

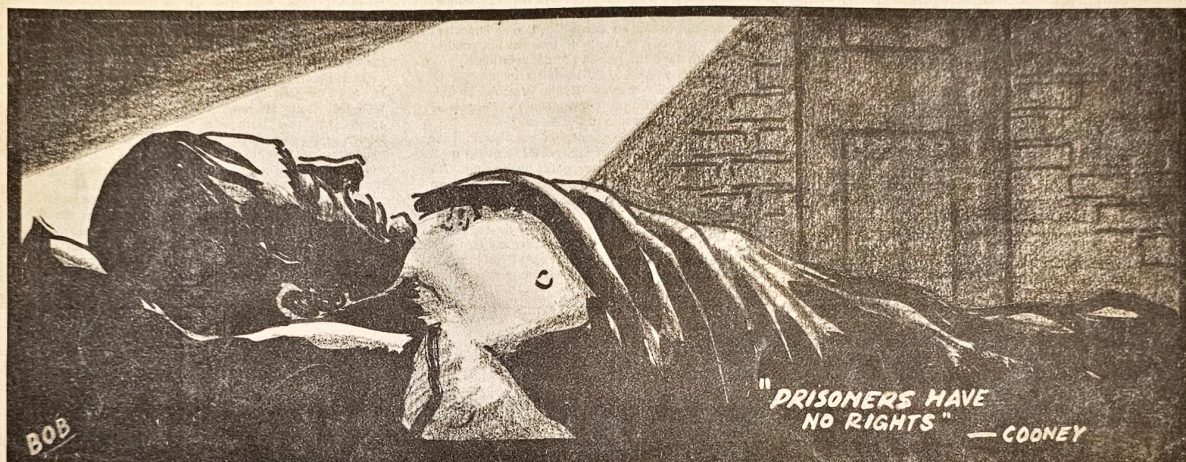
An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 12. 10p. Marta 29, 1977.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental 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.

(1st Dail Eireann)

THEIR FAST IS FOR



HUMANE CONDITIONS

Nationwide protest at Port Laoise Jail

Assemble at Square at 14.30.

A MASSIVE response is expected. All members of the Republican Movement, supporters and friends are urged to prove their concern by their attendance.

SUNDAY
APRIL 3

Their lives may depend on the weight of your support

An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 8, Marta 29, 1977. Uimhir 12.
44 Ceannóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Eire. Guthán: 747611

FEWER THAN 12 years ago if an industrialist or a farming leader had dared to suggest that Irish goods, whether from the Six or the Twenty-Six Counties, be sold abroad under an all-Irish label, there would have been an immediate and vitriolic reaction from Unionists in the north-east and unambiguous statements from London damning the proposal.

On March 21 the president of the Ulster Farmers' Union urged that Irish beef, regardless of whether it was being exported from the Six or the Twenty-Six Counties, be sold abroad, including Britain, under an all-Irish brand.

Twelve years ago, had such a suggestion been made, it would have been rejected. The U.F.U., and a Whitehall spokesman, would have been welcomed a common brand, certainly, but it would have been British, with a miniature Union Jack to stress the political-economic point.

Whatever reactions there have been to the suggestion of the U.F.U. president, Mr. Robin Morrow, would have been realistic and favourable. Not even the most biased and blind members of the north-eastern community have raised any objection. The reason, of course, is that the time for such objections is long past and the time for complete economic and political unity of this country, preferably under a federal government, is long overdue.

Mr. Morrow's suggestion, however, extended beyond the pious and immortal wish. For the suggestion to have any weight it would be necessary for the "green-pound" to have the same value all over Ireland.

At present, Whitehall refuses to devalue its "green-pound" to the level of that currency in the 26 Counties because the present rate in Britain (and the Six Counties) acts as a subsidy for cheap food.

Mr. Morrow is asking that whatever the British decide to do in relation to the value of the "green-pound" in Britain they should agree to its value in the six north-eastern counties being the same

The Irish Reality

as that of the rest of the country.

In other words, he is demanding economic unity for the 32 counties of Ireland, recognising that the economic interests of the Six and the 26 Counties coincide but that the economic interests of the Six Counties and Britain are in conflict. It is an important point but nobody in the kept press has bothered to analyse the stand and point to its connotations.

There are some 16,000 members of the U.F.U. presumably fully behind Robin Morrow in this courageous and realistic appraisal of basic economic interests north and south of the Border.

In other decades a considerable percentage of the membership might have been expected to be the most intransigent, beset with fears, going back to the 17th century, of losing their lands in the event of Irish unity.

If that fear no longer blinds farmers in the north-east to their real interests it is to be welcomed. Let such fears remain let us stress that any farmland redistribution that may take place in the future in the north-east, or anywhere else in the country, will not

be on the basis of religious or political affiliations but of democratic, in the social and economic interests of the people in general and the local communities in particular.

Why has Robin Morrow made his famous suggestion? There are two obvious reasons, it would appear. One is on no occasion did any landowner fear eight years: on no occasion did he might be for his personal security, or believe that he might be driven from his farm, for religious or political reasons, driven from his farm, for the crown forces, or an active ally of them, that would place him in an entirely different category.

Another reason is Common Market membership, which has pointed north after month to the economic contradictions of the Six Counties being tied to the British economy. British bribes in one form or another succeeded for some 50 years in distorting the picture in the north-east, giving the impression that the interests of the Six Counties were those of Britain.

The Common Market, for all its faults, ended those distortions, presenting a more truthful picture, forcing thinking people, regardless of bias, bigotry or emotional involvement, to realise that all Ireland is an economic entity, one that differs greatly from that of the neighbouring Ireland.

It will be instructive to see what will follow Robin Morrow's suggestions. Will they be ignored by both Whitehall and Merion Street? Will Robin be approached from both sides and told to keep his mouth shut, that what he is urging is pure and unadulterated Sinn Féin policy; and that there are too many vested interests involved on both sides of the Border to make his proposals politically feasible?

Whatever be the result, Robin Morrow deserves nothing but praise for a suggestion which makes the most economic sense possible in this island. We hope that he and his members will continue to press their point and that they will be supported by progressive farmers and others all over the country.

Déile

AG CIORADH cúrsaí Gaeltachta dúinn an lá faoi dheireadh tigh an óil b'fachtas dúinn go bhfeadfaí a lán lán eile a n-éireadh ann ná riamh ó tá Comharchumann Chóis Fharráige agus na comharchumann eile ann, iad nascáithe le dhéile, ag fáis agus ag leathnú amach i gcónaí, bail ó Dhia ar lucht a stiúraithe.

O cuireadh deiradh leis an Congested Districts Board is beag a rinneadh ar son na Gaeltachta go dtí le fíor-dhianai. Bhí dóchas againn as Gael-Linn, a chuidigh go mór leis an nglomádoireacht i gCárna; ach nach raibh an iomarca ar siúl aige i gcónaí, an fuinneamh caite ar n-éireadh agus fíor-dhianai, ar bheagán, agus gan a dhéileadh aird ar fáil ariamh chun go mbeifí cinnte deiradh go n-éireadh le scéim fíochtáin amháin díobh?

Cibé eile a d'fhéadfaí a chur i leith Gael-Linn ní fhéadfaí a rá nach raibh fostóirí agus fostaithe i gcampa an dúchais; a mhalairt a bhí (agus atá fós, deirtear liom) fíor faoi Ghaeltachta Eireann atá lófa le polaitíocht an státus-quo. Sin an áit a chuirtear agallamh i mbéarla ar chailín Gaeltachta a bhfuil job uaithe.

Agus, ar ndóighe, tá Gaeltachta lófa le gabmáineas, freisin. Brabús bun agus barr Gaeltarra. Ní áilleacht na Gaeltachta ná ceol na Gaeilge a mheallann eachtrannaigh siar ach an bhólaireacht a chloiseann siad, go bhfuil lámh oibre níos saoire san taobh sin tíre ná in áiteanna eile agus nach bhfuil na ceardchumann ró-áidriú ná ró-áirdéallach.

Ceardchumann amháin

CEARD E tharla don pheileann faoi cheardchumann a bhfuil na nGaeltach, ceardchumann ginearálta lena chraobhaigh ar leith, ceann amháin do na mGintóirí, ceann eile do na hÍrisóirí, ceann eile fós do na mGintóirí atá ag plé leis na coláistí Gaeilge agus mar sin de?

Shílfi go n-éireadh go maith lena leithéid. Thart ar dhá bhliain ó shin bhí an-chaint faoi sin uilig i gCéim Fharráige. Bhí Connallagh ann, freisin, a raibh spéis acu a chur i bhfeidhm, go mór mór i nGaeth Dóibhair. Ach amid níos airde faoi le fáda.

Ach maidir leis na comharchumann agus obair a d'fhéadfaí siad a chur ar fáil ar leas an phobail:

TORTHAÍ AR DHUTHCHEANGAL IDIR OLLSCOIL IS GAELTACHT

nach bhfuil go leor earraí ann a bhfuil bunaitoir orthu i mBaile Átha Cliath, i mBaile Feirste, i gCearraigh, i Luimneach agus eile, ach a thagann go hÉirinn ó áiteanna i gcéin cé go bhféadfaí siad a sholáthar sa tír seo agus go háirithe sa nGaeltacht?

Ar na rudaí sin bhí i gceist againn agus muid ag labhairt uirthi ó bhí garlóg a fhánsan go maith in Éirinn, go mór mór san áit a bhfuil neart gainimh sin iithir.

