

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY

# PHOBLACHT

## Republican News

Sraith Nua Imi 6 Uimhir 13

Deardain Márta 29

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# ALARM BELLS FOR SDLP

THE MOMENTUM of Sinn Féin's progress at the polls in the North was clearly signalled last week by its dramatic win in the Belfast City Council by-election, which signalled even more dramatic advances for the party in the forthcoming EEC elections in June and, after that, in the 1985 local elections.

For John Hume the result must have set alarm bells ringing in his Brussels retreat.

The halving of the SDLP vote, and the large chunks of SDLP second and third preferences which transferred to Sinn Féin, clearly demonstrates that Hume's party-vote had not reached its low-point at the Westminster elections and is very unstable still.

Sinn Féin's two-thirds share of the nationalist poll in Belfast, moreover, was confirmed the week before by almost the exact same share of the nationalist poll in the Dungannon by-election.

Even more frightening for Hume is the revelation that bitterness between OUP and DUP voters means that their total votes are not mutually transferable — even in a 'Stop Sinn Féin' context. If they do not transfer within the unionist camp, what hope has he of picking up anti Sinn Féin transfers from them in June?

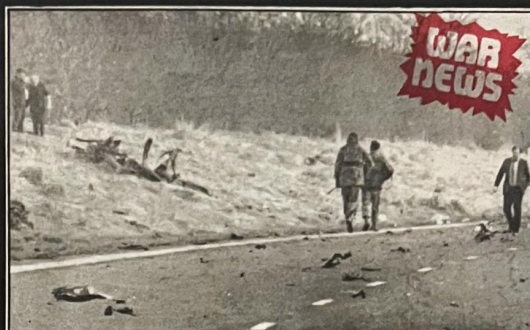
And this third election of a Sinn Féin councillor in only three winnable contests has also demonstrated that, unlike John Hume's SDLP, Sinn Féin is not a one-person party.

Having at last got a clear alternative to vote for, the nationalist electorate is showing an increasing inclination to forget the days when they simply registered an anti-unionist head-count or voted for a personality. Instead they are showing a decided taste for voting for policies — and the policies they are going for are those of Sinn Féin.

In June, Sinn Féin will be contesting the EEC elections throughout Ireland. It clearly has a major chance of winning a most impressive show of support, confounding its opponents, and, at last, giving real hope to the Irish people.

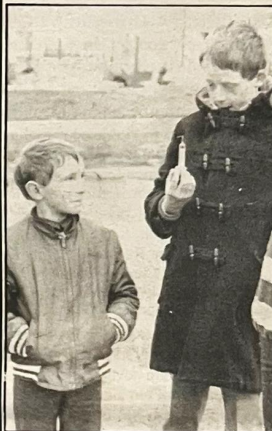


● Alex Maskey congratulates Sean McKnight (right) on his election to Belfast City Council.



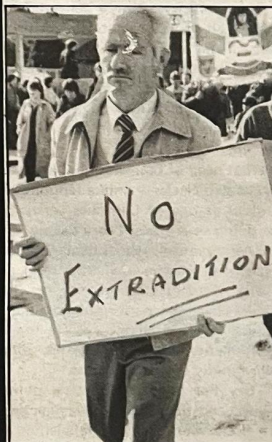
## BRITS BLASTED IN DERRY

— SEE PAGE 2



## Dealing with the drug-pushers

SEE CENTRESPREAD



## EXTRADITION CONDEMNED

— SEE PAGE 7



## OPINION

# A rebellious flock

THE CONSTANT assault by Catholic clergymen, in the North in particular, on Sinn Féin and those thousands of nationalists who vote for Sinn Féin, has now become almost a weekly event, rising in hysteria as support for republicanism at the ballot box increases.

Whilst the anti-republican preaching of Hierarchical prelates, from their palatial ivory-towers, has been treated largely with resigned indifference from their flock, there is a more insidious version from some of those who have, in the past, won the trust of nationalist people by their championing of, at least, human rights issues.

One such is the Reverend Father Denis Faul.

Since the 1981 hunger-strike he has lost most of his credibility as 'defender of his flock' and, apparently, has become increasingly embittered.

Yet again, this week, Fr Faul and his associate, Fr Raymond Murray, have managed to submerge superficial criticisms of the British and Dublin governments beneath a barrage of scurrilous attacks on Sinn Féin and the IRA.

This mish-mash has been presented in an article on *The Alienation of Northern Ireland Catholics* which appeared first in the February issue of *Doctrine & Life* and was reproduced this week in the *Irish News*.

Watery condemnations of the British government for its lack of 'generosity and understanding', or of the Dublin government for 'ignoring the 40% of the Northern population that is Catholic', hardly amount to a genuine assessment of the responsibility which these governments share for creating and perpetuating the injustice that is the six-county state.

If Frs Faul and Murray also criticise the Dublin Forum it is simply because 'moderate Catholic politicians' have been left 'politically naked' by the British, leaving these same politicians with no option but to participate in this 'non-event'.

The slanderous tirade delivered against Sinn Féin and the IRA is all too typical of the British black propaganda machine. All the old lies are dished out by the clerical pen — about godfathers, gangsterism and racketeering.

But the real issue is what the authors describe as the 'brainwashing' of youth into 'accepting the premise that the Church favours the rich and the SDLP, who must be dispossessed in the pursuit of equality'.

What need of brainwashing, we may ask?

The two clerics — unlike republicans — portray the Northern conflict as one of Catholics versus Protestants. Their reasons for doing so are based very deeply in their very old-style Catholic conservatism, which demands that the word of the priest is law in all matters — whether spiritual, material, or political.

The roots of the majority of clerics being firmly in the middle-class, the patronising attitude they have towards their 'flocks' matches all too readily the same attitudes of the establishment middle-class parties, which they favour, towards their rapidly departing voters.

They fear that the growing political confidence of their 'flocks' and the simultaneous rejection of traditional authority will break the religious stranglehold which they imagine they have over the nationalist/Catholic population.

Their own backgrounds and the reactionary politics of their bishops mean that they are unable to cope intellectually with this revolution and therefore fall back on this slanderous form of religious repression.

A trip to the Philippines would do an awful lot of Irish Catholic clerics a power of good.

## WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...



● Gransha, on the outskirts of Derry, where Monday's bomb attack occurred

# BRITS BLASTED IN DERRY

ONE British soldier was killed and hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage caused in a week of increased IRA activity throughout the North.

In a statement detailing the operation on Tuesday, March 27th, which left one British soldier dead, the IRA's Derry Brigade refuted British army claims that only one soldier had been in the unmarked minibus devastated in the bomb-attack, or that he was involved in taking soldiers' wives on a day trip to the Antrim Coast. The statement said:

"Tuesday's attack was directed at a five-man surveillance team which has for some weeks now been operating daily out of Shackleton Barracks in Ballykelly, the headquarters for SAS activity west of the Bann.

"The team of undercover British soldiers drove each day along the same route into Derry where they separated to carry out surveillance and intelligence work.

"Our intelligence department monitored the movements of these British soldiers for some weeks.

"On Monday night, March 26th, around 8pm, an active service unit took over a house in Derry and commandeered a red Toyota van. A second ASU of armed Volunteers and IRA engineers then placed the huge bomb in the van and, around 9am the following morning, Tuesday, March 27th, the van was placed in position on the edge of the dual carriageway about three miles from Derry city centre.

"Our Volunteers at the scene have confirmed to us that when they detonated the bomb there were more soldiers in the minibus than the one killed. The others we believe were injured, probably seriously.

"It is clear from the British army and RUC attempts to minimise the casualties inflicted in this operation that a serious blow has been dealt to their undercover work in Derry and the immediate area."

A British soldier following in a second vehicle was also injured when the bomb detonated.

IRA's Belfast Brigade launched a mini-bomb-blast in Belfast's commercial centre, devastating several business premises and damaging several others.

The Electrolux showroom in Franklin Street was the first target. Two IRA Volunteers placed several bombs throughout the building around mid-afternoon. The area was cleared and the bombs exploded, destroying the showroom and causing damage estimated at £250,000. Several other businesses, including a clothing warehouse, were also totally destroyed, causing many tens of thousands of pounds of additional damage.

A few minutes later, Crown Buildings in Royal Avenue was seriously damaged when a bomb exploded.

### SOUTH ARMAGH AMBUSH

Around 3pm on Sunday, March 25th, IRA Volunteers in South Armagh ambushed a British army foot patrol in the village of Glassdrummond, near Crossmaglen. Several shots were fired but no Brits were hit.

### STRABANE INCENDIARIES

IRA Volunteers from the West Tyrone Brigade placed incendiary bombs at an insurance broker's office in Strabane on Monday night, March 26th. The Volunteers, in spite of the fact that the building is only yards from the local RUC barracks, smashed the front windows of the premises in order to place the devices inside and maximise the damage. The building was extensively damaged.



● A quarter of a million pounds' worth of damage was caused at the Electrolux showroom in Belfast's Franklin Street on Thursday, March 22nd

### BELFAST BOMB BLITZ

On Thursday, March 22nd, the



# SINN FEIN PUTS SDLP IN ITS PLACE



● A triumphant Sean McKnight leaves Belfast City Hall with Councillor Alex Maskey and supporters

SINN FEIN, in an important vote, decisively hammered the SDLP into fifth place, with a three to one voting margin, in the by-election held last Thursday, March 22nd, for the vacant seat in Area 'F' of Belfast City Council.

Sean McKnight, the Sinn Féin candidate, topped the poll with 2,981 first preference votes, as opposed to the 1,040 first preference votes cast for the SDLP candidate. In the 1981 local council elections, Sean Flynn, the H-Block candidate, received 14.3% of the first preference vote, while several SDLP candidates collectively received 19.6% of the first preference votes. Sinn Féin's success in this by-election can be gauged from these figures. Last Thursday, Sinn Féin succeeded in increasing the 14.3% H-Block vote of 1981 to 32.2%, while the SDLP vote dramatically slumped to 11.2% of first preference votes.

With a turn-out of 55.7% or 9,242 votes, the highest in several years for a by-election, it was not clear at the outset of the count who would emerge the winner.

The first preference figures were:

Sean McKnight (SF) 2,981  
Clarke Gibson (DUP) 1,843  
Harry Fletcher (OUP) 1,608  
Marie Glendenning (Alliance) 1,079  
Sean Mullan (SDLP) 1,040  
Gerry McCann (Workers Party) 691

There were five counts to determine the winner, with the Workers Party being eliminated on the first count and the SDLP on the second. Also, 20% of the SDLP transfers, 189 votes, went to Sean McKnight, with 637 transferring to the unionist Alliance Party candidate.

The Official Unionist Party candidate was eliminated on the third count and, significantly, 361 of his transfers did not go as expected to the DUP candidate, a measure,



● The returning officer declares the election result, watched by Sean McKnight, Marie Glendenning, Harry Fletcher and Clarke Gibson

probably, of the degree of animosity among OUP voters for Paisley's DUP and its constant criticism of the boycott policy of the OUP on the Assembly.

With the elimination, after the fourth count, of the Alliance candidate, an important number of SDLP third preferences, for Sinn Féin, 408 votes, transferred to Sean McKnight, giving him a majority of 66 votes over the DUP.

Inevitably, the DUP demanded a recount, at the end of which Sinn Féin had increased its majority by three votes (to 69). Sean McKnight was announced the winner of the by-election and became Sinn Féin's second councillor in Belfast.

## SOUR GRAPES

Political reaction was predictable, with

sour grapes coming from the SDLP and criticism of the vote from the various loyalist parties. In an interesting editorial in the evening unionist *Belfast Telegraph* on Monday, March 26th, it was stated:

"Sinn Féin has now won two West Belfast by-elections in a row, confirming its dominance in the Westminster election, and clearly there is an important factor working to its advantage. Its association with violence is not the deterrent that it was and it is easy to conclude that the party's strength is based on its advice centre work, giving it a higher profile than the SDLP."

And the *Telegraph* warned John Hume: "He has a fight on his hands, not only in the European election, in June, but in the council elections in 1985."

Danny Morrison, Sinn Féin's EEC candidate, summed all of these points up when he commented on the election result, saying:

"The disastrous vote for the SDLP augurs well for Sinn Féin in the European election in June and shows that grassroots constituency work, which the SDLP cannot compete with, was appreciated by the people who had been left leaderless for years."

"That 20% of the SDLP's second preferences transferred to Sinn Féin is encouraging and shows that the SDLP and Sinn Féin vote are not mutually exclusive. This should alarm John Hume and indicate to the SDLP that developments in Dublin, which they are involved in, particularly the extradition of Dominic McGlinchey, have been recognised by the electorate for what they are."

# Coalition embarrassed again

BY JACK MADDEN

AN INDEPENDENT member of Leitrim County Council stormed out of Leinster House on Friday last, March 23rd, in an angry protest at the exclusion of fellow council members and Sinn Féin vice-president John Joe McGirl from a meeting with Fergus O'Brien, Coalition junior minister at the Department of the Environment.

When Leitrim County Council first decided to send a delegation, consisting of all its councillors, to Leinster House to seek additional funding, only one dissenting voice was raised.

Fine Gael Councillor P. J. Reynolds objected that all of the county councillors were included on the delegation. Although he did not voice his objection to John Joe McGirl specifically, "it was obvious that this was his motive", said Larry McGowan, the Independent Fianna Fáil councillor who left Leinster House with John Joe McGirl.

