

An Phoblacht

Iml. 7. Uimhir 37. 8p. Mean Fomhair 13, 1976.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.
(The Daily Freeman)

WEEK OF THE COCKROACH

GIVE THE man his due, it was the Week of the Cockroach. He was cockroach-ure of every item in the fascism package and the motto (where did we hear it before?) was "not an inch" against a late but surprisingly widespread groundswell of anti-Blueshirtism in the most apathetic state of Irish public opinion since 1900.

Whether an endemic political problem can be ended by the kind of laws being rushed on to the statute books is anybody's guess but, according to Irish history up to the present, such a "remedy" merely speeds the day of reckoning.

What will happen over the next 12 months in Ireland now that repression on the British model is being extended throughout the length and breadth of the island, complete with seven-days detention, abrogation of human rights, suspension of habeas corpus and all the rest of it?

We will just have to wait to see, remaining calm and cool, refusing to be provoked, picking our own political battle field rather than accepting one which has been picked for us, to wipe us out.

The Republican Movement would be very foolish, indeed, to react in an hysterical manner to a hysterical tactic by hysterical politicians.

We must keep our heads, refusing to be provoked, in the knowledge that, with patience, the apples will fall into our hands. The laws of economics, which back all politics, will ensure that, as surely as day follows night. Economic chaos is threatening politicians and right well they know it. For them there is no escape.

Blow to Labour

The first round must go, without challenge, to the Cockroach and (give the man his due) he did chalk up some significant political victories last week, if not in the opposing camp.

He may well have destroyed the Irish Labour Party. Certainly, he has ensured that, even if that Party manages to survive in some way, it will never be a serious challenge to the Blueshirt Party, as long as it survives.

But he certainly managed to demolish Fianna Fail, that odd mixture of personalities which, in the past, managed to find some kind of unity outside the quest for loot in the "Republican" label.

There was only one course open to Fianna Fail last week if it retained any ambition to be master of Leinster House, following the realisation that every amendment is proposed to be treated so contemptuously.

That was to withdraw its loyal opposition completely and quite Leinster House, allowing the fascist legislation to go through unopposed.

Prisoner of 'Treaty'

The people might have bought that one, especially if it were accompanied by a demand for a general election. But Fianna Fail, perhaps, realises only too clearly that it would be just as powerless to remedy the economic ills as

the Coalition without forming an independent Irish government and opposing the disastrous rule from London, Brussels and Wall Street.

This course it is incapable of following. Like the Coalition it remains a prisoner of 'Treaty' politics.

Having failed to make the only challenge politically possible during last week's Leinster House blow and bluster over an imagined emergency which was used to cloud the real, economic emergency, Fianna Fail has ensured its own demise.

Its members will fight among themselves and the party will disintegrate. Its place very likely will be taken by an even more extreme right-wing grouping than the Coalition, making the contradictions all the more obvious, leaving the Republican Movement clearly as the real alternative, the only movement providing for permanent peace and prosperity in Ireland.

That will become increasingly obvious in the months ahead, given the political education work at parish level by Sinn Féin.

Warnings ignored

Coalition manipulation of the media has been spearheaded by its tight control of RTE and, despite the warnings of RTE newsmen, their colleagues in the newspapers chose to ignore every tightening of the screw until too late.

Now, the same set of "rules" are to be applied to the newspapers, through the new legislation. The basic ingredient is intimidation: article three is sufficiently vague to ensure compliance.

Press censorship will be achieved through fear. Virtually all the newspaper proprietors are opposing the latest provisions, much too late. Had they acted a year ago, awakening the public to the dangers, they might have averted the present shame. But the same thing happened in Germany, when the Nazis were climbing to power.

The killing of the 7-Day RTE television programme follows the same pattern. Again, RTE is being used to spearhead the ending of any form of debate or discussion of real issues.

It will be instructive to analyse the programme which replaces 7-Days. It will be an indication of what lies in store for the newspapers.

Stand for freedom

The Republican Movement opposes press censorship because the Movement is dedicated to the liberty of the Irish people.

It may deplore the editorial policies of certain papers. It may advocate boycott of their products. It may criticise uncompromis-

(Ar leanúint ar chúl)



Sinn Féin Councillors on the Real Emergency

Over 20 Sinn Féin local councillors from ten counties meeting in Dublin on Sunday, September 12, passed a resolution stating that the new legislation under discussion in Leinster House was an attempt to divert the attention of the Irish people away from the very real economic emergency which exists in the country. The Twenty-Six County State had one of the worst credit ratings in Europe, following on Portugal and Italy, as well as the highest unemployment and inflation levels. Multi-national companies were profiting by our mineral wealth while for a second year in succession the majority of school-leavers could not find jobs.

The councillors expressed total opposition to the proposed legislation criticising in particular seven-day detention without charge by the police and the granting of powers of arrest and detention to the military.

Concern was expressed at the attempt to censor the press and at the sustained attack being made on Irish nationality and culture. The councillors pledged themselves to fight the attempted denial of political expression to Irish national aspirations, something which would please all the pro-British and imperialist elements in Ireland.

A protest was registered at the recent arrest and detention without trial by British troops and RUC of both the President and Vice-President of Sinn Féin, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Maire Drumm.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. O. Bradaigh.

An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 7. Mean Fomhair 13, 1976. Uimhir 37.
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Éire. Guthán: 747611.

OVER THE years the Irish Labour Party has been identified in the Party and the public mind in terms of various colours. On occasions, seldom enough, the colour has been an uncertain green; on other occasions, very very seldom, it has been red; on and off the red has changed to a very faint pink; most of the time the colour has been grey.

Last week, some observers said the colour had changed to bright yellow but most people identified it as blue. They saw the Irish Labour Party, founded by the 1916 patriot and internationally acclaimed socialist, James Connolly, adopting the master's blue shirt.

It was a sad week for those who still hope that the Labour Party would remember the warnings of its founder, even if ignorant of what Lenin had to say of such contortions, or Mao, the great leader of the Chinese people and inspirer of struggling patriots everywhere, who died last week and whose passing has left the colour so much the poorer.

The Labour Party's doings of last week recall a chapter in the "Book of Cells" which was compiled in Mountjoy Jail, Dublin, in 1922. The chapter is the only one signed by Liam Ó Maoliosa, who was murdered by the "Free" State when the father of the present Dublin regime's leader held the whiphand. The original is in the National Library, Dublin.

"The Irish Labour Party held a large demonstration in Dublin to protest against 'militarism,' that is against the volunteer soldiers who were standing in defence of the Republic against British imperialism and its dupes in Ireland.

"The Irish Labour party did not define its attitude to British militarism when the 'Treaty' was forced down the throats of weak-kneed Republican deputies under the threat of 'immediate and terrible war.' The 'Treaty' was accepted by these delegates and their followers 'under duress.' The Irish Labour Party, swallowing all its pretensions to be a revolutionist body out for a 'Workers' Republic,' has also accepted the 'Treaty' and is now working cheek to jowl with the imperialist and capitalist groups in Ireland through the Free State so-called parliament in an attempt to crush the Irish Republic in blood. And the means at their disposal for the new militarism have been given them by the British government.

"The Irish Labour Party talked glibly of a

The People's Republic

Workers' Republic. It still pretends to have as its object the establishment of such a state. Veiled threats of a 'big stick' it intends to wield some day are thrown out for the credulous. Professing to be against militarism its leaders try to delude the movement into believing that at some future date they will head a revolution.

"Labour played a tremendous part in the establishment and maintenance of the Republic. Its leaders had it in their power to fashion that Republic as they wished — to make it a workers' and peasants' Republic. By their acceptance of the Treaty and all that it connotes — recognition of the British monarchy, British Privy Council and British imperialism, partition of the country and subservience to British capitalism — they have betrayed not alone the Irish Republic but the Labour Movement in Ireland and the cause of the workers and peasants throughout the world.

"It is a fallacy to believe that a republic of any kind can be won through the shackled Free State. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. The Free State is British created and serves British imperialist interests. It is the buffer erected between British capitalism and the Irish Republic. A workers' Republic can be erected only on its ruins. The existing Irish Republic can be made the Workers' and Peasants' Republic if the Labour Movement is true to the ideals of James Connolly and true to itself.

"The Irish Republic represents independence and the struggle has a threefold significance. It is political; it is intellectual; it is economic. It is political in the sense that it means complete separation from England and the British Empire. It is intellectual in as much as it represents the cultural expression of the Gaelic civilization and

the removal of the impress of English speech and English thought upon the Irish character. It is economic because the wresting of Ireland from the grip of English capitalism can leave no thinking Irishman with a desire to build up and perpetuate in this country an economic system that had its roots in foreign domination.

"Ireland does not want a change of masters. It would be folly to destroy English tyranny in order to erect a domestic tyranny that would need another revolution to free the people. The Irish Republic stands, therefore, for the ownership of Ireland by the people of Ireland. That means that the means and process of production must not be used for the profit or aggrandisement of any group or class.

"Ireland has not yet become industrialised. It never will, in rejecting and casting off British imperialism (and its offspring, the Free State and the Northern parliament), the Irish workers do not insist that a native imperialism does not replace it.

"If the Irish people do not control Irish industries, transport, money and the soil of the country, foreign or domestic capitalists will. And whoever controls the wealth of a country and the processes by which wealth is attained, controls also its government.

"Ireland, if her industries and banks were controlled by foreign capitalists, would be at the mercy of every breeze that ruffled the surface of the world's money markets. If social capitalism flourished a social war, such as now threatens practically every country in Europe, would ensue. Ireland, therefore, must start with a clean slate. The Irish Republic is the people's Republic".

— Liam Ó Maoliosa.

In most documents produced in jail errors appear, to be corrected later when the matter is being prepared for printing. We have taken the liberty of correcting such minor errors as they became apparent from the obvious intention of the writer.

The document shows clearly why Liam Ó Maoliosa, jailed without trial in June, 1922, was picked for execution some six months later. One man was picked to die for each of the four provinces, to satisfy the thirst for patriot blood on the part of the London masters. What a prophet Liam Ó Maoliosa turned out to be.