Tá sé de bhuntáiste ag an ngarlóg nach bhfuil mórán oibre ag baint lena cothú (nach bhfuilfidh dulta i bhfídhin) i go leor áiteanna thiar, go mór mór na holléidín agus go bhfuil praghas maith uirthi, praghas i bhfad Éireann ní ba airde ná mar atá ar tharf, fídh.

Ar eagla na mithuisceana, ní aon ghá le teach gloine chun garlóg a chur a fhás. Níl fadh ar bith ag baint leis ach an triomú. Einne a thuigeann triomú na n-óinniú ní bheidh aon trioblaid aige leis an ngarlóg.

D'fhéadfaí an Ghaeltacht margadh na hÉireann a sholáthar agus deiradh a chur le hollmháirín na ngarlógaí ón lóidín agus áiteanna eile i gcéin.

Ar mhaith le Comharchumann Chóis Fharráige an scéal a iníochadh ní ba dhóimhne fós, in éindí le Coláiste na hOllscoile i nGaillimh, b'fhéid?

Misín blasta

RUD EILE a d'fhéadfaí an Comharchumann a iníochadh, tá soláthar na luibheanna don thionscal na gcaisíochta. O thiortha eile a thagann fóimhóir díobh ach is féidir iad a fhás anseo chomh maith le háit ar bith eile.

Einne a thug cuairt ar Níochas Tóibín, an t-amháin, i Rinn O'Guanach, is dócha gur airgeis se an scéal faoi thóir mór misín tá ag fáis os comhair an tí.

Nuair a bhí an cogadh (1939-45) ar siúl ní raibh sé ró-éasca i gcónaí teacht ar an misín, rud a raibh geargáil leis i dtionscal na gcaisíochta agus a bhíodh ag teacht anseo ó thíortha eile roimh an cogadh.

Ar aon chaoi, chun go mbeadh misín ar fáil i gcónaí is amháin a hiarraidh ar roinnt daoine ar fud na tíre i chur a fhás, rud a rinne siad gan stré, agus iocadh go maith iad. Ach nuair a bhí deiradh

leis an gcogadh cuireadh deiradh leis an ngmó seo sa mbaile agus leanadh de bheith i hollmháirín.

Tá fátíos orm nach bhfuil mórán luibheolaí fágtha ag muintir na Gaeltachta, ach ag mar seandaoine amháin, agus is mór an náire sin; ach mar sin féin is dócha go n-áitíonn gach éinne misín dearg nuair a theicneann sé é. Is é a thugann blas maith do na prítá, go mór mór do na prítá sin.

Ní luibheolaí mise ach is feascach dom go bhfuil ann; go bhféadfaí siad uilig gan dula in Éirinn; agus go bhfuil fóir orthu do thionscal na gcaisíochta, do thionscal na gcosmáidí agus eile.

Doctar slán mór airgid len iad a thabhairt go hÉirinn. Céin fáth nach bhféadfaí an t-airgead sin a chaitheamh in Éirinn?

Dá mbeadh teach gloine ag duine, fídh dá mbeadh sé gan teas, d'fhéadfaí sé a lán airgid a charnadh trí bhliathanna agus glasaí a fhás ann.

Ach fóimhóir na luibheanna a úsáideann tionscal na gcaisíochta is amháin a fhánsan siad amuigh faoi chéir. Níl le déanamh ach iad a bhaint agus a thriomú.

Is beag a d'fhéadfaí an gníthóir a dhéanamh sna cúrsaí seo, fídh dá mbeadh car a thionscal sin aige. Cailfidh an tionscal bheith cinnte deiradh go bhféadfaí sé méid áirithe tonnaí de luibheanna seo. Tá an Ceardchumann a dhith chun sin a chinntiú agus teacht ar réiteach faoi npraghas.

Is féidir leis an nGaeltacht agus eile, a bhfuil saibhreas luaithe leo, ach labhairt leis an bhFóras Talúntais.

Cúrsa Cumarsáide

PRÍOMHTHUAIRISC ar "Amáirach" (Márta 18) a chuir ar an téad seo mé, féach: "De réir a chéile, tá ceangal níos díúithe a bhnuí idir Gaeltacht Chonamara agus na hinstitiúid ardoideachais i gceathair na Gaillimhe - an Coláiste Réiginagh agus Coláiste na hOllscoile."

"Is gearr ó bhí tuairisc againn ar an bpáipéir seo faoin gcúrsa eolaíochta - a bhfuil baint aige le féimeireacht éisc - atá ar bun ag an nColáiste Réiginagh i gCárna. Is cosúil anois go bhfuil

forbairt den chineál céanna ar intinn ag Coláiste na hOllscoile."

Oíche Dé Máirt seo caite cuireadh trís i Scoll Chumais, theach na Ceathrún Rua le cúrsa cumarsáide a d'fheargh Bórd na Staidéir Seachtarh na hOllscoile. Sé seachtain a mhairfeas an cúrsa seo, a bheas ar siúl dhá oíche sa tseachtain, Dé Máirt agus Déardáin.

Ar na léachtóirí tá Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, Breandán O'Heithir, Séamas Mac Gabhann, Seán Tuairisc, an tAthair Breandán O'Ceallaigh, Seán Mac Réamoinn, Nollaig O'Gadhra agus Pádraig O'Caithin. Is maith liom go mór Coláiste na hOllscoile agus an Coláiste Réiginagh bheith ag obair as lámh a chéile leis an nGaeltacht, obair a ba chóir a bheith tosúithe tá 30 bliain ó shin.

FEAR OG (22) láimh málra a bhí i Caomhín O Tuama a maraíodh i dtionóisc bóthair na mallabha i ngar do Bhaile Uí Lochlainn, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Fear é Caomhín, go ndéana Dia grá dó, a rinne a chion féin i gcónaí chun an teanga a bhrú chun tosaigh agus teabais dílis a thabhairt don Phoblacht ar bhealach eile chomh maith, go mór mór i ndíol an pháipéir seo, mar bhall de Shinn Féin.

Bhí sé ar na daoine oga a d'fhulaing faoi bhírdúlacht na nGardaí "Siocána" i Sraid an Stórais i mBaile Átha Cliath, áit ar mastaíodh é, freisin, toisc gur sheas sé leis an teanga náisiúnta.

As Tiobrad Arann do Chaoimhín, Níl fágtha den chlann anois ach a dhearthair. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam suas!

Pádraig masluithe

IS COSUIL nach bhfuil ar chumas na n-údaráis i mBaile Átha Cliath aon fhógra poblaí Gaeilge a bhíonn an bfuil na dhéanamh, go mór mór má mbeadh an fhéile náisiúnta i gceist.

Féach an bodán a bhí os cionn an tseastáin a raibh na huaisle na suif ann ag breathnú ar sheafad an tseamrógaighais Mheiriceánagh, botún nach ndéanfaidh gasúr scoile, mar "Lá le Pádraig". Lá Phéile Pádraig, an teideal cheart, cé gur féidir an e.

Ach áin mhaith bheith ag caint? Ní dhéanann dream tá i gceannas dinit an náisiúnta.

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta Republican Commemoration Committee

EASTER LILIES: Order your Easter Lilies NOW. Price £10.00 per 1,000. AVAILABLE FROM: Mrs. P. King, 29 All Saints Park, Raheny, Dublin 5.

Dundalk Brits out meeting

ON Wednesday, 9th March, about 300 people attended a public meeting in Dundalk Town hall, about the National Demand, Brits Out, What Next?

The organisers were very pleased by the large turn-out despite the fact that there were over 200 invitations sent out to the different tenants and 32 County organisations and members of the Clergy who have been critical of Sinn Fein policy in the past, who's absents were very much noticeable.

Councillor, Mr. Fra Browne chaired the meeting which was addressed by George Lynch and Richard Behs Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle Members and Joe Cahill, Sinn Fein Cice-President.

George Lynch spoke on the British withdrawal and reminded the people of the leaflet that they got on their way into the meeting. Brits Out... What Next? is not a mere slogan because it represents the will of the Irish people for 800 years and that it represents the only thing that will end the violence and the establishment of a true and lasting peace in our country. Mr. Lynch went on to speak about the selfish politicians who oppose the British withdrawal and who seek to maintain British rule in Ireland, North and South of the British imposed Border. They fear the New Ireland that will emerge, because they are frightened for their own personal political careers in a 32-County Federal Ireland, with four provincial parliaments and community government. They fear a truly democratic country in which men and women of integrity would come to the fore and which the "thundering disgraces" would take a back seat. Our people have struggled for centuries to hasten the day of British withdrawal, in every generation the Irish people have taken to arms or to what other means that were available to them, and for the young men and women of the Republican Movement to-day the struggle goes on until the British Withdrawal from our country political and economically.

Richard Behs spoke on the Sinn Fein policy. Eire Nua, a Four Province Federal Ireland, Mr. Behs went on to say that most Republicans know the Sinn Fein policy for the country after the British Withdrawal he gave a brief outline about the sort of system the Republican Movement has been advocating for the past seven years, he went on to say that after the British Withdrawal from the North, "what sort of system do we envisage for the new Republic of Ireland?"

