

# An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



FOR A NEW  
LEADERSHIP  
AND A  
PRINCIPLED  
IRISH STAND

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# No going back -reject the new Stormont!

**NEXT Wednesday, October 20th,** presents the nationalist people of the North with an opportunity to register in an unequivocal manner their total abhorrence of British rule and their determination that there is no going back to the days of rampant loyalist ascendancy under a new Stormont.

A solid declaration of support for the 12 Sinn Féin candidates at the polls is unquestionably the most effective way of displaying this resolve, at a critical and dangerous moment in the long struggle for national liberation.

The records of any other parties seeking the nationalist vote, particularly the SDLP, give no confidence that they will resist for long the determined efforts of the British government and the loyalist politicians to reconstruct the solid chains of nationalist bondage under a regenerated Stormont government.

And a vote for Sinn Féin does not just mean the rejection of the oppressive British jack-boot and sectarian persecution from their loyalist allies, which has so far prevented the attainment of the national aspiration.

It is also a clear rejection of the crippling social and economic deprivation which burdens all the people of the North but most heavily weighs on the nationalist people.

## 'STABLE'

Under Britain's control, unemployment officially stands in the North at 127,000, a jobless rate far higher than any area in Britain itself. And because of the refinements of sectarianism, many nationalist areas are suffering unemployment rates of over 50%.

Even at best, the six-county state, since its contrived foundation, has never achieved a better figure than 35,000 unemployed.

So much for the promises of prosperity in a politically 'stable' state!



● Gerry Adams, one of the Sinn Féin candidates for West Belfast, faces the oppressive British presence once again. A vote for Sinn Féin is a vote for the ideal that we will one day be free to plan our own future

Those figures, in terms of human misery, mean that many of our old people have never had the opportunity of employment. And the majority of our youth face a frightening future of the prospect of similar hopelessness under British rule.

And the unemployment situation continues to deteriorate.

But not only has the North got the highest unemployment rates when compared to Britain, it has the lowest wage rates for those in work as well.

And economic and social deprivation does not just stop there.

The North is acknowledged to have some of the worst housing in Western

Europe. Almost 20% of Belfast housing has been declared to be unfit for human habitation — that figure rises dramatically in nationalist West Belfast.

Twelve-and-a-half percent of the city's housing is designated as overcrowded, rising to 23% in the nationalist areas. Fifty percent of housing in the North is held to lack at least one basic amenity.

This situation too is deteriorating.

With a third of the population of the North dependent on state housing (another highest figure), cut-backs in public spending are more deeply felt than elsewhere. And the construction industry, almost totally dependent on

state spending, currently has in excess of 25,000 unemployed.

Where some hope has been offered of improvement, it has been short-lived. In the face of loyalist opposition to nationalist expansion into the new Poleglass housing estate, that project was cut back by 50% and future building made conditional on the 'good behaviour' of present tenants.

And many of the new housing developments have proved, in a few years, to be sub-standard and of miserable quality.

## DEPRIVATION

But the screw of deprivation does not stop turning there either. Rents have been increased by 150% in the last three years.

Debts owed by tenants to the Northern Housing Executive have increased by 80% in the same period, with up to 45,000 debtors owing over £10 million because of their inability to pay.

Here too a refinement of social torture has been enacted in the Payment of Debt Act which enables the deduction of these debts from already meagre supplementary benefit payments. The basis for this legislation, it will be remembered, was created by the SDLP's Austin Currie who levied deductions on rent and rate strikers, sold off cattle and attempted to seize land from small farmers.

Poverty is very real indeed in the North.

Against this background, and with these bitter fruits of the British connection, the nationalist people have been battered and beaten by the military forces of occupation and their loyalist cohorts.

There can be no going back, that way lies only despair. We must press forward to the goal of a united thirty-two-county Ireland in which the Irish people can plan their own future and begin the reversal of all these disastrous trends of misery.

A step in that direction is a massive vote for Sinn Féin next Wednesday.

# WAR NEWS

THE IRA in Crossmaglen in South Armagh fired an RPG7 rocket, from a range of about 100 yards, at an outer observation post of the heavily-fortified local barracks, last Sunday lunch-time, October 10th, in what was clearly an attempted repeat of the successful Belfast rocket attack on Springfield Road Barracks on September 20th, in which one Brit was killed.

