

AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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FOUR REPUBLICANS, including Sinn Féin president and West Belfast MP Gerry Adams, were shot and injured in a sectarian murder bid in Belfast city centre on Wednesday afternoon.

Gerry Adams was hit in the neck and shoulder, Sean Keenan was shot in the face, Joe Keenan received wounds to the body and hands, and Kevin Rooney was wounded in the body. A fifth man, Bob Murray, who was travelling with them at the time of the attack, escaped injury.

Although seriously injured, all four men were reported to be in a stable condition in hospital on Wednesday night.

The shooting occurred in Howard Street, behind Belfast's City Hall at around 1.30pm.

The five men were driving from Belfast Magistrate's Court where Gerry Adams, Sean Keenan and Bob Murray, along with three other men, were facing obstruction charges — maliciously brought by the RUC after an attempt by them to seize a Tricolour from a Sinn Féin cavalcade during last year's Westminster elections.

A car pulled alongside Kevin Rooney's car and there was a burst of gunfire from three weapons. The would-be assassins' car was stopped in Wellington Place shortly afterwards and three men were arrested.

One was reported to be suffering from a bullet wound inflicted by himself or a fellow gunman.

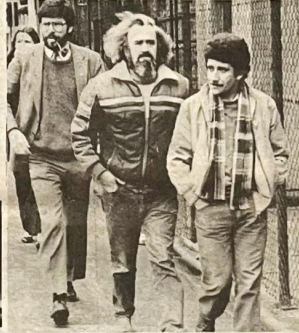
The murder bid was later claimed by the UFF, a regular cover name for the legal UDA.

Reaction to the shootings ranged from hypocritical mouthings from establishment nationalist politicians, which still managed to suggest justification for the murder bid, to more open welcome for the attack from loyalist politicians, the spirit of which was best represented by DUP Assembly member George Seawright who stated that, as a constituent of Gerry Adams in West Belfast, he regretted that the attack had not been a complete success.

Sinn Féin has declared: "If the shooting was an attempt to drive us off the streets or underground, it has already failed."

SEE ALSO PAGE 2

SINN FEIN UNDER FIRE



● Gerry Adams, Bob Murray and Sean Keenan on their way into Belfast Magistrates' Court



● The scene in Belfast city centre on Wednesday after the shooting

ANTI-EXTRADITION RALLY

2.30pm Saturday, March 24th
An Uaimh (Navan)
County Meath

NOT INTIMIDATED

— SINN FEIN

WEDNESDAY'S murder attempt on four republicans in Belfast will not drive Sinn Fein members off the streets or underground, the party has stated.

A Sinn Fein statement on Wednesday afternoon, March 14th, said:

"The shooting in Belfast today of four members of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, Sean Keenan, Joe Keenan and Kevin Rooney, comes as no surprise to the nationalist people.

"If today's shooting was an attempt to drive us off the streets or underground, it has already failed.

"Our membership are aware of the constant danger to which they are all exposed and they freely accept this danger. It is not new for Sinn Fein members to be victims of this type of attack, which testifies to the resilience of our opposition to British rule.

"Today's attack was made possible by the RUC. Had they not maliciously brought a charge of obstruction against Gerry Adams and our other comrades, they would not have been available for assassination.

"Indeed the RUC/British government refused to allow a firearm to be issued to Gerry Adams (in contrast to other elected representatives) made him not only an available target but also a vulnerable one — a fact that the RUC were well aware of."

VICE-PRESIDENTS

In another statement, Sinn Fein vice-presidents John Joe McGirl and Phil Flynn



● Three men were arrested after the car used in the attack was stopped in Wellington Place

referred to the murders of Sinn Fein vice-president Maire Drumm in 1976 and the more recent murder of Sinn Fein election worker Peter Corrigan in Armagh in 1982, which "further demonstrates the danger which Sinn Fein members face in their everyday lives".

They continued:

"For Gerry Adams, this danger was in-

creased by the broadcast of a scurrilous television programme on December 19th last. This programme entitled 'The Honourable Member for West Belfast' was produced by ITV's World in Action' team and deliberately aimed, in the words of its producer John Ware, to 'stitch-up' Gerry Adams.

"Neither snide attacks in the media, nor

consequent gun attacks in the streets, will deter Sinn Fein members from their work in proclaiming the message of freedom.

"In the firm knowledge that their contribution in achieving freedom is far from over, we extend best wishes to our comrades Gerry Adams, Sean Keenan, Joe Keenan and Kevin Rooney and wish them a speedy recovery."

'There were about 20 shots' — Bob Murray

BOB MURRAY, who was the only person in the ambushed car to escape injury, gave the following account of what happened in the Belfast attack on Wednesday, March 14th, in which Gerry Adams, Sean Keenan, Joe Keenan and Kevin Rooney were injured.

"We left the court at around 1.20pm and we had a car waiting for us to take us to get something to eat during the recess.

We walked across the road to the other side of Chichester Street to the car. Gerry got into the front passenger seat, I got into the back and moved across behind the driver, Joe Keenan got in beside me and Sean Keenan got in last and closed the door.

There seemed to be very light traffic about, but we just checked around to see if there were any other cars sitting in the area — there weren't any.

We went down Chichester Street and turned right into Oxford Street, and then right into May Street.

We drove up May Street and to the best of my recollection, we were up past the City Hall, close to the Scandia Restaurant, when there were about 20 shots.

As soon as I heard the shots, I curled up, hit the deck and shouted to the driver, Kevin Rooney, to keep driving. I turned round and could see that Sean was badly injured and was bleeding from the face. Joe Keenan was sitting next to me and was

moaning.

I asked Gerry if he had been hit and he said: 'Yes, a couple of times, but I'm OK'.

Kevin Rooney said he was also hit, but he kept on driving through traffic lights and straight to the hospital.

Everyone was conscious. We sped

towards the hospital and when we got there, I ran into the casualty department, told them I had four shot men in the car and they acted immediately."

RUC ASSAULT IN HOSPITAL

DANNY MORRISON, Sinn Fein elected representative for Mid-Ulster, visited the four injured men in hospital, not long after they had arrived there.

Afterwards, he was provided with a room by hospital staff in which to talk to the uninjured Bob Murray.

Within a few minutes, however, RUC men burst through the door and grabbed the two men, whose

identities they clearly knew. They pushed them up against the wall and searched them.

When the two republicans tried to leave the room, protesting that they were not under arrest, an RUC man stepped forward and arrested them for allegedly assaulting another RUC man (No 2029).

Hospital staff intervened and said that the RUC were responsible for the fracas, and after 15 minutes Morrison and Murray were released.

BY EAMON TRACEY

THE FINAL run-up to the two local government by-elections, which Sinn Fein is contesting in the North, has begun with daily canvassing in both areas, the distribution of leaflets and the final touches being put to election machinery for polling day.

In Area 'D' of Dungannon District council, where Peter Sherry is the sole nationalist candidate, a systematic canvass is being carried out, which will take the campaign right up to polling day next Tuesday, March 20th.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, just days before he was shot, joined Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein's EEC candidate, in canvassing nationalist estates around Dungannon.

Peter Sherry's manifesto concentrates on local issues, highlighting the continuing discrimination and corruption of the unionist-dominated council.

The manifesto points out: "Fifteen years after the civil rights campaign there is still massive discrimination in Dungannon. The unionist policy of deliberately not providing factories west of the Bann has led to mass unemployment. Nationalists are discriminated against in the public and private

BELFAST AND DUNGANNON BY-ELECTIONS CAMPAIGNS IN TOP GEAR



● Peter Sherry, Sinn Fein candidate in Dungannon Area 'D' local government by-election is joined by Danny Morrison and Owen Carron while canvassing in the area

sectors, for example, Killyman Creamery employs 80 people, only two are nationalists; of the 37 directly employed by Dungannon District Council, only two are nationalists. Similar situations

exist in Dungannon Technical College, South Tyrone Hospital, the library, Housing Executive offices, crown buildings and school-bus drivers.

"Sinn Fein provides a full-time

constituency service. Sinn Fein is fighting for the provision of bus shelters in Dungannon, the only town without them. Sinn Fein will be pressing for a leisure and culture centre — an amenity that

other comparable towns already have."

SEAN McKNIGHT

In Belfast Area 'F', the campaign to elect Sean McKnight to the vacant Belfast Council seat has similarly moved into top gear with canvassing taking place throughout the nationalist areas.

McKnight's manifesto points to the inner city deprivation of Belfast.

"For too long the people of the working-class areas of Belfast have been forced to exist in sub-standard housing and in an environment that is positively damaging to their health and well-being, without having any real say in the shape, planning or lay-outs of those environments.

"Sinn Fein will insist on the people's right to consultation at every level — consultation on the type of homes they inhabit, consultation on the fixing of rents for those homes, consultation on the rates they pay, compatible with the environment they live in.

Coalition parades its true colours

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THERE IS considerable anger in County Longford this week at the loss of their St Patrick's Day Parade due to the Coalition government's undemocratic campaign against Sinn Féin. The parade, said to be the biggest outside Dublin, has been organised by the Chamber of Commerce for the past ten years.

And in Tuam, County Galway, the annual parade is also being used by the Coalition in their anti-Sinn Féin witch-hunt.

Other parades could yet be affected.

Pat Stenson, president of the Longford Chamber of Commerce and chairperson of the St Patrick's Day Parade Organising Committee was informed by Patrick Freeman, Free State army commandant at Connolly Barracks in Longford, that there would be no participation in the parade by his soldiers unless an undertaking was given in writing that there would be no participation by Sinn Féin.

An emergency meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday night decided to cancel the parade.

Michael Nevin, Sinn Féin councillor and chairperson of Longford County Council, would have been on the reviewing stand.

AUTHORITY

The instructions about participating and the order directing the letter to the Chamber came, according to Commandant Freeman, "from a higher military authority."

Coalition Defence Minister Patrick Cooney admitted on Wednesday that he had instigated the affair.

Pat Stenson explained that they felt unable to go ahead with the parade without the Free State army

at this late stage, as they were relying on their band, and he expressed the view that the military authorities had introduced "sectional party politics" into an event that never had sectional politics in it before.

Paddy Fallon, chairperson of the local Vintners Association and member of the Chamber of Commerce, said:

"People are very disappointed, especially the children here. Whoever is responsible ought to be ashamed of themselves."

A motion was passed at February's meeting of Longford County Council condemning the action of the Free State Minister for the Environment, Liam Kavanagh, in refusing to meet a delegation from the council on February 8th because Michael Nevin, Sinn Féin councillor and chairperson of Longford County Council, was on it.

TUAM

In Tuam, the Coalition Junior Minister Paul Connaughton of Fine Gael announced on Wednesday night that he will not be on the reviewing stand at the St Patrick's Day Parade there, because Sinn Féin councillor Frank Glynn will be



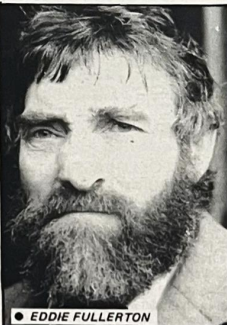
FRANK GLYNN



ANTHONY O'MALLEY-DALY



JOE O'NEILL



EDDIE FULLERTON



MICHAEL NEVIN

on the stand.

The local FCA unit has also been ordered by Cooney to withdraw from that parade.

NEW YORK

This decision by the Coalition to use St Patrick's Day Parades in their campaign against Sinn Féin is surprising. They obviously have not learned a lesson from their humiliation last year in New York, when their non-participation in the prestigious New York parade, because Michael Flannery was grand marshal, totally rebounded on them.

While depriving the people of Longford of their parade, and disrupting the Tuam one, the Coalition is this year taking part in the New York parade, even though Michael O'Rourke, who is wanted in the Free State for escaping from Green Street Courthouse in 1976, is honorary grand marshal and his wife will be on the reviewing stand with the Free State consul.

The Coalition government obviously thinks that the nationalist feelings of people in the twenty-six counties are less than those of Irish-Americans.

GALWAY

Meanwhile, a deputation from Galway County Council due to meet Fine Gael Junior Minister for the Environment Fergus O'Brien today, Thursday, have been told that he "knows Sinn Féin is on it" and is not prepared to meet the deputation until the Sinn Féin representative withdraws.

Frank Glynn, Sinn Féin councillor and former chairperson of Galway County Council, was selected

for the deputation by the other members of the council, which includes two junior ministers of the same status as O'Brien.

Neither John Donnellan, Junior Minister for Social Welfare nor Paul Connaughton, Agriculture, objected to Frank Glynn's election on to the deputation, in fact it was a unanimous decision. Both ministers voted for Glynn as chairperson of the council in 1979.

The Galway councillors are meeting O'Brien to press for more money from central funds for Galway and Frank Glynn, elected to represent the people of Galway, is not prepared to withdraw from the deputation to comply with what he describes as "a blatant denial of the people's right to representation".

DONEGAL

Free State Minister for the Environment Liam Kavanagh was seriously embarrassed when publicly challenged by Sinn Féin councillors in Donegal last Friday, March 9th.

Kavanagh was in Donegal to open the new Ballintra/Laghey bypass on the Ballyshannon to Donegal road, and put his stomach before his principles by attending a dinner in the company of Eddie Fullerton, Sinn Féin member of Donegal County Council and Buncrana Urban District Council.

However, when the various deputations from the Donegal local councils met him in the Abbey Hotel in Donegal town later, he declared that he would have to withdraw if the Sinn Féin councillors stayed.

Eddie Fullerton, one of the three Sinn Féin candidates for Connaught/

Ulster in the forthcoming EEC elections, replied to Kavanagh's demands about Sinn Féin elected representatives denouncing violence:

"We do not advocate violence but we defend the right of the Irish people to resist British rule in Ireland and see it as their duty to do so," he said.

"We have never heard your party nor your Coalition partners denouncing British or Free State violence. We have the right to represent the people who voted for us — they are being denied their democratic rights as well."

BUNDORAN

Sinn Féin elected representatives Paddy Brady and Joe O'Neill were both on the deputation from Bundoran Urban Council which met Kavanagh to discuss plans for a sewage plant for the area and funds for urban roads.

Attacking Kavanagh on his denial of democracy to Sinn Féin representatives, Joe O'Neill said that he was in the mould of "fascists like Hitler and Maggie Thatcher".

"When democracy suits you, it's right, but when it does not suit you, it's wrong," he told Kavanagh, and declared that it was insulting, not to them personally, but to the people who elected them.

Joe O'Neill and Paddy Brady then withdrew from the meeting "in the interests of the people of Donegal and their rights to the services under discussion".

BALLYSHANNON

The next deputation to meet Kavanagh also had two Sinn Féin councillors on it, Anthony O'Malley-Daly and Gerry Sheerin from Ballyshannon Town Commissioners.

Already reeling from the trouncing from Fullerton and O'Neill, Kavanagh was then castigated by Anthony O'Malley-Daly, who told him that neither he, nor his fellow party members, Conor Cruise O'Brien or Dick Spring, would be remembered for their love of democracy.

Kavanagh had earlier tried to evade these confrontations by sending a message to Bundoran Urban Council that their deputation, including the Sinn Féin members, could arrange a meeting with his officials, a climb-down from his widely publicised "no dealings with Sinn Féin" statements.



PHIL FLYNN

Support for Phil Flynn

COALITION-inspired attempts to remove Sinn Féin vice-president, Phil Flynn, from his position as general secretary elect of the Local Government and Public Services Union (LGPSU) came unstuck in Cork on Tuesday night when three anti-Flynn motions were rejected by a majority of the 150 delegates representing

LGPSU members in the city.