"An entirely new system must be derived which will guarantee to the Irish people the maximum benefit of true democracy and a good future. We believe that this system can only come about in Ireland because of the historical struggle, in a Federal Ireland system of government. A federal system of government very clearly contains that the maximum amount of power will devolve to the people, you the ordinary people right down to your own level into your own street and into your own homes. You the people will have a say on anything that affects you or your country, any person can initiate a plan or a proposal and see that it is taken to the highest authority in the land to be heard.

Joe Cahill congratulated the organisers of the meeting who put tremendous effort into making it a success despite the absents of those people who are critical of the Republican Movement in the Co. Louth area. He went on to say that a number of people all

over Ireland are sniping at us and accusing us of all sorts of evil things and who don't want to know anything about the Republican Movement, they are ignorant of the fact that we are barred from radio and television and have not the use of the press media. In fact we have no way of getting to the ordinary people except through meetings like this.

Throughout the country we are giving the people of all areas an opportunity to come together and hear what we have to offer in the next phase of our campaign - "Brits Out - What Next?" In putting forward our solution for a Federal Ireland we can all sit down as Irishmen and women and chart out what the next destination of one of the greatest Nations in the world would be. You will notice that we call for a British withdrawal. The first thing we do is ask for a British declaration of intent, when the British are going to leave Ireland, that will be done in three steps. Because we realise that even though we have the foundations of a new Ireland, there are many things that have still to be done.

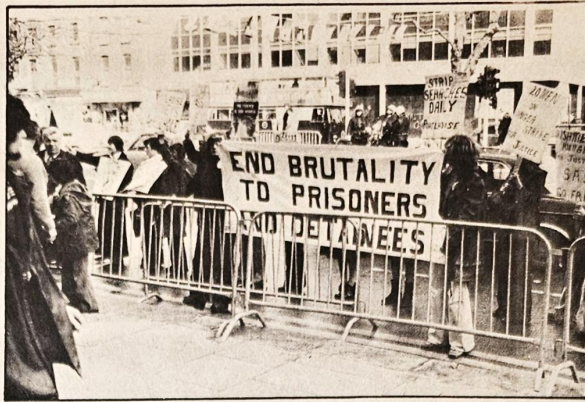
The Pro-British element in Ireland has repeatedly said that they want to stay Pro-British and don't want to help us to build a New Ireland, then they have the right to do so. But if they want to make terms with us under the common name of Irishmen and women then we ask them to sit down with us and back the policies that we propose for the people of all Ireland. It was not the intention of Sinn Fein to ram their proposals down anybody's throat nor am I or anybody else going to do that along with a 45. In one hand and a clip of ammunition in the other and say: "This is it, take it or leave it."

We want the people of all Ireland to sit down with us and discuss Freedom, Justice, Peace, we want them to do this without outside interference, by this I mean British Interference. We want the British to withdraw from our country, "Lock stock and barrel", we don't just mean the British presence of troops, we mean everything that British Imperialism in this land. We have to get a guarantee that they are going to, then we will put our policies before the people, we will ask them to study them and understand them and hope that they will realise that this is the only way to true and everlasting peace in Ireland for all time.

The Chairman then called for speakers from the body of the hall to put questions to the committee regarding the proposal for a Federal Ireland and Brits Out campaign.

One speaker, a supporter of the peace movement agreed with a Federal Ireland system of government that was envisaged by Sinn Fein, but disagreed with the proposal for a Federal Ireland and said a peace movement as carried out by Mahatma Gandhi in India would probably achieve much more than bullets or bombs. Mr. Cahill in answer to this, pointed out that the campaign started peacefully in the Six Counties, he was opposed with brutality and murder as witnessed in Derry and Burntollet by so-called defenders of Law and order.

This, said Mr. Cahill was what brought the I.R.A. again into existence to defend the Nationalist people when there was no one else to defend them.



It was decided on the spur of the moment to have a quick Port Laoise placard protest after the Tom Smith Commemoration in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day.

Despite the fact that everyone was wet and cold 50 people went an extra hour or so without their dinners.

The protest attracted a lot of interest from people who would not normally see it on

Saturdays, so it was still quite successful.

As for the Gardai they stayed quiet but looked offended that we should do something for Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, and insult their political bosses who proudly flew no less than eight Union Jacks in O'Connell Street.

* Our picture shows a section of the Sinn Fein protest held on St. Patrick's Day.

Cork St. Patrick's Day parade

"BRITS OUT, Peace In", "Brits Out, Torture Out", "Brits Out, Prisoners Out", were some of the slogans on their St. Patrick's Day parade.

The parade, organised by Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Fein, left the National Monument in the Grand Parade at 11.25 a.m. fifteen minutes before the industrial parade organised by Cork's business people.

Led by a Colour Party of Cumann na Gaedilne and an Advance Guard of Cumann na mBan, it marched through the main streets of the city just ahead of the Industrial parade and was watched with interest by the large crowds who had assembled all along the streets, who were left in no doubt but that if St. Patrick had driven the snakes out of Ireland, Cork Republicans were determined to play their part in driving the latter-day snakes (The Brits) out.

SINN FEIN BAN ON CONOR-CRUISE

THE Sinn Fein members of Galway County Council refused to join other local elected representatives for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Galway city.

They did so in protest against the decision to invite Dr. Conor-Cruise O'Brien, the Free-States Minister for Post and Telegraphs to review the parade.

In a statement the Galway Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Fein pointed out that their grouping is the third largest in Galway County Council, larger than Dr. O'Brien's own Labour Party which has only one representative in the Council.

"Yet Dr. Cruise O'Brien in his capacity as Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, has seen fit to send a binding directive to RTE specifically banning our elected representatives, Councillor Frank Glynn (Tuam area) and Councillor Paddy Ruane (Galway city area) from all radio and television programmes.

Troops out now say Teeside students

TUESDAY, 1st March, saw Teeside Polytechnic Students' Union reaffirm their support for 'Troops Out now, self-determination for the Irish People'. They reject the Peace Movement as an instrument of British imperialism.

The general meeting voted (78-35) for the motion which also condemned "the P.T.A. and the corresponding legislation in the North and South of Ireland".

The Students' Union also pledged concrete support in building the local Troops Out Branch.

Rallies and marches for political status

THE Prisoners' Relations Action Committee held a series of marches and rallies in many Belfast areas in to call for support for the campaign for political status for the prisoners.

Speakers emphasised that the demand for the restoration of political status was to establish that their prisoners were "prisoners of war" and not criminals as the British Government was portraying them.

BRUTALITY

They also protested at the "continuing brutality" being

Posters confiscated by Gardai

SINN FEIN deplores the heavy handed attitude by members of the Gardai Sióchana in their efforts to stifle the legitimate voice of Sinn Fein in this area.

Sinn Fein as a political party are denied access to radio, TV and all but a few newspapers who still uphold the right of free speech. Therefore we are engaging in a poster campaign to bring the message of Eire Nua to the people of Donegal, Gardai, however, have taken exception to the message of "Brits Out" and have confiscated posters in both Ballybofey and Letterkenny.

Those found in possession of such posters have been arrested and held in Letterkenny Garda Station for periods of between four to fourteen hours.

Few will disagree that a British withdrawal is inevitable. Provisional Sinn Fein are the only political party in Ireland, north or south, who have drawn up a sound social and economic programme which can be implemented when the British depart. All we ask is the democratic right to put this programme before the people.

P.R.O. Seamus Harvey S.F. Cumann, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.

Trade Unions call for withdrawal of Troops

AT THEIR recent meeting in Hemel Hempstead the ACTT (Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied technicians - the TV workers union) passed the following resolution:

"That this conference calls on the trades union movement in Britain, to press the Government into setting a date for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland, thereby allowing the Irish people as a whole to determine their own future."

The motion which was proposed by ACTT Branch Secretary, Michael Holden, and seconded by Executive Committee member Alan Knight was passed unanimously.

The proposal will now go to the ACTT General Council for discussion, and will appear on the Agenda at the ACTT annual conference being held in London on April, 2nd and 3rd, 1977.

perpetrated by prison staff against the men in H Block Long Kesh, and the women in C Wing Armagh Prison and "victimisation" in Long Kesh of Republican and Socialist prisoners "who were subjected to disciplinary punishment on trumped-up charges".

The Central Committee demand that Republican remand prisoners at Crumlin Road should be segregated from Loyalist prisoners because of forcible mixing was endangering lives.

CRAFT CENTRE

44 Cearnóg
Pharmell,
Baile Átha Cliath

North Belfast Unveiling

NORA CONNOLLY O'Brien, daughter of the 1916 leader, has kindly consented to carry out the unveiling ceremony at a commemoration to honour all those from the North Belfast area who have died since the present troubles commenced.

The unveiling will take place in the Ardoyne area on Easter Tuesday and

prominent Republican speakers will be in attendance.

Later that evening there will be a Memorial Ceili at which Paddy Reilly, well known folk singer will perform.

Visitors are assured of a hearty Ceiad mile Failte. More details next week.

Port Laoise hunger strike



Member of Sinn Féin taking part in one of their Saturday demonstrations through O'Connell Street in support of the Port Laoise prisoners. Member of the public are asked to join in the protests which begin at No.5, Blessington Street, at 2.30 p.m. every Saturday.

Ó Brádaigh appeal for prisoners

A LARGE crowd at the Sean South Cumann, Sinn Féin, annual social at the Royal Hotel, Roscommon, on St. Patrick's night, heard Mr. Ruairi O'Bradaigh, President of Sinn Féin, ask for a public inquiry into conditions in Port Laoise Prison.