Like his Sinn Féin colleagues from other councils in Galway, Longford and Buncrana, John Joe McGirl was allowed into Leinster House before being told that he would have to leave before the

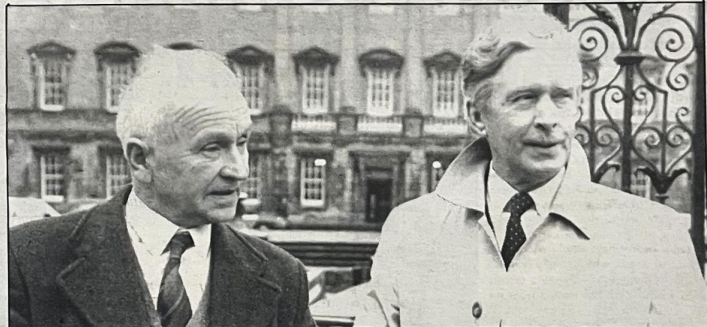
meeting with the Coalition junior minister.

## SUPPORTED

Before McGirl left, he was offered the support of his colleagues, including Michael Kilrane of Fianna Fáil who made a speech denouncing the boycott.

Larry McGowan, who had seconded the proposal to send a delegation to Leinster House and had been assigned to make a demand for additional funding for county roads, left the building in disgust. Later, he said:

"I told them today that, as a member of Leitrim County Council, I'd worked for many years with John Joe McGirl, and during that time I found him an honest hard-working representative. For that reason, I felt it was my duty to withdraw in support of him."



● Sinn Féin's John Joe McGirl leaves Leinster House, last Friday, with Larry McGowan

"Because so many people have voted for him down the years as a public representative I feel he had a democratic right to be received by any minister. As a result of what happened today, democracy has been tarnished and undermined."

A Sinn Féin statement condemning the denial of democratic repre-

sentation added:

"In a clear warning to the Coalition that their anti-democratic behaviour will not be tolerated much longer, a number of councillors forcefully objected to McGirl's exclusion and one councillor, Larry McGowan, walked out in solidarity with him."

"Whether the Coalition heeds such warnings remains to be seen. In any event, their anti-democratic behaviour has not gone unnoticed amongst voters in the twenty-six counties. When the time comes, the people will reject this Coalition as they rejected their predecessors in 1977."



# Hairdressers reject brush-off

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

**THE GLAMORISATION** of the hairdressing industry, geared to attract mainly women into the trade, bears little resemblance to the reality with almost workhouse conditions of employment which thousands of vulnerable women endure for paltry and insultingly low wages.

A survey undertaken last December by the North's Women's Rights Movement, (NIWRM) in Belfast revealed horrifying statistics on the level of exploitation workers faced and the genuine fears that they expressed at the prospect of being made redundant if they joined a trade union.

Since the report's publication, the Transport & General Workers Union — which was successful in organising hairdressing employees in Dublin and Derry — agreed to establish a branch in Belfast and has so far held three meetings, the largest being on Monday, March 26th, in Transport House.

About 65 hairdressing employees, including both juniors and stylists, were given an insight into their rights under the law regarding terms of employment and conditions and responsibilities of employee and employer by Stephen McKearney of the Labour Relations Agency (LRA). He told the meeting that the hairdressing industry had 'a unique reputation' in the North for being poorly organised, one of the main reasons being that employees were isolated in small salons. He said that the majority did not know their rights, and were subsequently easy prey to abuse.

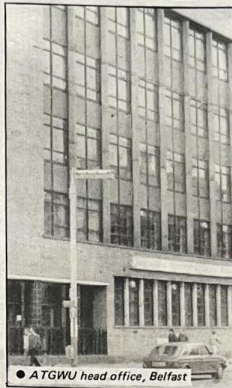
Over the years in the LRA, he said, there had been a 'steady

stream of complaints of unfair dismissal' from employees, of which many had been contested successfully at industrial tribunals, and he also stressed that potential employees should know exactly what their terms of employment are before they sign contracts. Quite often the pit-fall lay in the fact that adjustments are not negotiable after contracts are signed.

## CONTRACTS

On this point senior ATGWU official Sean Morrissey asked how many people at the meeting did have contracts. Amazingly, only one person did. The majority of hairdressing staff, it appears, are never given contracts setting out conditions of overtime, sick pay, schemes, holidays, or rules of the establishment they work in, leaving them open to exploitation.

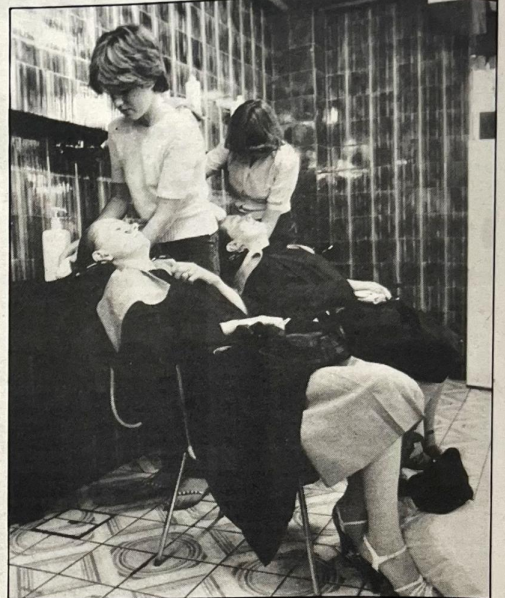
Several women at the meeting spoke of their employers (some of them had well-established reputations) demanding that they work long hours of overtime with no pay; many were not paid at all if they were off sick, while others were not paid if business happened to be slack. The majority were unaware that their employers on many occasions were not paying their national insurance and income tax and also did not receive itemised pay-slips.



● ATGWU head office, Belfast

One stylist, who had over six years' service in the trade, related how she had been sacked simply because she asked for a pay-slip. One salon-owner, with branches in Belfast and Ballymena, was reported to have telephoned his staff, threatening that if they did not earn enough to cover their wages that week they would not be paid until the following week.

Liam McBrinn of the ATGWU asked the meeting to give the union an opportunity to redress this situation, firstly by joining the ATGWU and by urging their other colleagues to attend future meetings and join the union. He said that exploitation would continue if employees did not have the



● Hairdressing is a trade where workers can be more vulnerable to exploitation by employers than other occupations

union's hard muscle needed to negotiate on their behalf with employers.

Also addressing the meeting was Avila Kilmurray of the NIWRM,

who compiled last December's report who also encouraged the women to join the union and to keep in contact for advice and information.

## DUNDALK AGAINST CHARGES

A MEETING of Dundalk Urban District Council was picketed on Tuesday week, March 20th, in protest against a motion before the council to introduce service charges for bin collections and water rates.

A spokesperson for the organising committee, which represented the Aghameen Tenants Association, people from Muirhevnamor and Sinn Fein, said that people were being made financial scapegoats by the Coalition government:

'We will not stand by and let the council impose the hardship of

service charges. We call on everyone to make their voices heard by the local authorities.'

The picket had the desired effect as the motion was defeated by six votes to five. The committee, aware that this could be merely a temporary reprieve, will continue to organise against any future moves to impose these charges.

## Pensioner evicted



● Bob Quinn outside his former house

ON WEDNESDAY of this week, an 80-year-old man was evicted from the Dublin house that has been his home for the last 70 years.

Until the legislation that de-controlled rents of older private rented premises, Bob Quinn was paying £2.70 per week rent. A rent tribunal hearing, at which he was not present or represented, raised the rent to £25 per week.

Then a court order was granted for his eviction from the house at 20 Grattan Street, in Dublin's Mount Street area.

Bob Quinn did not know what

was happening and did not get a copy of the eviction order. He was completely shocked by the event.

### 'HEAVIES'

Bob Quinn's possessions were scattered outside the house after the eviction which was carried out by the landlord, her son and three ' heavies' backed up by the gardai.

While legal moves are being investigated in the hope of getting the eviction order quashed, Bob Quinn has been temporarily housed in a caravan on the site, provided by Dublin South-East Sinn Fein's Jackie Griffith cumann.

## Post office protests continue

BY PAT DEENEY

SECTARIAN elements in the North's Post Office headquarters continue to victimise the people of Creggan, in Derry, by their refusal to re-open the local post office after a recent robbery attempt.

Postal authorities in Belfast have refused to negotiate with, or even meet, delegations from tenants' groups of Sinn Fein, preferring to deal with the mayor of Derry, SDLP councillor Len Green.

Local people have absolutely no confidence in Green, who is totally unaware of the situation in Creggan, despite being a city councillor elected from the area.

While Mayor Green and the Post Office authorities continue to manipulate the situation for their own personal and political advantage, protest action taken by local residents and supported by Sinn Fein are to continue until the post office is re-opened.

In the meantime, black taxis will continue to supply free transport into the city for OAPs collecting their pensions each Monday and Thursday.



● Residents occupy Derry's GPO in protest at the Creggan closure



# VIEWPOINTS ON PERJURY

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE MOUNTING condemnations, from a wide range of political viewpoints, of the RUC's use of threats or bribery to coerce individuals into incriminating others, have during the past week highlighted both the motives of the RUC's so-called 'informers', and the plight of their victims.

As the show trial of 11 Derry men on the word of paid perjurer Robert Quigley draws towards a close at Belfast Crown Court, defence lawyer Desmond Boal, during closing defence submissions, has been painting a picture of Quigley far removed from the RUC image of him as a 'converted terrorist' acting from the purest of motives.

Boal described Quigley as an arrogant man, who had showed no signs of remorse or regret in court about IRA killings he claimed to have been involved in.

Quigley, Boal said, was a liar, "sexually promiscuous", "corrupt" and "totally without redeeming features". Boal added that since Quigley did not believe in God, his testimony was no more than an unsworn statement.

Referring to a long series of inconsistencies in Quigley's evidence, Boal pointed out that the vague dates of many alleged conspiracies, as well as the fact that many had never materialised, with the result that there was no factual evidence of any kind relating to them, meant that Quigley's allegations were difficult to refute. Boal said that the

defendants would have kept no record of their daily, uneventful lives on the Creggan Estate, pointing out that Quigley knew that, in these circumstances, the men could not disprove his allegations.

On Wednesday, 63-year-old Derry man Barney McFadden, one of those implicated by Quigley, was granted bail, having already spent 16 months on remand in Crumlin Road Jail.

McFadden, who was one of four defendants granted a re-trial earlier this month, was a prominent Derry Sinn Féin activist until his arrest, and a former Ard Chomhairle member, factors which apparently determined the RUC's vindictive and protracted opposition to bail, despite their awareness of the hardship his long detention has inflicted on his wife Roisin, a semi-invalid.

## KIRKPATRICK

Yet another development has highlighted the self-serving motives of the RUC's so-called 'converted terrorists'.

On Friday last, March 23rd, Twinbrook woman Michelle Dorrian appeared in Belfast Magistrate's Court facing charges, on the sole

word of her own brother, RUC perjurer Harry Kirkpatrick, including armed robbery and possession of ammunition. Mrs Dorrian, whose husband is already detained on the word of her brother, was remanded to Armagh jail.

Kirkpatrick, a self-styled member of the INLA, signed perjured statements against other individuals after facing more than 77 charges and after a speedy trial last June, he was sentenced to five life-terms. Significantly though, the judge did not stipulate a minimum sentence.

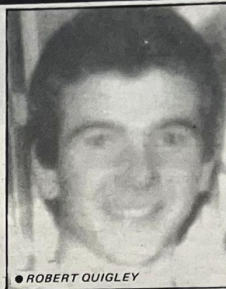
The RUC, who apparently offered Kirkpatrick a speedy release and a new identity in return for his perjured testimony, thus obtained a powerful weapon of blackmail against Kirkpatrick. A steady flow of new arrests has followed, the latest being that of Michelle Dorrian.

Meanwhile, on Monday, 13 loyalists implicated by alleged informers William 'Budgie' Allen, John Gibson and James Crockett, dismissed their solicitors in protest against what one of them, adopting republican terminology called the 'paid perjurer system'.

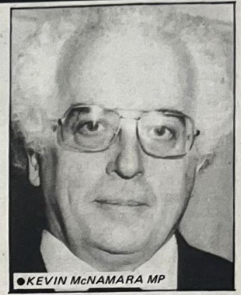
Several said in court that they had decided on the protest because they had no faith in the no-jury Diplock Courts, which loyalist prisoner Norman Sayers said "are being used as a conveyor-belt of convenience by the DUP".

## PRIOR

Last week, direct-ruler James



● ROBERT QUIGLEY



● KEVIN McNAMARA MP

Prior stated that 88 people are currently awaiting trial on the evidence of alleged accomplices. According to Prior, 38 of them have been held for over a year, also admitting that five have been detained for 'almost' two years. In reality, several men currently being held in Crumlin Road Jail have been held for longer than that period.

The figures were contained in a written Commons reply on Thursday, March 22nd, to British Labour MP Kevin McNamara who, perhaps naively, described such lengthy periods of remand as "indefensible, by any standards of British justice" and, more accurately, as "interment by another name".

On Monday, Prior, during a visit to the North, admitted that the de-

lays in bringing cases to trial are causing public 'disquiet', but then pathetically attempted to blame the problem on a shortage of legal personnel.

Nevertheless, his admissions, coinciding with growing criticisms of the paid perjurers, including this week by the DUP and Alliance in the Assembly, suggests that the NIO and the RUC are, ultimately, confident that they can sufficiently refine the system — by in future opting for speedier trials involving fewer defendants, to take the sting out of public protest so that they can continue to use paid perjurers, both as a propaganda weapon and as a convenient method of detaining men and women for long periods.