All three motions were proposed at the annual general meeting of the Cork branch LGPSU in Connolly Hall, but despite the efforts of Coalition supporters at the meeting, a majority of delegates decided that Flynn was entitled to his political position and views so long as these did not conflict with his function within the LGPSU.

Two of the three motions were directed

aimed at Phil Flynn who was present at the meeting. These claimed that his Sinn Féin position was 'incompatible' with his union position and that he should be removed from office while "he continues to be a member of Provisional Sinn Féin".

After a debate, a vote on each of the three motions was taken with a show of hands and all three were defeated.

SOLID FUEL DANGERS

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE TRAGIC DEATHS on Sunday, March 11th, of an elderly couple in Lurgan, County Armagh, from poisonous fumes given off by their solid fuel fire, has brought to light a dangerous situation surrounding the use of such fires.

Mr and Mrs Cockcroft, who were both aged 77, had only moved that weekend into their new home in The Willows — a cloistered housing estate near Lurgan Hospital. While both had had previous experience of a solid fuel fire it appears that a fault in the fire led to the release of carbon monoxide fumes which killed them both.

Such faults are not uncommon with this type of heating system. Brendan Curran, Sinn Fein's constituency representative in the North Armagh area, uncovered a second case of dangerous fumes escaping while following up on Sunday's tragic incident.

In Twinbrook, on the outskirts

of West Belfast, where almost 1400 homes have been converted from district heating to two types of solid fuel heating, dozens of faults occurred as a result of poor design, bad workmanship, and a lack of advice on using and maintaining the fires.

The metal 'flues' or chimneys, for example, were in many cases not properly filled, resulting in down-draughts, blow-backs and homes filled with fumes. Workmen, many of whom were not skilled at installing such systems, failed to fit the correct pipes together, flues were occasionally blocked, thermostats to regulate the intensity of the fires were broken and not replaced,



Two examples of potentially dangerous solid fuel heating systems

while fittings on the fires were damaged.

POLEGLASS

An apparently stupid piece of designing was exposed by Sinn Fein in Poleglass, who discovered that on at least two occasions a plastic dust cover for the tank in the loft had melted and pieces of plastic had blocked pipes leading to serious damage to the system — one fire had to be completely replaced — and considerable hardship for the two



pensioners involved.

While it is true that in Twinbrook and Poleglass representatives from the Coal Advisory Service visited homes, in at least one area, the Lower Falls, in West Belfast, tenants who moved in, in the middle of February, have still to have any one call and advise them.

In Portadown, Brendan Curran talked with a representative from the Coal Advisory Service who blandly informed him that they usually allowed tenants to use the fire

for a few days before they called: an attitude which Curran described as callous and dangerous.

Richard McAuley, Sinn Fein's constituency representative for Twinbrook and Poleglass, following speedy representation to the Housing Executive, succeeded in getting a commitment from the Executive that they would initiate an urgent information campaign. The Executive also agreed to check with their architects about the faulty plastic dust cover.



CHARLES BRETT

Cushioned criticism

BY CHRIS RICHARDS

IN A carefully-worded statement, which will have little practical effect, the retiring chairperson of the North's Housing Executive, Charles Brett, last Thursday, March 8th, criticised the biased make-up of the Northern Ireland Housing Council, which influences both government and Housing Executive policy.

The Housing Council, which consists of representatives from each of the North's 26 district councils, has a unionist majority and makes three statutory nominations to the Executive's board.

Brett called on the Housing Council to "interpret democracy in a broader way and return to its own first principles by electing councillors drawn from all three of the

main strands of opinion in the province, not just those of the majority."

This reference was to the original three nominations on the formation of the Housing Executive in 1971, when one nationalist councillor was elected to the board by the Housing Council. Since then only unionists have been nominated.

IMPLICATION

Brett's rather ridiculous implication was that the institutionalised discrimination in housing, blatantly exercised by the old Housing Trust body and continued in the Executive, could somehow become democratic and non-sectarian overnight by the token inclusion of a nationalist on the board.

And Brett cushioned his criticism by explaining that he was speaking in a 'personal

capacity' and, praising the three unionist nominees on the board, he said:

"Each has left his party politics in the hatstand at the boardroom door. They have done their duty conscientiously in the interests of the community as a whole."

WAITED

Brett significantly waited until his retirement to air his half-hearted criticism and the nationalist community will find little solace either in the fact that his successor as chairperson of the incoming Housing Executive in April is the former Official Unionist councillor and Banbridge linen-mill boss, Norman Ferguson.

Ferguson was chairperson, for five years, of the offending Housing Council which refused to nominate nationalists. He will head the Housing Executive for the next three years.

Eviction resisted

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AN ATTEMPTED illegal eviction of a West Belfast couple was luckily prevented by Sinn Fein last Sunday night, March 11th, when a private landlord, accompanied by three bully-boys, entered the pair's one-room bedsit and placed their belongings outside in the rain.

Three weeks ago, absentee landlord of the Andersonstown Road house, Gerard Davey, gave Patsy and Lisa Herdman a verbal ultimatum to quit their bedsit within the month because he inferred that he did not want married couples — with the prospect of young children — staying in the house. Lisa Herdman is almost seven months pregnant.

The Herdmans explained that they would do their best to vacate the premises — for which they are paying the gross sum of £22 per week — and immediately began enquiring into the possibility of renting alternative accommodation.

However, with the scarcity of both suitable and reasonably-priced accommodation on the market in Belfast, the Herdmans drew a complete blank.

Again, without giving the couple written notice to quit the

premises, as required by law, the landlord told the couple to leave and returned last Sunday night with three 'heavies'.

BULLY-BOYS

Illegally entering their bedsit, the bully-boys began packing the Herdmans' belongings into plastic bags. Lisa ran out of the house, crying, while Patsy, acting on previous advice from her solicitor, telephoned the RUC believing that they would have to prevent the eviction.

However, when they eventually arrived, half an hour later, they informed Patsy Herdman that they could not get involved as it was a 'civil case'.

The Herdmans, at this point almost out on the street homeless, waved down a taxi-driver who informed Sinn Fein of the event. Within minutes, Alex Maskey, Sinn Fein city councillor, arrived at the house and after speaking

to the landlord, moved the Herdmans' belongings back into their flat. Mrs Herdman explains:

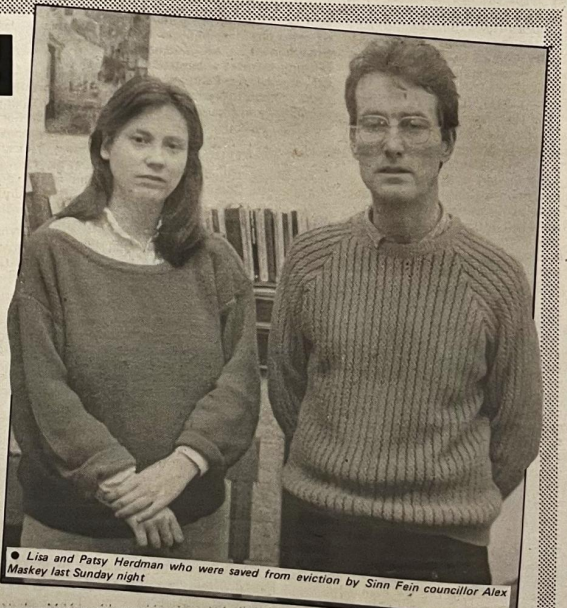
"We are now living virtually under siege, all the time waiting for the landlord to come back and do the same thing all over again. I am really frightened, as he pushed me out of his way the last time. He didn't care that I was pregnant at all."

CRITICAL

Commenting on the incident, Alex Maskey said:

"I am extremely critical of the RUC's involvement in this case. Not only were they giving the wrong advice to Mr and Mrs Herdman, advice that would have left the couple on the street without a home, but they also appeared to be prepared to back up this illegal eviction."

In conclusion, he made an appeal to people renting accommodation owned by a private landlord to "check their agreement with this person and find out what rights of tenancy they have. They should resist all attempts to bully them into giving up their accommodation and seek advice as soon as they fear they are under threat of eviction."



Lisa and Patsy Herdman who were saved from eviction by Sinn Fein councillor Alex Maskey last Sunday night

BY JACK MADDEN

SPEAKING at a Dublin rally last Saturday, Joe Costello of the Campaign Against the Criminal Justice Bill said that nothing substantial was conceded by Free State Justice Minister, Michael Noonan, when he announced amendments to the provisions of the Bill last week.

Almost 1,000 people marched through the streets of Dublin to a rally addressed by trade unionists and representatives of minority groups. A wide range of social, political and religious organisations carried placards and banners which condemned the extension of police powers proposed in the Criminal Justice Bill.

In an attack on the bill, Matt Merrigan of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union said that the boom in unemployment has 'induced crime' and that this 'jail stigma' further affected a person's chances of employment. He added:

"You will notice that the middle-class are not in jails because they are not deprived and do not have to steal to keep body and soul together."

In a pointed reminder of the continuing injustice and ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system, Brian Tracey of the NCCP said:

"The last time we marched about something like this was on the Loughan House issue. Now the Loughan House boys are the inmates of St Pat's and Mountjoy."

TRAVELLERS

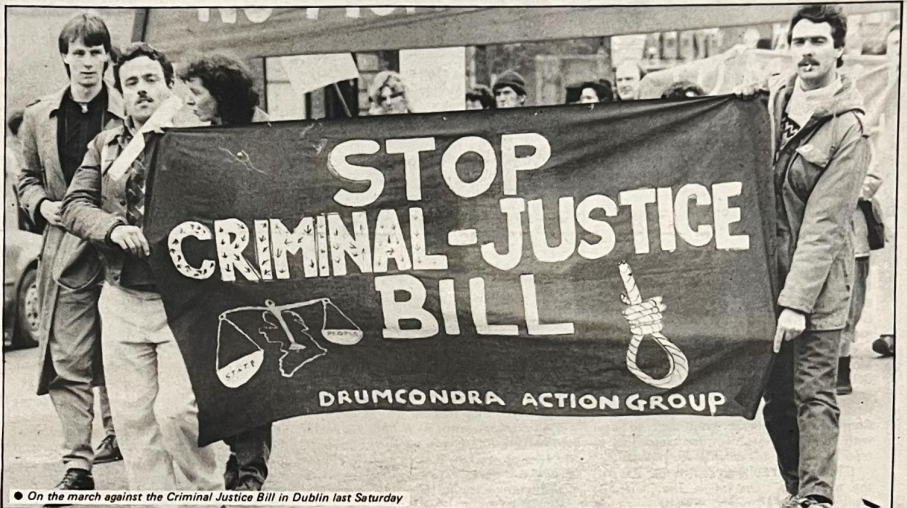
Two speakers represented the travelling community, reflecting the concern with which that community view the Criminal Justice Bill. The fear amongst travellers was undoubtedly heightened following an incident at the Firhouse Road in Tallaght when gardai forcibly evicted a number of travelling families from a site, arresting a number of people.

Both travellers' spokespersons, Nan Joyce and Marcy Donoghue, called for united action between the settled and travelling community.

Arguing that the "tranquillity of life in Foxrock or Killiney" won't be affected by the implementation of the provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill, journalist Eamonn McCann, said:

"Its real reason is to deal with the possibility of a revolt by the poor and all sorts of

NO REAL CHANGE



● On the march against the Criminal Justice Bill in Dublin last Saturday

dissident and minority groups."

Warning trade unionists that they would ignore this bill 'at their mortal peril', he asked:

"Are the politicians manipulating the gardai or are the gardai manipulating the politicians?"

Closing the meeting, Joe Costello said that Noonan's proposed amendments had been announced to create confusion in people's minds and that "nothing substantial has been conceded even in the right to silence, which has been altered in only one of five sections of the bill."

Despite the hysterical reaction of garda representative bodies to the announcement of Noonan's planned amendments, there has in fact been no real change proposed.

The major sections dealing with detention, treatment of suspects, penalties, withholding of information and the right to silence in firearms and stolen property cases, remain in the bill even though Noonan has proposed that they be re-examined after five years.

Garda anger is probably directed most at a proposal that an individual garda in a barracks be held responsible for ensuring that

the regulations governing arrest are strictly adhered to.

However, even if there is a clear failure to do this, the garda will be subject only to internal disciplinary procedures and not criminal or civil proceedings. Nor will the lawfulness of the custody be affected where a breach of these regulations is known to have occurred.

The proposal to establish a complaints procedure on a statutory basis has also angered the gardai, showing the extent to which the bill represents their interests rather than the interests of the community.

Hermon's evidence

ONCE AGAIN using his annual chief constable's report as a means to boost flagging RUC morale, RUC chief John Hermon has claimed that the force's use of so-called informers has resulted in a 'severe blow' to the IRA.

This claim, made in the foreword to the report, which was published on Monday, flies in the face of the continued ability of the IRA to influence the political situation and in the face too, of developed nationalist awareness that the paid-perjurer system is aimed not against the IRA, but, like internment, at demoralising the resistance of the entire nationalist community.

In his attempts to bolster the discredited strategy, Hermon resorts to 'newspeak' terminology, describing as 'converted terrorists' men who, almost without exception, have been bribed, threatened with lengthy incarceration or otherwise forced, under RUC interrogation, into signing statements incriminating others.

In fact, only one such individual, Kevin McGrady, has claimed to be 'born-again', and that unconvincingly.

Hermon conveniently omitted to mention in his report the major setbacks the RUC strategy suffered from a series of retractions last Autumn (the most notorious being that of Robert Lean) and the collapse of the Grimley and Morgan show trials in particular, when the perjurers' evidence was thrown out of court.

Lying yet again, Hermon claimed that the "use of evidence of accomplices" is "accepted world-wide practice" — even though Hermon is undoubtedly aware that it is not accepted by

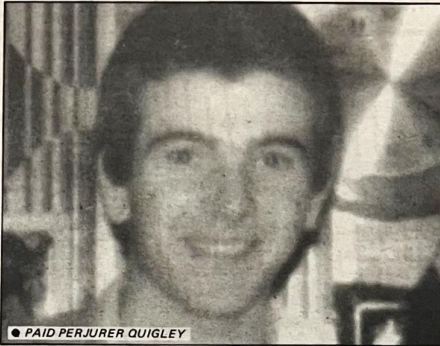


● RUC BOSS HERMON

British courts, unless compellingly corroborated by other evidence, and despite, too, the condemnation of the North's show trials voiced by numerous lawyers world-wide.

BACKLASH

In an apparently separate statement made hours after the annual report was published, Hermon claimed that the IRA by its operations hoped to provoke "a backlash of retaliatory killings", a claim which contradicted his earlier talk of a marked reduction in IRA activity and which was dismissed by Sinn Féin's Danny Morrison as a "pre-emptive strike by the RUC" designed to dissuade the IRA from Hermon's boasts. Within days of similar claims in the chief constable's 1982 annual report,



● PAID PERJURER QUIGLEY

three Brits died in an IRA M-60 attack in West Belfast's Cross Street.

Morrison also stated that, shortly after the IRA's execution last week of Long Kesh assistant governor William McConnell, British direct-ruler Prior had said on television that a very large number of IRA operations have to be cancelled because of RUC counter-measures, including undercover operations.

RETRIAL

Meanwhile, the Quigley show trial continues in Belfast Crown Court. On Monday, March 12th, four of the remaining 15 defendants in the case were granted a retrial on the grounds that their defence had been prejudiced by the mental ill-health of their principal legal counsel.

