiers who confiscated maps and tapes.

In an effort to frighten McCabe, some members of the UDR patrol radioed frantic messages about their 'find' back to base while others fired distress flares. After 1½ hours McCabe was released, but without his personal belongings.

On Sunday, February 26th, McCabe was again stopped at a UDR checkpoint near Garrison, and while other motorists were waved on, he was detained by the UDR who conducted a detailed search of his car, even interfering with engine parts.