Deile

AIMSIR AN Oireachtais i gCois Fharrage bhi cruinnú de chuid Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta agus ar na cursaí a raibh tracht futhu bhi celi de chuid na Gluaiseachta nar eirigh leis.

Baileigh chun airgead a shaothrú don Ghluaiseacht a bhí á bplé. Mhol duine éicint go mba chóir triail a bhaint as na céilithe. Ansin, nochtfaidh an scéal faoin gcéil nar eirigh leis.

Cuireadh in iúl don chruinnú gur theip ar an gcéil ar chúiseanna áirithe, go mór mór toisc gur tháinig sé salach ar imeach éile i gConamara.

Ach dúirt duine nó beirt, freisin, nach éiríonn leis na céilithe i gConamara an lá tá inniu ann, toisc nach bhfuil na ríncí ar eolas ag na daoine óga.

Measaim go bhfeadfaí céil a reachtáil i gConamara agus go n-éireodh leis dá mbeadh na ríncí fóinne (na seiteanna) ar síd agus cuid des na ríncí eile. Ach nílil cinnte.

Ar aon chaoi, tá a fhios agam nach bhfuil na ríncí i gcoinne ar eolas ag an aos óg áit ar bith sa tír ach amháin, b'fhéidir, i mBaile Átha Cliath, i mBaile Feirste, i nDoire agus i gCorráil eile. Sin mar a deirtear liom, ar aon nós.

Mar a chéile, mórán, a bhí an scéal faoi thús na haoise seo, ach d'éirigh le Conradh na Gaeilge an scéal sin a athrú. Sna fícheadaí agus sna tríochadaí bhí na ríncí sin ar eolas ag go leor leor daoine agud d'éirigh go maith leis na céilithe ar fud na hÉireann (ach amháin sa nGaeltacht?).

Bréagnú na haislinge

CÉARD É a tharla, mar sin, do na céilithe? Ní fheadfáinn a bheith cinnte dearga gan taighde sóisialta a dhéanamh agus bronaim an t-ábhar sin ar scoláir éicint, mar thráchtas. Ach tá barúil agam agus cead ag léitheoir ar bith mé a bhreágnú ach na ríncí a sholáthair.

Nuair a bhí Conradh na Gaeilge go láidir ar fud na tíre bhunaigh sé go leor feosanna áitiúla. Ag na feosanna sin bhí comórtas a bhain le filíocht, amhránaíocht, ríncí, scéalaíocht agus eile.

BHFUIL DEIREADH LE RÉ NA gCÉILITHE I gCONAMARA ANOIS?

Bhí tuisti fós féin bródúil as a dtír agus spreag siad na gasúir chun páirt a ghlacadh sna comórtas. Thug cléir agus scoileanna tacaíocht don rud: Eire ní hamháin saor ach Gaelach chomh maith an mana a bhí fós ag na húdaráis.

Ach de réir a chéile chuaigh an rud uilig in éag. Ní raibh an chléir ariamh ró-thugtha de ríncí, go mór mór do na ríncí ag an gcros-bhealach, nó tigh an chéil.

Rith Teach Laighean an Dancells Act. D'thús na ríncí eile agus an gnó a bhain leo. Thosúigh Gaeil áirithe ag magadh faoi na ríncí agus faoi na feiseanna, Glún na Bua, mar shampla, an dream a bhunaigh "Inniu".

Bhí an eisirime faoi lánseol, obair gann, airgead gann, misneach na ndaoine ag trá de réir a chéile, nuair a thug siad nárbh í Eire saor agus Gaelach a bhí uaidh na húdaráis ach Sacsá eile darb ainm Eire. "Cúile sheans go raibh cuinsí eile ann, leis.

Ach seo ceist: an féidir na feiseanna áitiúla úd a athbhunú, i gConamara, mar thús, mar bhonn faoi Oireachtas na nGaeil? An féidir do Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta an scéal a iniúchadh agus coisféil a bhunú ar fud na Gaeltachta chun na feiseanna úd a reachtáil?

An bhfuil na múinteoirí ann chun na ríncí a mhúineadh do na gasúir? An mbeadh tacaíocht ar fáil ó na tuisti, ó mhúineadh do na gasúir? An mbeadh tacaíocht ar fáil ó na tuisti, ó na scoileanna, ón gcléir? B'fhéidir go mbeadh. Níl fhios agam.

Ar scáth a chéile

NÍ FHÉADFADH Gluaiseacht Chearta Sibhialta na Gaeltachta tabhairt faoin obair seo gan cuidiú ó go leor leor daoine agus ó eagraíochtaí eile.

Ní chóir don Ghluaiseacht cibé fuinneamh tá inti a chaitheamh go hiomlán ar an obair seo. Ach ós gnomh de chuid na Gluaiseachta

Oireachtas na nGaeil, agus ós spéis léi an tOireachtas sin a chomhail beo, a mheadú agus a bhuanú, caithfidh sí machnamh a dhéanamh faoi na moltaí seo agam.

B'fhéidir go mbeadh spéis ag Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, ag Conradh na Gaeilge, ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael agus ag dreamanna eile in athbheochain na ríncí agus na bhfeiseanna?

Má bhíonn, ní chóire go mbeadh sé ró-dheacair coisféil a bhunú chun an obair a dhéanamh, rud a d'fhágfaidh an Ghluaiseacht saor chun obair na polaitíochta a chur chun críche go snasta agus le héifeacht.

Níl aon amhras orm ach go bhfaighidh amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós, ríncí, scéalaíocht, béaloideas agus eile bás taobh istigh de 10 mbliana, nó 20 bliain, muna dtugtar faoina sibhál láithreach bonn. Ba thrua go mór sin. D'imeodh an teanga ar an mbealach céanna.

Tá níos mó eolais ar na ríncí Gaelacha i mBaile Uí Mhurchú agus a tSeanchill i mBaile Feirste ná mar atá i gConamara. Nach áit é sin?

B'fhéidir, freisin, go bhfuil níos mó eolais ag Protastúin agus ag Caitlicigh sna Sé Chontae faoi cheolta tíre, agus níos mó spéis acu ann, ná mar atá i gConamara. Cá bhfuil an réabhlóid chultúrtha lasmuigh de Chúige Uladh?

Fadhbanna 'Amarách'

FAOI BHUANÚ "Amarách" a bhíos, an tseachtain seo caite, nuair a chuir an t-eagarthóir in iost mé. Ag súil le go bhfaighinn tuilleadh spéis leathanach éicint eile a bhíos nó ní thosóinn ar an bórt sin ar chor ar bith agus go deimhin ní chríochnóinn mar bh eigeán dom a chríochnú san eagrán deiridh.

Tá súil agam go dtuigfidh Seosamh Ó Cuaig é sin uilig agus go maithfidh sé an sotal dom óir ní sotal a bhí i gceist ach greann, ar



Seosamh Ó Neachtain (Joe Stever), cathaoirleach ar An Oireachtas i gCois Fharrage agus file den scoth.

dtús, agus iarracht faoin bhfreagra ceart ar a litir, ina dhiaidh sin.

Ar aon chaoi, seo a leanas an méid a bhí fágtha ar lár an tseachtain seo caite, nó an méid de a bhfuil spás ar fáil do san eagrán seo. B'fhéidir, freisin, go mbeadh spás ar fáil dom ar "Amarách" do mo smaointí agus do mo thuairimí, ní fheadar?

Ach maidir le plean: fógraíocht, a dhúine. Fear maith fógraíochta a fhostú agus cead a chinn thabhairt dó agus a bheith fial leis i roinnt an airgid. Sin nó an scéal a chur thart i measc na ndaoine gairmiúla i saol na fógraíochta do dtábhairtí "Amarách" níos mó airgid dóibh ná aon pháipéar eile ach na fógraí a thabhairt isteach.

Ní fhaca mé fós aon eagrán den pháipéar tar éis na hathbheochana. Ní fearacht dream-ann eile ní nós do lucht folistíthe "Amarách" cóipeanna a chur chuagam (ach cheannóinn cóip dá bhfeicinn ceann ar díol).

(Ar leanúint ar seachtain seo chugainn)

A salute to the true peace women

FOR EIGHT long years they have soldiered on — the Women of Peace, the Women Relatives of the Prisoners of War. How often and rightly so have we heard of the man and women imprisoned for their country but who will speak a word of praise for their womenfolk.

Do the Bishops offer a word of comfort to these magnificent women, many of whom are raising their families single-handed? Does the Press and TV give them lavish free time and put their case before the public? Week after week, a parcel is made up. Food and clothes

are always needed and the journey to Magilligan, Long Kesh, Armagh, Crumlin Rd., Port Laisie, Mountjoy or Limerick is undertaken. Never more so than at this time do we need such Women as these — never more so than at this time does Ireland call to her daughters, and never more so than at this time have her loving daughters rushed to her aid. But where are all her other children? Those who have no one in jail. Some, alas, would tell their motherland for peace at any price, for never having ensured suffering themselves, they are loth to face even discomfort, much less suffering, for their country or their fellow-men. Others are selfish and seek pleasure avidly, knowing, but not caring. Well so it has always been. Only

LEFT: Members of the Relatives Action Committee in Newry collecting signatures in support of their campaign to maintain political status.

those who are strong in the rightness of the cause dare walk the road of Justice, Truth, Freedom and Equality these four that are necessary to make peace as water is necessary to make a river. As Pope John said "Peace is not just an absence of War".

So a salute to the brave Peace Women of the Prisons, who even now, when their energies should be exhausted, have embarked on a campaign to maintain political status for the prisoners-of-war. All over Ireland Branches of the Relatives Action Committee are being set up. Pickets are out and petitions are being signed. The courage and endurance of these unsung heroines must surely inspire the rest of us to join with them and look on the prisoners-of-war as we would our own brothers.

Booklet on brutality

A BOOKLET to document recent incidents of harassment in Derry is being prepared by Sinn Féin.

All incidents of police brutality should be reported at Cable Street Advice Centre between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. At other times information should be telephoned to Derry 69172.

*Don't let it pass!
Report all incidents for documentation and publication.

Dundalk UDC meeting

FOLLOWING A motion from Mr. Fra Browne, Dundalk, Urban Council at their meeting last Monday night was agreed that the problem of rat infestation at the Rampart River end of Williamsons Place should be investigated.