Mr. O'Bradaigh said 20 men were on hunger strike in protest against the inhuman treatment meted out and lack of recreational and educational facilities.

more than anyone else, want peace. It is Republicans who have had their homes raided, their jobs threatened and their family life disrupted. They want peace, but they want peace with justice. Peace at any price is not acceptable after all the suffering that has been endured on both sides of the Border.

Peace wanted

He suggested that people should contact their elected representatives on the issue and ask why a public inquiry cannot be held if there is nothing to hide. "We don't want to walk behind the coffins of Kevin Mallon to Tyrone and Daithi O Conail to Cork, but it may come to that," said Mr. O'Bradaigh.

Speaking of the Peace People, he said Republicans,

Appeal to protest

Sean Keegan, also appealed to people to protest against the conditions in Port Laoise. If there was nothing wrong there, as suggested by Justice Minister Cooney, men would not be risking their lives on hunger strike.

Ceartha daonna na bPríosunach Polaitiúla

GHLAC Coiste Gno Chonradh na Gaeilge leis an run seo thíos, ag a gcrúinniú míosúil De Sathairn 12 Márta:

"Is cús inni do Choiste Gno Chonradh na Gaeilge e nach bhfuil ag éirí leis na hiarrachtaí chun fíor-ruchan neamhspleách a chur ar siúl chun staid cearta daonna príosunaigh polaitiúla agus na daoine a ghabhtar faoi dhlíthe eigeandála, taobh istigh den da choras stait in Éirinn agus de choras stait na Breataine, a iniúchadh.

"Iarraimid go mbunofar fíor-ruchan neamhspleách poiblí laithreach chun an staid a scrúdú agus chun ceimeanna a cheartaíthe a

chur i bhfeidhm. Iarraimid comh maith go mbunofar coras neamhspleách cuairteoireachta ar na príosúin chun suil a choimead ar iompair na bhforais slandála agus ar staid mair-eachtála na bpríosunach.

"Mar ghlúaiséacht naisiúnta na Gaeilge eilimid go gcuirfead aiseanna ar fáil do na príosunaigh d'fhonn bheith ar a gcumas an Ghaeilge, a fhoghlaim agus a úsáid." D'aontaigh an Coiste Gno ar an run a chur chuig an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, chuig Rúnai Stait Rialtas na Breataine do na se chontae, chuig Aire Gnóthaí Baile na Breataine agus chuig an Chóirte Eorpach um Chearta Daonna.

Avoid further prison deaths

- Rev. D. Faul

Fr. Denis Faul, Dungannon, said the hunger strike in Port Laoise Jail was causing great concern to relatives of prisoners.

"The hard line being taken by both sides at present seemed likely to cause several deaths. Such tragedies with the funerals and recriminations after them would prolong rancour and bitterness in the community and would lead to an increase of violence," Fr. Faul said.

"The prisoners demands were reasonable and moderate and he felt that the Government, as the stronger party, should accede to these demands. The treatment of

prisoners in Port Laoise was not in accordance with the United Nations' Standard Minimum rules for the treatment of offenders.

Strip searches

"Certain aspects, especially the frequent use of strip searches with brutality, would not stand up to examination in any court in Ireland or at Strasbourg. A full enquiry into prison conditions was needed to ensure security without repression and tyrannical abuse of power.

"To some the worst aspect was the treatment of visitors. These innocent people had to travel long distances during the night to be able to get a visit for 15 minutes under circumstances of extreme discomfort. They had to endure repeated insults and discourteous behaviour from the agents of the Irish Government.

"Repression in the prison was leading to an increased use of violence outside the prison. A softer line was needed from all sides to bring an end to violence. Martyrs and funerals would do Ireland no good," Fr. Faul ended.

Archbishop of Dublin petitioned

ON Saturday, 12th March, a delegation from the McCabe/Quigley SF Cumann met Dr. Ryan at the church of the Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall where he was confirming children of the parish.

The Bishop spoke with Mr. Peadar Tunney and Mr. Sean Meagher on Sinn Féin in general, the conversation lasted 10 minutes.

At the end of the conversation the two men handed the following petition to Dr. Ryan:-

"We represent the Sinn Féin and are here to plead to you on behalf of the political prisoners in Port Laoise Jail. The men are held there in the most appalling conditions and that is the reason they are on hunger strike.

Inquiry demand

"Some men may stay on that hunger strike till death so we implore you to go to Port Laoise and see what is really happening and to demand a just and truthful inquiry.

"We are certain that if you do succeed you will save lives, and reveal the truth to the Irish people."

The archbishop accepted the petition which was signed by Peadar Tunney and Sean Meagher. He agreed to consider it.

Bundoran and Ballyshannon protests

Bundoran/Ballyshannon S.F. Cumann placed a picket outside the home of Jim White, Fine Gael TD and the local Garda station.

At a public meeting after the picket, Joe O'Neill said that he considered Jim White, T.D. to be as much responsible for the terrible conditions which prevail in Port Laoise Prison as Mr. Cooney. By his silence he has given consent to Cooney and the jailers to brutalise and degrade the Republican prisoners.

Joe called for full support for the hunger strikers in their fight for humane treatment. In the course of his talk, Joe challenged Cooney and Jim White to a public debate on conditions in Port Laoise prison.

IS THIS A CASE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP???

Is there self-censorship in the national news media. To the best of my knowledge all papers mentioned that people were asked to sign a petition seeking contraception legislation at the entrance to the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis recently. To the best of my knowledge, none of them mentioned that leaflets were handed out on Saturday morning under Gardaí supervision by "The Prisoners Committee", protesting at conditions in Portlaoise Prison. None of them mentioned that a full picket line of Sinn Féin members was mounted on the Saturday afternoon with the theme: "Brits Out". This was also conducted under Gardaí supervision.

- Leitrim Observer (5/3/77)

Dublin priest calls for Port Laoise inquiry

information about the well-being of the prisoners; worried wives are finding it impossible to elicit any comment from the prison authorities, the department of Justice or the Government Information Service. Appeals to these sources have been met with a wall of silence regarding the health of the prisoners.

Those on hunger strike, 20 in all, have now been moved to the basement cells of the prison, effecting and making absolute their isolation from the rest of the prisoners and from the outside world. Families and relatives are entitled to know the day to day medical condition of the

prisoners but the authorities have taken every step to deny them this right.

I am personally satisfied that every influence outside the prison was utilised to discourage this hunger-strike before it started - that is, as far as the stringent regulations in the prison permitted. The inhuman conditions and appalling standards of treatment within the prison forced the prisoners into this fast-until-death protest.

I have warned against the destructive and dangerous effects of these conditions in my four page pamphlet on Port Laoise

which has been widely circulated. I have also warned against government enticed indifference of media and public alike towards brutality against prisoners. Now Port Laoise has produced its response. Contact with the prisoners must be allowed before any settlement can be made.

An enquiry into the prison conditions is urgent before any prisoner is allowed to die.

- An tAth Piaras O Duill Dublin 7.

THE relatives and families of the hunger-striking prisoners in Port Laoise are now very concerned about the health of their menfolk. They are being refused

Support the hunger strikers: their fight is your fight

Demonstrations of support

Concerned citizens in appeal for inquiry

A SITUATION now exists with regard to Port Laoise Prison which gives rise to grave concern. Reports about the conditions in Port Laoise have neither been refuted nor disputed by any spokesman for the Department of Justice. The persistent refusal of the Department to allow prison visits to people concerned with the rights of prisoners leaves the distinct possibility that the authorities have something to hide regarding Port Laoise prison.

Anthony J. Walsh, Fr. Dennis Faul (Dungannon), Fr. Brian J. Brady (Belfast).

Fear of another Stagg tragedy

The conditions in Port Laoise prison have been described by many reputable persons. The alleged standards of punishment, if true, abuse the human dignity of prisoners and their families and are cause for concern. In order to highlight such conditions a number of prisoners have resorted to hunger strike. The history of our country is fraught with suffering and deaths of prisoners forced to adopt this method of protest.

In view of this and on humanitarian grounds we, concerned citizens, request the Minister for Justice to allow a public inquiry into the prison conditions at Port Laoise.

Signed:
Nora Connolly O'Brien, Neil Blaney, T.D., David Thornley, T.D., Senator Noel Browne, Senator Fintan Kennedy, Senator Michael Mullen, Michael Traynor, Chairman, Association for Legal Justice.

The appeal was initiated by Nora Connolly O'Brien. In the course of a letter to a number of prominent citizens, Mrs. Connolly O'Brien said:

"My concern for the men on hunger-strike in Port Laoise prison has troubled me exceedingly and I am fearful that some will die and there will be another Stagg tragedy that will further shame us before the world. This is the reason for initiating the enclosed appeal for publication."

"I have not had time to get as many signatures as I would like, therefore I would be grateful if you would place below the signatures and requesting any other citizens who might wish to add their signatures to this appeal to send them to me at my home address."

40 Galtymore Park, Drimnagh, Dublin 12.

Sinn Fein picket closes post office . . .



FOR one hundred minutes on Saturday last, Carrick-on-Shannon Post Office remained closed to the public when twenty two women, members of Sinn Féin, placed a picket on the building.

Approximately ten members of the group locked the entrance door to the public area and remained inside while their colleagues mounted a picket outside the building. The protestors carried banners demanding a

public enquiry into conditions at Port Laoise Prison; informing passers-by that men were at present on hunger strike in the prison while one young protestor carried a banner bearing the stark polemic: "Our Daddy On Hunger Strike".