This time, unfortunately, the rocket failed to penetrate the fortified structure and exploded outside the observation post causing no injuries. Nevertheless, in an attempt to minimise the daunting psychological impact of the attack on the occupants of the Brit base, the RUC ludicrously claimed that no rocket had in fact been fired - only a single high-velocity bullet!

**GRENADE ATTACK**  
Armagh Brigade IRA Volunteers mounted a gun and grenade attack on a mobile RUC patrol in the city, last Monday evening, October 11th. The IRA claimed no injuries to RUC personnel however, and their active service unit returned safely to base despite an intensive follow-up search in the area.

Two hand grenades were thrown at the RUC armoured vehicles at around 8.45 pm, as they passed the entrance to the nationalist Drumargy estate on the Killylea Road. This was immediately followed up by a burst of automatic gunfire from the Volunteers involved.

## Kidnap victims get damages

A DERRY couple who were the victims of a bizarre SAS-style abduction last November, during which they were beaten and interrogated at a remote derelict farmhouse before being arrested and held in Castlereagh for six days, were awarded damages totalling £2,500 in the Derry Recorder's Court on Wednesday, October 6th, in an action taken against the British Ministry of Defence.

As reported in *An Phoblacht/Republican News* at the time ('Kidnap Ordeal', November 12th, 1981), Brendan and Margaret Doherty were walking towards Margaret's workplace at Essex International after her lunch-break, on November 3rd, when they were bundled into an unmarked van which drew up alongside them. The van contained ten uniformed Brits and three Brits in civilian clothes, all armed.

The couple were continuously beaten en route to an old farmhouse situated behind the Creggan estate. There the two were separated, and Margaret was told she had 'three minutes to talk' or Brendan would be shot. After three minutes, in fact, a shot was fired, and a Brit - pretending to be Brendan - screamed out: "You shot me, you bastard... you shot me!"

After this terrifying ordeal the Derry couple, who refused to talk throughout, were driven off towards the border, further threatened and assaulted, before finally being taken to Strand Road RUC Barracks in Derry. Subsequently they were held in Castlereagh where they were further brutalised.

Making the awards on Wednesday, Judge John Curran said the case revealed "an appalling series of events" in which the Dohertys had been "ill-treated in a calculated and unjustified manner."

Not surprisingly, Judge Curran did not also comment on the 'unjustified manner' in which Brendan Doherty has subsequently been arrested and held for several weeks on remand in Crumlin Road Jail, solely on the evidence of RUC informer Raymond Gilmour. Margaret too, now pregnant, faces a number of 'charges on Gilmour's word' and is currently on bail.

# BEYOND REPAIR!

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

HOUSING CONDITIONS in West Belfast have been recognised as among the worst in Western Europe. But recognising the fact and actually doing something constructive to alleviate this situation is quite a different matter.

For the residents of Belfast's Moyard estate, who have repeatedly come up against the cold brick wall of bureaucracy and non-co-operation from the Housing Executive, the final insult came a week last Tuesday, October 5th, when a three-hour meeting with the Executive proved totally fruitless.

Moyard Housing Action Committee, with full backing from the estate's residents, now intends to challenge the Housing Executive in the courts claiming that "Moyard is an in-human place to live." Committee secretary Mrs Margaret Keenan says that they will take their case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg if necessary.

"The only guarantee we succeeded in getting at the meeting were promised investigations into the inadequacies of the emergency services. We had families flooded out again last week and they are still waiting on the emergency services! The Executive agreed that accommodation in Moyard is inferior, so why don't they do something?" she says.

Thirty flats which were flooded out are now having new water pipes installed as a priority. But the new pipes have not been sunk in deep enough causing water to bubble up and ultimately spill out onto the floors. Complaints of inadequate repairs and repairs needed to the majority of the flats are mounting but whilst the Housing Action Committee welcome repairs, they strongly feel that in the long-term no amount of money would make Moyard habitable.

"We are trying to get the Executive to at least windproof and waterproof the flats as winter approaches, especially for the old-age pensioners but the final solution to Moyard is demolition," says Margaret Keenan.

### SIMILAR

Meanwhile in the Lower Falls area a newly-formed tenants' association in Devonshire Place are facing a much similar problem but with the added feature of living in close proximity to the new West Link motorway. Houses in the Devonshire estate which were only built in 1976, have a brick foundation and one small brick section at the front, but largely prefabricated walls which have been described as 'reinforced cardboard'.