It was also agreed that the problem of sewerage leakage in Mary Street North be looked at and repaired.

A third motion from Mr. Browne, which was also signed by Mr. John Carroll, complimented the part-time firemen who manned the Fire Service during the recent dispute with the full-time staff.

Mr. Joe Farrell, T.D., was not entirely happy with the motion, and Mr. Tom Bellew asked how much the dispute cost.

The Town Clerk, Mr. P. Hand, replied around £1,000 which worked out about £30 per man per night.

Reason for delay

Mr. Browne sought the reason for the delay in implementing new house purchase schemes, particularly in Cox's Demesne, and Mr. T. Bellew said that this matter had been under Cabinet decision since June. It was agreed that the delay was not with the Council officials.

Another of Mr. Browne's motions that the Council make provision for grass cutting equipment in the next estimates was passed.

Mr. Browne asked when would work commence on the footpaths in the Laurels, he was told that it would have to wait until next year's estimates.

Itinerants moved

When the Town Clerk replied that it was he who gave Council employees permission to move itinerants from Coe's Road on August 4 last, Mr. Browne said he didn't think Council employees had the right to physically remove these people, and asked Council officials not to instruct Council employees to do so in the future.

Regarding 80 and 81 Oakland Park, Mr. Browne said he was not satisfied with remedial work carried out on these houses, and that further structural defects had occurred.

Mr. Carroll said that further work was needed. The tenants were dissatisfied that new decorations carried out were destroyed by constant need for repairs, and his suggestion that they be offered some form of compensation was agreed.

Quit North to fight in Rhodesia

NINE EX-BRITISH soldiers who quit their regiments to serve as mercenaries in Rhodesia gave British policy on the North as one of their main reasons for leaving, according to the London Times correspondent in Salisbury.

Eight of them had served in the North, while the ninth is a Northerner according to the correspondent Richard Cecil.

He says: "All those who had served in Ireland had bitter memories and complained they were pawns in the hands of the politicians. All felt that many senior officers were more interested in promotion than in backing up their own soldiers, and were always looking over their shoulders at the politicians."

The State of Emergency

AT LAST Monday night's special meeting of Dundalk Urban Council, Mr. Fra Browne proposed the suspension of standing orders to discuss the State of Emergency situation. There were no seconders for his proposal, and he said he would give notice of motion for the next meeting.

Maintain Political Status

PROTEST meetings, organised by Derry Sinn Féin are being held every Saturday at Waterloo Place at 3.00 p.m.; and in the Bogside every Wednesday night at 8.00 p.m.

Write a prisoner a letter a week.

Why did Sinn Féin take part ... ?

"IF THEY feel that way, they shouldn't have been here" — Betty Williams.

Misguided but sincerely-motivated followers of the "peace" movement no longer need be under any illusions. For in those few words, Betty Williams told the press what she thought of the marchers who showed up at her Derry peace rally with "Peace with Justice" banners.

Her comment was broadcasted over UTV after Derry Sinn Féin Chairman Barney McFadden was seen with a large crowd of Sinn Féin members at the rally, and asked why they were there. "We want peace as much as anyone, but peace with justice." This comment infuriated Mrs. Williams — as did questions such as "What about the prisoners?" As Mrs. Williams and Miss Corrigan spoke, rhapsodizing about "swimming together to the banks of paradise" and singing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," the Sinn Féin participation was seen as the unwelcome intrusion of reality.

But as one Sinn Féin member said; "Irish Eyes" are not smiling in Magilligan or Port Laisie or any other such place.

Why did Sinn Féin take part in the rally?

Originally, when many Republican supporters heard of the planned rally on Craigavon Bridge, they were disgusted, and decided to ignore the rally altogether.

We have not forgotten earlier events on this Bridge — the press were not tripping happily about it being a "bridge over troubled waters" then! Nor were the RUC singing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" as they beat protesters at anti-state rallies off the same Bridge. The last peaceful protest on that Bridge was held the day Frank Stagg was murdered — and the police persuaded a bus driver to run through the lines of peacefully seated demonstrators before they moved in, truncheons swinging and grins of pleasure on their faces. On the 5th of October, '68, a massive peaceful march for civil rights wasn't even allowed to reach Craigavon Bridge, before being hosed off the streets by RUC water cannon.

Why, then, did Derry Sinn Féin decide to join this rally? Originally, the plan was to ignore the Williams-Corrigan debut in Derry, as such theatrical, highly political puppetry deserves.

Change of plan

But at a rally in Creggan on Wednesday night — called to protest against BA brutality and in support of political status — a groundswell of public feeling demanded a change of plan. Creggan people were angry that the peace-at-any-price people monopolise TV screens, while

people undergoing a summer of savage battering and abuse aren't allowed television time to highlight and protest.

Because of the unpeaceful scowls and language of these "peace people" at our presence, we kept together throughout the rally as a distinct unity. Although the British press did their best to ignore us, French, German and American cameramen were focusing a lot of attention on our protest.

Free Derry News

Derry people have a question for the Betty Williams and Mairéad Corrigan of Ireland: Do you realise what you are making possible in nationalist areas by your presence on the streets of the North?

You are being used to support a "licence to kill" policy, giving a carte blanche to a kind of savage harassment which Derry, mercifully, had been seeing less of over the past seven or eight months.

Has the trend in Derry been typical of that throughout the North? This summer has marked the return of a "no holds barred" policy of brutality and harassment in Derry. Foot patrols have been "unleashed" in the estates against the ordinary residents, their officers exert no control whatever as their men use gutter language to housewives and old age pensioners, harass their favourite victims — youths — without let-up, and use every available opportunity to batter the population. They communicate directly: a plastic bullet fired recently at a six year old had the message "Fenian bastard" written on it. RUC brutality has returned to pre-69 levels.

The peace-at-any-price movement is giving the Brits and RUC the go-ahead for this policy.

The peace women have made the following incidents typical of this summer in Derry:

*A gun held to the head of a 7-month-old child by a Brit as the mother came to take it inside out of the fresh air as the Brits were in the area. The father came out and was threatened: "We've left a lot of people lying in alleys in Belfast with their throats cut. You'll be next". Since then the Brits have returned nightly to this family's home at 3.00 a.m. to rattle windows and kick doors.

*recently four young Derry men were lifted for allegedly shooting a RUC woman, Linda Baggey. The oldest, aged 20, was thrown down from the top of his stairs in his own home, break-

ing the wrought-iron bannister with his fall. As he lay there Brits proceeded to kick him, until an officer intervened. Another boy charged with the same shooting, aged 17, emerged from RUC interrogation with a broken nose and cigarette burns on his lips. He was also taken out into a Loyalist district in the RUC Land Rover, and fired on inside the Land Rover three times — two bullets missed, one went through his coat — in an effort to make him talk. Despite such tortures, these and two 16 year olds charged made no statement whatsoever. The 20 year old now lies in a cell in Crumlin marked by screws with a red cross, indicating he has been charged with the policewoman's murder, and screws shout abuse at him at all times.

*A man coming home in the Waterside, a Catholic, shot point-blank in the forehead with a plastic bullet, is now in hospital. A priest the same day thrown out of the back of a Saracen which he had entered to accompany a 13 year old being arrested.

*Incidents of innocent people being held and beaten at the New Strand Road RUC Barracks were too numerous to mention: A young man coming home from his honeymoon, young boys brought in and charged with anything from rioting to nothing, and even girls are getting this treatment, and the doctors are kept busy.

Peace Women split in Derry

Peace women, are you pleased at the "peaceful" behaviour you have encouraged in Derry?

But the "peace movement" in Derry is already split into squabbling factions. Even on Saturday, the opening shots of the peace rally echoed in rivalry which almost broke into a free-for-all brawl. All because one particular member of the platform party took offence at the name 'Derry' being used instead of 'Londonderry'. One of the original Derry 'peace women' was thrown out of the peace movement prior to the rally for the audacity of asking for "peace with justice".

While the peace-at-any-price people continue to prance before dotting television cameramen, Sinn Féin intends to continue its current campaign for political status. Open-air meetings are taking place several times a week in each area, and each Saturday at 3.00 p.m. in Waterloo Place in the City Centre. We have no worries about support for this campaign. A new mood is evident throughout Derry — anger, determination, and a refusal to accept what is being dishd out to prisoners and estate residents alike.

Peace, yes, but with justice

readers write...



Successful campaign for tenants' rights

WORK is expected to begin soon on the installation of solid fuel fires in 60 council houses in Section D, Cox's Demesne, Dundalk.

Following a call assistance by some of the tenants in Section D, Cox's Demesne to help them in their fight to get solid fuel fires in their homes members of the West

Dundalk Cumann of Sinn Fein started a campaign to get the fires installed.

As a result of the fuel crisis and the high rate of inflation and the high cost of electricity a formal request was made by these tenants, who were paying as high as £65 per two months on heating alone to the Dundalk Urban District Council to have solid fuel fires installed in their homes. Following this request members of the council met the Free State Minister for Local Government, Mr. Jim Tully in the Custom House, Dublin in September 1975. The council understood from that meeting with the Minister that the cost of installing the chimneys could be financed in the following manner; (1) by 1/3 State grant for Reconstruction (maximum £200), (2) 1/3 Supplementary Reconstruction Grant (maximum £200), (3) the balance of the cost to be raised on the rates.

In the spring of 1976 the tenants were told that they must now pay 1/3 of the cost themselves. The Minister stated that the Government could not afford the

expenditure.

Finally at a meeting of the Council in July 22nd, 1976, Colr. Fra. Browne (S.F.) succeeded in getting sufficient backing to get a proposal passed that the Council bear the tenants' share of the expenditure and begin the installation work as soon as possible. An application for a loan of £37,000 has been made by the Council and it is expected that the work will start sometime in October.

LONG CAMPAIGN

This victory came after a long campaign by Sinn Fein and the tenants of the 60 houses concerned, in which the matter was raised in the Council time and time again by the Sinn Fein Councillor, Mr. Fra Browne.

Our picture below shows members of the West Dundalk Sinn Fein Cumann waiting for the Free State's Minister for Local Government, Mr. Jim Tully, with a group of tenants from the all-electric houses.