The women commenced their protest at 1.40 p.m.

At about 2.00 p.m. two members from the local Garda Síochána Station,

Sergeants Michael Duffy and Michael Gaely entered the building from the rear. These were later joined by Inspector Tom Hughes and other Gardai. However the protestors left peacefully having removed posters from windows inside the Post Office.

Pictured above are some of last Saturday's demonstrators pictured outside Carrick-on-Shannon Post Office after their protest.

Support the fight for Political Status

European lawyers call for political status

THE Foreign Affairs Bureau of Sinn Féin has received the official text of a resolution passed at a meeting in Brussels on Saturday, 12th March, 1977.

The meeting, which was organised by European Lawyers was held to establish a secretariat. The group are known as "Comité International de Défense des Prisonniers Politiques D'Europe Occidentale" (C.I.D.P.P.E.D.). Representatives from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland and Ireland were present. Mr. Myles Shevlin was present for Ireland.

Following is the full text of the resolution. "Just as the struggle of the Irish People against British Imperialism has echoes around the world so too, the reaction of imperialism is predictable. Political prisoners, deprived of basic human rights, are tortured and humiliated. They are isolated from those whose struggle they wage in an effort to break their political will and identity. The Irish prisoners on hunger strike in Port Laoise prison are a recent example of this process.

"The Comité International de Défense des Prisonniers Politiques en Europe Occidentale expresses its support for and solidarity with these prisoners and calls on the Irish Government to grant to these prisoners a status appropriate to those engaged in an armed struggle for Freedom."

— C.I.D.P.P.E.D., 16 Rue Jean d'Ardenne, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Kildare S.F. in Port Laoise demo

MEMBERS of Sinn Féin who mounted the first picket on Port Laoise Prison in support of the Republican hunger strikers were confronted by Free State personnel with an obtrusive, aggressive and formidable show of force. The picket, which occurred on Saturday, March 12th, was held by six members representing the Kildare Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin.

The purpose of the picket was to focus public attention on the plight of the hunger-strikers and to protest at the inhuman conditions inside the prison, in particular frequent strip and rectal searches, the gross and super-punitive use of solitary confinement; the denial of educational and recreational facilities and the harsh and overbearing nature of present visiting conditions.

Riot squad

On the first sign that a protest was about to commence, a riot squad of the Free State Army, equipped with helmets, shields, batons, rubber-bullet guns and — in the distance — fire-arms, took up the position in front of the prison. This force was further strengthened by members of the Gardai, also in riot gear.

The six placard carriers felt a little outnumbered at the time, but despite the implied threat began to picket the prison.

Very soon, the protest was arousing the interest of passers-by and more obviously, motorists, who slowed their cars so as to read the various slogans carried by the picket. After reading exhortations such as "Pray for the prisoners in Port Laoise Hell-hole" and "Cooney Stop the torture" many a person who may have wondered whether some place as hell on earth existed, now knew for certain that it did exist and where exactly it was located.

Effective protest

The protest, however, was now proving too effective for the authorities in charge of the force of political

oppressors and they decided to counter with what was surely a new innovation in fascist, reactionary tactics.

"Black-Mariars"

Suddenly, from the side of the prison, a convoy of vehicles thundered onto the road and drew up in front of the picket. As a result those in the picket were firmly sandwiched between the outer prison wall and a line of "Black-Mariars". Their object, of course, which was successfully accomplished, was to block the view of passing traffic so that motorists would not even be aware that protest was taking place.

Later, one of the protestors had this comment to make: "The entire incident showed the effects of the police-state syndrome in it's

most florid manifestation — the thick cudgel of the Free State Army and the Gardai always ready to stifle, cripple or crush legitimate political opposition, wherever and whenever it appears. It's hardly credible when you think of it.

Hypocrisy

Inside the prison, the so-called 'men of violence' are exercising the ultimate in peaceful protest in a plea to end state cruelty, while outside, the peace-keepers, God help us, weighed down with all the paraphernalia of violence hurl abuse at silent protesters and itch for a chance to smash a few heads in. One marvels at the crudeness of Free State hypocrisy . . .

P.R.O. Sinn Féin, Kildare.

WEEKLY TORTURE

BEHIND virtually every statistic of arrests and convictions announced weekly by Gauleiter Mason is a story of terrible torture, which continues in the full knowledge of the authorities and with their full support, despite the Silken promises in Strasbourg that Britain never again would torture her political enemies.

We publish here a letter received from the mother of a tortured, innocent teenager from Keady, south Armagh. "On Saturday night, March 5, the Brits visited us, asking for my husband", she writes. "Refusing to believe me when I said he was out they forced their way into the house which was occupied by myself and three girls, aged 10, 11 and 14, and a little girlfriend, aged 16.

"They left, promising to return and this they did on Wednesday, March 9. Having ransacked the house with the help of a German shepherd dog and a detector they left with my son, Tony, aged 19.

Beaten up

"I was refused admission to Armagh Police Barracks to visit him but eventually did get in at about 2.30 p.m. on Friday, March 10. I was shocked by his appearance.

NORTH KERRY GOING FORWARD

DUE to an increase in membership the Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceannair (Ciarrai Thuaidh) has been divided into two Comhairle i.e. Listowel and Tralee.

The Cumann in the Listowel Comhairle are Ballyheigue, Ballylongford, Ballybunbin, Ballyduff, Ballyconry, Beale, Asdee, Listowel, Lixnaw, Re-Organisation efforts are being made in the Moyvane and Dagh areas.

The first meeting of this area took place in Listowel. Among the attendance was Robert Beasley who has recently been released from Portlaoise Prison and he was elected Organiser for the area. Other officers elected were Chairman John P. Connolly, Vice Chairman Michael Keane, Secretary Mrs. Eileen Connolly, Treasurer Maurice Higgins, Pro. Pat Campbell, Finance Officer Peter Hayes.

The Cumann in the Tralee area are, The Spa, Ardfer, Derrymore, Dingle, Ballymacelligott, Ballyfinnane, Castlegregory, Croghane, Kilflyn, Keel, and Tralee.

The first meeting of this area took place in the Hannifin Memorial Hall Tralee recently. Officers elected: Chairman Michael Horgan, Vice-Chairman Joe Tuohy, Secretary Liam Cotter, Treasurer Tom Devanny, Finance Officer John McKenna, Organiser Pat Quirk, Educational Officer George Rice and P.R.O. Aine Lynch.

Public meetings were held at Churchill and Fenit Churches on St. Patrick's Day. The Chairman was Liam Cotter. Guest speakers were Pat Campbell and George Staggs.

In the course of his address Mr. Staggs called for an immediate inquiry into the conditions of Portlaoise Prison in which local men Martin Ferris, Churchill, Dan O'Sullivan, Barrow, and Brendan O'Doherty Currow and seventeen others have been on hunger strike since Monday March 7th. Their demands include: - craft facilities, free association, ending of strip searching, educational facilities, improved facilitated visiting conditions an end to barbaric summary trials, solitary confinement and other such inflicted punishments, an end to the crude and senseless censorship of mail, free access to newspapers, magazines and books.

-Aine Lynch, P.R.O.

"He had been beaten up. His hair had been pulled out. He was trembling and in a highly nervous condition. Oh, no. These were no bruises. They used their usual tactics. Tony's pullover, which was new, was torn; his shirt pulled out. He was not the boy I knew. "When I showed a police sergeant a handful of hair his words were: 'Are you sure you did not do that yourself, now?' I have lodged a complaint against this sergeant. Tony also has made a complaint about his brutal treatment.

"The RUC heavies beat a statement out of him. He is accused of attempted murder of 'security forces' at Middletown on May 1, 1976, and of membership of the I.R.A.

"Please do something about this. I am prepared to go anywhere and state publicly that my son was tortured. My son is being held on remand in Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast".

The letter is signed Anna Crozier (Mrs.).

RESIDENTS APPROACH SINN FEIN

THE local Sinn Fein Cumann (McCabe/Quigley) has been approached by residents in the Finglas and Ballymun districts with a serious problem. The residents of both areas are very worried with the acceleration of vandalism and violence from the youth population.

In Finglas we have been told of a man who heard some teenagers making a racket in front of his house, the man who is elderly told them to be quiet or move somewhere else. One of the teenagers lifted a steel bar and bashed the man on the head thus causing severe head injuries. The man was rushed to hospital where he received medical attention.

Ballymun is the target for a gang of gutless young men who are terrorising the flat dwellers. They kick in hall doors and carry iron bars and wooden clubs; when they break in they demand money if they don't get it they wreck the home.

These people break in not caring who they hurt, this gang who is responsible for terrorising mostly young families must be justly punished.

The residents who are tired complaining to the Gardaí will deal with the situation themselves if something is not done immediately.

LETTER FROM DUBLIN CORPORATION

FOLLOWING is a letter from Mr. Mills of Dublin Corporation concerning the problem in Ballymun which was published in last week's edition of *An Phoblacht*.

We have succeeded in getting this problem recognised by the Corporation, and the flat will be repaired shortly.

The tenant-wishes to thank Sinn Fein who were the only organisation to come forward and assist.

Dear Sir,
I would refer to yours of 17th ult, on behalf of Mrs. X, of 24M, Ceannat Tower. I would advise you that a works order has been written to cover general repairs to this flat.

Yours faithfully,
Maintenance Officer A.J. O'Reilly.