A FORMER republican prisoner has denounced the 'isolation units' in English prisons, which he says have been used to inflict further punishment on Irish POWs and in many cases "to copper-fasten blatant frame-ups in British courts".

Raymond McLaughlin, who served nine years in prisons in England, directs particular condemnation at what is called the 'cooler system', which is used to disrupt "solidarity between POWs and their fellow prisoners, with 'key' people being sent on coolers". He said:

"The cooler is a form of interment within prison whereby a prisoner can be dragged from a cell in a long-term prison and moved to a short-term prison, where he is placed in isolation for terms ranging from one month to the end of his sentence. Two of the Balcombe Street Siege lads, Hughie Doherty and Eddie Butler, spent almost two years in these coolers and were never given any reason other than that it was for 'good order and discipline'."

"Brendan Dowd was put on

a 'ghost-train' and shunted from one isolation unit to another for two years prior to giving evidence in an appeal case for the four innocent people convicted of the Guildford bombing. Because he was so long in isolation he was unable to articulate his thoughts in the witness-stand and the judge seized on this to reject the appeal."

## CONTROL UNITS

Apart from the normal isolation units, there are three control units — in Wakefield, Gartree and Wormwood Scrubs — which are based on similar units in Stammheim Prison in West Germany. The unit is completely cut off from the main prison, is surrounded by a 20-foot high white wall which is covered in abstract designs painted in the dullest colours. All the cells are painted white and the heavy frosted windows exclude most light. According to Raymond McLaughlin:

"No communication whatever is allowed between prisoners in these units. Each prisoner is exercised individually and any attempt to communicate with another prisoner means the automatic loss of an exercise period."

The five republican prisoners involved in the Albany protest of last May have suffered long periods of sensory deprivation in isolation units throughout England.

## STRIP-CELL

"Paul Norrey is being held in a converted strip-cell and is forced to exercise in a cage seven yards by five. Eddie O'Neill is being held in a dungeon in Brixton, victimised because he was one of those involved in the successful case against the Albany Board of Visitors in which they won the right to legal aid when facing 'serious charges' in jail. "Vincent Donnelly is being held in Norwich Prison, where the sec-



● The isolation units in Wakefield Prison

urity personnel are so paranoid that anyone who goes to Vince's cell to talk to him is immediately moved to another jail. Already three prisoners have been moved out, so now no prisoner dares approach his cell. "Stephen Blake is being held

in Wakefield's notorious F-Wing where he is continuously victimised. And Tony 'Red Flash' Clarke is in Manchester, a prison whose claim to 'fame' is that 40% of the screws there belong to the Nazi National Front."

# Armagh searches extended

THE WOMEN republican prisoners in Armagh Jail, who are subjected to degrading strip-searches, have expressed the view that the obscene practice could be extended in the very near future to include relatives and friends visiting the jail.

Their fears arise from an incident on March 17th when the 18-year-old daughter of republican remand prisoner Anna Moore was ordered into a cubicle by warders, following a visit with her mother.

According to Armagh's PRO: "This young woman was forced to lift up her skirt and expose the lower part of her body to the female screws, who also unbuttoned and unzipped her skirt. The ordeal left the woman very upset."

Although rigorous body searches have always been thoroughly carried out on visitors entering the jail, these have been 'stepped up

lately with people being given 'on the spot' searches when leaving the visiting area with warders even asking people to open their mouths for inspection.

## PETTY

Coupled with this, the prison governor, Murtagh, ever eager to impose petty restrictions on the women, has now issued an instruction banning second-hand books. The women see this latest move as an attack on what little recreational and educational facilities exist in the jail.

Another newly thought up 'reg-



ulation' from Murtagh — which will inevitably become engrained in

prison 'rules' in future — has been to prohibit the women from carry-

ing out physical exercises within the confines of their cells.



# Prisoner's family denied a home

BY TONY McKENNA

MONAGHAN County Council's housing department has been accused of blatant discrimination against the wife of a republican prisoner living in Castleblayney.

Clare O'Hare and her daughter Juliane live in a flat in the Market Square of the border town — the first home of Clare and Dessie O'Hare when they were married five years ago. In October 1979, Dessie O'Hare received a nine-year sentence for republican activities and is currently serving a sentence in Portlaoise Prison.

The Castleblayney flat has become a damp and unhealthy prison for Clare O'Hare and Juliane, with the landlord not prepared to carry out necessary repairs.

Jackie Crowe, of Castleblayney Sinn Fein, who were approached for help by Clare O'Hare, says:

"Clare O'Hare's case has revealed very disturbing practices by those council officials who control the housing lists in County Monaghan. 'This family is entitled to a

proper home. They were placed sixteenth on the list for council house allocations based on the points system, but when the latest stage of the Bree development scheme became available they were knocked back to twenty-ninth position.

"There were 18 houses awaiting occupation and it is clear that the powers that be, in this area, do not want to see Clare and Juliane properly housed."

## COUNCILLORS

He is not alone in this view as at least three local councillors on Castleblayney UDC have voiced their concern at what they describe as a blatant example of the worst type of discrimination against a young mother and her child.

One of these councillors has

told Clare O'Hare that it is because she is the wife of a known republican activist that her placing on the housing list had been changed. Clare O'Hare says:

"I am very upset by all of this as we had been looking forward to moving into our new home and had even spent money on curtain material in expectation.

"I realise now, however, that Sinn Fein are right, as these councillors who spoke to me also mentioned that my friend Caroline Mohan who has a wee girl, Carrie, and whose husband, Patsy, is also in Portlaoise, stands no chance of a home either."

## SHOCK

Sinn Fein's EEC candidate in the Connacht/Ulster constituency, Caoimhghin O Caolain, visited the flat last weekend and expressed shock at the conditions he found there. But the main thrust of his condemnation was levelled at the



● Clare O'Hare and her daughter Juliane in their damp and unhealthy flat. He also pledged that Sinn Fein would continue to highlight the denial of a basic human right — proper housing.

# Craigavon hit by cross-border deal

BY JANE PLUNKETT

RESIDENTS of several Housing Executive estates in the Brownlow area of Craigavon face indefinite delays in the long-promised installation of solid-fuel heating in their homes — because of British government efforts to shore up the economic viability of the Kinsale gas project.

The estates involved, Ardowen, Burnside, Moylinn, Rossmoyle, Enniskeen and Clonmeen, have for years been demanding the replacement of their ineffective and prohibitively expensive gas-fired background heating systems, which run on town gas.

These improvements have apparently been blocked by the British government, anxious to maintain the number of potential customers for Kinsale gas, and to stem the flood of consumers switching from town gas to cheaper heating systems. Shortly after the 'document of understanding' on Kinsale was signed with the Free State government last October, the British government launched an expensive TV advertising campaign for natural gas.

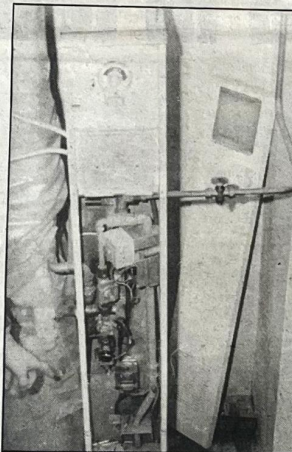
In Brownlow, two estates have already been converted by the Executive and work was due to start next on Ardowen, to be followed by the Moylinn and Burnside estates.

## EXPLANATION

Last month, however, the Monbrif Tenants Association, which includes the Ardowen tenants, was told that central heating would not be installed. In order to obtain any satisfactory explanation from the Executive, angry tenants early this month staged a successful sit-in at the Executive's offices in the town. According to David Foye, PRO of the Association:

"Our Association and the Brownlow Community Council have been told, both by local Executive officials and by the regional controller, Billy McGivern, that until a final decision is taken on Kinsale gas, it is government policy not to install solid-fuel central heating in areas where there is a gas pipeline. Exceptions can only be made, apparently, if a system is dangerous and cannot be repaired."

On March 15th, a public meeting, organised by the Executive, of Brownlow tenants, ended in a walk-out, after most people present became increasingly enraged by the buckpassing and evasiveness of Executive officials in attendance. According to



● "People just can't afford the gas-fired heating"

David Foye:

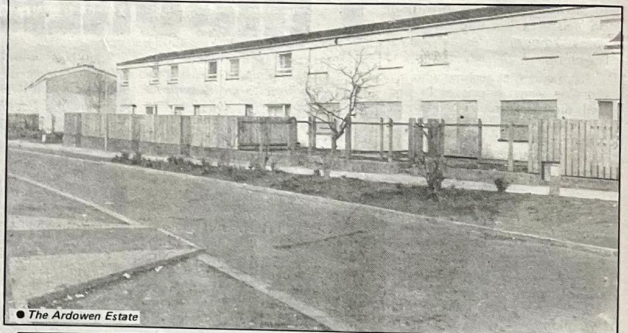
"People are very angry at this British policy decision. They just can't afford the gas heating, which will only heat up one room at a time and costs at least £14 a week to run at an adequate level... Most people can't afford to run it and they have to use bottled gas or electric heaters as well."

## STUDY

According to a pilot study carried out on the estate in January, the system is unable to achieve its design temperatures, it increases condensation problems and is dangerous to re-start. The study also identified a potential hazard from asbestos. David Foye says:

"The Executive have offered landscaping and cosmetic pre-paint repairs but the people are not interested. With so many houses already empty on the estate, and on other estates in Brownlow, people feel that Ardowen is going to be run down completely."

The local tenants' association is meeting this week to discuss further protests to highlight the British government's coercive policy and tenants in Burnside and other estates have already expressed their support for the campaign.



● The Ardowen Estate

# Brit post in back yard

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

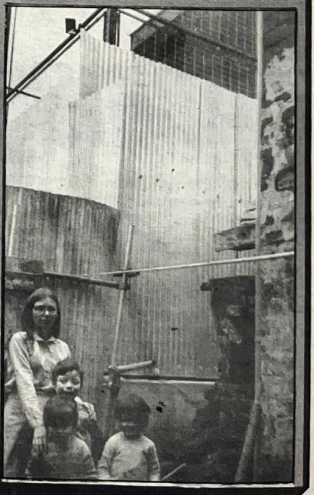
BERNADETTE and Noel Marley and their four young children, from Cupar Street in West Belfast, have lived for the past five years with a British army observation post literally in their back yard.

The strain of living in the shadow of a Brit billet came to a head last March 7th, when a bulldozer, being used in construction work at the post, crashed through the Marleys' yard wall, demolishing half of it and damaging an outside toilet.

The Brits put up a piece of corrugated iron as a temporary measure, after leaving the yard open for over a week, and the Marleys now have to go through the long drawn-out business of claiming compensation for the rebuilding of the wall and repairing the toilet.

Recently elected Sinn Fein Councillor Sean McKnight, commenting on the incident, said that it was lunacy to erect such posts near domestic dwellings:

"While pressing for the Marleys to be compensated fully and as soon as possible, by either the NIO or the Ministry of Defence, I shall also be demanding the immediate removal of this observation post."





# MARCH AND RALLY IN AN UAIMH, COUNTY MEATH EXTRADITION CONDEMNED



● MARTIN SHARKEY

BY JACK MADDEN

REPUBLICANS will have to stand together and be prepared for a tough fight if they are to stop extradition, Jim McAllister, Sinn Féin elected representative for Armagh, told an anti-extradition rally in An Uaimh (Navan), County Meath, last Saturday, March 24th.

Five hundred people, including contingents from the border region, attended the Navan rally after marching through the town centre, led by bands from Cullyhanna, Newry and Bellaghy.

In a call for immediate action against extradition, Brendan Lynch welcomed the presence of so many young people at the rally, saying:

"They have refused to be brainwashed by the powers that be."

Attacking the people with power and influence in Church and state, he continued:

"They have changed the picture of the men of 1916, who are heroes, while those who have followed them loyally have today been called criminals."

## TREATMENT

Martin Sharkey, Sinn Féin candidate for Leinster in the forthcoming EEC elec-



tions, condemned the extradition of Dominic McGlinchey, saying:

"Whatever fine legal distinctions are drawn, the reality is a piece of political treachery which lies squarely at the door of the politicians in Leinster House."

"Collaboration, treachery and extradition — that's what we're getting from the Leinster House politicians, those so-called Irish men who are grovelling on their bellies to appease the likes of Thatcher, Prior and the arch-damogogue Ian Paisley."

## RENDEZVOUS

In the main address of the meeting, Jim McAllister denounced the "midnight rendezvous, when, under cover of darkness, they handed Dominic McGlinchey to the RUC."

"Like thieves in the night, they handed him over, afraid to do it in daylight."

McAllister compared the attitude of the Dublin government in extraditing Irish republicans to their concern for Fr O'Brien, the Irish priest facing charges of murder in the Philippines.

If Fr O'Brien had been in the Free State then, by the logic of their position, the Coalition would have to extradite him, because he was wanted for "a heinous offence", McAllister added:

"The extradition of republicans by the Free State is an effort by those Free Staters to prove to Britain that they are capable of ruling Ireland in the same fashion as Britain would rule it and as Britain would like the Free Staters to rule it."

"We have a tough fight on our hands. It is up to us to stop extradition and to prevent any more Irish people being handed over to the murderers of Gervase McKerr and his comrades."

"If we stand together we will win. If we don't, the next step after extradition will be even more cross-border collaboration."

## BORDER PROTEST

On Sunday afternoon, March 25th, a cross-border anti-extradition protest was organised by Sinn Féin members from Derry and Donegal.