Walking through from the front door of Mrs Brigid McDonnell's home, and down the hall, plaques hanging on the wall rattled and shook. Inside the once 'dream house' of the



● The Andrews' home in Beechmount: the dark line running up the wall is a crack

Executive only a brief seven years ago, evidence of a rapidly disintegrating residence were clearly in view: fungus around the windows caused by rain and dampness from badly installed window frames; hot water central heating pipes uncovered (which caused her 7-year-old son to be burned); cupboards falling apart; doors sticking; and electrical connections faulty. Mrs McDonnell's house is over-run by mice.

When her house was 'built', instead of filling in her foundation with concrete around the brick structure it was left hollow. A floor-board pulled up in the hallway revealed gravel, thus the influx of the rodents.

Three other houses adjacent to Mrs McDonnell's all reflect the same situation. Mrs Malread Fox, a member of the tenants' association, says:

"We want these four houses pulled down and we want the Executive to carry out repairs on all the other houses. Until they do we will oppose the new drainage system which they tried to install two weeks ago." (The tenants' association and residents stuffed concrete into drainage pipes in protest.)

The Executive say they are waiting for a surveyor's report on the houses which is expected to be produced towards the end of October before they take a decision on repairing the houses. They need only take a walk through any house in Devonshire Place

and the glaring facts that major structural and internal repairs are immediately required would hit them right between the eyes.

### PATCHWORK

There have also been a series of recent complaints about housing in the Beechmount area.

Ten years ago Mrs Mary Andrews and her husband Eddie and their family moved into one of the new houses in Beechmount Grove. Six months later a crack appeared in the back bedroom wall, running from the ground to the floor. Numerous complaints were made to the Housing Executive but on each occasion patchwork plastering repairs were carried out and the crack re-emerged and expanded.

The Andrews' home is an end house, and from the outside the gable wall can be seen leaning to one side. The connecting house belonging to Sean and Theresa Dillon is also beginning to crack.

In July a surveyor and photographer inspected the foundations for subsidence but as yet there has been no communication on their findings.

Mrs Andrews explains that she is very nervous in the house:

"You are just waiting on the house to collapse. At night when everything is quiet, you can actually hear the wall creaking. If this goes on I am seriously considering taking legal action."

# Report confirms sectarian bias

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

BOTH THE inbred sectarianism of the Northern state and the ineffectiveness of recent so-called British 'reforms', were clearly exposed last week with the publication of confidential information from the Fair Employment Agency by the Belfast-based magazine *Fortnight*.

*Fortnight* printed the first results of a major, yet-to-be-published, 2½-year investigation into the Northern civil service. In spite of the many problems such an investigation faced, particularly over issues like confidentiality and the very size and make-up of the civil service itself, conclusions have emerged, and these conclusions, in the words of Fermanagh/South Tyrone MP Owen Carron, "clearly expose the fact that the institutionalised system of privilege and patronage established by loyalists decades ago continues to function effectively."

For example, the Queen's University statistician who gathered

the information concluded that "religion has a distinct, unique effect upon the salary level an individual holds, the occupational group in which he works, and the department in which he is found."

He also said that Catholics "tend to be more concentrated in the lower paid occupational groups while Protestants tend to be concentrated in those that are highly paid."

*Fortnight*, however, not only printed that information but also sought to demonstrate the very inadequacy of the FEA itself. This it did by publishing critical material from other FEA reports on the electricity service, and in-

dustries such as engineering, and linking these to a confidential report on the FEA by Christopher McCrudden, a specialist in anti-discrimination law.

### CAMPAIGN

McCrudden's report was highly critical of the FEA, particularly of its failure to systematically plan a campaign against discrimination, and of its reliance on individual cases, of which only five have been successfully fought in six years.

In that same time the FEA "has yet to publish one investigation into inequality of job opportunity between firm or public body and has not once used its considerable legal powers to compel an employer to promote job equality in his workforce," McCrudden says.

The FEA remains an integral part of the British 'iron fist in a velvet glove' approach, which attempts to 'place a human, caring face on repression. It



● Mackie's engineering factory in West Belfast: still discriminating

remains an important element in camouflaging the continuing and extensive use of repression.

After six years, however, the velvet glove is wearing very thin and the FEA is now being exposed for the important agency it is.

Most important of all, the information compiled, coupled with the counter-revolutionary significance of the FEA itself, has made it clear that the Northern state is irreformable and must be dismantled.