The latter, Richard Ferguson, had absented himself from the case in mid-February and last week, trial judge Hutton refused several defence applications for a re-trial, even after Ferguson told newspapers that he had been suffering from 'stress and strain', which is apparently so severe that he has left the North permanently.

But on Monday, the learned judge Hutton, who, though no doctor, was still claiming that Ferguson had shown no signs that his cross-examination had been affected by stress, reluctantly granted the four a re-trial. He apparently decided that his continued prevarications could only further discredit the show trial system. This means that Quigley will once again have to be produced in court.

TRALEE AGAINST DRUGS

AN ANTI-DRUG meeting in Tralee, County Kerry, on Monday night, March 12th, was attended by over 200 people.

Representatives of community groups who have been involved in fighting the heroin problem in Dublin addressed the meeting and told of the problem that had taken a hold there.

Speaking for Dublin's Hardwicke Street Tenants Association, Christy Burke explained how the problem had reached epidemic proportions in that area before parents had got together and decided that they would rid it of drugs.

He said that the most effective way to tackle the problem was through well-organised and disciplined community action, and went on to condemn the authorities for their total neglect of the whole problem.

A former drug addict from Tralee described how heroin is now available in the town, along with other, 'softer' drugs. He said that because of the lack of youth facilities, young people were an easy target for drug pushers.

CONCERN

Representatives of many tenants and residents associations in Tralee spoke of their concern that the problem would get out of hand and urged that action be taken now, while it is in its relatively early stages. A decision was taken that each group represented would go back to their own area and assess the problem.

A further meeting is planned for Tuesday, March 27th, in Benner's Hotel, Tralee, when a drugs action committee will be elected and a plan of action will be decided on.

NO CONCRETE SOLUTION

BY JACK MADDEN

A CLONDALKIN, County Dublin, firm which went into voluntary liquidation recently is being picketed by former employees who are angry at the shabby treatment they have received since the firm's closure. This anger has been fuelled with the discovery that, in an effort to by-pass the picket, management at the firm, Moracrete, have been spiriting away company assets at night.

And recent visits by John Condon, anti-trade union boss of Condon's Concrete in Tullamore, County Offaly, to the Moracrete premises have created fears amongst the pickets that a deal has been negotiated to supply Condon (who is blacked by the trade unions) with materials from Moracrete, or even to provide him with a new premises if he closes his Tullamore factory, as threatened this week.

The connection between Condon's and Moracrete is found in Peter O'Sullivan, production manager at Moracrete and a former employee of John Condon. During the lengthy, and still continuing, trade dispute at Condon's, O'Sullivan continued to deal with the Tullamore firm and, according to reports, "would just laugh at the pickets".

Similarly, O'Sullivan's attitude towards the Moracrete trade union, the Federated Workers Union of Ireland (FWUI), was a reg-



● Former Moracrete employees with shop steward Joe Cruise (second from left) picket the Clondalkin firm in an attempt to secure reasonable severance terms

ular source of conflict. According to Joe Cruise, FWUI shop steward:

"We couldn't work with him. He would continuously interfere in our members' work and even do labourer's work himself. His behaviour was the direct cause of three unofficial disputes since last May and we made it clear that he should be got rid of."

Worsening trade relations at Moracrete culminated in the dismissal of one worker, Stephen Geraghty, and the suspension of three others, at the end of last November. A fortnight's notice of strike action was submitted by the union.

Within days, the workers were 'temporarily' laid off and then, one day before the

strike was to begin, the company announced that it was closing.

On January 9th, the workers, other than Stephen Geraghty, returned to Moracrete to work until their notice expired. Even though a rights commissioner found in Geraghty's favour he was not brought back.

Even when their period of notice expired, workers were offered continued temporary employment if they agreed to be treated as 'new men'. This offer was rejected by the two dozen workers because it would have entailed the loss of all rights, such as recognition of years of service.

Besides having difficulty in getting their pension money, the workers found that they were not being given their entitlements in holiday pay and that a 5% pay increase which had been negotiated by the union was being ignored. Nor was any money offered above the statutory redundancy entitlement. Says Joe Cruise:

"They were not prepared to pay us anything at all and we began a picket to force reasonable severance terms, three weeks ago. Later we discovered that O'Sullivan was avoiding the picket by moving loads very early in the morning and we believe that he is still doing this at night."

With O'Sullivan seemingly determined to ignore their grievances and John Condon showing a disquieting interest in the company, the Moracrete picketers say that they will increase their vigilance and will cease their picket only when their rights are recognised.

PLASTIC STRIKE HARDENS

BY AINE MOORE

OVER 100 workers are continuing their strike at the Kent Plastics factory in Enniskillen in support of a claim for a 10% pay increase.

The workers, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, are earning £62.50 per week, plus a bonus of £25 and £4 for good time-keeping which bring gross wages up to around £80 per week.

Negotiations began last August, but management are still offering a meagre £4 per week pay rise.

Kent Plastics is involved in making components for cars and are part of an American multi-national corporation. A spokesperson for workers on the picket-line said:

"The order book is full and production is good, so the excuse that management are using — that they have no money to finance this increase — is rubbish".



● Workers continue their picket at Kent Plastics in Enniskillen



Jobs protest

FORTY-FIVE angry Sligo workers, formerly employed by the multi-national Snia textiles factory, visited Dublin on Wednesday last, March 14th, to stage a picket outside the Italian embassy on Merrion Square.

Almost two years after Snia 'temporarily' laid off its workforce, basic redundancy forms have still not been issued by the firm and workers feel that they are being pressurised into accepting the lesser financial package available with voluntary redundancy.

Angry at the contempt with which Snia has treated its workforce for the past two years, especially since a new Italian branch of the company has opened since Sligo's closure, workers took their complaints to the Italian embassy, promising that further protests will follow.

Aer Lingus blessing for Shorts

AER LINGUS chief executive David Kennedy declared on Wednesday March 7th, that he did not believe the Belfast aircraft company Short Brothers discriminated against Catholics.

As Aer Lingus were taking delivery of the first of two commuter planes ordered from Shorts last year, the airline's chief felt prompted to justify the company's decision to do business with Shorts — omitting to mention, of course, the fact that when the £7 million contract was signed, there had not even been the talk of an affirmative action plan on employment of nationalists by the plane-makers, which is now being used as window-dressing for the US defence deal.



● Alex Roberts, Managing Director of the sectarian Short Brothers aircraft company with Aer Lingus chief executive David Kennedy at the official handing over ceremony of one of two commuter planes ordered from Shorts last year.

Contrary to the claims of Aer Lingus spokespersons, the low number of Catholics on Shorts' payroll cannot solely be explained by historical and geographical reasons. The fact, for instance, that well over 90% of the workforce are loyalist, with some of the shop stewards former leading figures of the UWC 1974 stoppage, means that even if Shorts wanted to employ more Catholics they would have to face

threats of unrest by their loyalist employees — a price they are not willing to pay.

INSULT

The remarks by Aer Lingus's chief executive, which fly in the face of years of experience by Northern nationalists, are every bit as insulting to their intelligence as the recent smokescreen exercise mounted jointly by Shorts, trade union officials and the FEA.

WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS

TWO UDR SOLDIERS KILLED

TWO UDR SOLDIERS were killed and attacks were mounted throughout the North in a week which again saw the British attempt to label the nationalist liberation war as sectarian by disclaiming one of their own soldiers.

On Thursday morning, March 8th, two IRA active service units took part in an attack on a UDR soldier in the Glenavey Road Service Station near Moira.

The North Armagh Brigade IRA detailed how their ASUs made their way to the service station, which is frequently used by crown forces. The first ASU, carrying automatic weapons, took up position around the garage. The second group secured the forecourt and buildings before singling out their target, a UDR soldier, whom they executed.

The soldier had worked in a filling station beside a nationalist estate in Lurgan, collecting low-level intelligence, until 1982. Then, realising his cover was blown, he moved to Moira which he obviously regarded as safer, but it was here that he was shot dead.

NEWRY BOMBS

On Friday night, March 9th, Volunteers of the South Down Command of the IRA wheeled two 30lb bombs into business premises in Newry.

A few minutes before closing time the IRA Volunteers pushed the bombs, inside two shopping trolleys, into a supermarket in Hill Street and a car accessories shop in Maughan Street. Both bombs were later defused.

CABRAGH GRILLE BOMB

On the same night in Cabragh, seven miles from Dungannon, a grille bomb wrecked a butcher's

shop. No one was injured.

DERRY ATTACKS

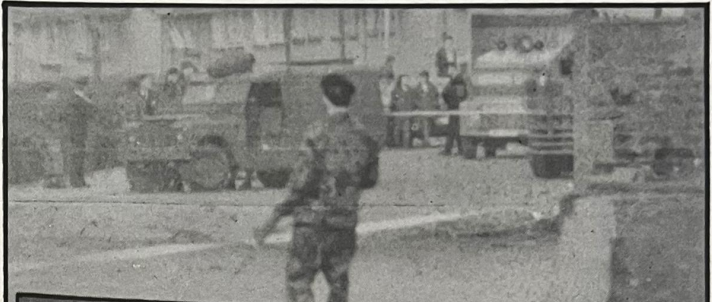
The IRA's Derry Brigade has stated that its Volunteers fired over 60 rounds at two British army landrovers at the junction of Bay Road and Culmore Road on Friday night. A four-person ASU carried out the attack, despite the heavy security in evidence throughout the day. The Volunteers engaged in the operation returned safely to base.

On Saturday, March 10th, an IRA unit from the Derry Brigade opened fire on RUC personnel who were on duty during a loyalist march in the city. Over twenty shots were fired and the RUC returned fire, indiscriminately hitting a number of flats in the Rossville complex.

Claiming responsibility for an attack at the Strabane Old Road in the Waterside on Saturday, when an anti-personnel mine was detonated as a Brit landrover passed by, Derry Brigade IRA stated that precautions were taken to ensure that no civilian lives were put at risk.

UDR SOLDIER KILLED

On Tuesday morning, March 13th, at 8am, Volunteers of the West Fermanagh Brigade of the IRA shot dead a UDR soldier as he worked on his farm near Pettigo.



● After the booby-trap explosion in Derry's Strabane Old Road

ier had left the regiment eight years earlier.

However, the IRA in their statement claiming responsibility said he was a serving member of the UDR, and up to a short time ago was seen harassing nationalists in the Fermanagh area.

ARMAGH STATEMENTS

North Armagh Brigade IRA have stated that a claim in the newspapers, allegedly from the IRA, describing the killing of Herbert Burrows on Saturday, March 3rd, as an accident was not issued by them.

The IRA, in claiming responsibility for the booby trap bombing in the garage in which he was killed, reiterated that Burrows was a serving member of the UDR.



● Dead UDR soldier is removed from the scene at Moira, County Down

The RUC, in attempting to support their recent statement that the IRA was engaged in a sectarian campaign, claimed that the UDR sold-

NO MONSTER IN DERRY

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

LAST Saturday's loyalist march in Derry against the recent city council name-change — billed beforehand as a 'monster rally' — proved to be another flop like the Belfast demonstration a fortnight before.

Only 1,500 marchers, half of them bands, participated in the march and rally, including DUP leader Ian Paisley, UDA boss Andy Tyrie and the local UDA spokesperson turned community worker Glenn Barr.

The RUC, always anxious to allow loyalists the freedom to display their arrogance, had turned nationalist Derry into a heavily-armed camp for days prior to the rally, with whole areas sealed off, Brits on every corner and harassment stepped up.

In Derry's Diamond, the DUP's Ian Paisley, William McCrea and Gregory Campbell regaled an audience, dwindling due to disturbances, with the usual blood-curdling oratory.

Exhortations were made from the platform to follow the exam-

ple of 'the immortal 13' who closed the gates of the city during the Derry siege. Allegations of 'plots' and 'conspiracies' against 'Ulster' were followed by Ian Paisley's declaration — rather weak in the circumstances — that this was only 'an overture'.

His listeners then attacked a number of television cameramen covering the demonstration.

Paisley has been using the council name-change issue as part of his EEC electoral campaign in order to appear more militant than the Official Unionists, who have been using the Assembly boycott for the same purpose — both with their eyes on the EEC elections.

As the rally took place, a Tricolour flew from the top of Rossville flats in the Bogside, where the



● Defiant nationalist youth on top of Derry's Rossville Flats during Paisley's rally

RUC mounted an assault, firing volley after volley of plastic bullets in Waterloo Street and Fahan Street. In response, nationalist youths threw stones and petrol bombs, inflicting a number of casualties on the RUC.

Commenting on the disturbances, Sinn Féin chairperson in Derry, Mitchell McLaughlin said:

"Once again it has been shown that the DUP and the UDA can orchestrate offensive rallies of this nature, secure in the knowledge that their RUC allies will ensure that it is the people of the Bogside and other nationalist areas who suffer the consequences."



● Nationalist youth attack RUC on Saturday, March 10th



WOMEN IN ACTION

BY JANE PLUNKETT

OVER 160 WOMEN from feminist, anti-imperialist and labour movement groups travelled from Britain to the six counties at the weekend to take part in a series of activities organised by the Sinn Féin Women's Department to mark International Women's Day, and whose focus once again was the conditions endured by the republican women prisoners in Armagh Jail and Sunday's mass solidarity picket outside the prison.

The large contingent was drawn from many towns and cities and this year included several official representatives from trade-union and British Labour Party branches, a number of Afro-Caribbean and Asian women, and a party from the anti-cruise missile camp at Greenham Common.

The entire delegation had an unnerving introduction to life in the British-occupied six counties after they disembarked from the ferry at Larne, 90 minutes behind schedule, late on Friday night.

There, they were delayed for a further hour by the RUC who, waving other ferry passengers on, meticulously searched the luggage of every member of the delegation and examined pamphlets and placards.

Several women were subjected to heavy questioning about their politics and support for republican prisoners.

At around midnight, the women were at last allowed to proceed and about 40 went straight to Derry, where the next day they took part in activities organised by Derry Sinn Féin's Women's Department.

CONFERENCE

The remainder were billeted in West Belfast where the following afternoon they attended a conference on various aspects of the oppression suffered by women in the North, held in the White-rock community centre. They were joined there by contingents from the thirty-two counties.

The opening plenary session, chaired by Maura McCrory, head of Belfast Sinn Féin's Women's Department, focussed on repression. Speakers included local woman Emma Groves, tragically blinded by a rubber bullet in her own home, and Nellie McCaughy, mother of Armagh POW Bridie-Ann McCaughy who outlined the recent history of the republican women prisoners' struggle for political status.

Some examples of the sham 'justice' meted out in the North's colonial courts were provided by solicitor Ailish Kelly and by Ardoyne woman Colette Breslin, whose husband is serving a six-year jail sentence because of the lies of bribed perjurer Christopher Black. She explained how these experiences had increased her awareness of women's problems and involved her in political activity.

This session concluded, the

women then broke into workshops on these and other topics, including housing and supplementary benefits, cultural resistance, one-parent families, the Falls Women's Centre and the Rape Crisis Centre.

VISITORS

The numerous questions posed by the visitors ensured that the afternoon ran way behind schedule, but they found time, in a brief final plenary session, to discuss possible ways of building support, following their return home, for the republican prisoners in Armagh, and for a British withdrawal.