About 60 people, carrying placards and

handing out leaflets, staged a white-line protest between the two custom posts at the Derry — Bridgend border.

After the protest, Derry Sinn Féin chairperson Mitchell McLaughlin commented:

"The recent extradition of Dominic McGlinchey and the possibility of further extradition, which quite possibly might involve Derry people, proves the extent of twenty-six county collaboration with the British administration in the six counties."

"As most people are aware, a number of Derry men and women have had to leave the city because of the lies of Raymond Gilmour and Robert Quigley. Would SDLP Councillor Pat Devine, who represents Creggan, the area most affected by these informers, agree with the extradition of these people forced to flee their own city because the judicial system has been totally subverted to accommodate the RUC Special Branch?"

● The next anti-extradition rallies are planned for Letterkenny, County Donegal, on Saturday 7th April, at 3.30pm; and Cavan town, Saturday 14th April, at 2.30pm.

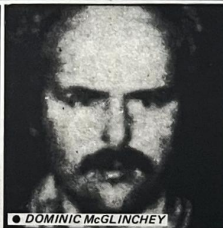
## More collaboration on McGlinchey?

BY JACK MADDEN

THE CRIMINAL LAW (Jurisdiction) Act, which was introduced by the Dublin government as an attempted sop to British and loyalist demands for extradition, may now be used in conjunction with extradition to bolster RUC efforts to convict Dominic McGlinchey.

And Dublin journalist Vincent Browne may be sub-poena'd to give evidence in a Dublin court to be

used against McGlinchey in the six counties, if the RUC fails to convict McGlinchey for the alleged



● DOMINIC MCGLINCHÉY

killing of a County Derry woman in 1977.

The decision to extradite Dominic McGlinchey led to a legal wrangle between Free State Attorney-General Peter Sutherland

and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Eamonn Barnes.

Barnes objected to McGlinchey's extradition, arguing that he should have been tried for his alleged offences in the South and that even the offence under which the extradition was sought could have been tried in the South under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act.

Sutherland, who returned from a foreign holiday on the morning of McGlinchey's capture, rejected this argument and insisted that the extradition go ahead. As a member of the Coalition's 'security committee', which had decided to extradite McGlinchey even before the Supreme Court ruling, Sutherland was clearly acting on political rather than legal considerations.

Another potentially divisive and extremely embarrassing court case for the Free State authorities was avoided when a Belfast man, facing extradition from the South on the word of perjurer Harry Kirkpatrick, returned voluntarily to the North last week and was subsequently arrested by the RUC.

IRSP member Hugh Torney was the first person to be sought by the RUC on evidence supplied by a perjurer and his extradition had already been granted in Drogheda District Court last September. Had the case gone to the High Court it would have raised serious questions about the standard of justice in six-county courts and made judicial and political collaboration more difficult to justify.

## EXTRADITION IN US COURT

BY VINCENT MCGARRY

AN ATTEMPT to extradite a republican escapee from the United States to the six counties ran into determined opposition in a New York court this week.

Joe Doherty was one of eight republican remand prisoners who made a dramatic escape from Crumlin Road Jail on June 10th 1981. Two days later, he and several other escapees were sentenced, in their absence, for their part in a gun-battle in which British SAS Captain Westmacott was shot dead.

Doherty was given a life sentence with a minimum recommended 30-

year term for the Westmacott killing, another 20 years for the possession of weapons, and ten years for membership of the IRA.

Arrested on an extradition warrant in New York on June 27th 1983, Doherty — who has been refused bail — is opposing extradition on the basis that the offence for which he is sought is political and is therefore exempt under the extradition treaty between the

British and US governments.

This defence has already been used successfully by Dessie Macken and Liam Quinn (Quinn is still detained in San Francisco pending an appeal by the British government).

## STANDARDS

In the first day of the Doherty trial, Monday, Sean MacBride gave evidence that the judicial system in the North is below internationally accepted standards, and Bernadette McAliskey, who appeared on Tuesday, gave evidence that a war situation exists in the North.

Doherty's defence will centre on the argument that a war situation exists in the North and that his actions were incidental to that conflict. This will require a full examination of the IRA's struggle against British rule.

The trial will embarrass the Dublin government, following the recent extradition of Dominic McGlinchey and the concerted attempt to extradite other republicans.

Since the political offence proviso is included in all extradition treaties and is interpreted in accordance with many of the same legal precedents shared under internat-



● SEAN MACBRIDE

ional law, a victory for Doherty would show that the Free State courts are bending the interpretation of a political offence under British pressure.



# DEALING WITH THE D

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

**THE CAMPAIGN** against drug-pushers in Dublin, by concerned parents in the areas afflicted by the deadly trade, has won widespread admiration from those who know at first-hand what heroin really is and from other parents who fear the spread of the epidemic.

The Concerned Parents Campaign arose from the realisation by people sentenced to live in Dublin's most neglected areas that all their pleas for help from the authorities were going to continue to be ignored. Had the problem arisen in the middle-class working-class flats complexes, heroin, like the bad housing, inadequate health care, poor education facilities, unemployment and the rest, was just one more problem for establishment politicians, clergy and media to patronisingly express concern over — and then forget about.

When the people themselves finally took action, they immediately became the target for media misrepresentation, garda harassment, and political condemnation and finally shooting attacks.

In this article, *AP/RN* reporter *Siobhan O'Malley* examines the history of the campaign so far, its success against the drug-pushers, its refusal to be intimidated, and its continued determination and confidence.

**AS FAR BACK AS 1979**, Hardwicke Street Flats, an area of cramped Corporation flats in Dublin's inner city, was so affected by the epidemic of heroin addiction that scarcely a household was not affected in some way by the drug problem and the related wave of petty crime.

Pushers who had moved into the area traded openly, even to the extent of supplying what was locally known as the 'school queue', children as young as 12 years old lining up at certain flats at 8.30am to buy their supply of heroin before school. Heroin addiction was proportionately worse in Dublin than in New York at the height of that city's addiction rate.

Everyone living in the area knew about the drug problem, and every government agency and the gardai had been approached by residents to do something about it.

Dublin Corporation was asked to evict the pushers from the flats but said that it would take two years to evict them, in the few cases where they had 'grounds' to act.

The Department of Health was told of the used syringes which littered the stair-wells and balconies and that small children were finding and playing with. They were begged to provide some service for the young addicts of the area.

The garda Drug Squad knew who the pushers were, and there is evidence of undercover members of the Drug Squad buying drugs from pushers in Hardwicke Street, yet no charges followed.

In 1982, in response to the residents' desperation, Christy Burke, a Sinn Féin community worker and then resident in Hardwicke Street, organised a deputation from the tenants' association, of which he is secretary. They went to the most notorious pusher and asked him to either leave the flats or stop pushing. Their request was ignored.

At the second meeting of the tenants' association, 300 people attended. The pusher was approached again and this time he voluntarily left the area. The basis for the Concerned Parents against Drugs Campaign was laid.

## OTHER AREAS

Other areas began to follow suit. St Teresa's Gardens, a huge Corporation flats complex on the southside of the city, had become a literal heroin market-place for addicts from all over Dublin, and a frightening proportion of teenagers from the Gardens themselves were addicts.

Like Hardwicke Street, hand-bag-snatching, muggings and break-ins rose steadily as the number of young addicts increased. Like Hardwicke Street, the natural reaction of most of the families was a desire to get out of the area.

St Teresa's Gardens, like most

of the Corporation flats had already become what the Corporation call a 'low-demand area', and was regarded by most of the tenants as a purgatory that you 'did time' in before qualifying for a house in Tallaght or Clondalkin — or anywhere out of the Gardens. The unemployment rate for the area is 59.2% and only 5% of the huge number of teenagers in the flats are still at school. None are in third-level education of any kind.

During 1981 and 1982, the situation got steadily worse. The St Teresa's Gardens Development Committee, which had been operating since 1978, running summer projects for children, a youth club, discos, and an old folks' club, saw their efforts being engulfed in the tide of drugs sweeping the flats.

## MEDIA

The media ran sensationalist stories about the pushers and addicts in the flats, portraying St Teresa's Gardens as a den of criminals — tarring every family with the same brush.

By the summer of 1983, the people there realised that the only way to tackle the drug problem was to make a stand themselves. They too had tried all the same channels as the people of Hardwicke Street, also with no success.

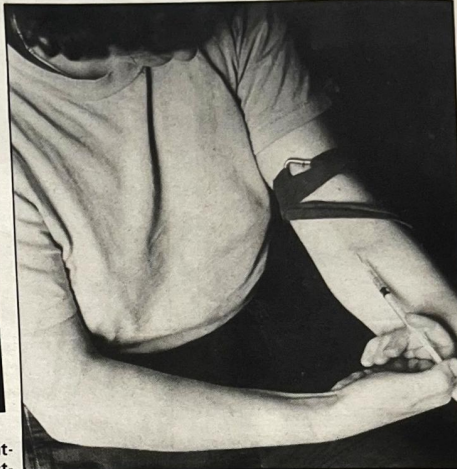
An RTE *Today Tonight* Special on drugs was the last straw. Kids were interviewed talking about getting their 'gear' in the Gardens. Comments about parents 'knowing where their children were' abounded.

A meeting was called, in June, for residents to discuss ways of combatting the pushers, and about 60 people turned up. They decided to patrol the entrance to the flats to stop addicts coming in to buy from the pushers, and to send a delegation to the known pushers to tell them to stop.

By September, the mood of the meetings had changed.

## ANGER

Before, most people feared a violent reaction from the drug-dealers if there was any interference in their 'business'. Where,



before, parents had broken down and wept as they told of their children's slow disintegration due to heroin, about the robbing from their own homes and neighbours' homes, about the effect on younger brothers and sisters, now the mood of the meetings was one of anger and determination to make a stand against the pushers.

By September 300 to 400 people were coming to meetings. Three pushers and their families left the flats and their furniture was removed by the local committee, and the patrols continued, stopping addicts coming into the complex.

Newspaper coverage now changed from the 'hapless parents and drug-crazed kids' to the 'sinister vigilantes' taking over the flats. Condemnation from all the quarters that for the previous long years had ignored the pleas for help were carried religiously in the establishment press and on TV and radio.

But the committees in Hardwicke Street and St Teresa's Gardens, now the Concerned Parents Committees Against Drugs, stood their ground. They were united and confident, and, most importantly, effective.

## DOLPHIN HOUSE

The campaign spread to other

areas. Dolphin House, another large flats complex on the Grand Canal, was suffering as St Teresa's Gardens had suffered. One block was known as 'the clinic' because there were so many addicts using it to inject themselves. One pusher put out of the Gardens had moved into Dolphin House.

The residents held a meeting and formed a committee in the face of severe difficulties, divided loyalties and threats from pushers, who in one incident threatened a group of men with a gun.

In spite of the problems in the committee, Dolphin House held together and moved against the pushers. Fatima Mansions, Marrowbone Lane, Chamber Street, Charlemont Street, Tallaght and Ballymun all formed committees to patrol their areas and give the clear message to the pushers — stop dealing or get out.

## CO-ORDINATION

Pronouncements by the politicians and the gardai that the problem was 'merely being shifted elsewhere' was proved wrong by the co-ordination of information between the different committees, leading to the setting up, this year, of a central committee, made up of two representatives from each local committee.

Pushers who had moved, for instance, to Tallaght were traced from information given by St Teresa's Gardens and Dolphin House to the Tallaght committee and marches on their houses moved them out.

## SINN FEIN

From very early in the campaign against drugs, the fact that local Sinn Féin members were on the parents' committees was seized on by the press as evidence of an 'IRA plot' to manipulate local people. But the reality is that any Sinn Féin members on the parents' committees are residents of those areas. Unlike the establishment parties, Sinn Féin has many active members living in working-class areas, involved in all issues affecting the people.

Brian McDonald, Sinn Féin's assistant PRO, says:

"It is not the policy of Sinn Féin to orchestrate or manipulate the campaign. The fact is that there is no Sinn Féin policy of organising against drug-pushers. It is only as concerned parents that Sinn Féin members have become involved in organising against pushers."

"The gardai and some politicians are so frightened that people in these areas are organising themselves that they claim they are being manipulated. They can't conceive that ordinary working-class people can organise themselves."

## GARDAI

The gardai's eagerness to harass the anti-drug committees contrasts strongly with their inability, or unwillingness, to take any action against known pushers.

Noel Sillery, a Sinn Féin member on the Dolphin House committee (and who lives in the Dolphin House flats), was arrested in February of this year. A march by his neighbourhood on Kilmainham garda barracks, where he was held, ensured his release.

On Wednesday of this week John Noonan, Sinn Féin's candidate for Dublin in the EEC elections in June and a member of the Tallaght anti-drugs committee (and who lives in Tallaght), and Paul Humphries from the St Teresa's Gardens committee, were arrested and taken to Terenure garda barracks. A six-months pregnant woman was also arrested, being taken from her home in Ballinacorney at 7am.

These arrests are just one facet of the attempts by politicians and gardai to smash the committee. The new so-called 'neighbourhood watch' scheme announced by the gardai, and backed by clergy and politicians, wants local people become informers.

Suddenly, residents in some areas found themselves being contacted by gardai, who pressed phone numbers on them for 'lines' to the local barracks. They were offered two-way radio links with gardai on the streets and instant action on any 'criminal activity' reported in their area.

The gardai were not so interested in drugs but in gathering information.