# Loyalists murder student

**THE LATEST loyalist murder victim, 20-year-old Eamon Quinn, a student at the Ulster Polytechnic, was found dead in the kitchen of his Damascus Street flat, in Belfast, last Friday night, October 8th, with several bullet wounds to his chest.**

Eamon, from Saul Street, Downpatrick, was discovered by his brothers John and Paul and was first thought to have been stabbed. By the time an ambulance arrived from the nearby City Hospital, however, John had died, the second person to have been murdered in the vicinity in two weeks. On Thursday, September 30th, Markets man Gerard O'Neill, a petrol-pump attendant, was gunned down by loyalist assassins at McGlade's filling station on the Ormeau Road.

Eamon Quinn was a second-year student at the polytechnic, studying social science, and he was one

of seven children of Una and Tony Quinn, who, along with the Downpatrick community, were deeply shocked by his murder.

Eamon and his brothers had been at a party in Jerusalem Street only 50 yards away from their flat. At 1.15 am they returned to the flat, Eamon stayed but his brothers and other flatmates went back to the party. On their return they found the front door of the flat open and Eamon lying unconscious on the floor.

More than 1,000 people attended his funeral on Sunday after requiem Mass in St Brigid's Chapel, Downpatrick, and he was buried in Tyconnett Cemetery, four miles outside the town.



● EAMON QUINN

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN A MAJOR extension of the use of plastic bullets, about 25 RUC men, armed with batons and plastic bullet guns, forced their way past a security man in the Lake Glen Hotel in Belfast on Saturday night, October 9th, and indiscriminately fired dozens of plastic rounds into a mixed crowd of around 40 young people who were in the process of dispersing after enjoying an evening's entertainment.

Several people were injured and others beaten by the RUC who claimed they had responded to a telephone call which alleged there was trouble at the hotel. This, however, was dismissed by hotel management who insist that there were no such disturbances either inside or outside the hotel and that they did not summon the RUC.

The manager of the Lake Glen said:

*"When the RUC arrived they just burst in through the door. Our security man told them that everything was quiet but a sergeant asked him what the noise was upstairs. He replied that it was only some people who hadn't left yet. The RUC man told him: 'These people shouldn't be in here, I'll have them out in five seconds.' At that, they all rushed upstairs, I heard several loud bangs and realised they were firing plastic bullets."*

Eighteen-year-old Brian Armstrong from Moyard was hit in the side during the first burst of plastic

# Plastic bullets fired in hotel



● The Lake Glen Hotel in Andersonstown where RUC gunmen ran amok in a function room, firing plastic bullets indiscriminately

bullet rounds. He recalls:

*"When they came running in I automatically stood up but the next thing I was just lying on the floor. I'd been hit. I blacked out and somebody must have dragged me behind the bar to protect me. Next thing I remember was being dragged by the hair down the stairs by some RUC men. They dumped me into a landrover and I passed out again."*

Another witness, 22-year-old

Paddy O'Neill from Turf Lodge, was hit twice, on the forearm and back, by ricocheting plastic bullets and was then beaten and struck on the back of the head with a baton gun. Standing in his living-room and holding up his blood-soaked shirt, Paddy O'Neill was shaking as he reconstructed the nightmarish event:

*"They came through the door firing plastic bullets. All I saw were the flashes and everyone started screaming and running to the toilets*

*to hide. They fired all over the place for nothing, no-one did anything to them. One of them then grabbed me and because I told him I wanted to get my coat, he stuck the gun into my face and threatened to shoot me. He then smashed it over the back of my head."*

Paddy's ordeal did not end there. Several people were taken to Andersonstown RUC Barracks where Paddy was singled out and beaten when he asked to be sent

to the hospital. Another Turf Lodge man, Roy Keenan, lost a tooth when he was punched in the face.

When Paddy O'Neill and Brian Armstrong were eventually brought to the City Hospital, both were detained, Paddy receiving five stitches to his head and Brian sustaining bad bruising to his side and slight internal bleeding near his kidneys.