Ill-treatment claim bid to blacken RUC

By David McKeown, Northern Echo

As a result of an allegation of police ill-treatment of suspects held in custody, the RUC appear to be officially gone to the aid of the press. Through its own publicity, the RUC are now being blackened.

By including attachments, the RUC are now being blackened. This attack is the result of the RUC's own publicity, through its own publicity, the RUC are now being blackened.

WIDGE

NEW ALL TEMPERATURE WASHES WHITER THAN WHITE

Recommended by SIS, SAs, GAs, RUC, G-6, C-5, UDR, Wagon, Kilburn, Coganore, Moun, and Garda Síochána.

Supplied to H.M. Prison, 24M.

... ON THE ROAD TO GOD KNOWS WHERE...

Wonderful side effects? Changes this

To this

Known in the trade as CHAR because, like CHARITY, it covers a multitude of Sins...

Blots out unpleasant STAINS...

CHAR

Blots out unpleasant STAINS...

Cavan Gardai SINN FEIN NEWS FROM ENGLAND continue harassment



THERE has been another display of Gardai harassment in the Ballyconnell area. Mrs. Frank Reilly, a widow, went to do her shopping in town leaving her son P.J. in the house. When she returned home she found the whole house in disarray.

The bed clothes were pulled off the beds, items taken out of cabinets and thrown on the floor and some cups broken. P.J. was missing also.

Mrs. O'Reilly discovered that P.J. had been arrested under Section Two of the Emergency Legislation, 1976. She went to visit him in the Garda Station and to lodge a complaint about the house being broken into.

The station Sergeant did not mention to Mrs. O'Reilly that the house had been forcibly entered under the legislation.

That same day when my own house was surrounded by Army and Gardai, the sergeant in charge of the troops was heard to say: "The bloody f--- has disappeared."

* Our picture (above) shows a bedroom in the O'Reilly home after the Garda raid.

-P.R.O.

James Crossan S.F. Cumann, Ballyconnell.

MEMBERS of Sinn Fein from London and the Home Counties held a picket outside Wormwood Scrubs prison on Sunday last. Sinn Fein has been holding weekly pickets outside the prison for the past six weeks in an endeavour to draw attention to the plight of SHANE O'DOHERTY who is being held in permanent solitary confinement for refusing to wear prison clothing and demanding to be repatriated to a prison in Ireland as is his right. Harry Duggan was assaulted on arriving at this prison from Brixton remand centre and had to be hospitalised.

In a recent issue of 'Prisoner of War' - the bulletin of the Irish political prisoners in Britain - it was highlighted on Page Two the setting up of sensory deprivation machinery. This is known in the prison as the 'Control Unit'. The editorial board of 'Prisoner of War' have also approached the home office for an explanation as to why they have set up these 'control units', but to date no reply has been received. The 'P.O.W.' have also drawn the attention of several members of parliament to the plight of Shane and other prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs. It is hoped some action will be taken to see that inhuman treatment of Irish political prisoners will cease. Members of other political organisations are supporting the picket and the organisers call for a massive show of strength during the next few weeks leading up to a lobby of Parliament at Westminster. All Sinn Fein members in London and surrounding areas are requested to support the picket.

KILBURN

Members of the Roger Cogan Cumann, Kilburn, held a social night on St. Patrick's Night. A collection was made and a raffle held, the proceeds of both to go to aid prisoners.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The committee and members of the High Wycombe Sinn Fein Cumann are to hold a dance in aid of a recognised charity in the near future. Tickets are in the process of being printed and an Irish band is being booked for the occasion. The members wish to thank all those who attended their last dance and hope the "Forthcoming Dance will be as well supported.

LUTON

Luton Sinn Fein have said their Easter Raffle Tickets are selling well. The committee wish to remind all those who have these books in their possession

that the raffle takes place on Easter Monday. Please ensure that all sold and unsold raffle books are returned to the secretary in Luton before that date. The Luton Cumann also wish to point out that there are still some LP Records unaccounted for in the Midlands area. The list of those who received the records in various parts of the country was 'misaid' during a police raid last year. Will those who are in possession of these records please return either the records of the cash to Luton.

HALIFAX

The 'Peace People' unsuccessfully tried to make their presence felt in Halifax recently. One of their Churchmen approached the secretary of the Halifax cumann (Frank Staggs Cumann) at his home in an attempt to 'win him over'. The poor wretch was sent away with a flea in his ear by Gerry who put him right about the real objectives of the so called 'peace people'. Nothing has been heard of the peace people in Halifax since, but no doubt they are planning a 'counter offensive' - a peaceful one of course.

ST. ALBANS

The Connolly/Keegan Cumann St. Albans are planning a fund-raising drive. This will initially take the form of collections and social events directed at the Irish community in the city. Cumann members are planning to 'blitz' the city with leaflets and to build up the sales of republican papers, and letters to the editors of local papers in the west Herts area.

HAMMERSMITH

Hammersmith Sinn Fein have started a recurring drive in their area. Hammersmith has long been one of the best areas for the sale of 'An Phoblacht' and 'Republican News'. There is a large risk community in this section of London going back over one hundred years. Cumann members are appealing to all potential members and former members to come forward and help with the sale of papers.

The demand is great and volunteers are needed to meet this demand - which is still growing. It is hoped soon to establish a correspondence address for all those who seek information on the aims and objectives of Sinn Fein. More information on this will be made known through the columns of this newspaper when available. Meanwhile all those wishing to join Sinn Fein or buy Republican literature please write to 2A Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.

POLITICS AND THE MAN

JOHN HUME of the S.D.L.P. claims that anything which has been achieved in Derry in the past few years had been achieved by non-violent, political methods, without, he says, throwing a single stone. Colonel Sillitoe, Press Officer for the British Army, writing in the Manchester Guardian last year claims much the same achievement but attributes it to Operation Motorman. At its most primitive this exemplifies an "up our side" mentality. At its most cynical it is a distortion of facts and a bending of truth to serve a very single-minded purpose for the twin-armed machine of military politics.

John Hume climbed into politics on a mound of stones, thrown by the people of Derry at their tormentors and aggressors. He rode a whirlwind of violence until he arrived in Stormont. That he has changed his mounds many times since then is a matter of history. His purpose has remained the same. Like his fellow-politician Liam Cosgrave he could say - "It doesn't matter what the horse is as long as I'm in the saddle". Now on foot, Hume has become, understandably, dejected and impatient. He has also grown shrill and strident. "The political approach is the only way forward but there is only abuse hurled at politicians for not achieving results. They have achieved some results but politicians are being maligned and politics has grown to a halt".

Hume refuses to see that it is not the role of the politician that is faulted but the role of the false politicians or the false role the politicians have chosen to play. Look back, indeed, over the past few years at what Irish politicians have achieved, one half creating a climate of alarm, the other half creating a climate of fictitious harmony. A combination guaranteed to create a climate of uncertainty, anxiety, apathy and despair. Mr. Hume's call "to stand firmly by the political approach" rings very hollow. How can a people stand firm by politicians whose approach is dictated not by their people's needs but by the whims of their would-be masters? How can they stand by politicians who have reneged on their every principle? Had the S.D.L.P. stood firmly by the people as they promised would internment have dragged on for five years? Once in occupation of a post, the Stormont Executive, John Hume declared internment was no longer a matter of concern to the S.D.L.P. (Ref. Interview "Comhair" magazine). How much has the war in the North been prolonged by the S.D.L.P. chasing the dangled carrot of power-sharing: "power-sharing" according to Prof. Rose is "a piece of political rhetoric" and the newly invented "voluntary coalition" does not hide this fact.

"Politics is the art of reconciling different views in society", according to Hume. That could be an excellent lead to the people. It could also be another piece of political rhetoric, and it could be a well of deceit. What if that art of reconciliation is directed so that the Irish people are to be reconciled to a division of their country, to a refusal of their rights, to a denial of their own future in their hands, to being brought off or fobbed

REPUBLICAN POST BAG

OPEN LETTER TO JOHN HUME

off in two permanently subordinate states? Are the people in the Six Counties to be reconciled to accepting the R.I.C. and the U.D.R. because the politicians decide to play it that way? Are the people of the 32 Counties to be reconciled to accepting their ideals of nationality ridiculed as romantic nonsense by one half of the politicians, and insulted at dangerous war-mongering by the other half? It is that politicians leave us their stones.

These are the questions the politicians should be asking themselves instead of rationalising their own dishonour. There are other questions to be put to them. The S.D.L.P. cling to the now empty title (for most of them) of elected representatives with a mandate from the people and as such claim to be the only persons with a right to speak for and determine the future of the people. In or out of political office, this is an arrogant claim and must be challenged. Determining the future of a people should rest in the hands of the people. Representatives are elected to carry out that determination, not to decide it.

Even within the old primitive structure on which our politicians base their claim there is no one who can claim to have a mandate from the people of Ireland. It is almost 60 years since the people of Ireland were given an opportunity to express that mandate. They have been denied that will as a people and the art of politics has been reconciling them to accept it so. The 26 Counties have their local representatives in Leinster House. The Six Counties have their representatives in Westminster. Ireland as a country, has no representative anywhere.

Yet it is the future of Ireland that is being decided. Fianna Fáil have begun to change their policy in line with that of the Republican Movement. For that is the concern of the Republican Movement - the future of Ireland, the right of the people of Ireland to express their will as to that future. The ending of all outside interference, the ending of the will-of-the-wisp chase of constitutional politicians who have been bogged down in the mire of compromise at Westminster for decades. That is what the Republican Movement offers to the new generation of the Irish people.