Delegates from several groups described the lobbying and educational work they have been in-

involved in and a speaker from the London Armagh Group announced that on Wednesday, March 14th, Labour MP Joan Maynard would hand in a petition to Brit premier Margaret Thatcher, demanding an end to strip-searching in Armagh, containing thousands of signatures. Several motions on the strip-searches are on the agenda for next May's Labour Party Women's Conference and the London Executive of the party plan to send an investigative delegation to visit Armagh Jail in coming months.

The conference over, the women dispersed to their billets, but met again that night at a social in the Martin Forsythe social club, Turf Lodge, where traditional and anti-imperialist songs and music were provided by an abundance of women and girl musicians of several nationalities.

ARMAGH PICKET

On Sunday afternoon, the climax of the weekend's events, well over 450 women and men assembled in Armagh and slowly mar-

ched the short distance to the women's jail led by relatives and friends of the republican women prisoners carrying placards bearing the names of each prisoner.

Numerous colourful banners were on display and many protestors carried placards demanding an end to the strip-searches.

Outside the jail, during pauses between speeches, picketers over and over again shouted their support for the women POWs, and noisy greetings to each individual inmate in turn.

A large force of RUC, backed up by landrovers and dogs, surrounded the crowd and prevented them from approaching the prison walls, so that few could see the usual hankiechiefs being waved from cell windows. But the defiant shouts of the incarcerated POWs were several times clearly audible, and were met with an enthusiastic roar of solidarity from picketers outside.

There were angry shouts when Maura McCrory, who chaired the rally on behalf of Belfast Sinn Féin's Women's Department, an-

Armagh POWs' message

AT SUNDAY'S Armagh picket a statement from the republican women prisoners in Armagh was read by former POW Mary Doyle, who has spent a total of eight years incarcerated in the jail, and was one of three women POWs who joined the 1980 hunger-strike for political status. In the course of a lengthy analysis, the women expressed special solidarity greetings to women throughout Ireland, and stressed the close relationship between Irish women's fight for equality and the struggle to remove the corrupt and oppressive systems North and South.

The statement added:

"While our people as a nation remain unfree, women in Ireland may only achieve so much. The solution can only come when we remove the source of that oppression.

"To our sisters in the Irish Republican Army, daily facing the threat of death, or imprisonment in this very gaol, and to wom-

en political activists within the Republican Movement, striving to bring social change and to educate our people throughout the country, we, your imprisoned comrades, salute you."

Turning to the POWs' own struggles, the statement pointed out that the strip-search tactic, implemented by the prison regime "in close collusion with the British government not only strips a woman of her clothing, but is designed to disrobe her of her dignity and self-respect. Not only has this practice been introduced to demoralise republicans, but it can also be regarded as an attack on our sexuality."

The harsh prison administration has failed in the past to break the women's spirit as republican POWs, the statement pointed out, confidently predicting:

"Today, as in the future, they will encounter the same resistance and we will emerge stronger and more resilient for the stand we have taken."

EVERYDAY ISSUES

"Sisters, we realise beyond these walls the everyday issues that women must contend with, the continuous struggle for

the rights of every woman and to change society's acceptance of women as second-class citizens... In 1984 we are still regarded as easy prey by the racist and wife-beater; still compelled to relate the sordid details of such ordeals to a courtroom, and at the end of the day, victims also of the judiciary. In so many of these cases the innocent victim is judged to be the guilty party — just one aspect of the unjust treatment women receive within our so-called 'fair and equal' societies.

"To conclude, we send, on this International Women's Day 1984, special solidarity greetings to women freedom fighters throughout the world, to our sisters in Palestine, Nicaragua, Honduras, Chile, to the women of SWAPO and indeed to all women who are striving, either militarily or politically, to bring social change and the freedom of the world's oppressed peoples.

"May the strength you have found to resist oppression in your countries remain as strong within all of us and may we all reap the rewards of the suffering and hardships which have been endured in the name of freedom."

• ROISIN KE

ounced that ed on a simi futile attempt proceedings. The rally International ment written prisoners in read out by Doyle.

RE The next Keenan, had Women's De who reviewed tance of the through the hunger-strike 16 months, th Describing deprived", a crowd that suffer most oners some held for material on the ers. She added

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Nationalist North who, during the suffered speed at the hands are not the of this fashion.

"Asian wo are subjected at the hand in a callous abusing their gious practices Turning re republican pointed out th

"This pass increasing ov ion at all level

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

STRIP SEARCHES



● ROISIN KEENAN



● MAURA MCCRORY



● MARY DOYLE

Movement on the involvement of women.

ELECTIONS

Expressing confidence that and comhairle member Mary McGing who is standing as a Sinn Féin candidate in Connaught/Ulster in next June's EEC elections, will be followed by many more women republican candidates in the 1985 local elections, Roisin Keenan stressed:

"It is through our organising as women that we have made these gains and we have to continue to work together to maintain our strength."

The next speaker, representing the London Armagh Group which was instrumental in organising the British delegation, brought solidarity greetings to the Armagh women prisoners, to their relatives and friends outside the jail and to all Irish republican POWs imprisoned in Ireland and England.

Pledging the group's determination to 'keep hammering away' at 'the wall of silence' concerning Britain's occupation of the six counties, she added:

"The experience of coming here can only make us all the more determined to fight for a British withdrawal and a united Ireland."

Maura McCrory then read out some of the numerous messages of solidarity which had been sent to the republican women in Armagh Jail from all over the world. Among those who sent messages were: H-Block / Armagh Committee, Auckland, New Zealand; Irish Northern Aid, Chicago; Women for Palestine, London; Moseley and Kings Heath Labour Party; Irish Solidarity Committee, Washington D.C.; ACTTS 6/389 Branch, Manchester; Australian Aid for Ireland, South Australia; Labour Committee on Ireland Women's Group; Brixton Black Women's Group; Asian Women's Resource Centre,

Brent; the Outwrite, Spare Rib and Black Women Talk publishing collectives, London; London Irish Women's Centre; SOAS Students' Union, London; and the women of Greenham Common.

Maura McCrory then read out a statement from a remand prisoner in Armagh, who described a humiliating strip search she suffered on March 6th, during which she had her pants and sanitary towel forcibly removed by four warders.

A last speaker gave a brief message of solidarity on behalf of the women who had attended the picket from counties Louth, Monaghan, Dublin and other areas of the 26 counties.

Finally, in brilliant sunshine, the large crowd joined in an exuberant and emotional rendering of 'The Armagh Women's Song' and 'The Women's Army', before, hoarse and weary, they reluctantly dispersed.

HARASSMENT

As in previous years, the RUC, which had detained buses for up to 15 minutes on their way into Armagh city for the International Women's Day picket, inflicted similar petty harassment on protestors travelling home.

One contingent, mainly women, from the Bellaghy area of South Derry, was stopped three times on their way to and from Armagh by the RUC, who attempted unsuccessfully to seize their banners.

In the final incident, the group were detained for about 45 minutes on their way home, on Cookstown's Main Street, where a large and abusive force of RUC scrutinized political literature and performed close body searches on several individuals. However the RUC failed in an attempt to intimidate the women present into standing spreadeagled against the minibus, and when their bullying antics attracted a small crowd of local residents, the RUC hastily withdrew.



● Protest at Strand Road RUC Barracks in Derry against strip-searches in Armagh Jail

Derry women's events

FORTY WOMEN from the International Women's Day delegation travelled to Derry on Friday night to attend workshops, a protest and a social, all organised by Derry Sinn Féin Women's Department.

The workshops were organised on an informal basis, bringing the delegation together with local republican women, former prisoners, community activists and relatives of the victims of paid-perjurers.

The sessions focused on first-hand accounts of the strip-searching of Armagh women, the plight of

prisoners' relatives, the work done in the community and the realities of daily life of women in Derry.

The English delegation in turn shared their experiences of solidarity work for Ireland in Britain, and both local women and visitors found this exchange very enlightening.

After the workshops, delegates

were taken on a brief walking tour of the Bogside, on their way to a demonstration at Strand Road RUC Barracks against the strip-searches in Armagh Jail. Members of CAST joined the strip-search protest, marching from their own weekly protest at Waterloo Square.

On Saturday night, delegates and locals enjoyed an informal ceilid and folk night.

On Sunday, delegates and Derry people left on buses for the protest at Armagh Jail.

MARCH AGAINST RAPE

TO MARK International Women's Day itself, Thursday March 8th, West Belfast women took part in an after-dark march from the Falls Women's Centre to Turf Lodge to highlight the issue of sexual violence, and effectively halted traffic along the route for some considerable time.

During a brief rally held, appropriately, on one of the many dark, unlit areas in Turf Lodge, the relation between rape and the 'legal sexual harassment' to which women are subjected in Armagh Jail was pointed out by Andersonstown woman Christine Poland, who was herself subjected to the obscene practice while a remand prisoner at the jail. She said:

"Bris and RUC are stopping our women and children on the streets day after day and asking them to open their coats. There's also the strip-

searching in Armagh, where you're talking about standing with absolutely nothing on you except a small sheet, with a screw looking up and down your body."

The final speaker, representing the Falls Women's Centre, appealed to women to report incidents of sexual violence to the centre, pledging confidentiality, and welcomed recent moves by women in the Gort na Mona and St James's areas to organise locally against sex attacks. In conclusion, she appealed generally for more women to become involved in expanding the activities of the Falls Women's Centre.

Earlier that same day, Belfast Sinn Féin's solidarity greetings to all women struggling against imperialism at every level. Condemning the strip-search policy, the department called on "women throughout Ireland and in other countries to bring an end to this barbaric treatment."

announced that warders had turned on a siren inside the jail in a futile attempt to drown out the proceedings.

The rally opened with an International Women's Day statement written by the republican prisoners in Armagh, which was read out by an ex-POW, Mary Doyle.

REVIEWED

The next speaker was Roisin Keenan, head of Sinn Féin's Women's Department in Derry, who reviewed the continued resistance of the Armagh POWs, through the no-wash protest, the hunger-strikes and, during the past 16 months, the strip-searches.

Describing these as 'brutal and depraved', she reminded the crowd that the women who suffer most are the remand prisoners some of whom have been held for many months without trial on the word of paid perjurers. She added:

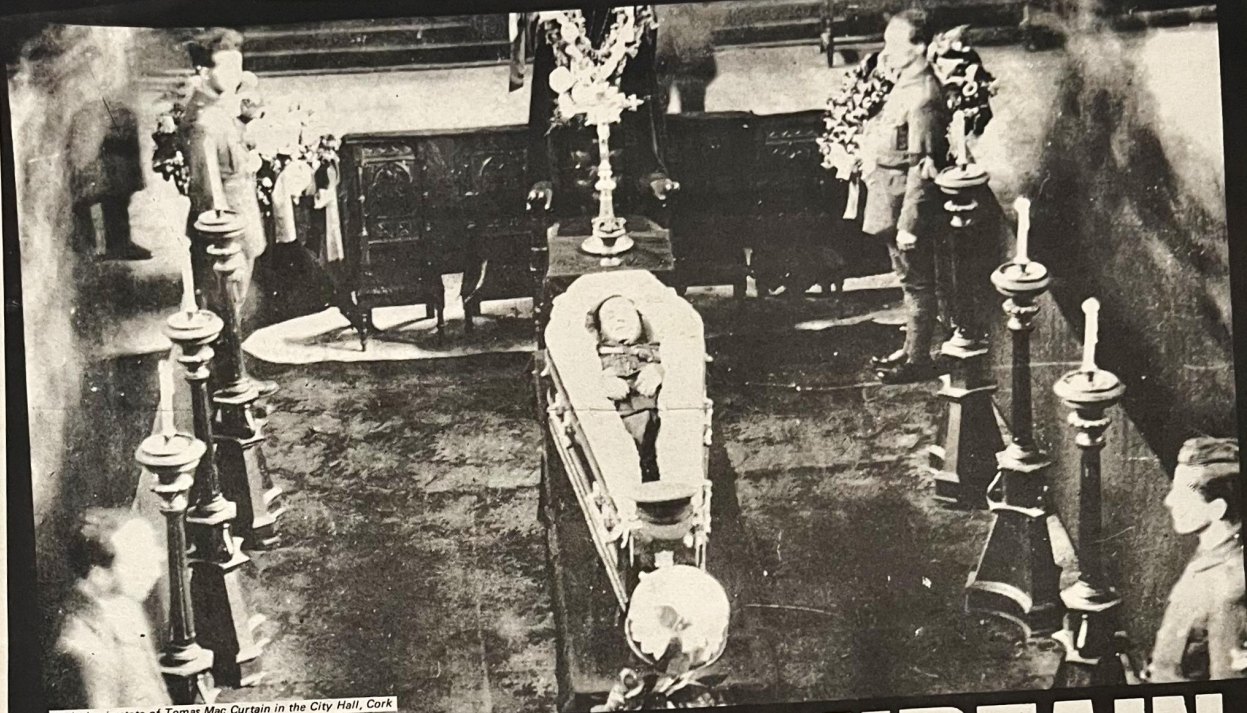
"Republicans treat with contempt the hypocritical stance taken by the establishment during the recent spate of sexual attacks in West Belfast. The latter express abhorrence but they support by their silence, and indeed their active participation in, the now routine and state-endorsed sexual attacks on our women prisoners."

Nationalist women in the North who, she pointed out, during the past 15 years have suffered spate of sexual harassment at the hands of the British state, are not the only people abused in this fashion.

"Asian women entering Britain are subjected to 'virginity tests' at the hands of male doctors in a callous and racist fashion, abusing their cultural and religious practices."

Turning to the status of women in the republics, Roisin Keenan pointed out that:

"This past year has seen an increasing awareness and discussion at all levels of the Republican



● Lying-in-state of Tomas Mac Curtain in the City Hall, Cork

TOMAS MAC CURTAIN

March 20th 1884 — March 20th 1920

BY PETER O'ROURKE

TOMAS MAC CURTAIN, the first republican Lord Mayor of Cork, was born at Ballyknockane, County Cork, on March 20th 1884, a century ago this week. He was murdered by the RIC 36 years later, on March 20th 1920.

The youngest of a family of twelve, he was educated at Burnfoot National School and in 1897 when the family moved to Cork he completed his education at the North Monastery Christian Brothers School.

In 1901 he joined the Gaelic League and the following year he became secretary of the Blackrock branch. He left his employment in the City of Cork Steam Packet Company to become a full time Gaelic League teacher in Limerick, Tipperary and East Cork but returned to Cork in 1907 to work at a local mill. In the following year he married Eilis Walsh, an active member of the Gaelic League.

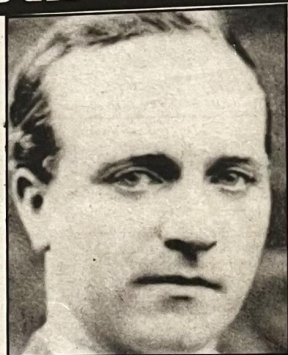
Mac Curtain joined Sinn Féin in 1907 and was a member of the Cork Executive Committee from 1907 until 1911. He played an active role in the establishment of Fianna Éireann in Cork and acted as treasurer and Irish teacher for a number of years.

VOLUNTEERS

With Terence MacSwiney he joined the Irish Volunteers on their formation in Cork on December 14th 1913, and was secretary and later Commandant of the City Battalion.

In September 1914, when John Redmond called for the Volunteers to fight on the side of the British during the war, a step which split the organisation throughout the country, Mac Curtain was one of his strongest critics.