I HAVE refrained from any comment on the activities of the 'peace-at-any-price' women, (who incidentally weren't averse to filling my hallway almost daily with obscene, offensive and scurrilous letters) partly because of seven days' isolation from newspapers, relatives, solicitor or doctor in solitary confinement in Townhall Street RUC Station. It is sickening to look at backdated newspapers, to find the awful tragedy of the Maguire children forgotten 24 hours later, when I read of marchers making their way to Milltown Cemetery singing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling".

"Unholy Alliance" - surely an apt term for the peace-at-any-price movement now that it has the support of the UDA, UVF and Official Republican movement.

This peace movement apparently started because of the accidental death of the Maguire children. Are all those mothers and wives who lost dear ones, horribly mutilated and butchered cold bloodedly by the UDA, UVF murder squads to join hands with their murderers on the Shankill Road and sing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"?

Do the peace-at-any-price women condone (or condemn) the actions of the 'Officials' who daily indulge in hijackings for personal gain, robberies, etc.?

Are these people all acceptable because they have a common bond of 'Anti-Provo'?

Peace? Yes, by all means; but why not under the banner of peace with justice?

Le Meas
—Maureen Drumm,
Andersonstown, Belfast.

'WOULD THIS BE AFTERMATH OF PEACE MARCHES?'

THOSE who are at present clamouring for peace in present circumstances, would be well advised to consider the future political consequences of their campaign. There are thousands of Catholics supporting the movement at the present time, who have not even given the slightest thought as to what they are really marching about.

Peace in the present political climate here means only one thing - unconditional surrender to the same people who have, for the past fifty odd years trampled the Catholic working class into the ground.

It will also mean the return of a Protestant Parliament for a Protestant People and the revival of the old "Not an Inch" policy with all its attendant evils, namely discrimination in jobs and housing.

We will want peace, but peace at any price is just not on and the Andersonstown women should give serious consideration to the possible outcome of the present campaign, and to the faceless people who are making full use of it.

Leopards don't change their spots and if there has been any change in the political philosophy of Paisley, Baird, Bradford and other Orange bigwigs who are now lined up for re-entry to Stormont, I certainly have not noticed it.

There has been a slight change in the RUC. But one or two swallows don't make a summer and there must be some real changes in the composition and the political direction of that force.

Here in 'Ulster' peace and politics go hand in hand - you cannot divorce one from the other without endangering your position and the position of those whom you claim to represent.

Peace for the sake of

expediency is merely a papering over of cracks and quite often makes the whole problem worse and more difficult to solve. One has only to look back at Chamberlain's peace-in-our-time policy to realise the mess it made of things.

To those who are sincere in their quest for peace I would suggest they tackle the problem at its roots and demand a British withdrawal. I will look forward to the next peace rally to be held at Downing Street, London, which is the real source of our present troubles.

Left alone the people of the Falls and Shankill won't be too long in getting around the table long in getting around a future for themselves and for generations to come.

—J. McCann,
46K Stanhope Drive, Belfast 13.

PEACE MARCHERS' DOUBLE STANDARDS

FOR months now, readers of "National" newspapers especially of the "Letter Page", must be wondering just what the word Christianity really means.

Every other letter tries to explain to us that it is our Christian duty to cast ourselves away from the 'men of violence', and throw in our lot, and call it a day.

These same people who now masquerade under a peace at any price banner; must indeed have poor memories. Where was their Christian charity when brave Frank Stagg (R.I.P.), was dying in an English prison?

I was one of many who stood on the Andersonstown Road asking for names in support of his return to his native land. Many were the insults from some of the same "Christians" who are now openly backing those same animals who helped bring about Stagg's death.

Where was the Christianity when Frank Stagg was denied his last dying wish for a Mass in his cell. Where were our own clerics in Ireland? Why was not their voice heard on his behalf before and after his death?

When some of these people came out and condemned violence from all sides, including the British Army, then I for one will support any peace moves that may follow.

Until then I am still a bit bewildered about the use of the word Christianity. Maybe because of these good people or clergymen will explain it to me - Yours etc.

—Riverdale,
Belfast, 11.

THAT 'SORRY' PLACARD

I DO not put pen to paper easily and this is the first time I have written to a newspaper. But after reading a report in a Sunday newspaper describing the Shankill peace rally I was ashamed and sick almost to tears to think that a young Irish boy carried a placard saying "Sorry" up the Shankill Road.

I am sorry for the people who wrote it and gave it to the child to carry.

—Irish Mother,
Belfast.

WE SHOULD HAVE OUR COUNTRY TO OURSELVES

I FEEL very sad about the situation in Belfast. The accident which took place at Finaghy

I WOULD like to ask the people who took part in Dublin's peace "at any price" march a question? Did you come out and protest at the violence and brutality in Port Laoise Jail?

If not go home and hang your un-Christian heads in shame.

—Mary Kennedy,
St. Jude's Walk, Belfast.

Road North was a terrible shock to everyone. I will pray for the Maguire family that those innocent children will pray for Danny Lennon that God will take him up to heaven to be happy with him.

Some people are blaming The Irish Republican Army in what I think is wrong. Those two men did not go out to shoot innocent people, they went out as soldiers of Ireland to try and get Peace in Ireland.

Everyone wants Peace, it is a small five-lettered word which means a lot. But we are Irish people and we should have our country to ourselves and not the English. We need peace with justice and we won't get it without prayers.

If the soldiers had not been here nothing would have happened. They are supposed to be good marksmen. They could have shot at the tyres or made a road block. But no they shot Danny Lennon dead.

On television Mrs. Williams said she wanted peace and also the scum out of the area - I am not scum. I put God first. I love my country. I go to Mass often. I am well brought up and I don't hate anyone, I believe that everyone is entitled to their beliefs and not just what the newspapers or TV says.

—Yours
Disappointed 11-year-old,
Ladysbrook, Belfast.

THE NEW WHISTLE BLOWERS

Sir,
I see, in the papers, that the Peace Women have bought themselves whistles which they intend to blow when violence or intimidation occurs.

I have a whistle myself. I used to blow it when the British Army came into our street to take people away for torture and internment. Before I got my whistle, I used to bang my bin lid.

Last Saturday I watched some Peace Women leaving our street to go to their march. I know them well. They never showed much interest before. They never blew a whistle or banged a bin lid at all during internment.

Of course, there were no sympathetic television reporters there to interview them then. The cameras were not there to record what went on. It's very different now when the BBC falls over backwards to record every remark made by the leaders of this movement. These ladies hid their light under a bushel up till now. Suddenly each of them has discovered that she is another Joan of Arc.

Yours,
WHISTLE BLOWER.

VISIT THE CRAFT CENTRE

Kevin Coen memorial unveiled

Riverstown, Co. Sligo was the scene of a large gathering of Republicans from Sligo and neighbouring counties for the unveiling of a Memorial to the late Vol. Kevin Coen.

The unveiling was performed by Commandant General Tom Maguire, a member of the Second Dail. Speaking of Kevin Coen he said:

"Pearse's call to the men of Ireland summoned him to the flag and found a response in his generous heart. He joined with the fighting men of Ireland and here in the presence of the watching spirits of the men who gave their lives for the Republic, proclaimed in arms by the men of 1916 and ratified by the people in 1918, we unveil the memorial in his honour."

ORATION

The oration was delivered by John Joe McGil in the course of which he said:

To-day as we assemble to pay tribute to the memory of Kevin Coen, we should ask ourselves what manner of man was this that gave his life for his country; A man of stern qualities, a man of high discipline and dedicated loyalty who was always prepared to do what was most essential rather than what was most glamorous. He shirked the limelight, but not his duties. He embodied all that is noble in Irish manhood. His loss to the Republican movement was great, but his sacrifice and example serve to inspire others to complete the task he fought and died for.

COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

To-day's struggle for the complete independence of our country is but the continuation of the struggle waged by successive generations of Irishmen for 800 years. This is and must be the final phase of that struggle. Too many brave men and women like Kevin Coen have had to pay the supreme sacrifice in that struggle. They knew, and we know if we are honest that England has never yielded to the force of persuasion

only to the persuasion of force. We see all the methods of divide and conquer, they have employed in the last seven years. We see how they have persuaded or ordered Shoneen Free-States to assist them.

We read that Leinster House has declared a State of Emergency and introduced draconian legislation in an attempt to kill the Republican Movement. Let them remember Pearse's words at a graveside like this one: "The fools, the fools, they have left us our Fenian dead, and so long as Ireland holds these graves Ireland unfree will never be at peace".

There exists a state of emergency in the Free State sure enough; unemployment, rising costs, and worst of all bankruptcy. As they can no longer carry on pretence and borrowing, what a legacy, Republican Ireland will inherit from disgruntled states. But every red herring is being introduced to cover their failures, and every fascist tactic possible employed to frustrate the efforts of those who follow the hard straight road of true Republicanism.

To-day hundreds of prisoners exist in the most inhuman state of degradation imaginable in Port Laoise, Beatings, torture and humiliation are the order of the day; Still no comments, condemnation or calls for inquiry from Church Leaders or opposition leaders in politics. Is their silence collaboration? It is hardly ignorance, but the Republican Movement will survive their worst, as it has done before, at least they can only delay — rather than hasten the day of Peace, for young men like Kevin Coen will carry on the fight until the last sod of Irish soil is freed.

TRIBUTE

I would like to pay tribute to the Coen family, particularly his mother, who bore her cross with true fortitude and understanding. She is a symbol of the mothers in the Republican Movement who have suffered the same sad bereavement. I would also like to pay tribute to the man who unveiled this monument to-day — Tom Maguire of whom a



Republican flags dipped in salute at the grave of the late Vol. Kevin Coen.

Free State Political opponent once said in tribute, "no man can point a finger at the Political integrity of Maguire".

Tom, a veteran of Tan and Cival War, who had his own brother executed in the Civil War, servicing member of the 2nd and last legitimate Dail, one of the survivors who delegated the powers of that Dail to the I.R.A. in 1938. A man who never wavered in his loyalty to the Republic. We are all glad to have him here, and may he be long spared to

be with us.