-Pdraig O'Murchu, Irish Republican Information Service, Dublin 1.

WE HERE in the South of Ireland knew very little about the troubles of the Six Counties until we heard you on UTV, Mr. Hume, tell us how the late Mr. Samuel Devanny and Francis McCloskey had been beaten to death by the RUC. You stated then that the people referred to as "The Minority" would not accept the RUC ever again! Those statements of yours aroused our interest; as we thought that you were an honest man.

Your SDLP party cloaked under the banner of Civil Rights and brought the people onto the streets to demonstrate against the injustices which they had endured for over 50 years.

Wasn't it at your instigation that the slogan "One Man, One Vote" originated. You and your party yelled from every platform that you were interested only in getting people's rights accepted. It was members of the SDLP party who campaigned amongst the people to introduce tactics of civil disobedience; people were encouraged not to pay either rent or rates. You promised not to take seats at Stormont until the last prisoner would be released from the concentration camps. The people with all trust voted you and your party members into power. Then when you were assured of the financial benefit of being on Her Majesty's payroll, like a traitor you soon forgot the promises formerly made to the people. With the initial M.P. after your names each of you in turn shamelessly broke all promises.

Pressure was put on the people to pay up all rent and rates arrears - that bill was not wiped out as the people were led to believe. Social Welfare benefits and children's allowances were confiscated under your dictates. Your pal Curry sent men into farms to seize cattle. Weekly fines were added to outstanding rents to compel people to submit and pay up. You had not feeling for the hardship which your attitudes inflicted upon the poor.

You collaborated with those whom you previously refused to sit with, you cringed, bowed and scraped to hold on to power; signing papers of shades of Green, White and Yellow, Red, White and Blue but all in vain.

Now as if grasping at air for power to hold on to payroll you go to the USA to finance your part in the dirty tricks campaign. You cling to a last straw screaming that the IRA are bankrupt. If you were convinced this statement were true it would not have been necessary to travel so far to say so. The real reason for that expensive journey Mr. Hume was: "Actually you were

telling your own story".

It is that you now fear that you yourself might soon be joining the dole queue. The Irish in America cannot be coned; your deeds went before you. Who paid your expenses? Were you bursed from Children's allowance confiscated money?

-Una Toal, Dowdalis Hill, Dundalk.

LORD FAULKNER

LET me pour a few drops of cold fact upon the ocean of rhetoric about the death of Lord Faulkner of Downpatrick.

First I do not object to the praise given him by leaders and members of the majority in Northern Ireland, for he was one of them from first to last. Nor do I object to the praise from notables of various Establishments for they hope for the same in their turn. Nor to the praise from leaders of industry and commerce, for he did great things for Northern Ireland in those spheres and would have done more had he lived.

But I do object to the contributions from the public representatives of the minority, who with the exception of that from the Ulster Executive of Provisional Sinn Féin, deliberately ignored the disastrous effect that Lord Faulkner had on the life of this country. In objecting, I speak for no one but myself, for I belong to no political party or movement, legal or illegal, here.

Lord Faulkner exploded an H-bomb on Northern Ireland on Internment Day, 1971, and death and destruction have rained from it ever since.

He will be remembered, not as Lord Faulkner of Downpatrick, but as Lord Faulkner of the Longstone, Lord Faulkner of the Maidstone, Lord Faulkner of Kesh.

-Paddy Owens, Cusendall, Co. Antrim.

EIRE NUA

CLOISTEAR annas le gainid go ndéanfadh Sasna an coig d'Ulachú amháil. "V-étimination" Uncaill Sam. Ní leor Ulachú in aon chor. Rud is measa fós ní leigheas é.

Maidir le leigheas, ní mór cúlúdar nua ar fad in-Eirinn - "Eire Nua". Chugse sin cuirtear an teora ar ceall cuirtear ar bun in Eirinn uile.

1. Bunreacht Nua
2. Córás Nua Rialtais agus
3. Beatha Nua bheidh Sóisialta Sásta.

Má's gá Fronnna Lánscoilte Náisiúnta (FLN) chum "Eire Nua" a thógáil, seo chugse in ainm Dé. Tá sé mall sa lá dósan acht is fearr go mall ní go bráth. Bheir bua,

-Tina Breathnach, 414 Grant Ave., San Francisco, CA 94108.

QUIZ No. 4

A Silver Phoenix Badge to be won each week. Winning entry will be drawn each week from all correct entries. Enclose 10p in postal orders with entry and mark it:

'An Phoblacht Quiz', Box 7, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. to arrive not later than ten days after date of issue.

Send in the answers to the following four questions:

- 1 How many days was Eirence McSwiney on Hungerstrike?
- 2 What football teams were playing in Crokerpark when it was attacked by Crown Forces?
- 3 What couple were married in Kilmarnham jail by the light of a single candle in the presence of twenty British soldiers?
- 4 What 1916 leader, after his capture, had his walking stick confiscated by a British officer.



THE WAR in the north of Ireland is the longest guerrilla war the British have been involved in since Malaya. There is no end in sight, and the government is unable to produce any policy except repression.

In this situation it is urgent that the widest possible discussion takes place throughout the country on ways of achieving lasting peace in Ireland. FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, WE MUST HAVE PROPER INFORMATION - AND PLENTY OF IT. The 'journalism of the latest atrocity' is not good enough.

The government's policy is to keep the British public in the dark. But this is not justified either on democratic grounds or on the basis of the government's (disastrous) record in Ireland.

The TV companies and most newspapers are assisting the government by broadcasting misinformation and non-information.

This situation must not be allowed to continue. Too many lives are at stake. The TV companies and newspapers must start to provide the in-depth coverage that is needed. They must put the situation in its historical perspective, fully explain the motivation of all parties to the conflict, and ensure that all views on how lasting peace can be achieved are given a full and equal hearing.

- p & p Campaign for Free Speech on Ireland, c/o, 84 Claverton Street, London S.W.1.

PUBLIC MEETING

A discussion on the Conradh na Gaeilge pamphlet "Gearcheim na Gaeilge will be held at 14 Westland Row on Saturday, 26th March at 8 p.m.

Also a social and programme of revolutionary songs presented by members of Canis (culture and art for National Independence Study Group.

Buiochas

An Cumann Cabhrach wish to acknowledge the receipt of £2 received from "British troops get out".

CABARET

A Gala Cabaret presenting Paddy Reilly, also Claddagh, will be held at the NOGGIN INN on Monday, 4th April TOSNU 8 p.m. ISTÉACH 7.5p

PORTLAOISE PRISON

Dublin Sinn Féin are running buses, fare £1.50, leaving Blessington Street at 12.30 p.m.

To book ring the Craft Shop, 5, Blessington Street, Dublin.

Join S.F.

Join Sinn Féin and work for a 32 County Federal Ireland.

Telephone or write to: North Dublin Organiser/ South Dublin Organiser, c/o, 5, Blessington Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 308783.

Support the Hunger Strikers

Sympathy

AT the monthly meeting of Cavan S.F. Comhairle Ceantair, a minutes silence was observed when a vote of sympathy was passed with the wife and family of the late Ted O'Reilly, Castletarra, with the wife and relatives of the late John Lynch Buttersbridge and with the family of the late John Eddie Fitzpatrick, Kilmallock, Buttersbridge.

Support the Hunger strikers

WHERE are their relatives, Friends and Comrades Let all who are concerned COME FORWARD NOW in support of the HUNGER STRIKERS Do not wait, till it's too late PROTEST Every Saturday 2.30 p.m. from No. 5, Blessington Street, Dublin.

Attempt to stop hunger strikers' trial

THROUGH THE vigilance of the legal representatives of two of the Port Laoise hunger-strikers a "free" State attempt to prevent them appearing in court for their trial in Green Street, Dublin, was foiled towards the end of last week.

On March 24 the two prisoners — Tom Keenan, Whitecross, Co. Armagh, and Fintan Hearty, Cullyhanna, Co. Armagh — were to have appeared before the Special Criminal Court.

The Port Laoise Jail doctor, Richard Bourke, in evidence, said that the two men were on hunger-strike, had refused medical aid and were unfit to stand trial.

Mr. Myles Shevlin, for Tom Keenan, said Dr. Bourke's evidence was contrary to instructions he had received from his client, that the man was ready and willing to stand trial.

INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE

He would be willing to submit his client to an independent medical examination. His client should have the opportunity of telling his legal adviser whether he was fit to go on trial or not.

On March 25, independent medical

evidence that the men were fit to stand their trial was given by Dr. Frank McKenna of Donaghadee. The previous day, he told the court, he had examined the two men in Port Laoise Jail.

The trial then was fixed for Monday, March 28, the day this paper goes to press. We hope to publish an account of the trial in our next issue.

When the issue was first raised by the judge as to why the men were not in court for their trial last week the Governor of Port Laoise Jail was seen in public for the first time, having been ordered to appear before the judges.

Giving evidence (on oath, mind you), Governor O'Reilly "cut a sorry figure," according to our reporter who continues: "Time and again the judges pulled him up for trying to evade answering. Or was he really trying to evade them? Was it that the level of his intelligence was not up to the task?"

"As I left the court a well known TV commentator present remarked to me: 'So that is the man who does out justice, such as solitary confinement, in Port Laoise, God help the poor men down there.'"