Throughout 1915, following the split with Redmond, he devoted much of his time and energy to the immense task of creating a Volunteer organisation in every parish of the large county of Cork. As a result of his efforts, by the end of 1915 the thirteen surviving Volunteer groups which had emerged from the split had been expanded into forty-six companies, many still numerically weak but



some up to one hundred strong.

Easter Week 1916 was one of the most frustrating periods of his life. As the Brigade Commander, he mobilised the entire Volunteer movement in Cork, numbering over 1,000 men, and issued orders for them to assemble at Crookstown. On learning of Eoin MacNeill's countermarching order on Sunday, April 23rd, he decided to avoid further confusion and allowed units to proceed as arranged to Crookstown, where exercises took place.

Reading MacNeill's order and bearing in mind the loss of the German arms ship, the *Aud*, which was scuttled off the Kerry coast on the previous Friday, Mac Curtain reasonably assumed that the decision to postpone the Rising was a joint decision taken in Dublin by the Volunteer Executive Council and the Military Council. In this he was mistaken, as the Military Council had decided without MacNeill's or the Volunteer Executive Council's knowledge, to postpone the Rising until the following day. Nothing was known in Cork of the Military Council's decision (forced by MacNeill's countermarching order) to start at noon on Monday.

EASTER SUNDAY

The situation in Cork at noon on Easter

Sunday was that 1,000 Volunteers mobilised by Mac Curtain were concentrated at points throughout the county within easy marching distance of the positions they were to occupy in the original plan. The Volunteers were poorly armed. Practically every man had some kind of weapon — however, over 100 men were armed with pikes only.

In the afternoon, Mac Curtain gave the order cancelling manoeuvres and directing all Volunteers to return to their own areas. Although bitterly disappointed, the Volunteers obeyed his command. Mac Curtain, Mac Swiney and other senior officers returned to Cork City and set up headquarters in the Volunteer Hall, in Sheares Street.

At about 9pm on Easter Monday night, they learned that the Rising had begun in Dublin that day. Both were astonished and dumbfounded. Mac Curtain, as the Brigade Commander, had to decide upon what action to take.

DECISION

He made a decision, one which he did not take lightly, that the Volunteers would act only in a defensive capacity. The state of preparedness of the brigade (now demobilised) and the very weak arms position, were the dominant factors in his decision. Had the arms been landed from the *Aud* he would have had no hesitation in instructing his men to mobilise immediately. To commit them now, demobilised as they were, poorly armed, without means of rapid communication with his scattered units, and with the enemy on full alert, offered to him so grave a step, so far bordering on rashness and useless sacrifice of young lives, that he hesitated to take it.

During the week of fighting in Dublin, Bishop Daniel Cohalan and the Lord Mayor of Cork, T.C. Butterfield, arranged a compromise with Captain Dickie on the British side. The agreement stipulated that no Volunteer arrests would be made in Cork provided the local Volunteers surrendered their arms. Guarantees made on the British side were not honoured and Mac Curtain and ten other Volunteers were arrested on May 2nd.

IMPRISONMENT

This was the first of his many arrests and his serving varying terms of imprisonment

and internment in Frongoch, Reading and Ledbury prisons in England.

During the Tan War, Mac Curtain was active in the organisation of an efficient dispatch system between County and City Brigades. He participated in the capture of arms, attacks on RIC barracks and the ambushing of crown forces in Cork and Dublin.

He was elected Sinn Féin councillor for Cork North-West to Cork Corporation in the Municipal Elections in the early weeks of 1920, and on January 30th he was unanimously elected Lord Mayor of Cork. Although he would have preferred the Army, once elected, he took up his new duties with characteristic energy. He put a decisive stop to the corruption and jobbery which had disgraced the administration of local government in the city.

Mac Curtain received numerous anonymous warnings and death threats, which he ignored. Although he knew that he must be prepared to meet death at any moment, he was not deflected in the smallest degree from the course of duty which he saw before him.

MURDERED

At 1.12am on the morning of Saturday, March 20th 1920, his 36th birthday, Thomas Mac Curtain was brutally murdered in front of his wife at his home in Thomas Davis Street by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary in semi-disguise.

On March 22nd he was buried in the republican plot in St Finbar's Cemetery following a short oration delivered by Terence MacSwiney, who was later to succeed him as Lord Mayor and who was to die on hunger-strike in Brixton Prison the following October.

On April 17th a Coroner's Court jury recorded a unanimous verdict that Thomas Mac Curtain's murder was organised by the RIC, officially directed by the British government and returned a verdict of murder against David Lloyd George, the Prime Minister of England, Lord French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and a number of high ranking RIC officers.

The cause for which Thomas Mac Curtain laboured and died is today, the centenary of his birth, the very same cause for which republicans continue to work and die.

BY JACK MADDEN

SICKENED by the decision of top management to completely shut their factory on April 6th, workers from Youghal Carpets began an occupation of their company's head office in Cork's South Mall on Monday this week.

The decision to launch an occupation was taken on Friday March 9th, when management announced that it would give only statutory redundancy to the 106 workers who remain in Youghal Carpets, the last of nearly 800 workers employed in the factory in the 1970's.

Youghal Carpets has been in decline for some years, partly because of the overall decline in textile industries and rising production costs but as Nicky Parker, Chairperson of the Youghal branch ITGWU, points out:

"The general feeling in Youghal is that top management were responsible for the demise of the factory here."

This opinion was echoed by Tom Maher and Dan O'Sullivan, two of the 25 workers who joined Monday's occupation, who pointed out that top management had "finally pulled the plug" on the mother factory of the entire Youghal company after 30 years. Tom Maher said:

"Our protest is to win proper severance pay, since the company have stated categorically that they will not save our jobs - even though our unit production costs were lower in 1983 than before. We want to get the management back to the boardroom for talks and we will continue our protests for as long as is necessary."

TRADITION

There is no tradition of militancy amongst workers at Youghal Carpets. Indeed, throughout its 30-year history the factory has had only one dispute, and even that was unofficial and took place 15 years ago.

Workers in the factory are, therefore, particularly angry at what they regard as a betrayal of trust by management. Redundancy schemes were demanded by the company and accepted as necessary for survival by the unions for some years past.

But while Youghal was being progressively run down, the company maintained and increased its interests elsewhere, as in Navan, which has been earmarked as the new centre for the production of Youghal carpets.

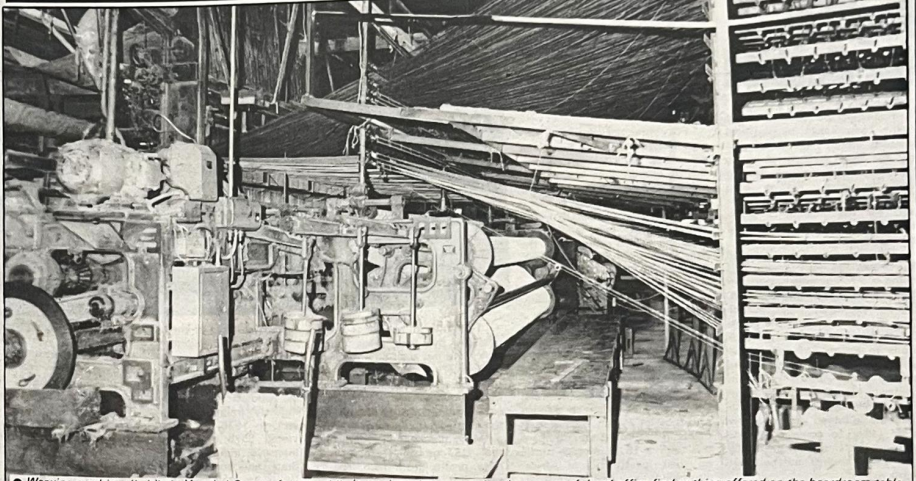
As one local trade unionist pointed out: "By the time the workers decided to do anything it was too late. The horse had already bolted."

BETRAYAL

Besides this calculated betrayal by management, there were, according to workers, clear examples of managerial incompetence. One worker said:

"Instead of competing with the opposition they would simply buy it out. They just wouldn't go out and look for markets. There was one incident when a factory in

FAMILIAR PATTERN FOR CARPET WORKERS



● Weaving machines lie idle in Youghal Carpets factory while (below) workers occupying the company's head office find nothing offered on the boardroom table

England was purchased on the strength of a photograph - it wasn't even visited!

"In another case they simply stripped the factory of machinery which they sold as scrap. Some machinery was transferred to Navan, but an estimated £2 million worth just ended up as waste."

"The writing was on the wall before this, but the management played a game of bluff and, using moral pressure, they made people vote for jobs rather than fair pay for many of the workers who were being made redundant while we kept our jobs."

A leading trade unionist in the Youghal area, Nicky Parker, admits that when the union placed an embargo on the removal of assets from the Youghal factory four months ago, it was too late. Adding that ITGWU membership in the Youghal area has fallen from 1,100 to 300 within a few years he says:

"When Foir Teoranta pumped £3½ million into the Youghal factory in 1980 we were told that that was going to put Youghal



Carpets on its feet. It didn't work out that way and the company management deserves criticism for that, but it should not be forgotten that blame must also lie with success-

ive governments which provided no alternative employment in Youghal, leaving us with the narrow industrial base which has now collapsed."

Saving the bacon?

BY JACK MADDEN

REPORTS on Wednesday this week that grant-aid may be provided to help re-open Lunhams, the Cork bacon factory which went into liquidation last December, will come as hopeful news to the 120 workers who lost their jobs in the factory and who have since been paid only half the redundancy money they are owed.

Having won a US export deal some years ago, Lunhams was forced to rebuild its plant to reach standards acceptable to American buyers. Because of this rebuilding work Lunhams became the most modern bacon-producing factory in Ireland, but the work also caused serious financial difficulties for the firm, which was eventually forced to sell out.

According to Lunhams' workers the new owners, Cappoquin Bacon Factory Ltd, transferred the US deal to their own factory in Cappoquin, thus putting the Lunhams workforce and pig producers in the area under financial pressure.

Without the work for which it designed, Lunhams was forced

into liquidation by Cappoquin management. Behind them, they left a shortfall in VAT and PAYE payments to the Free State exchequer and paycheques which 'bounced' on creditors.

Management at the factory had, however, been supplied with new cars shortly before the company went into liquidation and workers report that these cars have mysteriously disappeared. Workers, on the other hand, were offered only statutory redundancy, of which only half has been paid.

GRANT-AID

Wednesday's report of possible grant-aid for any company interested in re-opening Lunhams, which

came from the branch secretary of the No 2 branch ITGWU, Paddy O'Donnell, has surprised some workers who have said that similar aid was refused to a group of Pakistani businessmen who recently offered to re-open the plant to be told that they would have to accept liability for the money owed to the Dublin government before they could purchase the business.

Paddy O'Donnell's hopes that the plant may yet be re-opened follow negotiations with the liquidators, Craig Gardner & Company, who have said that they would support a new IDA-backed operation at Lunhams. In further meetings with the IDA, O'Donnell was told that the matter would be investigated further.

Given the chronic unemployment situation which has afflicted Cork in the past year every prospect of creating employment should be 'investigated' by the State job creation agency, the IDA.



● Lunhams stay shut, adding to unemployment in Cork

That such an investigation has to be prompted by trade union leaders shows the continued failure of the IDA to seriously tackle unemployment.

The failure of the Dublin govern-

ment to curb or control the managerial practices which led to the closure of Lunhams is a recipe for future unemployment and misery.



• T.F. O'HIGGINS

Plight of the disabled

A Chara,
Following the recent Supreme Court case, taken by multiple sclerosis victim Nora Draper, to try and have the lack of voting rights for disabled people deemed unconstitutional, Finglas Sinn Féin would like to pledge our support for the ongoing campaign to re-assess the human rights of the disabled.

The Supreme Court denied Mrs. Draper her right to vote. This ruling is a fundamental attack on the integrity of the disabled. During the case, Chief Justice O'Higgins claimed that the granting of votes to invalids would be prone to abuse. But not so the gardai and Free State army, who already enjoy postal votes in Leinster House elections. Sinn Féin totally reject the inference that the disabled are somehow more likely to commit a crime than other members of the public — a classic case of guilt without crime or trial.

Following the postponement of the local government elections and the attempted ostracising of elected Sinn Féin representatives, it comes as no surprise to Finglas Sinn Féin to see democracy discredited by the disenfranchisement of a disadvantaged minority. Even the gerrymandering electoral system of the occupied six counties takes account of those of us who are not fortunate to be physically able to get to a polling station.

We call on everybody to identify and associate themselves with the plight of the disabled.

Pat Russell,
Tom Smith cumann,
Finglas,
Dublin.

The real subversives

A Chara,

The Free State government, the Catholic Church and a host of leading political, legal and civil rights personalities have voiced stringent criticism of the show trial presently in progress in the Philippines involving, amongst others, an Irish Columbian priest, Fr. Niall O'Brien, who is charged with murder on the word of an alleged accomplice (paid perjurer).

Whilst fully supporting the protest being made on behalf of Fr. O'Brien and his co-accused, I am bewildered that those moved to speak out at Fr. O'Brien's plight in the Philippines can remain unmoved by the continuation of the very same process — the use of paid perjurers in the show trials — in the North's Diplock courts.

Fr. O'Brien, in a recent letter (*Irish Times*, February 29th), vividly brought the similarities of the corrupt governmental and judicial processes in the Philippines and the North to light:

"When there is no legal way, however craking, to solve disputes, then violence is all that is left. Those who destroy the legal system by continually suborning it bring us to the edge of the abyss. They are the real subversives."

I would hope that the pressure being exerted on the corrupt Marcos government in the Phil-

mála poist

A Chara,

Why does the United States government harass and imprison IRA supporters? Why does it keep Michael O'Rourke locked up for five years on a visa violation and refuse to allow Sinn Féin spokespersons into the US?

Many activists believe that the US government is merely following the wishes of its friend and ally, Britain. But, as a famous saying goes, "The United States has no friends, only interests." And a look at US economic interests in Ireland provides a partial explanation for its oppressive role towards the national liberation struggle.

Fifty-three per cent of all foreign investments in the Free State are made by US corporations. British corporations run a poor second, and 44% of the Irish people who work for foreign companies are employed by US-owned companies. In fact, one manufacturing job in every six in the Free State is in a US-owned plant. Between 1977 and 1981, US investment has increased by 38% each year, reaching \$4.5 billion (and 350 companies) by 1981.

The 1983 *American Business Directory* explains this "rapid growth" of US investment. It quotes figures showing that Ireland is the most profitable country in the world for US investors. US companies make an average profit of 31.7% on their investments in the Free State. Compare this with a 15.8% average profit on their investments in Africa, also highly exploited by imperialism. And the world average is only 9%!

ippines results in Fr. O'Brien and his co-accused being speedily acquitted. I would further hope that all those rightly protesting against the use of the paid perjurer by the Philippine government will join forces with those already protesting against the use of paid perjurers by the British government.

Kevin Mulgrew,
H2, Long Kesh.

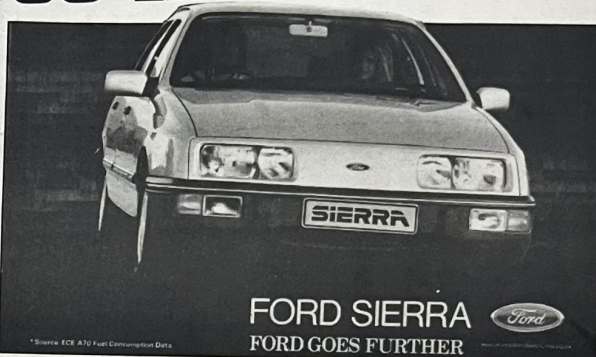
Police brutality

A Chara,

Through a letter in the *Irish Times* of March 6th, Mr. Patrick Conroy, Minister for Defence in the Coalition government, challenged anyone who had evidence of Garda brutality against citizens in custody, to establish the charges. Over the last number of years citizens have died under suspicious circumstances while in Garda custody. For these reasons people are becoming more aware that this is a police state.