As we go away from here to-day, let each of us ask ourselves — are we satisfied with the Memorial? We erected cold stone to the memory of Kevin Coen. Is it the Memorial he would build to others, before him, or will we strive to build the one he strove to build — An Irish Ireland. That is the memorial that it is our duty to raise.

The proceedings were presided over by P.J. Kearney.

Bills herald Republican inquisition

— S.F. statement

THE very existence of these Bills and other draconian laws are an indictment of the Dublin regime and indicative of the abysmal failure of the Coalition parties. The Emergency Powers Bill (1976) and the Criminal Law Bill (1976) are in tenor repressive and remove any vestiges of democracy which the perfidious Dublin administration claim to possess.

Such are the provisions of these two new Bills that their introduction will serve firstly as an epoch-making event turning the 26 Counties into a Fascist State and, secondly, they will act as the harbinger of a Republican inquisition. The fears expressed by various groups concerning this new legislation are shared by Sinn Féin, and we believe that these Bills auger ill for the Irish people and constitute a threat to fundamental freedoms. Particular note is taken of Section 3 of the Criminal Law Bill, which has the potential of greatly restricting freedom of speech and represents yet another attempt to foist upon the Irish people the Blueshirt concept of Government, namely, Fascism. What is equally reprehensible is the power granted to the Garda

to arrest without a warrant and detain for a period of seven days. Similarly, police powers granted to the Army are to be viewed with contempt by all freedom-loving people. These iniquitous provisions possess the potential of being used against groups, e.g. Trade-Unions, Unemployed, Tenants Associations who, in their quest for Justice, may threaten the interests of the ruling class.

One observation to be made by the concerned public, which provides irrefutable proof of the hypocrisy of the Dublin Government, is their willingness to derogate from the European Convention of Human Rights. It is ironic that the Dublin Government, which has brought a case against Britain for contravening sections of the Human Rights Convention, has abolished the application of this Convention to its own people. Likewise, the suspension of the 1937 Constitution, which supposedly acts as a guarantee for individual freedoms, is beckoning for censure. This overall lack of a guarantee for individual liberties is the hallmark of the totalitarian State.

It is undeniable that a State of Emergency exists in this part of the island in view of the facts that there are 150,000 unemployed; housing conditions for the poor are atrocious, and we are confronted with a stagnant economy. But this legislation has been introduced, not to alleviate the suffering of the poor, but rather to act as a bastion of the Dublin oligarchy's rule.

The powers of search and seizure conferred upon the Garda means that the privacy of one's home no longer exists, and reveals how the transition towards the police-state is now complete. This situation is reminiscent of Nazi Germany and, presently, the Law and Order Maintenance Act in Rhodesia is not dissimilar to the laws being contemplated in the 26 Counties. Sinn Féin wishes to reiterate its demand for Peace with Justice. A transitory peace achieved by repression is merely synthetic, but true peace is based upon that most fundamental, yet most noble attribute — JUSTICE. In the face of this legislative monster, we are now more determined than ever to build the New Ireland. We shall not suffer the fruits of a false peace.

Harassment of Murray Defence Committee

"THE POLICE campaign against members and supporters of the Murray Defence Committee is continuing. On Monday, 6th September, the premises which one of the committee's officers, a self-employed typist, shares with a commercial company, were raided and searched by the Special Branch. Detectives spent one and a half hours looking through papers, disturbing the work of a company which has no connection with any organisation they could possibly be interested in", according to a statement issued by the Murray Defence Committee. The statement went on:

"Last week, we had reported that two members of the committee had been charged with "intent to provoke a breach of the peace"; they are due to appear in court on Monday, 13th September. Two other members of the committee have also been summoned for fly-posting — an activity carried on by literally scores of organisations and companies without harassment. "This deliberate and calculated campaign has met the Murray Defence Committee at every step since it was set up in June. What is it in the committee's opposition to capital punishment and in the call for the repeal of the death sentence on the Murrays which provokes this treatment?"

"Those two points are also the demands on a petition now being circulated by the Murray Defence Committee. The support for that petition, and the remarks made by prominent speakers at the public meeting of the Irish

Council for Civil Liberties last Sunday, show that the Murray Defence Committee is not alone in opposing the "abomination of capital punishment", as one of those speakers, a law lecturer, called it.

"The Murray Defence Committee has been too active, it seems, in pursuing its aims. The Gardaí and the government would prefer if the Murrays' case was forgotten. But the committee's activity will go on. Following last week's successful street meeting and march in Dublin, a further meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th September, at the GPO, O'Connell Street.

"On Tuesday, 7th September, the first meeting of a Belfast Murray Defence Committee, chaired by Father Des Wilson, took place. On Friday, 10th September, a public meeting held in Conway Hall, London, organised by the Murray Defence Committee there. And on Thursday, 16th September, there will be a public meeting on the case in Galway.

"In spite of continued appeals to the Department of Justice the Murray Defence Committee has been unable to arrange for any visits to Noel and Marie Murray other than those already allowed from Mr. and Mrs. Murray. Noel's parents. It appears that the Department does not wish Noel and Marie to know of the campaign in their defence being carried on.

"Unhappily — and with only very occasional exceptions — the press has been willing to help them, breaking the silence on the Murray Defence Committee's activities on very few occasions", the statement said.

"Nothing left to subvert"

I am really fascinated by that idea that came to me last week. The cleverest way for a government to prevent subversives achieving their aim is to subvert the Constitution of the state so that there's nothing left for the subversives to subvert!

I'd like to see a cartoonist depict the faces of The Disappointed Provos. "Nothing left for them to subvert".

But of course, as you know, I don't think that the Provos should be either disappointed or elated. I'm not for subversion myself, as the term is normally understood, because it means being turned towards the inhuman state and paying it the compliment of directing one's activity against it.

I don't think that real Irish Republicans would waste their time doing that. The only effective and self-respecting way to "subvert" an inhuman state is by building the institutions of a new, humane state, and drawing the people to those institutions.

But I do think that my own description of what the Dublin government is doing is far superior to that other hackneyed phrase about "destroying democracy to save it".

What is "democracy" but "the will of the people in action"? The people, any people, can will — or rather a majority of them can will — to abolish freedom of the press, trial by jury, the right of free assembly, you name it. A majority of the people can "will" to enslave themselves and others, or to make themselves the masters and the minority slaves — whichever way you want to look at it.

To talk of democracy as necessarily involving certain liberties is to be a political illiterate. What is really meant is "liberal democracy", namely, government by the will of the majority within the limits set by certain fundamental, legally guaranteed rights which are not open to annulment by majority decision.

I do not say that I accept liberal democracy, so defined, as a satisfactory expression either of liberty or of democracy. The liberties guaranteed are liberties for individuals or for groups of individuals only, and the democracy is merely the right of the majority of individuals in a state to approve, every few years, the continued rule of the irremovable oligarchy of top bureaucrats, financiers and media managers. "Liberal democracy" does not, of itself, guarantee any liberties at all to the communities of the nation — any right of democratic decision by them or any real self-government to the nation as a whole.

Consequently — even when Dubland was more or less a liberal democracy — whether you took Dublin, Cabra, Connacht, Munster, Clonmel or Co. Louth, in no instance did you find a community exercising even substantial control over its own life and affairs. Nor, due to the permanent, overriding power of the oligarchy, did you find the people of Dubland as a whole really deciding on what lines the state should be run.

No, I am not saying that I recognise liberal democracy as a real combination of liberty and democracy, merely that it is what people have in mind when they say that you can't "save democracy by destroying it".

Liberal democracy is the domestic political system which capitalism has evolved over the past two centuries. Liberals are people who, nominally or really, support this system. More particularly, they are people who, nominally or really, support the liberties which this system guarantees and wish to add to them.

Notice that I say, in both cases, "nominally or really". When I remarked last week that most liberals have a hankering after authoritarianism, that they came in to anti-libertarian power and become collaborators with it and propagandists for it, what I was really saying was that most liberals are nominal liberals.

But even the real liberals, as the history of the Nazis and of the socialist dictatorships show, are "real" in a time of crisis only to the extent that they express verbal opposition to the anti-libertarian power for quite some time and then, when they stop doing so, refuse to collaborate with it. They do not push their opposition or their criticism to the point where they land in jail or in a concentration camp or get liquidated. Only libertarian socialists, Christians, revolutionary Communists and revolutionary nationalists go that far.

In "normal" times — do you remember them? — when there is no anti-libertarian regime encroaching on civil liberties, either in one's own country or in a neighbouring one, it is difficult to distinguish between the real liberals and the nominal ones. All of them qualify as liberals simply by saying they are for civil liberties.

But it is not impossible to distinguish between the two kinds, even then. The Liberalism of the nominal liberals has a sectarian edge to it. It is anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish, anti-Irish or the like, and the "liberty" it is upholding or pursuing is not that of people in general, but rather in rights and power of a small, like-minded liberal sect.

The liberalism of the Irish Times in the 'sixties is a case in point. By applying the above criterion or lie-detector to it, one could recognise, from its sectarian tone, that it was merely a nominal liberalism, ready, if the wind veered that way, to collaborate with authoritarianism and tyranny — after a few protesting, ritualistic bleats. Its honeycomb with Whitelaw, Heath and other British Tories, its editorial blind-eye to the barbarities of the English army, its support for the new Blue Shirts in Dubland, its indifference to brutality in the prisons and in police stations — all these subsequent illiberal postures were logical developments of its earlier sectarian-liberal stance.

And of course the same applies, in a very obvious way, to Cruise O'Brien, in his earlier and latterday manifestations.

The real liberal is distinguished, in normal times, by the general, all-embracing nature of his liberal concern — by his lack of sectarian bias. Nollaig O Gadhra's book about John Boyle O'Reilly (reviewed in last week's issue) depicts such a liberal and has a good deal to say about another liberal of the same ilk, Paul O'Dwyer.

Needless to say, in Ireland of the 'sixties, such liberals were also to be found and they have held firm to their liberalism during these last critical years. But most of the 'sixties liberals were of the other, sectarian kind: hence the smell of cringing opportunism and moral cowardice which attaches to the designation "liberal" in Ireland today.

FREEMAN.