VERY WEAK

Six of the hunger-strikers are now reported to be very weak: Seamus Swan (12 years), Wexford; Mick Brody (five years), Clare; Jim Nolan (eight years), Tipperary; John Carroll (eight years), Offaly; Danny O'Sullivan (seven years), Kerry; and Phil O'Donnell (18 months), Derry.

Signed support for the demands of the hunger-strikers for civilised conditions in the Jail, in accordance with United Nations rules, has come from the daughter of the 1916 martyr, Nora Connolly O'Brien; as well as from Rev. Canon Mac Ionhair, Dundalk; Rev. Denis Faul and Rev. Raymond Murray, Dungannon; Rev. Piaras O Duill, OFM Cap., Dublin; Senator Michael Mullin, general secretary, I.T.G.W.U.; Senator Noel Browne; and many others. Telegrams have been received from continental groups supporting the liberation struggle.

Mrs. Daithi O Connail, the wife of one of the hunger strikers, has sent a telegram on behalf of the relatives of the faster to the Pope: "REQUEST YOU SEEK FROM MR. COSGRAVE, TAOISEACH,

AN END TO DEGRADATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMANE CONDITIONS IN PORT LAOISE JAIL, IRELAND. TWENTY MEN ON HUNGER STRIKE IN THE JAIL FOR THE LAST 18 DAYS FOR THIS REASON. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO RELATIVES AND NO VISITS ARE ALLOWED."

The only official information received by relatives is such as contained in a sample, sent to Mrs. Daithi O Connail on March 21: "I am directed by the Minister for Justice to inform you that your husband, Daithi, has been refusing food for the past 14 days, but he is drinking water. He is taking outdoor exercise."

Republicans and sympathisers are urged to protest against the Port Laoise Jail conditions by writing to public representatives, clergymen and others who might help to bring pressure on the Dublin regime to end the present inhumanities; and by taking part in local and national public protests.

These men's lives may well depend on YOUR constant vigilance and action,

Businessmen serving imperial interests

A STATEMENT has been received from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, clarifying the position in relation to the recent attacks on businessmen in the six counties.

The statement supplied is as follows:-

"There has been some controversy over action taken by active service-units of the Irish Republican Army against members of the business class in the six counties.

"In June 1976 after a clear warning a series of political attacks against business men and their interests was initiated by the IRA. This protracted action was taken to combat threatened definite action from a right wing group, representing the whole loyalist spectrum. A spokesman admitted involvement of businessmen and their control over most units of the Ulster Service Corps. Since then, in order to combat this threat some action has been taken against these elements.

"More recently, however, a separate series of attacks have been made on certain figures who are involved in the senior management of British economic interests in the six counties.

"These attacks were related to the role played by the people involved in all cases those executed by the IRA played a prominent role in the effort to stabilise the

British orientated six county economy. This economy has never served the interests of the people. It is geared completely to their exploitation and is to the benefit of those in control.

"The war is not merely a conflict between Republican and British forces. It is a conflict between the interests which these forces represent. British imperialism exerts political, social, cultural and military control in pursuit of economic gains. Those involved in the management of the economy serve British interests. They represent and maintain economic interests which make war necessary.

"From the CBI and from the Chambers of Commerce have come calls for increased military repression of the Republican people. This repression is geared to the interests of imperialism and to the economic interests of those involved.

"While this remains so those representing these interests are invaluable assets to British intentions.

"Unlike British Troops they are not expendable — thus the outcry" the statement ended.

ANSWERS:

1) Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Kilaloe.

2) Maurice O'Neill was executed by the Free Staters in Mountjoy Jail, November 12th, 1942.

3) Lord French (April 1920).

4) Eamonn Ceannt.

A Dublin reader from the Drimnagh area is this week's winner. A silver Phoenix is on its way.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

BELFAST: Two buses belonging to Citybus were destroyed after being hijacked and set on fire outside Celtic Park, Donegal Road. A girl and two youths boarded the buses and ordered the passengers off. They sprinkled petrol around the buses and set them alight. The vehicles were worth £50,000.

An elaborate hoax bomb at a Smithfield shop caused near chaos with week-end traffic. The parcel left outside Andrew's Motorcycle shop contained three lemonade tins, two batteries and a watch.

A fire believed to have been started by an incendiary device destroyed a store at the Kilwee Industrial Estate, Dummurry.

DERRY: A furniture discount store in Magazine St. was completely gutted. Two men were detained after a dramatic battle in Carlingford Lough. Shots were exchanged before British Royal Marines, using powerful reconnaissance boats surrounded the dinghy in which the five men were.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

BELFAST: A hoax phone call lured two R.U.C. men and an R.U.C. woman into a booby trap in the grounds of the Royal Victoria Hospital. The bomb exploded just in front of the R.U.C. personnel. All three were blown off their feet but suffered only shock and bruising. The scene of the attack is close to the British Army post which the Belfast Brigade claimed was being used as a base for spying on the Republican army.

Barricades went up in the Turf Lodge area again. It happened after British soldiers arrived in Ardnamonagh Flats to take a census and the local people protested. A spokesman claimed: "Local people told the Brits that such a census was illegal. The Brits then attempted to arrest a householder and all hell broke loose."

Plastic bullets were fired by the retreating Brits. A 12-year-old boy, Michael McCleave was struck on the head by a plastic bullet and had to be hospitalised. Over twenty of the local youths put the Brits to flight and built a barricade across

Monagh Rd. at the junction of Norglen Road.

CO. DERRY: Three men attacked a U.D.R. man as he drove his van close to his home at Drumreaney. They opened fire hitting the U.D.R. man. His condition was later described as 'not serious'.

BELFAST: Brit soldiers were repelled from entering the Turf Lodge area again. Over 100 youths stoned the Brits out of the district. A bus was hijacked and set alight.

Two men and a girl planted a bomb in the Academy Shirt Company, Exchange Street. A 15 minute warning was given and the area cleared. The explosion caused considerable damage.

Damage estimated at over £1,000,000 was caused after fire swept through the headquarters of Gillespie and Wilson furniture department.

A fish shop, an optician's, a shoe shop and a private medical practice were badly affected by the fire and six people in a block of flats were made homeless. It took firemen using eight appliances until after midnight to bring the blaze under control and they were still at the scene the next day damping down the rubble.

DERRY: A bomb planted close to a Brit sentry post exploded at the Strand Road/Clarendon St. junction.

TYRONE: A young woman, Bridgid McNeel of Dernascobe, Augher, received serious injuries when a booby trapped car exploded at Beragh. The car had been checked out and declared safe by the Brits. The woman and her brother were then told to drive the car away. But as the woman opened the car door,

the car exploded. The Brits refused to comment on their 'mistake'.

CO. ANTRIM: Eight shots were fired at the home of a reserve R.U.C. man near Portlengone but he escaped injury.

CO. DOWN: Four Brits operating a security checkpoint at Kildare St., Newry, were forced to abandon their post after they came under sniper fire. They were unable to return fire but nobody was injured.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

BELFAST: A special Branch R.U.C. man was shot as he drove an unmarked car away from the Springfield Road, Torture Centre.

CO. ANTRIM: A bomb exploded at the farmhouse of an R.U.C. reservist. It had previously come under attack the night before. One man was slightly injured.

CO. TYRONE: Incendiary devices caused an explosion at a store in the High Street in Omagh. The premises were seriously damaged.

WED., MARCH 23

CO. DERRY: Loyalist politician Esmond Thompson was shot in the arm by a man who entered the post office at Maghera. The man fired two shots, then escaped.

BELFAST: A Brit Patrol came under attack at Distillery Way. Four shots were fired at the Brits who returned fire. There were no injuries.

THURS., MARCH 24

CO. ANTRIM: One of the North's most notorious judiciary member, Lord Chief Justice McDermott escaped with slight injuries after a

bomb exploded at the North-hern Ireland Polytechnic, where he was giving a lecture. The 5 lb bomb had apparently been left under the desk where he was speaking when it exploded. 3 lecturers were detained in hospital, one of them was later described as "seriously ill".

BELFAST: The I.R.A. in Belfast admitted responsibility for the tanker bomb attack on the torture centre at Donegal R.U.C. station.

The tanker had earlier been hijacked, a bomb placed on board and the driver ordered to park the vehicle outside the R.U.C. station.

A warning was given and the area cleared before the explosion.

Pro British Elements shot a 13 year old girl as she was babysitting for a neighbour. The girl, Karen Maxwell, went to answer the door when two men opened fire on her. One bullet struck her "St. Anthony" medalion ricocheted and entered her shoulder. The men then escaped into the "Tiger Bay" area, a well known base for Pro Brit assassins.

FRI., MARCH 25

BELFAST: One man was killed and five others injured — two of them seriously — when a booby-trap bomb ripped through their minibus as they set out for work at Greenisland, Belfast. The explosion occurred as the men, who were employed by the Abbey Meat Packers company, Whiteabbey, got into the rented transit vehicle parked at the front of the house where they were staying at Shore Road, Greenisland.

The dead man was named as Larry Potter, of Cherry Park, Clones. He was married with two children.

Four of the other injured men, are from Clones, Crossmaglen, Newtown Butler and Roslea.

In 1974 almost a dozen Catholics were killed by UVF men in a spate of machine gun attacks in the Greenisland, Whiteabbey area.

Support the hunger strikers: their fight is your fight

Quiz
No 2
Results