In the last month, a Longford man was awarded £8,680 damages for injuries inflicted upon him by a Garda in July 1981 and, in an-

US EXPLOITATION



*Source: ECE A10 Fuel Consumption Data

This rate of profit is made possible by Irish wage rates, which are less than 50% those of US workers in the same jobs, and the cash grants and tax-free holidays provided by the Free State government, which have been discussed previously in *AP/RN*.

Many people, while admitting that US companies are making huge profits from Irish labour, say, "But at least they provide jobs" — but US investment actually provides relatively few jobs

in Ireland. Most of the US investment is in 'capital-intensive' industries (electronics, chemicals, etc.), which are highly automated and need only a small workforce, as opposed to 'labour-intensive' industry (mining, food, services, etc.). In 1976, US companies invested \$575 million in capital-intensive industry in the Free State, and only \$172 million in labour-intensive sectors.

These economic 'interests' of the United States, when combin-

ed with strategic military 'interests' (such as NATO bases in the North) provides a powerful incentive for the US government to work closely with Britain to try to suppress Ireland's right to self-determination. Under Free State rule, the twenty-six counties continues to be an economic neocolony of the United States, as well as of Britain.

Mary Martin,
Dublin 2.

forget the sound of the batons on people's skulls.

I witnessed another instance when protestors blocked off the road at the square in Dundalk during a poster demonstration. People stood on the footpaths to witness gardai bashing people indiscriminately. One gentleman wished to get by and stepped onto the road, he definitely was no menace to the gardai as he was carrying a young baby, a burly garda made for him and split his skull, as his face turned the colour of wax, he tried to protect the baby, but he staggered from fright and weakness. I always regretted that I felt intimidated and didn't take the baby from him but I shall never forget that instance either.

If I ever saw a garda lying in the gutter, I wouldn't give him the kiss of life, I saw too much of their shameless brutality to civilians on the street in those instances.

Una Toal,
Newry Road,
Dundalk.

Nicky Kelly Trust

A Chara,

We are writing to you in the hope that your readers can make a donation to the charitable trust which has been established by a number of prominent persons concerned at the facts of the Nicky Kelly case and other similar cases.

The principal objects of this Trust are to give legal advice, aid and service to persons as considered by the Trust and to conduct legal, medical and other research into the protection given to the health, welfare and legal rights of persons arrested, detained and imprisoned in Ireland and to inform and educate members of the public accordingly.

Due to the fact that Nicky Kelly's plight was a major instigating factor in the establishment of the Trust and having regard to the urgency of the sit-



• NICKY KELLY

uation, the Trust has decided initially to sponsor the civil action being taken by him. The Trust has been advised that the civil case will incur very substantial legal costs estimated to be in excess of £50,000. These costs arise due to the engagement of barristers and solicitors together with other professional advisers.

Nicky Kelly, whose innocence is widely acknowledged, has brought this civil action against the state seeking damages for assault and battery, false imprisonment, intimidation and failure to protect and vindicate his constitutional rights. In bringing this action, Nicky Kelly is seeking principally to have his case reopened and have the facts of his case brought in a trial for the first time before a judge sitting with a jury and thereby clear his name and obtain his release.

We hope you are in a position to help Nicky Kelly obtain justice and as his case is already underway the situation is most urgent. We look forward to receiving your donation which will be gratefully acknowledged.

Donations can be sent to The Nicky Kelly Trust, c/o Allied Irish Bank, 64 Grafton Street, Dublin 2, Account No 31006-005, or to the address below.

The Nicky Kelly Trust,
c/o The Trustees,
9 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

Politics and sport

A Chara,

In reply to Sean Murphy's letter (*AP/RN*, February 23rd), the Committee of the Michael Dwyers Gaelic Athletic Club would like to make things clear from our point of view, so we have set out twelve points below.

1. Under our constitution and that of the GAA, we are non-political and non-sectarian;
2. Members of our Club did take part in the vigil and march from Casement Park to St Paul's, Shaws Road;

3. We are not and never were dominated by anybody other than our own members;

4. No member was ever shot over a H-Block poster;

5. The chairman who, according to Mr. Murphy, was intimidated from the Club and the area, has been in our Club many times, most recently on February 29th, and he is always welcome;

6. If a row occurs in the Club, we (the Committee) decide who is barred and we judge each case individually and sincerely;

7. We have not assisted the Workers Party or any other party to chase anybody from our Club;

8. Yes, we lost over £800 from the Club and the matter is under investigation;

9. It is also true that we have lost players over the years, but what Club has?

10. We did get into trouble over tables and chairs, but we never got food from the Royal Victoria Hospital. We can supply names of all the outside caterers that we have ever used;

11. We have been in touch with our solicitor about the *Sunday News* report as most of it was untrue, and we are awaiting a reply;

12. Committees all down the years in Dwyers have always tried to keep politics out of the Club and the present Committee is no exception. We have also banned the sale of all political papers or papers sold by any political party so as not to offend anyone. We would ask all parties concerned to respect our decision.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that we are a member of the GAA and our main concerns are hurling, football and handball and getting the youth of our area to play these games and to be proud of their national games.

Gerard McConnell,
Secretary,
Michael Dwyers GAC,
Belfast.



Hunger-strikes

A Chara,

In the near future, the National Graves Association, Dublin, will be honouring the memory of patriots who gave their lives for Ireland by hunger-striking. To do this, it is important to have a complete list of those who have sacrificed their lives in this manner.

Our list is complete from 1940 onwards, but it is hoped that your readers will confirm the following or let us know of omissions:-

1917 Thomas Ashe (Kerry);
1920 Michael Fitzgerald, Joe Murphy and Terence MacSwiney (Cork);

1923 Joe Whitty (Wexford) and Denis Barry and Andy Sullivan (Cork).

Any help your readers can give would be appreciated.

Sean Fitzpatrick,
National Graves Association,
18 Dromard Road,
Dublin 12.



• Baton-wielding gardai attack civilians

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

Shamrock Tours

ST PATRICK'S DAY again and the members of the Coalition have become inspired by the missionary spirit of our national patron — or is it just that the snakes he did not manage to banish feel safer abroad at this time of year?

Whatever about that, there are at least 13 Coalition ministers who are outward bound this week.

They include Sir Garret himself, Peter Barry, Michael Noonan, Dick Spring, Gemma Hussey, John Boland, Ruairi Quinn, John Bruton — in fact there seem to be more than 13 going.

Destinations include various parts of the United States, Australia and Britain.

'Ah', you will say, 'they have to spend their 19% pay increase on something.'

Not a bit of it. As usual, the taxpayer has to fork out. And the ministers who are taking their spouses with them have come up with a good ruse for getting their fares paid for as well.

Lady Garret, Mrs Barry and sundry other wives are going in a 'representational capacity'.

And Mr Gemma Hussey is accompanying his minister-wife on the same free-of-charge basis.

Who said the Irish Women's Liberation Movement had achieved nothing worthwhile?

The cost of the various trips is 'not as yet available', but there won't be much change out of £100,000, it is predicted.

And shamrocks to you too!

★★★

After the DUP's recent trip to Israel to view the barbed wire border there, we can now expect Paisley's boys to head for India.

The Indian government has announced that it is to start building a barbed-wire fence this year along its 1,365-mile border with Bangladesh to keep out illegal immigrants.

Whatever about learning from former rebels against the British crown, the loyalists might just realise one day that the British solution of partitioning its former colonies has never worked anywhere.

A long-term 'might', perhaps.

★★★

The Social Democrat, the SDLP's EEC-financed temporary newspaper, is only in its second issue, but has already run out of news-worthy material.

So it is stealing the actions of Sinn Fein.

A photograph on page seven of the paper claims to bring "into focus John Hume's efforts to get minority languages and cultures recognised in Europe."

It certainly does.

Hume attached himself to a group of MEPs who managed to secure £70,000, out of all the EEC millions, for a committee to deal with minority cultures in all the 10 member states. Typical tokenism, which is the kind of thing Hume will attempt to make much of in the EEC elections.

Bringing this 'into focus', The Social Dem-



● Sir Garret — snaking off again

ocrat's photograph does not mention the identity of the people in it. It is, in fact, a picket by Sinn Fein members outside Strand Road RUC Barracks protesting against the jailing of Sean O'Canainn because he wished to conduct his defence in a court case in Irish through an interpreter.

★★★

Problems for the Building, Printing and Jewellery Workers Party, it would appear.

With the 'non-existent' fund-raising wing's tax-dodging scheme scuppered on Belfast building sites, their forged fivers countered in Dublin, and their investment in precious metals going badly astray in the same city, donations to the BPJWP have temporarily dried up.

Last weekend, party hacks were summoned to Dublin to be told that party finances are in very bad shape indeed, their publication company, Repsol, being in the red to the tune of £45,000 alone.

Two angry members, Cork councillor John Kelleher and his side-kick O'Mahoney were rather too loud in their disgust on their way back to Cork by train.

Interested fellow passengers also learned that the proceeds of the forthcoming 'national' collection in the Munster area are not going to be sent up to Dublin but held back for Joe Sherlock's EEC election fund.

★★★

Most people, I suppose, share the commonly-held belief that personation at election time is mainly confined to the Workers Party in the North, who have to scrape together a few votes from somewhere. But, it seems, this is not, in fact, the case.

A Conservative Party canvasser, Mrs Kathleen Phillips, was jailed for two months on Thursday last week in Peterborough for forging nine postal votes in favour of the local Tory MP, Brian Mawhinney.

Mrs Phillips had applied for postal votes in the names of guests at her guest-house and of a dead neighbour, inspired, she told the court, by a slogan in an official Tory film — 'postal votes win elections'.

★★★

An interesting article in *The Guardian* last Monday by barrister and Tory party member Nigel Seed.

He describes how he was involved in the defence of a republican prisoner on trial in England last year, and the extremely hostile attitude of the police towards him during the case and also their attempt to have his fellow defence counsel charged with conspiring with their client to pervert the course of justice, because of the lawyers' efforts to put forward the best defence case that they could.

Not surprisingly, many barristers avoid taking up briefs in defence of Irish republicans, he says, even though professional traditions hold that a barrister cannot refuse a case.

Seed himself was removed from the Board of Visitors of Holloway prison because he had defended a republican and was thus regarded as 'tainted'.

He comments:

"It would be encouraging to think that the government were anxious to root out those who undermine the principles of our legal system."

"Unfortunately it prefers to remove from public office those whose independent professional activities have exposed breaches of these principles."

★★★

Five members of the Royal Artillery Regiment have been jailed for six and seven years for the rape of a teenage German girl in Paderborn, West Germany.

The five were tried at a court martial in Bielefeld and will be repatriated to Britain to serve their sentences.

★★★

Step forward Garda Michael Prendergast, of Fitzgibbon Street Barracks in Dublin, another enthusiast, no doubt, for the Criminal Justice Bill.

A Dublin jury last week awarded £3,000 damages against Prendergast for assaulting a Summerhill man, who received a variety of cuts and bruises at the hands of this defender of the peace back in August 1980.

WHAT'S ON

BALLAD SESSION
8.30pm Friday 16th March
The Danny Boy
REAGHSTOWN
County Louth
Tallie £1
Featuring: Latch

SOCIAL
8.30 — 12pm Friday 16th March
Ardayne Club
Flax Street
BELFAST
Tallie £1
Featuring: Freemen
In aid of National Graves Association

VOL TOM SMITH COMMEMORATION
(9th Anniversary)
11.15am Mass, Saturday 17th March
Berkeley Road Church
DUBLIN
Followed by march to
Glasnevin Cemetery
Oration by John Noonan

MARCH AND RALLY
2.30pm Saturday 17th March
From Bogside Inn to Guildhall
DERY
Organised by
Campaign Against Show Trials
(All interested parties and bands
cordially invited)

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT SOCIAL
Music by Peter & Pat
8pm Saturday 17th March
Chieftain Lounge
Park Street
MONAGHAN
Organised by Sinn Fein

TRADITIONAL IRISH NIGHT
Saturday 17th March
Community Centre
SILVERBRIDGE
County Armagh
Tallie £1
Organised by Sinn Fein

TRADITIONAL IRISH NIGHT
8.30pm Saturday 17th March
Dew Drop Inn
CAVAN
Tallie £1
In aid of
Peter Sherry Election Fund

IRISH CLASS
2.30pm every Sunday, starting
18th March
Memorial Hall
GULLADUFF
(For adult beginners and those wishing
to refresh their knowledge
of the language)
Organised by Sinn Fein

EEC ELECTION MEETINGS
Roscommon
3pm Sunday 18th March
Percy French Hotel
STROKESTOWN
EEC candidate Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin
will attend

Mid & North Kerry
8pm Wednesday 21st March
Grand Hotel
TRALEE
South Tipperary
8.30pm Friday 23rd March
Holy Family Hall
CASHEL

Waterford City & County
3pm Saturday 24th March
Community Centre
PORTLAW

CABARET & SOCIAL
Friday 23rd March
Commercial Hotel
BALLINAMORE
Tallie £4
Featuring: Dublin City Ramblers

BUSES TO NAVAN RALLY
Cavan: Dew Drop Inn, 1pm
(enquiries (049) 32319)
Monaghan: Church Square, 12.30pm
Dundalk: Sinn Fein Centre, 1pm
Saturday 24th March

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S FORUM
10am — 4pm Sunday 25th March
Sinn Fein Advice Centre
57a Clanbrassil Street
DUNDALK
All Sinn Fein women welcome

£500 POKER CLASSIC
9pm sharp Friday 6th April
Community Hall
INNISKEEN
County Monaghan
Tallie £10
In aid of County Monaghan PDF
Minibus Fund

CLONARD MARTYRS COMMEMORATION

THE ANNUAL commemoration by the Clonard/Colin Martyrs Sinn Fein cumann in Belfast to honour all those people from the district who gave their lives in the cause of Irish freedom, was held on Sunday, March 11th, at Milltown Cemetery.

Cumann chairperson Eamonn O'Hartghaile, read a list of the names of the dead Volunteers from Ogligh na hEir-eann, Fianna Eireann and Cumann na mBan, who gave their lives in the current phase of the republican struggle since 1969. A number of wreaths from the cumann, relatives and others were laid on the County Antrim plot, while a lone piper played the *Memory of the Dead*.

A decade of the Rosary was recited by veteran republican, Alfie Hannaway, and the main oration was delivered by Sean McKnight, Sinn Fein candidate for this month's Belfast area 'P' by-election.

Sean McKnight likened the Clonard/Colin Martyrs to all those people, from whatever part of Ireland, who had laid down their lives over the centuries, or suffered torture and imprisonment at the



hands of the British invader and his loyalist and Free State allies.

He said:

"Unless and until the last vestige of the British presence: military, social and economic, is removed from our country, then many more members of the Republican

Movement will be called upon to lay down their lives in that same cause."

McKnight concluded by exhorting all members and branches of the Movement — particularly the young and new members — to redouble their efforts to ensure that the Clonard/Colin Martyrs, and all

who paid the supreme sacrifice in the same cause, did not do so in vain.