NOTEBOOK

by

FREEMAN

A.L.J. write to all T.D.s and Senators

This Association, having studied and given due consideration to the Emergency Powers Bill 1976 and the Criminal Law Bill 1976, makes the following observations:

1. This Association has since its inception been concerned with the upholding of the Rule of Law but we believe that the proposed legislation calculated to do just the opposite. The emphasis of the present legislation is on "order" with a capital "O". In essence this proposed legislation stems from the belief of the Government that law and order are interchangeable terms. We do not doubt that order exists in many modern dictatorships but we feel it is a matter of comment, not of debate, that the rule of law is non-existent in such states.

2. The proposed legislation is a misguided attempt by the Government to solve what is essentially a political problem by repressive law. However, laws which take no account of political reality or social development will not only fail to achieve their objective but may create in the people generally attitudes of hostility and cynicism.

3. The Association is concerned that Article 28 (3) of the Constitution is being used by the Government to further whittle away the citizen's freedom and liberty. It is the duty of the Government as the law-making body to clearly inform the people of its reasons for wanting to place on the statute book laws which so greatly erode the civil liberties of the people. This the Government has failed to do. For this reason we believe that the Government's invocation of Article 28 (3) of the Constitution is an abuse of what the original framers of the Constitution had intended, and establishes, prima facie, that this administration holds the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the state, in contempt.

4. Section 2 (3) of Emergency Powers Bill: Arrest and custody of suspects. This section of the Bill proposes to empower the Gardaí to detain a suspect for a period of seven days. No reasons for the need to hold suspects for this length of time have been advanced. It is certainly strange that the drafters of the Bill did not see fit to include a provision ensuring that persons so detained be given access to their legal advisers but, in some respects of even greater importance, that they be given a right to consult with a doctor of their choosing. It is of course presumed by us that persons are innocent until proved guilty. If the Department of Justice, through the Government, has altered this concept, the people are entitled to be told.

We refer also to the provisions of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, a resolution adopted on 30th August 1955 by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Rule 91 of Section C — "Prisoners under Arrest or awaiting Trial" states: "An untried prisoner shall be allowed to be visited and treated by his own doctor or dentist if there is reasonable ground for his application and he is able to pay any expenses incurred". Rule 92 of the same section says: "An untried prisoner shall be allowed to inform

immediately his family of his detention and shall be given all reasonable facilities for communicating with his family and friends, and for receiving visits from them, subject only to such restrictions and supervision as are necessary in the interests of the administration of justice and of the security and good order of the institution".

We further draw attention to the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights. Article 5, paragraph 3 states: "Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) (c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial".

We submit that the powers sought to be conferred upon the Gardaí under Section 2 (3) of the Emergency Powers Bill are in contravention of Article 5, paragraph 3. We further submit that the requirements of Rules 91 and 92 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners quoted above requires that the rights conferred upon persons under arrest by these rules should be written into the Bill thus leaving no ambiguity in the minds of those concerned in the operation of the proposed legislation. We must at all times bear in mind the cardinal principle of our criminal law — persons are innocent until proven guilty. We refer also to the guarantee given in Article 40 (3) of our Constitution: "The State guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, to defend and vindicate the personal rights of the citizens".

5. Section 15 of the Criminal Law Bill: Power of Defence Forces to arrest. This section seeks to confer powers of arrest on members of the Defence Forces. It is important to note that the procedure to be followed by police officers when effecting arrest must be in accordance with the Judges' Rules, and our police force is fully instructed in this matter. Are we to assume that all members of the Defence Forces will be so instructed or are we to conclude that the Judges' Rules, which are primarily for the protection of the suspect, are no longer to be observed. Indeed, significantly, the Bill is silent on a person's rights under arrest.

6. Section 3: Incitement. The section dealing with incitement is startling in its imprecision. It would be useful in the interest of clarity to know what is meant by the phrase "any other means". As the section reads it is wide open to abuse by the Authorities.

7. Section 2: Penalties. This section provides for an increase in prison sentences up to a maximum of twenty years for a number of offences some of which are vague and not clearly defined. The Association opposes these extreme penalties. Excessive periods of imprisonment cannot assist in reforming the prisoner and must be considered cruel and inhuman.

ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL JUSTICE

Anthony J. Walsh, Chairman
Michael Traynor, Vice-chairman.

Dublin priest attacks seven day detention

THE Minister for Justice has rejected calls for the establishment of an independent Complaints Commission for alleged brutality of detained suspects and prisoners in the South. The British government has learnt bitter lessons from adopting a similar attitude towards allegations of brutality since 1969. They had adequate warnings. The Compton Reports of 1971 set forth details of "interrogation in depth".

Fathers Denis Paul, Brian

Brady and Raymond Murray repeatedly catalogued acts of brutality in the Northern detention centres. The result was the Strasbourg findings which were not against some low-rank individual police officers but on the contrary concerned the politicians in power at the time.

The South's government is embarking on a similar road to that trodden by the British in the North, both by its adoption of questionable laws stolen from

British legislation and by its refusal to give adequate guarantee of the rights of detained persons to legal and medical needs or even the rights of their families to know their whereabouts over the seven days they may now be held.

Mr. Conroy's off-the-cuff remarks that solicitors will be allowed to see their clients is not sufficient. "Who is going to be obliged by law to tell where the suspect is?" Fr. Paul has rightly asked. Both

Fr. Paul and myself have already witnessed the hardships of families trying to contact persons detained for the 48 hour period. The denial to some detainees to access to legal and medical advisers is also well known. So whether or not the Minister is aware of the fact that Legal, Medical and Family restrictions are imposed on detained suspects, the obvious aim being to isolate the detainee from the outside world.

The allegations of brutality and ill-treatment of prisoners are given much credence in my mind by the fact that I personally had the occasion to arrange medical attention for a number of prisoners after their release. This coupled with the fact that legal action and claims for damages, having been considered, are now being proceeded with. It will take a year to eighteen months but, in the meantime, the Minister would be advised

* to establish an enquiry into conditions under which all prisoners are being held, * to set up an independent Complaints Commission, and * to insert into the law required safeguards for all prisoners's rights.

— An IATH Piaras O Duill,
Baile Átha Cliath.

The rise and fall of dictators

WHEN Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933, the Nazis, although the largest single party in the Reichstag, had not an absolute majority. But even so Hitler insisted on immediate elections, changes in the constitution required a two-thirds majority in the Reichstag, before they could become effective.

However this was no trouble to Hitler: On February 28th, 1933, he proclaimed a *State of Emergency*. This gave him the power to make enough arrests to ensure the necessary majority. The State of Emergency, gave him three supreme powers.

(1) Hitler was given power to pass laws, without the consent of the other ministers;
(2) He had the power to depart with the constitution, and to conclude treaties with foreign powers;
(3) All political parties except the Nazi Party, were abolished. Trade Union offices were raided by S.A. and S.S. troops, and all members beaten. A new law was thrown into concentration camps.

By November 1933, Hitler was sole master. A Dictator was Born. Mussolini gained power in Italy much the same way. In 1919, he formed his party, (Fascio Di Combattimento) which was the beginning of a Fascist State. He got the backing of the middle classes and the industrialists. Who feared a workers revolt.

He made many dramatic public appearances, and changes, during his reign, he forbade the handshake, the Fascist Salute was made compulsory; His last public appearance was his most dramatic. (Il Duce, The Leader) Dead, and strung up by the heels, in a Square in Milan.

Ireland the country that has been held in bondage for eight hundred years, 1976. We have a Foreign Army holding on to six little counties. This army has committed the most brutal murders, and cruel tortures, to our people, which have been proven by the Courts of Human Rights, and yet they are still doing it. In the rest of our Country, the 26 Counties. We have a Government of so called fishermen, who are creating a police state, akin to the above mentioned. We have special (Powers Act); (Special Courts), (Concentration Camps), our telephones are bugged, our mail is opened. The media suppressed, T.V. and papers.

The Dictators, in Leinster House, have studied the ways of Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Franco, not forgetting Eamonn De Valera; And are doing them proud.

—Betty Crilly, 6, Sycamore Drive, Dundrum, Dublin 14.

FAREWELL TO CIVIL RIGHTS

TO-DAY'S papers tell us that Conor Cruise O'Brien has a copy of all letters to the editor which in his opinion he will be able to use as evidence against the writers, that is if those letters differed from his political opinion.

James Connolly and Big Jim Larkin as Trades Union Labour men were representatives of the working class, and on the side of the down trodden and underprivileged, alas how far from those "Labour Ideals" that party has diverged in this day and age. Whatever respect the people formerly held for Labour has disappeared since it took Conor Cruise O'Brien as a member.

It appears that as well as being a Labour member Cruise O'Brien is supposed to be Minister for Posts and Telegraphs. You could have fooled us Mr. O'Brien, that Ministerial post seems to be the most neglected in the Free State, and the most costly to the tax payers; and the Civil Servants appear to be left like sheep without a shepherd to their great discontent, in the running of the post office and telephones.

In this government we ask, how many positions of authority does Mr. O'Brien hold? how many does he neglect while taking his salary? and finally since when has he been appointed as ace spy and informer? What kind of a State do we live in when people are being threatened by a Minister of State? does Mr. O'Brien hold how many does he neglect while taking his salary? and finally since when has he been appointed as ace spy and informer? What kind of a State do we live in when people are being threatened by a Minister of State?

We are a silent people if we let ourselves be made cowards of, can we not also be allowed to collect letters from the press in condemnation of Cruise O'Brien over so long a period now?

Build more prisons and stronger dungeons. Mr. O'Brien as few of us are likely to escape from your wrath; before we get free lodgings we ask: "whose taxes will boost the running of the jails when so many of us are run in Will O'Brien half his salary to help contribute to our accommodation to relieve the low state of the economy."

Here's another letter for your collection Cruise O'Brien this may be one of the last to a Free Press before this police state is finally sanctioned. Who will listen to our cries for Freedom?

—Una Toal, Newry Road, Dun Dealgan.

LONDON MEETING

A CHAKA — May I through the courtesy of your widely read columns express my hearty

congratulations to the organisers and to those who participated in the very successful peace with justice rally in London last Sunday. I along with several hundred Irishmen and Women and many supporters from different nationalities marched proudly and defiantly, in spite of harassment and intimidation through the streets of London to among other things voice our support for the Republicans POWS in their fight to maintain political status. It was indeed an awe inspiring sight to see so many Cumann banners litting too and fro in the stiff London breeze. This demonstration indicated the continuing support for the Republican Movement and the Irish freedom struggle.