Most areas refused to become involved in unrelated offences. They had already seen that gardai in their area were just happy to use pushers and victims as informers, without tackling the real problems.

## CRUMLIN

Crumlin, however, late in the campaign against drugs became a problem, until recently, was



● Tenants from St Teresa's Gardens and Donore pack a local community hall to discuss the dangers posed by drug-pushers



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● February 29th: Thousands of Dubliners take to the streets in support of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs Campaign

as acute there, did get involved in the gardai's scheme. Other elements then emerged.

A group of self-styled 'Concerned Criminals' from Crumlin marched, hooded, to St Teresa's Gardens to demand an end to the Concerned Parents committees. They were accompanied by uniformed and plainclothes gardai. Two men, purporting to speak for the 'Concerned Criminals', were interviewed on RTE's *Today Tonight*, who appeared delighted to add further irrelevant sensation to what was for local people a life or death issue.

## WOUNDED

On February 20th of this year, Joseph Flynn, who while a supporter of the Concerned Parents committee was not a leading member of it, was shot and wounded near the entrance to St Teresa's Gardens.

The residents saw the shooting as an attempt to intimidate not only their committee but the committees that have been set up in other areas against the pushers.

They were angry at media coverage, which had labelled them as vigilantes, and a statement issued on behalf of the residents the day after the shooting protested strongly about "politicians and media personnel making statements linking concerned parents groups with vigilantes". The statement continued:

"The people of St Teresa's Gardens remain united in their campaign against drug-pushing. This shooting has not frightened us nor lessened our determination.

We sincerely hope that it will not frighten other communities who must now unite against the drug-

pushers."

## UPSURGE

The committees had not been intimidated, but the upsurge of anger at the shooting of Flynn gave rise to fear that similar retaliation in kind would be taken against those thought to be responsible and that this could lead to a situation where guns, which are not very difficult to obtain in Dublin, would be used randomly and with increasing frequency, both by the routed drug-pushers and by those panicked into desperate action in defence of their areas.

The abduction of Thomas Gaffney, who was named locally as being responsible for the shooting, and later of Martin Foley, was an attempt to defuse this anger and to settle the matter speedily before the situation dangerously deteriorated.

The possible side-tracking of united action by the Concerned Parents Campaign into violent activity was seen as only playing into the hands of those who wanted to see the campaign smashed, whether by drug-pushers, gardai or politicians.

## ALERT

Meanwhile, the Concerned Parents committees, co-ordinated by the central committee, know that they must remain alert to keep their communities free from drugs. Information-exchanges between committees through the central committee ensure that a pusher put out of one area does not start dealing in another. The patrols continue, and related committees and groups have been formed. Mothers of addicts and ex-addicts meet in several of the



● Members of the Concerned Parents Campaign protest outside Terenure gardai barracks where anti-drug campaigner and Sinn Fein activist John Noonan was under arrest with two other people

areas to offer mutual support and help. Drop-in centres are being organised for young people.

The Concerned Parents campaign's demands are for strong measures to deal with pushers and the immediate improvement and increase in facilities for their victims; for drug-education in schools and the control of advertisements

for any drugs, including alcohol. The most important demand is that they are listened to and get a response to their demands.

Though still critical of the media coverage of the anti-drugs campaign, the committees voted, on Tuesday of this week, to lift a ban imposed on any member talking to the press or to RTE, in

particular the *Today Tonight* team, a ban originally introduced because of the political and social bias of their programmes on drugs.

The campaigners are obviously in confident mood — a confidence born of desperation at the menace which, at one time, had threatened to engulf them.



# The media brought to heel

BY DANNY MORRISON

AT A DINNER in November 1976 in Belfast's Culloden Hotel, a well-liquored Roy Mason was lecturing BBC governors and local dignitaries about how treacherous the BBC were for carrying republican statements.

"After he had proposed a three-month blackout on reporting paramilitaries, a guest asked, 'Does this mean that if the IRA assassinated you tomorrow, we shouldn't report?' Mason replied, 'That is exactly what I mean.' As he left the dinner he said, 'If any of this ever gets in the papers, I'll have the lot of you.'"

This gem about the diminutive Mason succinctly sums up not just the stupidity of British politicians but also the widespread paranoia that if only they could censor the IRA it would crack, be defeated and disappear.

Liz Curtis's book, *Ireland — The Propaganda War*, has been exhaustively researched and it is only when one is faced with such definitive documentation of television programmes on BBC and ITV which have been interfered with, banned, censored or delayed, that one realises the extent of British government censorship of the national liberation struggle in Ireland. (Though RTE is also covered, the book is concerned with the British media.)

Sustaining the ignorance of the British people, and thus their political inactivity over Ireland, has become an essential factor for successive governments waging their colonial war in the North.

Liz Curtis has produced a very valuable, readable handbook on how censorship works and how the news from Ireland is tailored in newspapers and in the broadcasting medium, and she also examines the methods of the protagonists — how the increasingly 'Ulsterised' propaganda machine of the Brits has been countered by republican publicity methods.

British censorship stems from the weakness of its colonial cause and the need to defend what is indefensible by attacks on rationalism, on probing or on even the asking of awkward questions. And though the British establishment's public position is that it is not engaged in a counter-insurgency war in Ireland, all its apologists have defended censorship with arguments about the 'defence of the nation' and with analogies only comparable with a war mentality.

Thus the *Sunday Express*, criticising scenes from Belfast which paint the British army in a 'bad light', commented:

"There can be little doubt that television coverage of the Vietnam war was largely responsible for sapping the moral fibre of the American people to continue the struggle."

And interviews with IRA spokespersons have been compared with the incredulity of interviewing Hitler or Goebbels during the Second World War.

## DISTORTION

Suppression and distortion are just some methods used to keep the British people in ignorance.

Reports of the torture of the internees and British army violence were invariably described as 'IRA propaganda', and where as the IRA commit acts of 'murder', the Brits, the RUC and UDR merely 'kill' people. Torture victims 'inflicted their injuries on themselves', and the deaths of Catholics at the hands of the UDA were 'motiveless murders'. And when loyalists are blamed they are, to quote Humphrey Atkins, 'playing into the hands of the IRA'!

The British army's counter-insurgency handbook states, "The press, properly handled, is potentially one of the government's strongest weapons."

*Ireland — The Propaganda War* traces how this weapon has been used.

The British media ignored the North for



● The role of the media is a major factor in the ongoing liberation struggle



● Reports of British army violence are often dismissed in Britain as 'IRA propaganda' — the truth is all too painfully evident to the nationalist people of the North

almost 50 years, until the civil rights movement burst on to the political scene and for a time the Civil Rights Association was treated as a novelty. The media somersaulted very quickly with the arrival of 'our boys' on the streets of Derry and Belfast in August 1969.

Bernadette Devlin, prior to August, was described by the *Daily Express* thus:

"She's Bernadette, she's 21, she's an MP, she's swinging."

But within months she was, according to the *Daily Mail*, the leader of a 'sinister army' of 'revolutionary extremists'!

Some of the best chapters relate to British government attempts to keep the lid on news spilling out of Castlereagh and other interrogation centres of the torture which led to the conveyor-belt system, the filling of the H-Blocks and the historic backlash against criminalisation — the hunger-strike — which devastated British propaganda and was watershed in the struggle.

Whilst the media has been used to portray republicans as the fount of evil it is also used to bolster the morale of the crown forces, painting them as morally superior and defending civilisation against the devil himself. And, of course, promotion lies ahead for government lapdogs — Sir Alistair Burnet (Thatcher's favourite interviewer); and John Cole, who in 1978 wrote in *The Observer*, "Violence will probably peter out over the next year or two... Roy Mason has robbed the IRA of sustainable hope by his schoolmasterly precision", has since been made political editor of BBC TV.

The fantasies used by the media also makes interesting reading and when all the propaganda stories are collated they are seen for what they really are — to sustain the myth of republican devilry, immorality and communist subversion.

Thus over the years the IRA, according to the media, has had naked women pose from upstairs windows so that republican snipers could pick off poor, hypnotised squaddies who had never seen the likes of it before; children were paid to riot; eight-year-olds trained to throw bombs; the IRA raped young girls at gunpoint; used dogs for target

practice and hired Czechoslovakian snipers to shoot British soldiers!

## TERMINOLOGY

But at a more serious level, the terminology, as television journalist Peter Taylor points out, is politically loaded:

"At the most basic level, where is the conflict taking place? Is it in Ulster? Northern Ireland? The province? The North of Ireland? Or the six counties?..."

"And once you've sorted out the names, what's actually going on there? Is it a conflict? Is it a war? A rebellion? A revolution? A criminal conspiracy? Or a liberation struggle?..."

"Lastly, and probably most important, how do we describe those involved? Are they terrorists? Criminals? The Mafia? Murderers? Guerrillas? Or freedom-fighters? It depends on your perception of the conflict, and who you happen to be working for at the time..."

"Such semantic subtleties apply to scarcely any other conflict we report, be it El Salvador or Africa."

However, the BBC, as one of its directors, Richard Francis, made quite clear in 1980, has its mind well made up:

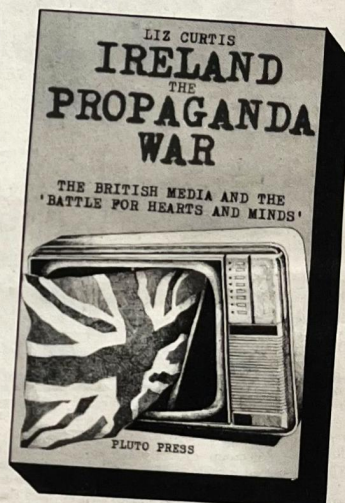
"We do not deal impartially with those who choose to step outside the bounds of the law and decent social behaviour. Not only do they get very much less coverage than those who pursue their aims legitimately, but the very manner and tone that our reporters adopt makes our moral position quite plain."

The filming by a BBC *Panorama* crew of the IRA setting up checkpoints in Carrickmore in 1979 led to a political storm which resulted in the Special Branch seizing the untransmitted footage, the British Attorney-General, Michael Havers, threatening to use Section 11 of the PTA (failing to pass on information which could lead to arrests), but, more importantly, BBC management took control of programming decisions virtually out of the hands of journalists. A similar system evolved in the IBA which covers commercial broadcasting.

The rules now meant that top management had to be consulted for approval to



● LIZ CURTIS



make any programme on Ireland. This reference-upwards system acts as a filter weeding out undesirable programmes at an early stage, and because every controversial item and angle has to be bickered and fought over, demoralised journalists have increasingly engaged in self-censorship so that, "For every programme that gets banned," says Mary Holland, "there are about 20 that don't get made."

This censorship, as Liz Curtis eloquently points out, has led to huge gaps in the British public's understanding of what is happening. Bobby Sands' and Sinn Féin's election victories have completely puzzled those fed on a diet of 'Britain versus terrorism'. After Bobby Sands' election *The Guardian* admitted:

"And the biggest myth is that the IRA in its violent phase represents only a tiny minority of the population."

## LIES AS TRUTH

The British propaganda machine which churns out lies as truth and fiction as fact can be broken down. Slowly, very slowly, the British public will realise the truth behind the bloodshed spilled in its name. It will see that all the confident boasts from Mason "Squeezing the IRA like a tube of toothpaste", in 1976, to Thatcher's "They are playing their last card", in 1981, are nothing but holding jobs and regular morale boosts.

However, as Liz Curtis concludes: "In Ireland, as elsewhere, the anti-colonial cause is unlikely to win the British media's respect until it is on the verge of victory."

● *Ireland — The Propaganda War*, by Liz Curtis. Published by Pluto Press, price £5.50.



# THE UDA AND THE DUBLIN FORUM

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE Ulster Defence Association has announced that an eight-point document, which it published last January in its magazine *Ulster*, had originally been drafted last year as a submission to the Dublin Forum. However, the UDA decided against submitting the document to Dublin, because, it said, of the anger felt by the Protestant community after the Darkley killings last November.

The UDA, under their label of the UFF, claimed the attempted assassination two weeks ago of several Sinn Féin members, including Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams — one of a long line of sectarian attacks which the UDA has been involved in since its formation in 1971. Unlike the UVF though, the UDA has always tried to maintain some political front of its own. In 1981, it formally set up its own 'political wing', the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party (ULDP) headed by Belfast UDA man John McMichael.

The UDA/ULDP document, entitled *The Way Ahead*, reiterates the UDA's old demand for an independent six-county state, with the British Queen as its formal head of state.

The document describes Articles 2 and 3 of the Free State constitution as "imperialistic", as is the "British government's presence" in the North. It vaguely recommends "recognising the two traditions" on the island, argues for an end to the British guarantee to unionists, and a bill of rights. In other words, a document which, both by its contents and the terms used, would have struck not a few chords on the FitzGerald-Hume side of the Dublin Forum.

## CRITERIA

The document was drafted last autumn, after the UDA had sought, and received, confirmation through intermediaries that the Dublin Forum would accept, indeed welcome, their submission. If the submission had been made, however, Forum leaders would have had to face some embarrassing questions, given the Free State government's original statement, on March 11th 1983, inviting submissions from all people or groups "who reject violence" — a category to which the UDA clearly does not belong.

Such an indulgent attitude to wards hardline loyalism shows that the Forum meant to exclude only those who support one particular kind of 'violence' — that of the IRA in response to British occup-



● The paramilitary UDA who, despite getting nowhere electorally and still supporting sectarian violence, would have been welcomed to the Dublin Forum

ion of the six counties.