The previous Thursday night, March 8th, a successful commemoration function, held in the West Belfast Social Club, was addressed by Sinn Fein's Sean McKnight and Danny Morrison.

REVIEW PAGE

TV

Compare and contrast

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE CRIMINAL Justice Bill was the topic of discussion on *Sunday Review* on RTE1 at 12 noon on Sunday. The guests included Michael O'Leary, former leader of the Free State Labour Party, now a Fine Gael deputy.

O'Leary was so taken up with presenting his best profile to the cameras and speaking in carefully modulated tones that his contribution to the programme was limited but he did, unwittingly, give considerable weight to some of the arguments in support of the Bill's extended powers of detention. O'Leary said:

"What people don't understand is that where a Garda arrests someone on the grounds of reasonable suspicion, those grounds may only emerge during questioning."

Think about it.

The Basques was the fifth programme in the series *The Stateless Nations* on BBC2 on

Monday. The oldest people in Europe, the Basques have been a separate race with their own distinctive language for 7,000 years. The film opens with a demonstration in a Basque village, led by a banner reading 'Get the Boys out of Jail'. A voiceover comments:

"It's no shame to be a terrorist in this village."

Juan Okinena, international spokesperson for Herri Batasuna, the radical Basque nationalists who have 11 abstentionist MPs in the Basque parliament, attended last year's Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis. Interviewed on the programme he said:

"ETA exists because there is a reason for it. The Spanish police and military are an occupying army."

Another interviewee, des-

cribed as a 'moderate' said that ETA were welcomed as heroes, and that "young people dream of liberating their country".

The BBC were at pains, however, to stress that "there is no comparison to Ulster", realising that their film had exposed many similarities.

Later on Monday, Channel 4's *Eleventh Hour* showed a film which was also reminiscent of the North.

Field Diary was made by Israeli director Amos Gitai, who explained "In this diary of the occupied territories I wanted to examine how violence against the Palestinians, their belongings, their land etc, and against their very existence as people, is legitimised."

The constant beat of helicopters overhead is one of the things that strikes you in this film, a sound so familiar in Belfast and Derry. Scenes of Israeli vehicles being stoned on the roads and heaps of burning

tyres are also echoes of the North.

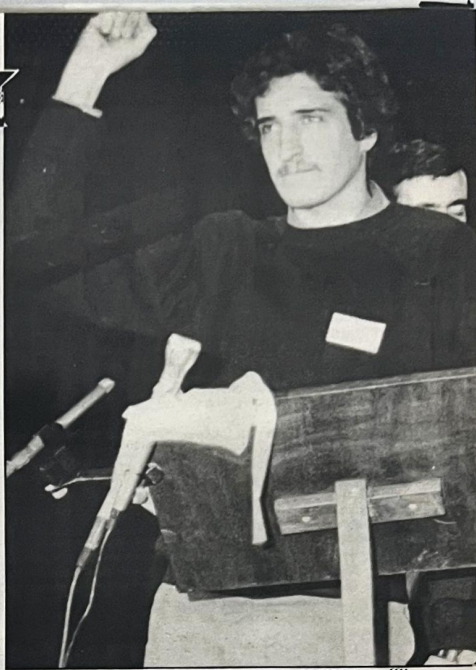
"We are stoned every time we go out of the settlement", said one Israeli settler, whose declared aim was to "crush the Arabs totally".

Gitai also exposed the invasions of Lebanon and attacks on refugee camps, and one scene of a Palestinian village razed to the ground was harrowing. Bulldozers were used to level houses and the village's olive trees, their only means of livelihood.

Mitch on RTE2 on Sunday nights is a series featuring a crime reporter for a British national newspaper. Last Sunday's episode had Mitch investigating a 'supergrass' who had incriminated people in return for his early release and a considerable sum of money.

Mitch, played by John Thaw, discovers that 'Jack' Frost's 'evidence' names men he has never met, but that his memory conveniently fails when it comes to details of his own activities.

One member of Frost's police guard sets him up to be killed by some of his former friends. The story was fairly predictable, but what is interesting about the programme was the inference that Frost deserved all he got.



● Juan Okinena of the Basque Herri Batasuna at the 1983 Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis

After four days he broke down and talked and talked. When he was finished he said: "Now tell us something we don't know."

IMPORTANT

Fugard does not offer solutions in the play. In this sense, what he does not say becomes important.

The two Whites are utterly powerless, caught fast in the apartheid web. The Asian's downfall is brought about by his connection with them.

Clearly, the impetus for revolution must come from the most repressed class and from them alone. South Africa's Blacks don't get a look-in in this play — similarly with the master model.

The production of the play grows in tension as it proceeds, reaching razor-sharpness at climax points. Paul Bennett, Deirdre O'Connell and Paul Raynor perform with clarity.

You will find *A Lesson from Aloes* currently at Dublin's Focus Theatre in Pembroke Place, near St Stephen's Green.



● Deirdre O'Connell and Paul Bennett in *A Lesson from Aloes* at Dublin's Focus Theatre

A South African lesson

BY MEL LYONS

I NEVER KNEW what aloes were, until this week. They are those prickly cactus-like plants often seen on favourite aunties' window-sills.

A Lesson from Aloes is a play by Athol Fugard about South Africa in 1963. A liberal White collector, breeds, classifies and is generally obsessed with, aloes.

Aloes, you see, have an inordinate capacity for survival in the harshest environments, even the inhospitable South African earth. The white Afrikaners draw their own lesson from the aloes. They are dependent for survival on their own prickly thorns — the institutionalised violence of the secret police.

We see conflict between three people: a liberal Afrikaner, his English-born wife and

an Asian friend facing exile for activities unfriendly to the state. Politics is the elastic tension between the three.

MASTERY

Distrust, hypocrisy, neurosis and fear are all rooted in the desperate political measures needed to prop up a false state, and, putting them together, Fugard shows his mastery of political theatre.

Unlike a plethora of plays and films in recent years, purporting to deal with the politics of the North of Ireland, in *A Lesson from Aloes* the repressive political situation is not just

PLAY

an incidental backdrop to give 'added significance' to an emotional interchange, but rather is the nub of the issue.

These people are forced and manipulated by the well-greased repressive machinery of the apartheid regime into unnatural states of pathos or resignation. A way is found to muzzle each of them.

Some passages ring alarmingly familiar to Irish ears.

Steve, the Asian activist, describes being 'taken in'. He was shown into a fifth-floor room, containing only a chair and an open window. Every half-hour, one of the secret police would stick his head in the door and laugh at him,

Anam aoibhinn Alban

LE CIARÁN DE BARÓID

MAR CHÚNTAS taistil ar Gharbhchríocha na hAlban agus ar na hOileáin Thiar, ba dheacair *'Dialann Anama'* ó pheann Aoidh Uí Mhurchú, a shárú. Céantas atá ann ar thuras a thóg sé i 1980 mar bhall de thosaicreacht chultúir, turas a sciob an t-údar chun síuil tré aoibhneas na hAlban, agus fé mar a chuireann an teideal i gcéill, tré móran cúinne dá anam féin.

On gcoad leathanach ardaitear agus impraitear ar eghaidh an leitheoir le tuaisric mear-úr, liriceach, a chloinnfóinn gach faifios, gach mchinniteacht, agus gach fionnachtaim agus áthas a mhóthafóinn an t-údar agus é á chur chun bóthair ó áit go h-áit ar thóir iontaisín an tsaoil. Chomh maith leis sin, is féidir leat a mhearbhall intinne a bhaint amach de réir a chéile, de réir mar a thagann sé ar na rudaí uile atá coitianta ag cultúr agus teanga na hÉireann agus cultúr agus teanga na hAlban. Tógat sinn ar mhóran bóithrínn cóng casta go croí stíl beatha na ndaoine, go saol na hAlban mar atá sé anois agus mar a bhí sé fadó, agus comparáid eolasach dá dhéanamh an t-am ar fad i dtír na cuairte agus úr dhúchais an údair. In áiteanna tá nóta goinbhlasta ná caillfeir ar sinne a thug faoi

CEAIGHT

Tá roinnt ceacht le foghlaim anseo, adeir an t-údar: toibhíonn an turasóireacht éis ard; má ligimíd dúinn féin éirí uibheata a bhaint amach tré cheadú do dhaoine eile teacht agus stánadh orainn, agus ar a chailleadar ina gultúir féin, seasaimíd i mbaol éirí n-anam féin a chaitheamh in aiseir ar son an triocha phléasa aicise úd.

Trén leabhar ar fad, castar orainn móran rapadóir smoinimh agus filírise tuaisric deis — míneach; ach caithfead a admháil gurbh é an tuaisric ar An t-Eileann Sgiathanach a chur

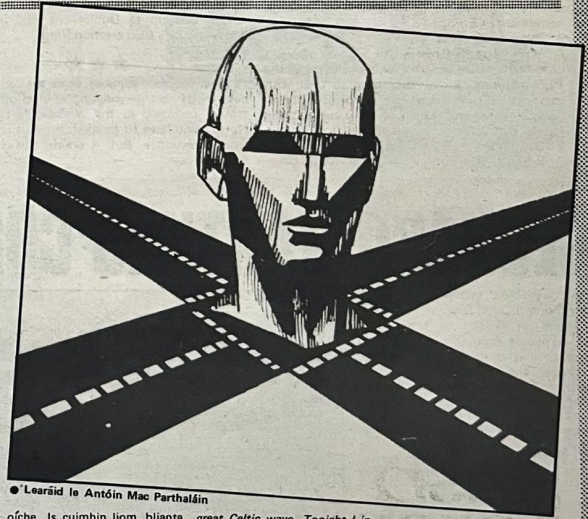
LEABHAR

tine leam chroí féin, de thoradh gur chaitheas tamall ann sa tsamradh atá díreach thart. Mar sin, do thaistilios go saor tré shleibhte Cúiltionn agus ar fuaid na mbóthar mbeag a cloinnn leis an gcósta spiagach a théann gach taobh den oileán seo. Agus tháinig chugam arís cumhracht an fhráoig agus radharc an fhiolair ós cionn Port Rígh.

Do bhaineas taitneamh leis as an gcósta a tugadh ar an dturas san eitleán beag, an t-eitleán leis na 'rothai phram'! Aithním go maith, freisin, an critheagla agus an t-imní!

TÁBHACHTACH

In iomlán sinne *'Dialann Anama'* ar eghaidh go tochtach corraithe. Tá léargas éilinn le fáil ar phearsanacht an údair, ar Alba féin, agus ar dealbhóireacht ama agus staire. Agus trén leabhar ar fad, tá dánta an údair le fáil, dánta fé na rudaí atá tábachtach dó agus dá ghaoinne. Leabhar suanasach a mholfaínn do chuide duine mar bhairead



● Léarsid le Antón Mac Parthaláin

oche. Is cuimhin liom, blianta fada ó shin, bheith ag éisteacht oche le Fear-a' Tí ar Oche Cheoil i gCorcaigh. Bhí beirt chailíní ó Chorca Dhuibhne dá gceir i láthair aige do lucht éisteachta gan Gaeilge. "Many centuries ago," dúirt sé, "our coast bore witness to the coming of a

túr na nGael, agus go bhfuil oidreacht coitianta againn leis na h-iarraim' ar fad san Eoraip den gultúir oillmhór a raibh tiarnas aige uair sa duthaigh uile last-tuaidh de sleibhte na n-Alp.

Dialann Anama, le Aodh Ó Murchú, Príes Dúndalgan, Éilge Oirialla a d'fhoiligh.

OBITUARIES

AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS, Thursday, March 15th, 1984 - Leathnach 15



● The funeral of Margaret Darling passes along the Falls Road on Wednesday, March 14th

Margaret Darling

THE DEATH of Lower Falls woman Margaret Darling, for years an ardent Green Cross collector, occurred on Monday, March 12th.

For over a decade, braving all kinds of weather, Margaret diligently made her weekly collections in aid of republican prisoners and their families, and was, in turn, well-loved and respected by the POWs in Long Kesh and Armagh.

Margaret was also active on the streets, taking part in protests and marches and in defending her area, being shot in the process in the early '70s by the Brits when she and local people protested over houses being raided.

At her funeral to Milltown Cemetery on Wednesday, mourners, including Sean McKnight representing Sinn Féin, walked behind her Tricolour-draped coffin. All branches of the Republican Movement, especially her friends in Green Cross, extend their sincerest condolences to Margaret Darling's family.

Hugh McCooey

THE DEATH took place on Wednesday, February 29th, of Hugh McCooey of Glear, Clones, after a brief illness.

Hughie, as he was affectionately known by his many friends, can best be described as one of nature's gentlefolk.

As a milkman in the Clones area, he knew the people of this border town and district as his friends, one and all. A dedicated republican, he was a regular visitor to republican POWs in Portlaoise and Long Kesh, especially the Monaghan

and Fermanagh prisoners there.

Of an extremely likeable and friendly disposition, Hughie was a major subscriber to the various fund-raising efforts in support of the republican cause. During the H-Block hunger-strike and Kieran Doherty election campaigns, he was always ready and willing to work tirelessly to advance these major undertakings in his native County Monaghan.

At the large and representative removal of remains and his funeral, Hughie was afforded the well-earned tributes that true republicans, such as he, deserved. His Tricolour-draped coffin was flanked by a civilian guard of honour of County Monaghan republicans and wreaths were laid on behalf of Clones Sinn Féin and the Republican Movement in County Monaghan.

The sincere sympathy of the Republican Movement is extended to his wife, son and daughter, and family circle.

Margaret Tully

THE DEATH occurred in Monaghan, on Wednesday March 7th, of Margaret Tully of Cathedral View. A member of Cumann na mBan, Margaret was a life-long republican and, though infirm and dependent on a wheelchair in recent years, she continued to give practical support to the on-going struggle against British imperialism in Ireland.

An example of Margaret's determination and courage was her recent involvement in the distribution of the local Sinn Féin news-sheet, *Phoenix*. While others dropped the copies through letter-boxes in the neighbourhood, she folded the newsletters in her wheel-chair as they

went from door to door.

Aged 79, her passing seems yet another link with a generation of courageous republicans who were steadfast with the struggle for Irish freedom.

She is survived by two sons and two daughters and a wide family circle. The

sincere sympathy of the entire community was evident by the large and representative attendance at her funeral. Her Tricolour-draped coffin was brought from St Joseph's Church to Latturcan Cemetery. Among the many wreaths was one from the Republican Movement in County Monaghan.

The Republican Movement extends its deepest sympathy to Barry, Clones, Maeve and Pat and all the Tully family on their sad loss.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

JOHN O'LEARY

BY PETER O'ROURKE

JOHN O'LEARY, one of the most prominent members of the Fenian movement, was born in Tipperary town in July 1830.

O'Leary studied law at Trinity College Dublin but later abandoned his studies when he discovered that barristers were required to take an oath of allegiance to the British crown. He turned his attention to medicine but failed to qualify.

At the age of 18, he took part in Tipperary in the Young Ireland rising of 1848, after which he was imprisoned in Clonmel Jail for several weeks. Later, O'Leary became prominently identified with the Fenian movement even though he was never a sworn member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

NEWSPAPER

In 1863, he was appointed editor of the newly established Fenian weekly newspaper *The Irish People*, with Tho-

mas Clarke Lubby and Charles J. Kickham as his co-editors and chief contributors. The paper was suppressed in September 1865 and on the evidence of the informer Pierce Nagle many Fenians, including O'Leary, were arrested. The following December, John O'Leary was charged with treason felony, found guilty and sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude.