In particular I would like to congratulate the main speaker Nial Fegan on his most inspiring speech. His reference to the English Queens visit to the American Bicentennial Celebrations drew rapturous applause from the vast crowd. Her remarks about the fighters who set America free was a typical example of the British "Double think". Did he not realise that the American people had not fought for freedom that they like the people of the Six Counties, would still be slaves of Imperialist Britain. Maybe we will live to see the day when a British monarch will congratulate the IRA in their victorious struggle for self determination.

—Is Mise, Irish and Proud Lator
P.S. A word of congratulations also to the James Connolly Hosiery band from Glasgow. They played a great selection of Republican Tunes which added a touch of nostalgia to the occasion that had me almost believing I was walking up the Falls Road again.

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS "TREATMENT" IN HOSPITAL

DISCRIMINATION by the Prison Authorities against Republican P.O.W.'s has over the last few months taken a dramatic and very ominous turn for the worse. In a recent statement we revealed that the N.I.C. have issued instructions that Republican P.O.W.'s held in custody be treated in what can only be described as a blatantly heavy handed sectarian fashion.

This intolerable situation has now become greatly exacerbated by the treatment being meted out to Republican prisoners held in Musgrave Park Hospital for various medical complaints. Republican prisoners in that establishment are daily being subjected to the abuse of R.U.C.

personnel and British army soldiers. They have become objects of ridicule and fun, with which bored British troops amuse themselves to pass the time of day. In all cases these men are kept locked up 24 hours a day, with no exercise, no fresh air the heaters kept on continuously and the light never turned off. In some cases individuals are kept in total isolation, solitary confinement, locked in rooms where their only contact with the outside world is via the medical staff, doctors and nurses who have in the main through their disgraceful attitudes to sock men brought shame on their profession. One individual who has bullet wounds to both legs and is thus confined to bed, has on occasion asked for a sheet change or a wash. His only reply to these simple requests has been the scornful laughter of the nurses.

This is a disgraceful situation which we will not permit to continue. The Prison Administration have been informed that unless the situation in Musgrave Park Hospital, pertaining to the treatment of Republican P.O.W.'s improves immediately, Republican P.O.W.'s will refuse to attend that hospital for treatment, regardless of the seriousness of the complaint.

We would rather our men suffered from non treatment than ill treatment.

Is Mise, R.G. McAuley, P.R.O. Republican Prisoners of War.

THE TRUTH

THE Republican people of Ireland will fight for it, the loyalists people of Ireland will fight for it. That is the retention of Political Status for Political Prisoners. We the people of Ireland know that our men and women, imprisoned all over the world are not there for, Criminal activity. These people imprisoned are serving time for a cause they believed, still do, and will continue to do so. Use the Irish working class say different.

Understand this, 9 out of 10 of the men and women held in prisons and P.O.W. camps all over the world at this minute, have never before in their lives had to suffer the indignity of a court-room, or the barbaric treatment issued out by State controlled prisons to the Fenian people of Ireland.

These are the people that a foreign element, is trying to call "criminals".

Will they ever understand, that a risen people will never be quelled by force, or anything else for that matter.

As that fine lady said on her recent visit to America, "Every country has the right to take up arms, to defend that country, — that people, — that nationality."

Such a pity Ireland has to prove her a two faced Hypocrite. —Antoine O Béalgh

ILL-TREATMENT IN STORE STREET GARDIA STATION

IN THE course of my activities as a member of Sinn Féin, the Garda squad car stopped near me at the G.P.O. Two Gardai rushed over and pushed me into the back seat, deliberately bashing my head against the door-jamb. The Garda driver then drove to Store Street. On the way he accused me of

shooting people in the back of the head. Immediately after being pushed into the car the Garda in the back seat punched me repeatedly in my face, left temple and the back of my neck, saying: "you are very brave when a couple of you get together outside the G.P.O. but you are cowardly murderers and we will show you at the station what a coward you are."

At Store St. I was dragged out of the car and into the station by the hair at about 15.00 hrs. In the corridor beside the cells I was beaten up again and two Gardai pushed me against a wall and attempted to stick my head into a container of filth. I was then thrown into a stuffy cell with no ventilation. At 15.30 hrs. a Garda opened the cell door for a minute and threw in my belongings (30 copies of An Phoblacht). Shortly afterwards Special Branch men came to interview me. This was done in a room which can easily be seen from the street. The Special Branch men asked me all about my right back to the way they were born. They then asked about relatives and about the Cumann. I was asked to sign a form consenting to give my fingerprints. I asked the Branchmen if I had a choice. They said no. I then asked why they wanted my consent. I said that I did not agree to be fingerprinted but that I would not resist if they went ahead.

I asked to be shown the law section enabling Gardai to demand fingerprints. The Branchman apparently agreed to this and went out to the Inspector. The Inspector then came into the interrogation room raging. "You have asked to see Government papers. Well, you being detained under suspicion of a criminal charge, and as such you have no rights. We do not have to show any papers, we can hold you here for 48 hours and use other fucking ways of getting your fingerprints. The Inspector then went out, the Branchmen then took my fingerprints and handed me back to the Garda.

I was returned to the cell for another hour. I was then released without any charges being preferred against me. —Caoimhín Ó Tuama, 31 Pairc Viatyville, Baile Breac, Co. Aithreach.

AN ENGLISH READER'S VIEW

IT CAME as no surprise to read in the Guardian last week, that British forces in Ulster have found guilty of acts of torture on Irish citizens. Since the involvement of the British Army in the present war in Ulster indicates a commitment to defend economic and political interests in the province, it was to be expected that certain methods of interrogation would be used by units that are based at Warminster, the No. 1 School of Infantry Training, among other bases. The existence of centres for the training of specialised staff in intelligence duties is well known, but not approved of by those people in Britain, including myself, who suspect that they would be used against us should the present irritation with Central Government turn to open confrontation.

As a middle aged, working man, with a heavy mortgage, I

The official policy of the Republican Movement is expressed in statements issued by Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau and the leadership of the Republican Movement. Views expressed here, by letter writers, by regular columnists and in other signed contributions, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the publishers

suppose I represent a large number of English folk, who by now, are heartily sick of the continuing battle in Ulster, and the moranic policy of our Civil Service. I am convinced that Britain would be best governed by Regional Government, where financial resources could be directed to those areas where they are most needed, e.g. housing, public transport, medical services, and education, and I know there are others who are of the same opinion as me.

The mainstream of British public opinion is not represented by the short haired young lads in Army uniform on duty in Ulster, many of whom would have preferred a civilian job, had they been available. Nor is it represented by the long haired elitists in Whitehall, who with their doctrinaire centralism and subservience to the giant multinationals, rival the Communists for their blunders.

One hundred and fifty years ago, the population in this part of Southern England was crushed by the militia on the orders of London, and many hundreds of people were deported for their part in the agricultural riots. The Navy press gangs, badly behaved troops from the garrison towns, all contributed to an anti-military attitude in the local population which still persists today, despite Army and Navy public relations and recruiting teams. Indeed, to listen to personnel belonging to a so-called 'local' regiment, such as the Royal Hampshire, or the Green Jackets, one could be forgiven for thinking one was in Sunderland, Birmingham, or perhaps to great is their intake of 'lads from areas of high unemployment'. —J.C. Honeyselt, "La Fregate" 23, Little Park Close, Hedge End, Southampton SO3 4FN.

NORTH ARMAGH SINN FEIN

Sinn Féin in North Armagh area are at present re-organising. Anyone wishing to join should apply to The Secretary, 77 North Street, Lurgan.

Vote of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy with the family of the late Daniel Lennon was passed by the Tommy Langan S.F. Cumann, Sligo.

SYMPATHY

The Republican Movement deeply regret the death of Michael Fagan (brother of Liam Fagan) Dundalk who died last week.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

SYMPATHY

The Republican Prisoners, Portlaoine Prison, regret to learn of the death of Mr. Corcoran, father of the esteemed comrade, Tony Corcoran and tender deepest sympathy to Tony, his family and friends.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Roger Casement Commemoration 60th Anniversary



The annual Roger Casement Commemoration will be held on Sunday, 19th September at the birthplace of Casement in Sandycove, Co. Dublin.

ASSEMBLY: Bottom of Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire at 3.00 p.m.

Speaker: Deasún Breathnach

Organised by The Roger Casement Commemoration Committee

AN CUMANN CABHRACH (Republican Prisoners Dependents' Fund)

Ceili

in ERNE PALAIS, BELTURBET on

Friday, 1st October, 1976

Music — DOONAREE CEILI BAND

TICKET 60p

Garda intimidation of Tullamore Landlord

GARDAI in Tullamore have tried to frighten a local landlord into breaking his contract with Sinn Féin by denying local members the agreed use of premises.

This report, well known by now to the people of Tullamore and surrounding districts, is a striking illustration of how far certain Gardai are prepared to go without any legal authority whatsoever. It goes a long way to refute the Cockroach's defence of the encroaching police state.

The landlord is Mr. Willie Condon. He agreed on a weekly rent of £10 for the premises tenancy to be free for the first fortnight in lieu of cleaning the rooms. On Friday, July 23, he handed over the keys to Mr. Liam Walsh.

Twelve S.F. members, including Liam and the S.F. Leinster organiser, Brendan Ó Góilín, washed, cleaned and painted the premises in Harbour St., spending about a week on the job.

The plan was to use the place as a Sinn Féin clubroom which would incor-

porate an information centre, a cultural centre and an entertainment centre for the people of the town and surrounding districts. It was to be manned by volunteer workers. When the tenant, Liam Walsh, went to Dublin to buy some £200 worth of books, leaflets and posters a sinister thing happened. The date was July 31st.

Landlord Willie Condon was visited by Garda Sgt. Murray, Barrack Street, Tullamore, accompanied by Secret Policemen John Duncan, Rahau Road, Tullamore.

Willie was told he would be lucky if he did not get three years in Port Laoise for letting the premises to Liam Walsh; that the premises were being used by the IRA to make bombs in the basement; and he was threatened with a night in one of the filthy cells in the local Garda barracks.