It also shows that since the beginning the Forum has kow-towed to anything coming from 'our unionist brethren'. Any submission coming from 'a Protestant', no matter how unrepresentative, was fussed over.

The UDA/ULDP's document would not have looked out of place. After all, the ULDP are loyalists, and McMichael got only 576 votes when he ran for the ULDP in the February 1982 South Belfast by-election — won by the Rev Martin Smyth for the Official Unionists with 17,000 votes. Representativity and rejection of violence were never real criteria of acceptability by the Forum. But being a republican guarantees exclusion.

## APPENDAGE

The fact is that the UDA never got anywhere electorally, apart from the odd local councillor (Sammy Millar, for example). In spite of its dabbling in 'welfare' and 'community politics', in spite of its involvement in the two UWC strikes, in spite of its rubbing shoulders with dubious academics and shady conflict researchers,

resulting in the setting up of a 'research group', and the publication of documents supporting an independent six counties, the UDA is still viewed by the unionist voters as merely an armed appendage of Orangeism — as indeed is the UVF, which never tried to be anything else.

Loyalist paramilitary groups are perceived by their base as a back-up for the official military wing of the six-county state: the RUC, UDR, and the Brits.

The UDA and UVF can unleash terror on 'the Fenians' when their uniformed colleagues complain of being restricted by 'political shackles'. In fact, it is often the same loyalists who, by day, in a UDR uniform, harass and control the nationalist population, and at night and out of uniform, carry out sectarian killings.

## DEFENCE

Aware of its lack of political credibility, and faced with the political success of Sinn Féin, the UDA was bound to try to intensify its paramilitary activities.

In February, Andy Tyrrie, the UDA's 'supreme commander', claim-

ed a new 'loyalist volunteer army' had been formed to fight on behalf of the whole unionist population in danger of being 'sold out'.

At the weekend, Tyrrie boasted, in the *Sunday Times*, that the UDA had formed a 'defence force' entirely within the law, and with 'middle-class involvement'.

And in a lengthy interview with the *Irish Press*, on Monday, March 26th, UDA spokesperson John McMichael confirmed that the UDA intended to increase its actions 'in a defensive role'. Northern nationalists will get the meaning, having been the targets of those 'defensive' actions since the formation of the six-county state.

## FEARS

The UDA, however, is voicing the fears of many unionists who, since the 1981 hunger-strike and Sinn Féin's electoral victories, sense somehow that the days of the Orange statelet are numbered. Significantly, McMichael justified the building up of the UDA in order to "keep the Prods in there negotiating". "Our backs are to the wall", he added.

And while the UDA's political

theorising may not hold much sway with the unionist population — aware that while the border guarantees their privileges, the link with Britain guarantees the border — it leaves no doubt that McMichael's last words, Tyrrie's sabre-rattling, and the murder-gang tactics, are representative of unionist attitudes, the attitudes created and nurtured by Britain through centuries of colonial rule.

● JOHN McMICHAEL

# BBC's anti-language bias

THE BBC has been condemned for its neglect of the needs of school-children who are learning Irish, following the recent publication of the television and radio schedules for schools and colleges for 1984-85.

Belfast Sinn Féin's spokesperson on culture, Mairéad O Muilleoir, has pointed out that only one radio programme, representing a total of three hours and 20 minutes in the whole of 1985, will cater for Irish learners at school.

O Muilleoir said:

"The BBC has demonstrated its contempt for those who cherish the Irish heritage by providing no television programmes and only one radio series for schools. There is no provision for children being brought up or educated in Irish, no Irish

language or music programmes for infants or primary school children, no programmes for O-Level and A-Level Irish students and nothing whatsoever to cater for the massive demand among adult learners.

"Even by using the BBC's own yardstick, as established in Wales and Scotland, we can see the enormity of the cultural discrimination being practised by it in the six counties.

"For schools alone in Wales, there are ten radio programmes, representing some 70 hours in

Welsh per week, and there is a separate Welsh TV channel which provides numerous programmes for schools. In fact, the proposed education output in Irish for the six counties is equal to that produced in Welsh for schools every three days.

"Again, in Scotland, there are over 18 hours of radio in Gaelic for schools each year. These are on top of 20 hours of Gaelic Radio and some television programmes broadcast each week for the general public.

"However, six times more pupils take O-Level Irish in the North than take O-Level Gaelic in Scotland.

"Taken with the fact that there



● The BBC's policy-makers, all coming from a British/unionist tradition, have shown their contempt for the Irish language  
is no Irish presently being broadcast by the BBC, these latest figures prove that its policy-makers, who all come from a British/unionist cultural tradition, are discriminating against the nationalist community."



# BORN AGAIN DEATH-DEALERS

BY SEAN HALPENNY

IN OCTOBER 1983, seven Belfast men were convicted on the evidence of paid perjurer and 'born again' Christian Kevin McGrady. McGrady had apparently undergone a religious conversion in Amsterdam whilst staying at a hostel controlled by an evangelical group named Youth With A Mission.

McGrady went on to become a registered member of the staff of the hostel between January and September 1981. When he applied for the job of assistant manager he was told he must "clear his conscience" before being accepted. Thus began McGrady's career as a paid perjurer.

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) does not confine its 'evangelical' work to Holland and Ireland alone, but spreads its tentacles far and wide. YWAM links up with other organisations of a similar nature, and its personnel can be found at work in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Pacific. Some of its membership go for 'training' in the US, where YWAM have connections with Wheaton College, and Christ for the Nations in Dallas (McGrady's brother Anthony was there). YWAM have at their disposal three ships for their work — the *Anastasis*, used for 'evangelical' work in the Middle East, Africa and the Pacific; the *Logos*, which operates between Australia, New Zealand and the US; and the *Danlos*, which operates around Central and Latin America.

This last ship has off-loaded 'equipment' in Guatemala and Honduras in the past few years and YWAM has been directly linked with other so-called 'born again' Christian organisations which have been accused of either being fronts for the US Central Intelligence Agency or have at least actively assisted the CIA in subversion throughout the world.

## GUATEMALA

When the right-wing Brigadier Eifran Rios Montt seized power in Guatemala, in March 1982, the operation was described by Rios Montt's followers as 'a miracle'. They further eulogised:

"God has raised up a leader — a man of destiny, a man of God."

Rios Montt's followers, apart from those military officers involved in the coup, were members of a 'born again' Christian sect called the Church of the Complete Word, a branch of Gospel Outreach, whose headquarters are in California.

Fortunately (or unfortunately) for Guatemala, Rios Montt's 'miracle' which included a policy of 'strategic hamlets', 'scorched earth' and thousands of murdered peasants, lasted only 17 months, despite the fact that leaders of Gospel Outreach had confidently prophesised that Guatemala would be lifted above "all the nations of the world by an example of righteousness and justice".

The CIA have had, of course, deep roots in Guatemala, covertly building up and protecting US interests in that country for years, and it was no accident that the little-known Rios Montt was catapulted to power, especially as he had been involved in CIA-funded operations for years, including directorship of the Inter American School of Defence in Washington. But what puzzled Central American watchers was Rios Montt's membership of a US religious sect which claimed only 1,000 members in overwhelmingly Catholic Guatemala. So, what was the connection?

## 'BUM RAP'

Because of Guatemala's human rights record, the US Congress had placed an embargo on military and economic assistance, but the Reagan administration was very anxious to clear this hurdle, especially after Reagan had a private meeting with Rios Montt, after which Reagan declared publicly that Guatemala "had gotten a bum rap".

At the same time, Rios Montt's 'advisers',



● The Amsterdam hostel where Kevin McGrady began his career as a paid perjurer



● EIFRAN RIOS MONTT

all members of Gospel Outreach, had been busy meeting other evangelical organisations in the US, such as Billy Graham's Campus Crusade for Christ, Jerry Falwell's Club of 700, and William Townsend's Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (WBT/SIL). The WBT/SIL is the largest Protestant missionary society in the world.

Out of these meetings came 'Operation International Love Lift', their aim being to raise millions of dollars and to buy "helicopters for charity". At their disposal were a number of ships belonging to Youth With A Mission and the vast experience of WBT/SIL, who had been carrying out this type of operation since the 1960s, entitled Judge Aviation & Radio Services (JAARS).

In an appeal to launch 'International Love Lift', Carlos Ramirez of ILL declared: "I want you to realise just how strategic Guatemala is in relationship to the US and this hemisphere... If Guatemala falls, what then?"

The appeal went on to assure contributors that their dollars would be used to "counter misinformation, weaken the Marxists, and support the present Guatemalan government", hardly the sentiments of a 'love lift' but, all the same, couched in the familiar language of WBT/SIL communications.

## CIA FRONT

WBT/SIL first came to universal notice when left-wing guerrillas in Colombia kidnapped and then executed an WBT/SIL missionary, Chester Allen Bitterman, in March 1981. During his interrogation by the M-19 guerrillas, Bitterman revealed that WBT/SIL's Bible translation activities were in fact a front for the CIA, that the 'field base' at Lomalinda, south of Colombia's capital of Bogotá, contained laboratories, workshops, a radio station and an air-base; also that much of it was militarily orientated, and that it had a resident staff of over 300 'linguists'.

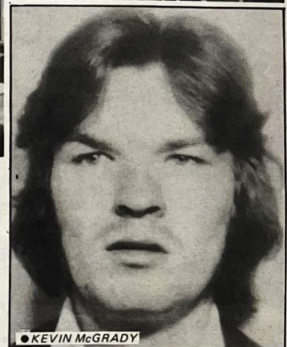
Further investigations revealed that WBT/SIL have 'field bases' in Honduras, Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil (members of WBT/SIL have been expelled from all these

countries at various times). They operate also in Africa, the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Australia and have various connections in Western Europe, including Ireland (where their aim is to "convert the paramilitaries").

## APOCALYPSE NOW

The gospel according to WBT/SIL and Gospel Outreach is quite simple: all opponents of WBT/SIL are "agents of Satan" (Godless communism) and God is "the USA working with God in Heaven".

According to WBT/SIL, "God uses military troops" but he also moves in mysterious ways, such as the massacre of over one million Indonesian 'communists' explained as "the spiritual response of thousands turning to Christ", or SIL's 'Operation Sky Mission' in Peru, where SIL missionaries used helicopters fitted with loudspeakers — a la *Apocalypse Now* — flying over the jungle preaching "the good word" and dropping cassette tape-recorders with the message: "We are good people who want to help



● KEVIN MCGRADY

you. We bring everything good."

SIL's world was so good that the Mayan Indians began killing their new-born children rather than let them grow up in WBT/SIL's world.

In Ecuador, the then president, Aguilera, banned WBT/SIL. Two days later, on May 22nd 1981, Aguilera was dead — killed in a mysterious air crash. In Bolivia, it was members of WBT/SIL who pinpointed Che Guevara and his guerrillas and there are many documented cases where WBT/SIL and ILL members have been seen working with or assisting the military in various regimes.

The WBT/SIL and other missions have received financial grants through CIA front organisations such as the US Alliance for Industrial Development, which supplied dollars to WBT/SIL for its operations during the Vietnam war, or have been on straight contracts engineered by the CIA in Cambodia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

## COUNTER-INSURGENCY

It is quite clear that the operations conducted by WBT/SIL, YWAM, ILL and a host of other similar organisations have a deliberate pattern of counter-insurgency and cannot be put down to 'acts of God'. It is a concerted attempt to implant an ultra-conservative dogma, matched by a particular brand of politics on a world-wide scale, be it engineering a coup d'état in Guatemala, the pacification of races, or the jailing of Irish nationalists.





# A first visit!

## BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

A DRAMATIC meeting — kept a closely guarded secret until now — is to take place this coming Sunday between Margaret Thatcher and none other than Sinn Féin's EEC challenger in the North, Danny Morrison!

(Before going further, I must warn my faithful readers not to divulge this to anyone until Sunday morning!)

Sunday's meeting, arranged through a leading Armagh churchman who has been acting as intermediary, but who must remain anonymous, was originally arranged for the traditional country home of generations of British prime ministers at Chequers!

But when Morrison pointed out that he was the subject of an exclusion order forbidding him to set foot in Britain, the venue was switched to the North — the first time a British premier will meet a republican leader on Irish soil!

So, next Sunday's meeting will, instead, take place, before noon, in Morrison's Carrickmore advice centre (one of over 40 such Sinn Féin centres scattered across the North), in the heart of his Mid-Ulster constituency!

Since recent attacks on republicans, Morrison has received authorisation from the RUC to carry a firearm for use in his own defence, and last Thursday week received a brand new Armalite rifle, for this purpose, direct from a man known only as 'the grand marshal' in New York. He will be carrying this weapon — which he made famous around the world — when he shakes hands with Thatcher on Sunday!

Moreover, because Sunday is also Mother's Day (make a note of the date), Margaret Thatcher will be driven to the historic Carrickmore meeting by her experienced rally-driving son, Mark. On Saturday night, March 31st, teams of seasoned Sinn Féin election workers will paint arrows at every crossroads between Belfast Docks and Carrickmore, to ensure no problems on the trip, which at times passes within only 20 miles of the border with the South!

The controversial meeting is likely to cause a storm of protest from loyalist politicians as well as from the Dublin government — particularly coming so soon after the famous visit to Drum-add barracks!

But worst hit will be the SDLP, reeling after being humiliated by Sinn Féin in last week's Belfast by-election. Already, half-baked rumours of the visit have reached John Hume in the SDLP headquarters in Brussels (believed to be Avril's Premier Bar, close to the Berlemon). But Morrison is remaining totally sceptical about the prospects of any agreement coming from Sunday's meeting.