EXILE

After serving nine years in English prisons, he was released on condition that he went into exile until the period of his term of imprisonment had expired. He spent most of his time in Paris, where he was, in March 1879, by Charles Stewart Parnell and John Devoy to discuss the proposed 'New Departure'.

JOHN O'LEARY

Whilst refusing any compromise with constitutionalism, O'Leary also denounced agrarian agitation and the Fenian dynamite campaign in England in the 1880s.

He returned to Dublin in 1885 and began writing his reminiscences, which were published in 1896 under the title *Recollection of Fenians and Fenianism*.

A life-long separatist, John O'Leary died in Dublin on March 16th 1907.

Ní féidir leis an báile a chríochnú - He can't finish the meal.
Is féidir liom é a chloisint go maith - I can hear it well.
Cathfídh siad an carr a shórcú inniu - They must fix the car today.
Ní cathfídh siad é a chríochnú inniu - He doesn't have to finish it today.

PHRASES

- 1 - Sochraigh anois é (sukraig anish ay) - Settle it now.
- 2 - Ní mór é a chríochnú (nee more ay uh chreechoon) - It is to be finished.
- 3 - An léine a nighne (un layneh uh nee) - To wash the shirt.
- 4 - An sólaí a chloisint (un shukay a chulshint) - To hear the story.

Irish Lesson

70

THE pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound.
CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE.
D and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth.
DH and GH are like a G far back in the throat almost a gurgle.

É a chríochnú (ay uh chree-choon) - To finish it.
É a chloisint (ay uh chulshint) - To hear it.
É a nighne (ay uh nee) - To wash it.
É a shórcú - (ay uh hukroo) - To settle, fix, it.
Cathfídh (kohfídh) - We must.
Cathfídh, sibh, siad - (kohl, shiv, it).

sheed) You, they must.
Cathfídh é a chríochnú in am - We must finish it in time.
Cathfídh sibh é a chloisint anois - You must hear it now.
Cathfídh siad é a nighne anocht - They must wash it tonight.
Ní féidir liom é a shórcú - I can't fix it.

Memoriam

CLONARD MARTYRS. (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my friends and comrades who gave their lives in the struggle for Ireland's freedom on March 9th 1972. Always remembered by Tobias McMahon (H2).

COLLINS, Johnny. (7th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother Johnny Collins, National Graves Association, who died on March 15th 1977. St Patrick, pray for him. Always remembered by his brother Michael, sister-in-law Maureen and nephews and nieces.

KEENAN, Colm; MCGILLAN, Eugene. (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Volts Keenan and Eugene McGillan, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on March 14th 1972. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

KEENAN, Colm; MCGILLAN, Eugene. (12th Anniversary). Derry Sinn Féin comrades can't remember with pride Volts Colm Keenan and Eugene McGillan, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on March 14th 1972. Fhaid's atá na huaisheanna seo in Éirinn n' bheith síocháin ann gan saoirse.

McDONALD, Patrick; MURRAY, Kevin. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Volts Patrick McDonald and Kevin Murray, Oglagh na hÉireann, Dunganannon, who died on active service on March 15th 1973. Thug siad a raib a son saoirse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglagh

na hÉireann, Dunganannon.

SMITH, Tom. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead by the Free State army in Portlaoise Prison on March 17th 1975. I measc laochra na nGael sa raib a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Dublin Brigade.

SMITH, Tom. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Tom Smith, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead by the Free State army in Portlaoise Prison on March 17th 1975. Always remembered by his comrades in the Dublin Brigade.

SMITH, Tom. (9th Anniversary). The Tom Smith and Joe Clarke Sinn Féin comrades would have remembered with pride Vol Tom Smith, Dublin Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was shot dead by the State troops on March 17th 1975.

SMITH, Tom. (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Tom Smith, a brave soldier, never forgotten by Pat Lowe.

Birthday memories

HOGAN. Birthday memories of a dear son and brother Vol Henry Hogan, whose 21st birthday would have occurred on March 16th. Fondly remembered by his mum, dad, Patrick, Margaret and Bridie.

HOGAN. Birthday memories of a dear brother Vol Henry Hogan, whose birthday would have occurred on March 16th. Saddy missed by Rosie, Brian and nephews Prinsias and Eimr.

HOGAN. Birthday memories of a dear brother Vol Henry Hogan, whose 21st birthday would have occurred on March 16th. A true soldier sleeps but his memory lives on. From his brother Mickie (Portlaoise).

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Sympathy

McCOOY. Sincere condolences are extended to the wife and family of our friend and comrade, Vol Tom McCooey, Clones. From Jim and Colm Lynagh, Portlaoise Prison.

McCOOY. Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Hugh McCooey, County Monaghan who was laid to rest on March 2nd. From George and all the republican prisoners (Portlaoise).

McCOOY. Sincere sympathy is extended to the wife and family of the late Hugh McCooey of Glear, Clones, County Monaghan. A dedicated republican, his enthusiasm and natural wit will be sadly missed. Ar lamh dhílis De go raib a anam dhílis. From the O'Hanlon/McMahon Sinn Féin cumann, Monaghan town.

McCOOY. It is with a deep sense of loss that we express our sincere sympathy to the wife and family of the late Hugh McCooey of Clones. He will be sorely missed by his many friends and especially by his fellow republicans. May he rest in peace. From the O'Hanlon/McMahon Sinn Féin cumann, Monaghan town.

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GREETINGS

CORRIGAN, Shane. (Portlaoise). Happy St Patrick's Day, Shane. From Aunt Leon and Michael.

DUGGAN, Harry. (Parkhurst). Greetings on St Patrick's Day, Harry. From Joe and Martina.

McCLUSKEY, John. (England). All our very best wishes on your birthday, John. Your next will be spent in freedom. Regards to all there. From your friends and comrades Mary and Patrick, Bunclara, County Donegal.

McCLUSKEY, John. (England). Special birthday greetings to you. At least it's your last birthday behind prison bars. Roll on October, we'll paint the town red from here and here and Leicester.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday 'Beaky'. Love, you're always in my thoughts. I love you very much. From your ever-loving wife, Patricia, xxx

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday. We all love you very much. From Kevin, Karen, Patricia and Michael Anthony, xxx

McKENNA, Laurence. (Portlaoise). Congratulations to Laurence McKenna and his wife Bernie, on the birth of their son, Colm Laurence. Another republican for Glenties. From Bernie and family and all their friends in Monaghan town.

McMAHON, Toby. (H2). Thinking of you always. Many happy returns to a

very special friend. From the Clarke family.

O'SULLIVAN, John. (Portlaoise). Best wishes on your birthday. You are always in our thoughts. From Mum and Dad.

O'SULLIVAN, John. (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy birthday. Thinking of you always. From Eleanor, Catriona, Esther, Michael G. and John Jr.

O'SULLIVAN, John. (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy birthday, John. From Kathleen and Mary.

O'SULLIVAN, John. (Portlaoise). Best wishes, John. From all your friends, especially Declan, Charlie and Bobby.

ST PATRICK'S DAY GREETINGS to Plus, Peter, Hector and Martin (Magillan); Paul, Noel and Michael (Cape 10); Tommy and Raymond (H-Bank); Brendan, Gary, Gerry and Seamus (Crumlin Road); Catherine and Lorraine (Armagh); and to all their families and friends. From Lois, Joan, Lynn and Wanda, USA.

ST PATRICK'S DAY GREETINGS to all our comrades incarcerated in British, Free State and US prisons. Tloachfadh ár fáil. From the staff of Republican Publications, Belfast and Dublin.

ST PATRICK'S DAY GREETINGS to Bill Hughes and Eamonn Nolan (Portlaoise) and Michael (Belfast) and to all our comrades and republican POWs in Ireland, England and America. From the Scottish Republican Fenian cumann, Tírmore, County Wexford.

Draw results

An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin
February - £100; 267; £50; 56; £25; 150; £10; 6 & 212; £5; 41, 75, 90, 246, 301 & 394.
Dublin Sinn Féin
£100; Martin Devine, Navan Road; £50; Mary Rudy, c/o McGrath; £25;

Deirdre Murphy; £5; Nos 8, 70, 191, 227 & 223.
Liberties Sinn Féin EEC Fund
Week 2 - £30; Sally Lawrence, c/o Clare Barr; £10; David Dempsey, School Street; £5; Pat, the Scotches.
£5; Martin Shaw, Dolphin House.
Shannon Sinn Féin
Week 16 - £25; 61; £10; 38; £5; 61.
Week 17 - £25; 61; £10; 38; £5; 61.

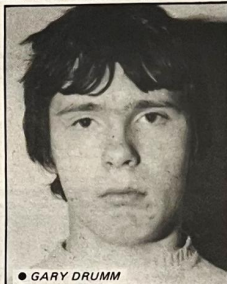
Omagh blackmail

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

AN ATTEMPTED blackmail attempt by the RUC of a 17-year-old Omagh youth has been exposed by Danny Morrison of Sinn Féin, who has described the affair as "more evidence that the RUC lacks the support in the nationalist community it so often claims".

Four weeks ago, Gary Drumm was arrested under the Emergency Provisions Act by uniformed members of the RUC at his O'Kane Park home and from there he was brought to Omagh Barracks.

Under intense interrogation by RUC detectives Breen and Nesbitt, the young man signed a statement admitting to having thrown two petrol bombs on separate occasions in 1982 and 1983. He was then told by his interrogators that this was an 'attempted murder' charge. He said: "I was told that I was being put in the Kesh for a long time and I was frightened. They told me somebody else in the next room had signed statements against me and brought in a statement which was



● GARY DRUMM

supposed to be about two petrol bombings, one against an RUC

landrover. After I made the admission they said the statement would never be shown to anyone provided I worked for them and gathered information.

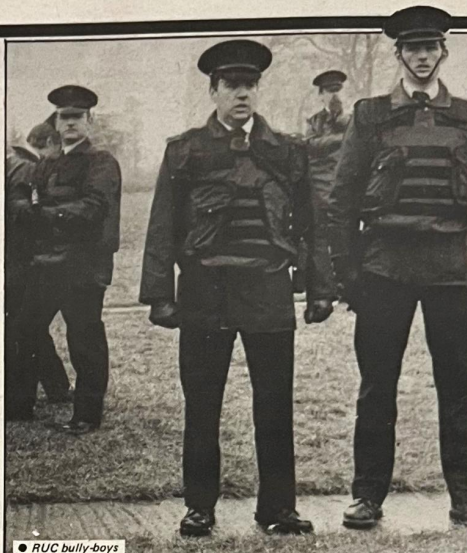
"They told me to start selling An Phoblacht/Republican News and to get back in Sinn Féin. I was to find out where meetings were held and what pubs republicans drank in.

"Detective Breen gave me £5 and I was told to contact them by phone and say it was 'The Boxer' calling. They also said that if I was stopped in the street with friends I was to be cheeky to the RUC or UDR and call them names."

At lunch-time and during the 12 hours that Gary Drumm was held the RUC raided his home for a second time, seized posters of the hunger-strikers, personal letters and a diary.

REPORTED

Shortly after being released



● RUC bully-boys

Drumm reported the incident to his solicitor, gave him the money and made a full statement about the blackmail attempt.

Describing the incident as "extremely serious", Danny Morrison said:

"This is a variation of the perjuror and show-trial system where a vulnerable young man was intimidated into signing a false statement, and was then granted immunity

from prosecution provided he became a spy, initially on Sinn Féin members but it would not have ended there.

"This shows that the RUC are desperate for information and that they are rejected by the nationalist community. This resort to blackmail is just one of the unseemly aspects of the RUC activity ignored by Jack Hermon in his annual report."

Louth inducements

GARDA Special Branchmen attempted to search an eight months pregnant woman during a raid on her home in Ardee, County Louth.

The Reid family home was raided by six Branchmen armed with Uzi sub-machine guns on Monday, March 5th, causing particular distress to Mrs Reid and her two young children.

John Reid was then arrested under the Offences against the State Act and taken to Navan Barracks. Here he was continually questioned, verbally abused and offered inducements to inform. When he refused to comply with this attempt to get him to give information on republicans in the Louth area, threats of being charged with armed robberies were made against him.

When all this treatment failed to break Reid, the Gardai then tried the 'softly, soft-

ly' approach in the person of a Sergeant Deignan from the local barracks in Ardee. He expressed sympathy with Reid, and advised him to tell if he knew of any arms dumps in the Louth area, again in exchange for money.

STATEMENT

Sinn Féin's county councillor, Fra Browne, voiced his concern at the role of the gardai in trying to recruit paid informers in the twenty-six counties and is calling for a public statement from the gardai on the whole affair.

Louth Sinn Féin condemned this latest case of mimicking Brit tactics by Free State police, and are advising anyone in a similar situation to make the facts public in order to highlight this blatant abuse of their powers by both Special Branch and uniformed gardai.



● Uzi-toting Garda Special Branchman

RUC ARREST SCHOOLBOY

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG



● JOHN PAUL GILLESPIE

A NATIONALIST family who were forced to flee their Antrim town home last August because of continuous harassment from loyalists and RUC, have again become the target of RUC victimisation at their recently-acquired home in Belfast's Ormeau Road.

Kevin and Mary Gillespie and their six children, who experienced a harrowing ordeal in Antrim, were again thrown into turmoil last Tuesday night, March 6th, when 11-year-old John Paul was arrested following a stone-throwing incident.

John Paul was caught up in the incident after leaving his Artana Street home shortly after 7pm. An RUC jeep sped after the boy who ran and fell to the ground in his panic. John Paul was thrown into the back of the landrover, hitting his head on a seat, while his brother, 8-year-old Tony, was arrested as well but rescued by a neighbour who was assaulted by the RUC and later charged with assault.

Although legally under age, John Paul was taken to Musgrave Street Barracks where he was illegally questioned without either of his

parents present.

Alone and amid hostile RUC men, the boy was intimidated for over an hour before his father arrived. Mr Gillespie said:

"The RUC have started to intimidate us all over again, they even accused John Paul, a child of eleven, of being the ringleader of a group of rioters in the Markets area three months ago. This is a total nonsense as we hadn't even moved into the house at that stage."

Before the RUC would release John Paul they forced Mr Gillespie and his son to sign a partially written statement the contents of which Mr Gillespie could not read without his glasses. He said:

"I really don't know what I've signed as they told me to sign the bottom. God knows what they'll insert between the lines."

Released Derryman harassed

A 32-YEAR-OLD South Derry man is being subjected to an ongoing low-level campaign of intimidation by the RUC crown forces, apparently in revenge for the RUC's recent failure to 'frame' him using perjured statements.

Danny Cassidy of Kilrea, spent a month last summer on remand in Crumlin Road Jail, but was freed after local man Charles Dillon retracted statements he had made implicating six South Derry men on alleged IRA membership and other charges.

Since then, Cassidy has been subjected to frequent harassment, particularly at crown forces' checkpoints. Some months ago, a wall slogan "Cassidy is dead", written in black paint, appeared on a wall not far from his home.

The latest series of incidents began on Tuesday morning last, March 6th, when British soldiers raided his home. Finding Cassidy was not there, the Brits questioned his wife closely as to his whereabouts and recent movements.

Later that day, the same Brits twice visited the local bookmakers where they attempted to question several local people about him. Since then, according to Danny Cassidy, Brits have taken to regularly parking their jeeps outside the family's home — a sinister development.