Poor Willie was bundled into a car, to bring him to meet his tenant, though they knew he was out of town. Off to Liam's house, then to every one of the town's 30 or so pubs and, very much later, back to the premises in Harbour Street.

The police broke the lock and, telling Willie there were bombs on the premises, pushed him in before them. "At this stage," Willie said afterwards, "I was near collapse. I didn't get a wink of sleep Saturday or Sunday night".

On the Monday he was contacted by Sinn Féin members who had discovered a new lock on the door, the key being held by the Gardai.

The poor man begged the Sinn Féin members not to come near him again as he was afraid the police would beat him up. He had nothing against the Sinn Féin members, who were "gentlemen".

Tenant Liam Walsh went to see a solicitor and described what had happened. The solicitor told him of his legal rights and what action he proposed taking to remedy the wrong. A court order would be needed to end the tenancy.

In a future issue we hope to report on the legal action taken. The result and the success of Sinn Féin's admirable initiative in Tullamore. We wish them luck.

COCKROACH...

(Ar leannúint o.ich.1)

ingly new treatment, editorial comment, slanted presentation of events, but it stands solidly behind the right of all elements of the media to publish without let or hindrance.

To act otherwise would be in direct contradiction to its dedication to freedom: there can be no national freedom without individual freedom and, as soon as national freedom has been won, the public opinion of a free people will ensure the reflection of that freedom in the media.

We have nothing to fear from freedom for, in freedom, the truth will emerge. The Republican Movement has nothing to gain from trying to muzzle the media — the newspapers, radio or TV.

Only the enemy of truth and freedom has an interest in muzzling the media, an interest founded in fear of the people, fear of freedom, fear of the truth.

Coalition's panic

Nevertheless, the Republic Movement is not entirely unhappy at the Coalition's panic measures because these same measures are helping so positively to clarify the issues.

More and more people are asking, in Ireland and abroad, why the Coalition should seek to muzzle the press. What has it to fear if it stands, as it claims to stand, for truth and freedom?

What has it to fear when it controls already so decisively the radio and the TV?

Why does it fear the expression of public opinion? Is that public opinion more widespread than it dares admit? If most Irish people support the Coalition stand on the national question why is it necessary to adopt more and more draconian measures?

The Irish people are not fools. The Coalition's blunder will help to clarify their thinking rather than blunt it. The Irish people have been conditioned by history to distrust authority. Their distrust may be calculated to increase rather than decrease in proportion to increased repression, particularly in reference to freedom of the press.

The Coalition must lose and lose heavily in the months ahead. In quite a short time it will become apparent that the new "emergency" packet was the only really serious political blunder of the Coalition since it achieved office and that the arrogance of its members has served to underline heavily that same blunder.

Republicans have a lot to be thankful for in the persons of Camus-O'Brien, Blythe-Cooney and Mulcahy-Donegan.

The blunder, of course, is not confined to press restrictions. It goes right across the spectrum. Gardai are being spied upon at three

levels and, as a body, obviously are not trusted.

They stand to lose overtime money, as well as status, under the new provisions, and that includes the spies as well as those being spied upon.

The military are not entirely trusted, either, nor the professionals. The more ambitious increasingly will find promotion denied because of the existence of the FCA, which will be given an expanding role in "security".

New militia

Within a comparatively short time, however, this particular role of the FCA will be phased out when the new militia is announced and members recruited, to act as the SS of the Coalition, the absolutely trusted strippers of the Blueshirt regime, though where the money to pay them will be found, God alone knows.

Will they be unpaid volunteers, provided with the help of the chambers of commerce? We don't know. But we do know that something on these lines is being planned by the terrified masters of Leinster House, as a result of their mistrust of the ordinary members of the Garda Síochána, even of the Special Branch, even of the regular army, despite all the suspensions, semi-suspensions, retirements and all the rest of it over the past 12 months.

Refute black propaganda

To make absolutely clear the policy of all elements of the Republic Movement, and to refute the black propaganda of the establishment, the IRPS, in a statement at the weekend, disclaimed all responsibility for "military action" or "acts of a destructive nature" in the Twenty-Six Counties.

The statement came, we are given to understand, as a result of statements in Leinster House last week.

Destructive action

It was not the practice of the Republican Movement to comment, by way of confirming or denying responsibility for incidents, the statement added, but they wished to restate that it was not the Movement's policy to take part in "military" or "destructive action" in the Twenty-Six Counties and to affirm that no such orders had been issued.

The statement also noted that acts of this kind occurred when repressive legislation was being passed through Leinster House.

The statement is believed to refer to incidents in the Twenty-Six Counties. This paper, as with the press, radio and TV, has been asked to publicise the statement in an effort to inform public opinion.

P.O.W.s strip another jailer

POLITICAL PRISONERS at Magilligan Prison Camp have stripped another jailer, according to reports smuggled from the camp this week.

The move, the third incident of its kind within a month, was aimed at protesting at the continued strip searching of prisoners there.

A statement smuggled out of the camp by the prisoners said that the action was in protest against the reintroduction of the strip searching of prisoners.

The prisoners said that the prison officer had not been intimidated or ill-treated.

They said that the use of strip-searching was a "form of violence" and warned that they would continue to resist it strongly.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office confirmed that the incident had taken place.

The prisoners, in their statement, also attacked the peace movement saying that the prisoners did not expect many marches "by Betty Williams' vociferous hordes in support of our demands for justice and an end to the practice of strip searching prisoners".

Two weeks ago a member of the Board of Visitors at the Camp was stripped when he was on a visit to one of the Cages there.

News from the North

Saturday, September 4.

MAGHERAFELT: A major gun battle took place at the town's RUC Station. Over 40 shots were exchanged in the battle. There were no reports of injuries.

NEWRY: Brit soldiers dived for cover after a sniper opened up on them whilst they were patrolling at Sugar Island. Fire was returned but no hits were reported.

SION MILLS: A garage and car showroom were extensively damaged by a 5 lb. bomb. The explosion was at Sayers Garage in the village.

A warning had been given and the area cleared.

BELFAST: Samuel Hunt died from gunshot injuries received earlier in the week. He was walking along University Road at the time he was shot.

Two men were shot at from a passing car as they were walking in the Twinbrook Estate.

Sunday, September 5.

DERRY: Two men hijacked a bus in the Shantallow area, and forced the driver to take them to the junction of Racecourse Road and Greenshaw Road, where they were met by a further three men, who loaded explosive devices onto the bus.

The driver was then ordered to drive to the Bus Depot at Penybryn Estate. At the depot the men left one bomb on the hijacked bus and put the rest in two other buses.

A warning was given and the area cleared. The explosions wrecked the buses. There were no injuries.

BELFAST: £50,000's damage was caused to the Macolite Tailored Clothes Factory in King Street after a fire and explosion destroyed the premises.

The wholesale paint store of McKee and Birneys was extensively damaged by fire.

The RUC were fired upon as a mobile patrol passed the Cliftonville Road.

NEWTOWNSTEWART: A warning was given and the area cleared before a bomb wrecked the Central Motor works garage in the village.

Monday, September 6.

KEADY: A mobile Brit patrol was attacked near the village. Over 30 shots were fired and one Brit soldier was wounded.

PORTADOWN: Fire was returned by an UDR patrol which was attacked near the town. No hits were reported.

BELFAST: Two fires occurred in the City today. The first was at Campbell Bros. Glass firm. A lorry in the yard was destroyed. The second fire was at a shop on the Donegal Road.

Tuesday, September 7.

BELFAST: A bomb ripped through two floors of a city centre office block.

Two men — one with a pistol — carried a device into the offices at Murray Street, which runs alongside the ABC Cinema at Fishwick Place.

A man working in the offices was held at gunpoint as the second man put a black bag into a room. The shooter gave a three-minute warning as they ran off.

The bomb — which was estimated at 15 lb. of explosives — went off 15 minutes after it had been planted. No-one was injured.

The blast caused extensive damage to the ground floor,

which houses an accountant's office, and the second floor was also damaged. They are used mainly by five linen firms whose warehouses join the damaged building at Athol Street, off the Grosvenor Road.

A 16-year-old girl had a lucky escape when a petrol bomb was lobbed through her bedroom window. The house was at Glenwood Park, Dumurry. Damage was slight.

Wednesday, September 8.

PORTADOWN: Four men in a car stolen in the Shankill Road, Belfast area, made off after firing shots at a security guard in the Seagol Industrial Estate.

WARRENSTOWN: A woman who bought a tin of paint a few days previously had a surprise on opening it. Inside was a primed explosive device.

Thursday, September 9.

BELFAST: Two bombs planted in a block of business premises in Durham Street, Belfast, caused extensive damage when they exploded. The car used in the attack had been hijacked on Broadway, in the Falls District, and was later found abandoned at Athol Street.

Friday, September 10.

BELFAST: A boy aged three and a woman were killed in a crash between a fire engine and a black taxi. The Fire Brigade was answering an emergency at the time.

Two youths planted a bomb at Henry Gowan Shipping Office in Alexandre Park Ave. A warning was given and the area was cleared.

McCauleys Hire Car Firm, on the Grosvenor Road was extensively damaged by three bombs.

Two men left two bombs in Lucas's Car Accessories at Glenmacloim Street.

The premises were destroyed. Warnings had been notified and the area cleared.

A 29 year old postman was shot in the back as he was going to work. His condition was described as "very serious".

LEINSTER EXECUTIVE AUGUST MEETING

A meeting of the Leinster Executive was held at No. 5 Blessington Street, Dublin. Delegates from all Leinster attended.

Amongst the subjects discussed were:

- Prisoners and torture, re. public meeting.
- Worsening Free State repression.

• Closing by Gardai of the Tullamore Sinn Féin Clubrooms.

• New Cumannín to be formed in Counties Wexford, Wicklow, Dublin, Lildare, Laois, Kilkenny and Louth.

• Publicity and Finance.

The meeting was informed that George Lynch had been elected to the Sinn Féin Ard-chomhairle.

The next meeting of the Leinster Executive will be held at No. 5 Blessington Street on October 10.

— Brendan Ó Góilín.

P.O.R.O. Leinster Executive, S.F.