"Only a fool would place any faith in this kind of thing," he commented.

★★★★

Craigavon Borough Council has called on the Housing Executive to remove murals on houses in their estates which "honour murderers, glorify murderous gunmen and display foreign emblems".

The resolution says:

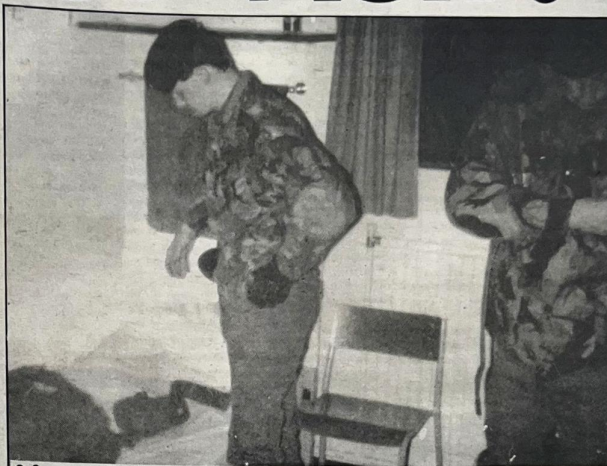
"They are seditious, treasonable and offend against our Queen and her most loyal subjects in Northern Ireland."

However, councillors warned the Executive only to remove republican 'graffiti' and not those slogans referring to the UVF, the UFF and the Pope.

Councillor Philip Black (UUP) said that he was in favour of some slogans — those which referred to the "glorious revolution of 1688 and to 1690". He said:

"These mark a period when the Protestant churches produced a Protestant way of thought and brought democracy to this area."

The UFF and UVF are different from the IRA and INLA because they are not engaged in "destroying this part of the United Kingdom", he observed.



● Successes by Sinn Féin in combating poor housing conditions led to an invitation from these Belfast residents to examine their cramped and overcrowded accommodation. However, community workers were somewhat less than sympathetic to these tenants' plight — the solution lies in their own hands.

DUP Councillor David Calvert commented that the IRA "have murdered 2,000 people in the province, but very few have been murdered by Protestant organisations."

★★★★

A couple of weeks ago, I recorded how Andrew Kordowski of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, based at Besbrook, had received a month's prison sentence — suspended, of course — for posting an indecent poster through the letter-box of a Crossmaglen woman.

The poster, you will recall, was of a naked female body with a photograph of the woman's nephew superimposed on the head.

Anyway, last week Kordowski appealed the cruel verdict and this time found a more understanding judge. Judge R. T. Rowland overturned the lower court's mistake and found that although the poster was in 'bad taste' it was not 'indecent'.

Judges have great experience in these matters.

★★★★

Wherever they are, you can be sure that the Brits are making a nuisance of themselves.

Take Guardsman William Downs and Malcolm Chambers (who comes from Omagh), for example.

They seized a rifle and a military vehicle at a British barracks in Hong Kong and drove into the red light district, where they fired shots in the air.

They then drove to the airport, disarmed two cops there and held them hostage. They appeared in court last week.

At least Hong Kong can be sure that the Brits must go in 1997.

★★★★

Yet another member of the crown forces has taken the amazingly frequent way out of their brutal role in the North.

John Meadows, a captain in the Royal Corps of Transport, was found shot dead by his own gun in the military barracks beside Musgrave Park Hospital.

★★★★

Out on bail of £100 this week is Corporal Mervyn McAllister of the British army's Territorial Reserve. Obviously, a very trivial offence is concerned.

McAllister is charged with having several rifles, a machine gun and 1,300 rounds of ammunition in his home (in Forthill Grove, Ballyduff, Newtownabbey).

The court was told that the RUC had thought McAllister was a member of the UVF, but that it had been a silly mistake on their part.

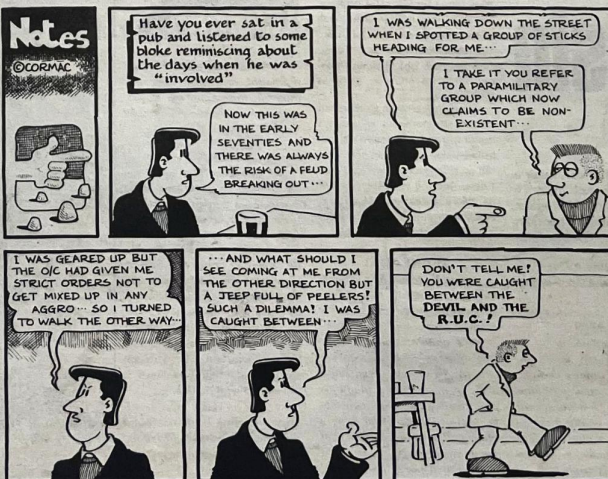
Crown counsel explained that McAllister had admitted paying membership 'dues' to the UVF, but had said he wasn't really a proper member. So the RUC didn't charge him with that.

Anyone want to put money on him getting a prison sentence?

★★★★

If you want my tip for Saturday's Grand National, well it has to be Eliogarty.

And if you want my tip for the day after, well don't be caught out by any April Fool's Day hoaxes.



## WHAT'S ON

**MEETING TO RE-FORM CLONARD MARTYRS BAND**  
10am Saturday 31st March  
Sinn Féin Centre  
Sevastopol Street/Falls Road  
**BELFAST**  
Everyone welcome

**EEC ELECTION FUND BALLAD SESSION**  
Music by Napper Tandy & guests  
8.30pm Saturday 31st March  
Wexford Inn  
Wexford Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Taille €2  
(Bus from Tallaght — £1 extra)  
Organised by Sinn Féin

**KERRY SINN FEIN EEC ELECTION MEETING**  
All members of Republican Movement to attend  
2.30pm Sunday 1st April  
Grand Hotel  
**TRALEE**

**LOCAL RALLY AGAINST THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL**  
3pm Sunday 1st April  
Assemble at Dolphin House for rally in St Teresa's Gardens  
**DUBLIN**

**DUBLIN NORTH-EAST SINN FEIN EEC MEETING**  
All Republican Movement members to attend — supporters welcome  
4.30pm Sunday 1st April  
Camelot Hotel  
Malahide Road  
**DUBLIN**  
Buses from city centre: 42 & 42c

**BALLAD SESSION**  
8pm Every Sunday  
The Eccles Lounge  
Dorset Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Taille €1  
Organised by Sinn Féin

**DUBLIN WEST SINN FEIN EEC MEETING**  
For all members & supporters in Ballyfermot/Inchicore/Bluebell/Crumlin/Liberties/Drinagh/Walkinstown & Kimmage  
7.45pm Wednesday 4th April  
Community Centre  
Ballyfermot Road

**NIGHT AT THE RACES**  
Speaker: Danny Morrison  
Music by Boots  
8.30pm Wednesday 4th April  
Givan Social Club  
**COALISLAND**  
County Tyrone

**EEC ELECTION FUND BALLAD SESSION**  
Music by the Irish Brigade & guests  
9pm Wednesday 4th April  
Urbshearny Hall  
**SCOTSTOWN**  
County Monaghan  
Speaker: Caoimhghin Ó Caolain

**WOMEN IN NATIONAL STRUGGLE PUBLIC MEETING**  
Speakers from Nicaragua, the six counties and African National Congress  
8pm Friday 6th April  
Lehane Hall  
(opposite Gate Theatre)  
Parnell Square  
**DUBLIN**

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

**32-COUNTY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
Weekend 7th & 8th April  
Rutland Street School  
**DUBLIN**  
Full details from Women's Centre  
53 Dame Street (phone 710088)

**ANTI-EXTRADITION RALLY**  
3pm Saturday 7th April  
**LETTERKENNY**  
County Donegal







# Ballinamore blocked

BY TONY McKENNA

A 'RING OF STEEL' was again thrown around the town of Ballinamore, County Leitrim, on Friday night last, with checkpoints by gardai and Free State soldiers on all approach roads.

The occasion was the first major republican function in the town since December, and it was supported by over 400 people, who crowded into a hotel in the town's Main Street for a night of music, song and speeches.

Proceeds from the event will go to help finance Sinn Féin's EEC election campaign in the Connault/Ulster constituency.

Addressing the large attendance, local Sinn Féin County Councillor John Joe McGirl congratulated the

people of Ballinamore for their resilience during the 'Invasion of the Tidy-hunters', and for making their way through a 'similar dragnet' to attend the night's function.

Caolmhuighín Ó Caoiláin, one of the three Sinn Féin candidates for Connault/Ulster in the EEC elections, told the audience:

"Many of you found yourselves under the unwelcome attention of the forces of the state during that time and some were brought to the Castlereagh of the twenty-six coun-



● CAOIMHGHIN Ó CAOILÁIN

ties — Monaghan garda barracks. As a Monaghan person I know full well what you suffered there, but yet your spirits remained high. I congratulate you one and all.

Owen Carron, Sinn Féin's elected representative in Fermanagh/South Tyrone, bitterly condemned the Coalition government for their extradition of Dominic McGlinchey and said:

"At times it can be difficult to identify the best possible means to adopt in attempting to prevent such a process of betrayal, but one clear way that you as individuals can contribute will be by casting your votes in the EEC elections for Sinn Féin candidates, Caolmhuighín Ó Caoiláin, Eddie Fullerton and Mary McGing."

## REMEMBERING THE PAST

# Thomas Devin Reilly

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THOMAS Devin Reilly, a Young Irishman and a writer of exceptional ability, was born in Monaghan town in 1824.

While staying in Dublin he became acquainted with Charles Gavan Duffy and other leading Young Irishmen. In 1845 he joined the staff of *The Nation*, where his ability as a writer was at once recognised.

With other Young Irishmen he left the Repeal Association in January 1846 and joined the Irish Confederation. Fearless and uncompromising in his national outlook, Reilly supported the revolutionary policies of John Mitchell, for whom he worked on the *United Irishman*.

More so than others of the Young Ireland movement, Reilly realised that the ills of his country were economic as much as political. In the columns of the *Irish Felo*, which sprung up after the repression of Mitchell's *United Irishman*, he preached the gospel of

political and social revolution in language as uncompromising as the principles he espoused.

### LABOUR

After the failure of the Rising of 1848, he escaped to America, where he had a remarkable career as a journalist, becoming a well-known advocate of the rights of labour. Fifty years later, James Connolly was to hail him as one of the forerunners of the Irish labour movement.

Reilly died suddenly at his home in Washington in March 1854, three weeks before his 30th birthday.

"Of all the Irish rebels," wrote Mitchell of Reilly, "he was the boldest; of all the Irish exiles the most active, indefatigable, relentless — the wrongs of his native land had taken entire possession



● DEVIN REILLY

of his soul — the dark and blood-stained image of blood-stained English power haunted him like an evil demon."

Thomas Devin Reilly was born on March 30th 1824, 160 years ago this week.

## Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta - REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Applications for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made as soon as possible to:

An Rúnaí,  
Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta,  
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## IN MEMORIAM

**CAMPBELL, Patrick.** (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick Campbell, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on March 29th 1972. (Innás laochra na nGael go raib a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.)

**MCABE, Patrick.** (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick McCabe, Belfast Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on March 27th 1973. This sé sa Bhearna

Bhaoli — ní dheanfaimid dearmad air. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**O'RIORDAN, Sean.** (12th Anniversary). The Clonard/Colin Sinn Féin cumann, Belfast, remembered with pride Flan Sean O'RIORDAN, Belfast Brigade, Flanna Éireann, who died on March 23rd 1972. "Lay him away on the hillsides, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold."

## Birthday memories

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Eugene, who was brutally murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by his mother and father, brothers and sisters.

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Eugene, who was brutally murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by Malachy, Dorothy and family.

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Vol Eugene Toman, murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by Elish, Christy and family.

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Eugene, who was brutally murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by love by Teddy, Irene and

family. **TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Eugene, who was brutally murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by Irene Caddy and family, Hugh, Mena and family, and Gregory and Susan and Angela and Eamon.

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Eugene, who was brutally murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by the Burns/Toman Sinn Féin cumann, Lurgan.

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Vol Eugene Toman, murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by the Burns/Toman Sinn Féin cumann, Lurgan.

**TOMAN.** Birthday memories of Eugene, who was brutally murdered by the RUC and whose 23rd birthday would have occurred on 30th March. Always remembered by Colette.

## SYMPATHY

**ADAMS.** Deepest condolences are extended to the family and friends of Paddy Adams, who died on March 18th. Deeply regretted by Sean and Ellis Hamill and family.

**ADAMS.** Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Paddy Adams, who died on Sunday, March 18th. From Felim, Malraed and Sean Ó.

**COYLE.** Sincere condolences are extended to Seamus and Frank Coyle and family on the sudden death of their mother. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam. From Dermot, Caroline and Roisin.

**COYLE.** Deepest sympathy is extended to Seamus Coyle (Portlaoise), Frank and all the Coyle family on the death of their mother Winnie Coyle. Go ndána Dia trócaire ar a anam dílis. Sincere condolences from Denis and Lucilla.

**FOLEY.** The Republican Movement extends deepest sympathy to Maura Foley, her sons and daughters, Milltown, Dublin, on the recent death of Jim, originally from Portlaoise, County Tipperary. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam dílis.

**HOGAN. MARTIN.** The North Antrim Brigade, Óglagh na hÉireann, extends deepest sympathy to the families and many friends of Volunteers Henry Hogan and Declan Martin, two totally dedicated and courageous volunteers for whom fear held no meaning, who died bravely in battle against the British occupation forces. The fools, the fools, they have left us our fínean dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, and unfree shall never be at peace." Go ndána Dia trócaire ar a n-anamchán.

**O'SULLIVAN.** The Carmody O'Rahilly Sinn Féin cumann, Ballylongford, extends deepest sympathy to Michael O'Sullivan and family, especially our friend and comrade John (Portlaoise), on the untimely death of their son Daniel. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam dílis.

**SWAN.** Sincere sympathy is extended to Seamus Swan (Portlaoise) and his family on the recent death of their son, Philip Swan. From the Kavanagh family, Wexford.

**SWAN.** Sincere sympathy is extended to Seamus Swan (Portlaoise) and his family on the recent death of their son, Philip Swan. From the Pádraig Ó Pearáil Sinn Féin cumann, Loch Garman.

and those who sent Mass cards and floral tributes. Special thanks to the POWs in Armagh, Magilligan, Long Kesh, Portlaoise and English Jails. A special thanks to Father Forde, also those who attended the funeral and helped in so many ways. We trust this acknowledgement will be accepted by all in grateful appreciation of the holy sacrifice of the SWAN will be offered for their intentions.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE FAMILIES of the late Henry Hogan and Declan Martin RIP with thank all those who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement.

## GREETINGS

**BATESON, Sean.** (H3). Happy birthday, Sean. I'll have a drink on you for every day you've been in there, Maggie will have cinchoid by the time you're out (ha! ha!). Love from your 'Sunshine Gal', USA. xxx, UTP

**CUNNINGHAM, Gerry.** GUILFOYLE, Patrick; MULRYAN, Patrick. (England). All our warmest greetings on your birthday. Regards to all of you. From your friends Raymond, Mary and Patrick Donegal.

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick 'Tipp'.** (Parkhurst). Many happy returns for the 30th, Tipp. Keep up the chin and the good work, we'll drink a toast to you with Guinness. From Barry and Rhonda, Australia.

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick 'Tipp'.** (Parkhurst). Happy birthday, Tipp. Hope you get the chance to celebrate. I hear Gattree are sending on your nooch.

Any truth? Love and best wishes from Margaret and Martin Ó Fíynn. **QUILFOYLE, Patrick 'Tipp'.** (Parkhurst). Solidarity greetings to you, Tipp. Wishing you a very happy birthday. From the St James's Martyrs Sinn Féin cumann and the people of St James's Belfast.

**KAVANAGH, Dathi.** (Portlaoise). Thinking of you always. Hope you're still off the fags. See you soon, Love from Ann and Jenny.

**MOLONEY, John.** (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings and best wishes. From Joe, Rita and family.

**MOLONEY, John.** (Portlaoise). All the best for your birthday, John. Did Ronnie send you a telegram? From John Hedges, Dublin.

**O'CONNELL, Aaron.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you all the best on your 25th birthday. From Mam, Dad, Liam and Kieran.

**O'CONNELL, Aaron.** (Portlaoise). Lots of love and best wishes on your birthday. From Pat, Judith, Karen, Louise and Elaine. xxx

## Irish 72 Lesson

aois (eesh) — age  
d'aóis (deesh) — of age  
beagnach (beg-nach) — almost  
d'áin (oh hin) — ago  
fiche bliain (físhee bee-in) — 20 years  
tríocha (tree-uh-uh) — 30  
daichead (dachud) — 40  
caoga (kuay-uh) — 50  
bliain is seasca (blee-in iss shaskun) — 61 years  
dhá bhliain is seachtó (ghaw vleeun iss shochoth) — 72 years  
trí bhliain is ochtó (tree vleeun iss uchto) — 83 years  
nócha (no-uh) — 90  
céad bliain (chee-uh bleein) — 100 years  
cé'n aois 67 (kayn essh ay) — what age is he?

C'é'n aois 6 Peadar? — What age is Peter?  
Tá sé dhá bhliain is seasca d'aóis — He is 62.  
Ní raib a anam bho fhéile bliain d'aóis — His son was only 20.

Bhí an bhean sin an-aosta — That woman was very old.  
Bhí sí beagnach céad bliain d'aóis — She was almost 100.

Tá Nuala bliain is fiche d'aóis inniu — Nuala is 21 today.  
Bhí sé ag-óg ní raib sí ach trí bhliain is tríocha d'aóis — He was very young, he was only 33.

Caoga bliain d'áin bhí capall aige — 50 years ago he had a horse.

### PHRASES

1 — Ag dul in aois (uh dul in eesh) — Getting old.

2 — Ag dul in áige atá tú (uh dul in owegh-ítaw thoo) — It's getting younger you are.

3 — Nach bréa an tsean-bheag? (noch briaw un tshan van ee) — Isn't she a fine old woman?

4 — Tá an tseanaois ag breith suas leo (taw un tshan-ee-ee bhé breith suas leo) — Old age is catching up with them.

THE pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the actual sound. CH is sounded as in LOCKHEEN. 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 gargle.



# COVER-UP BLOWS UP

THE BRITISH government's attempted cover-up of their shoot to kill policy appears to have blown up in their faces in Belfast Crown Court this week with the dramatic revelation by RUC man John Robinson that senior officers had ordered him to lie about the circumstances of the RUC murder of Seamus Grew and Roddy Carroll in December 1982.

Robinson is charged with the murder of Seamus Grew — indeed the court was told last week that he had first emptied his gun into Roddy Carroll, reloaded, and then emptied it again into Seamus Grew.

After the prosecution had presented its case to the court on Wednesday of this week, Robinson's counsel sought that the judge should dismiss the case, but the judge ruled that the trial should continue.

On the rare occasions that members of the crown forces have been charged with the murder of nationalists in the past, a 'show trial with a difference' has been put into operation. Solid evidence has been presented in such a way that the judge can dismiss it as 'unsound' and the culprits inevitably walk free.

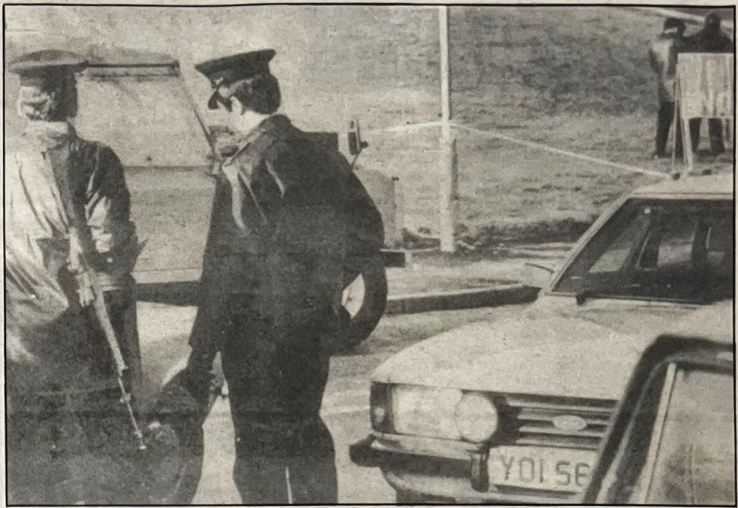
On this occasion however, Robinson appears to have panicked, even through the prosecution evidence had been presented with some

marked discrepancies in the accounts of RUC 'witnesses'.

After 15 minutes' consultation with his lawyers, he told the court that after the murder of Carroll and Grew, his senior officers had reminded him of the Official Secrets Act and told him to lie about the event. He claimed that this was to cover up the presence of SAS units as well as his own undercover RUC unit at the scene of the killings.

The RUC version at the time, about Grew driving through a road-block and being chased, was totally untrue. According to Robinson, the undercover teams had information that Dominic McGlinchey was to be travelling in Grew's car at the time, they had been tailing the car for some time, and the shooting took place when one of the SAS cars crashed.

The case continues, but the political repercussions are likely to be only beginning.



● The scene of the murder of Seamus Grew and Roddy Carroll by the RUC on December 12th 1982

## Three hours of terror

BY PAT DEENEY

AT 2am in the morning of Thursday, 22nd March, a shot was fired through the front window of a house in the predominantly loyalist Leckpatrick Gardens Estate in Strabane.

The house is the home of Sinn Féin activist Patrick 'Packie' Kelly's sister, who was alone with her two small children. Simultaneously with the shot being fired, a masked man waving a gun burst through the front door, demanding to know where Packie was.

He ran through the house, searching every room, while a second armed man stood at the front door.

The first man, who had a local accent, again asked the terrified woman where Packie was, saying, "We know he stays here." When she denied this, he put the gun to her head and said that Packie would be a dead man when they got him. He then fired another

shot into the door-frame.

The two masked men then sat down, and, incredibly, switched on the radio and listened to music for three hours, waiting for Patrick Kelly to come to the house. Before they finally left, they tried to remove the bullets from the wall and door but were unable to do so.

### REMOVED

The woman ran to a neighbour's house and phoned the RUC, who came and removed the bullets, presumably for ballistics tests. An RUC man later told the family's solicitor, John Fahey, that the weapon used in the attack was UDR-issue.

Patrick Kelly, who is chairperson of the local Sinn Féin cumann, has been threatened many times by the UDR and the RUC, and during a spell in Castlereagh last November a Branch man told him the Protestant Action Force would get him. He had to leave

his job in Artigarvan Creamery because of threats to his life.

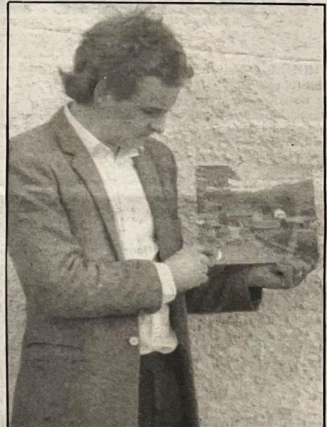
His sister has left her home after her ordeal and is staying with relatives while waiting for alternative housing.

### FIRED

Sinn Féin elected representative Martin McGuinness said:

"There are at least 30 UDR men living in the Leckpatrick Gardens Estate and yet when shots were fired in the middle of the night not one person came out to see what was happening. The attackers were local men, and were sure enough of their safety to remain in the house for three hours after firing the shots.

"The fact that they tried to remove the bullets suggests that they did not want forensic evidence to reveal the make and issue of the weapons. I am convinced that the RUC know their identities."



● 'Packie' Kelly points to a bullet-hole picture which hung over his sister's fireplace



● MARTIN CONNOLLY

## Lurgan beating

A 20-YEAR-OLD Lurgan youth was the victim of a series of vicious, unprovoked beatings by RUC personnel on Saturday night, as a result of which he required hospital treatment for a head-wound.

Shortly before 10pm, Martin Connolly, who lives on the nationalist Taghnevan Estate, was walking through the area with a friend after a night out.

As they reached the estate shops, an RUC landrover provocatively drove past and a crowd of youths quickly gathered a short distance from the pair and began throwing stones at the vehicle. Reluctant to

get involved, Connolly and his 17-year-old friend turned back, but as they did so, an RUC 'snatch-squad', ignoring their evident non-involvement in the incident, rushed out from behind the nearby shops and seized the pair. Martin Connolly recalls:

"They hit me once on the head with the butt of a rifle. Then they threw the two of us into the land-

rover and started hitting and kicking us. I think they hit me again with the rifle butt when I was lying there."

Both Connolly, who was bleeding profusely, and his friend were taken to Lurgan RUC Barracks. After being subjected to a stream of sectarian abuse from the RUC, Connolly was again assaulted:

"One of them pushed my head against the bars of the cell and started twisting my arm. Then another one started kicking at me."

### BLOOD

Connolly, whose clothes were soaked with blood, was then thrown into a cell and left. For nearly half an hour, the RUC ignored his repeated shouts for a doctor, but eventually, after further verbal abuse, Connolly was taken by them to Craigavon Area Hospital, where he received three stitches to his head and had his painfully sore arms and legs X-rayed.

During this time, Connolly's younger brother Damien arrived at the hospital to inquire about his brother. The RUC arrogantly told him that Martin had suffered 'only a couple of scratches' and then threatened to arrest Damien unless he left immediately.

The RUC finally returned Martin Connolly to the barracks, where, after cursory questioning as to his name, address etc, he was released without charge, at around 2am.

## Armagh harassment

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A 21-YEAR-OLD man from Clady, South Armagh, has been consistently harassed by members of the UDR who have held a petty grudge against him arising from an incident almost a year ago.

Last summer, Anthony Loughran had a confrontation with a UDR patrol in Hawthorne Lane, Newtownhamilton, when one particular UDR soldier head-butted Loughran in the face, leaving him with a black eye. Since then, Loughran has been stopped persistently — several times per week — and on one occasion was taken out of the car by the same UDR man on the Markethill Road and threatened that he would be shot in nearby fields. The arrival of Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister however, upset the UDR's plans.

The latest incident happened on Saturday, March 24th, around 7.30pm when Loughran, three passengers and his one-year-old nephew were stopped by the UDR at a security barrier in Newtownhamilton.

No reason was given why he was stopped but it soon became obvious when he recognised the same UDR



● ANTHONY LOUGHRAN

man. He refused to empty out the contents of the car boot, which contained nothing but tools, and two UDR men grabbed him by the shoulders and dragged him out of the car, arresting him under Section 11.

In Newtownhamilton Barracks he was given a very thorough body-search, even examining his hair, and was physically assaulted.

For almost three hours — after which he was released without charge — Loughran was verbally abused, taunted and pushed around by UDR men.