The owner of the Lake Glen, John Morris, strongly condemned the deliberate and unprovoked actions of the RUC, who in an earlier statement had claimed they had used the 'minimum force necessary' while firing over the heads of 'a hostile crowd'. Morris said:

*"There was absolutely no trouble in here or no rioting outside, which the RUC claimed in another statement. It's a miracle no-one was killed. You have only to look at the level where these bullets struck the wall and you'll see that people could have been killed."*

Alex Maskey, Sinn Fein candidate in West Belfast, added his voice in condemnation of the incident:

*"Once again the RUC have publicly displayed that there are still no constraints on their use of the widely condemned killer weapon which has claimed the lives of several young people and injured hundreds more."*

# Blackmail tactic resisted

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A WEST BELFAST father of five, from Divisoria Drive, approached the Republican Movement several days ago through two intermediaries — his wife and a local priest — so frightened and uncertain was he of the reaction to what he thought would appear to be an incredibly concocted story of being arrested and detained in Castlereagh under quite unusual circumstances.

Thirty-nine-year-old Derek Dobbin was arrested by a British army foot patrol outside the People's Garage on the Springfield Road at 3.30 pm on Sunday afternoon, September 19th. He was taken to the nearby Henry Taggart Fort and questioned by RUC Special Branch detectives for almost seven hours.

His enquiries were directed at particular republicans who they claimed Dobbin was supposed to know and who, with his co-operation, they could charge with IRA operations going back eight or nine years. To every question Dobbin replied that he knew nothing,



● DEREK DOBBIN: 'It's not been easy to come forward but I knew it was the only thing I could do'

In March this year, Dobbin was punished by the IRA with a shot in one leg and this was used by the RUC in attempts to pressurise him into giving information.

He explains: *"They said to me, your friends in the IRA are only laughing up their sleeves at you. You are in here now and you are sticking by them and are still loyal to them even after they knee-capped you."*

Dobbin was then taken outside and bundled into a unmarked car with two

Special Branch men. There were no British army or RUC jeep escorts — a scene which would appear suspicious to any local people who might witness it.

He was taken to Castlereagh where he was interrogated on at least five occasions. He was told that if he would turn queen's evidence on people who they said were in the IRA, he would be set-up in a country of his choice with his own business and his family would be moved.

They also threatened that they could make life very difficult for him.

Dobbin says: *"They said to me, 'Derek, how would it be, especially with you being knee-capped? You should know that the IRA view your particular type of person with doubt. Now what happens if we send saracens into your estate, start lifting well-known republicans and charge them with things which very few people are supposed to know about? Remember now, you are an outcast. So who would blame fall on?'"*

Dobbin adamantly, and wisely, refused to co-operate or fall for either the RUC's threats or bribes despite being under intense psychological strain.

At 9 pm the following night, Dobbin

was taken out, again by private car, driven into Belfast city centre and dropped off at Arnett's in High Street. Normally, arrested persons on being released are collected by relatives or make their own way home.

## FRIGHTENED

Throughout the entire 18-hour period Dobbin had been in custody, no-one knew he had been arrested. His wife was under the impression that he had gone off on what she termed "a drinking spree, which is not unusual."

Following his release, Dobbin was unable to think clearly or rationally and was frightened as to what to do next.

He disappeared for three or four days and then contacted his wife Alice. He had decided that he would have to tell the Republican Movement about the events in Castlereagh because he had no guarantee that he would not be set-up by the RUC as a tout if he refused to co-operate with them.

On the other hand, if he had pretended that nothing had happened, he would be viewed with suspicion if arrests did indeed follow his release.

For Derek Dobbin and his family, the whole experience has been a nightmare. He says:

*"It's not been easy to come forward, but in my heart of hearts I knew it was the only thing I could do. I just hope that anyone who is unfortunate enough to be in my position will have the strength of mind to do the same thing."*

## Picket line row

THE MAYOR of Wexford, Paudge Reck, last week delivered a hysterical outburst, reported in the local *People* newspaper, attacking Sinn Fein and its local alderman, Phil Kelly, in particular, for 'interference from outside' in an industrial dispute at the Ambassador supermarket in Drinagh.

For four weeks, five women, three of them members of the Irish Union of Distributive Workers and Clerks (IUDWC), had been on strike seeking the basic rate for Irish supermarket workers of £85 per week - they were being paid £46.

Reck accused Sinn Fein of "using the plight of these girls as a publicity stunt."

Phil Kelly, in a reply to these allegations, has pointed out that he was invited by the women on strike to help out on the picket line, which he did along with three other Sinn Fein members.

Kelly also says that it was only after their intervention that the women began to be paid strike money by the IUDWC and that a branch collection was organised in support.

On Wednesday, October 13th, the strike was settled for an interim increase of £16 per week and an agreement to continue negotiations on the remainder.

## Lucky escape

THE DRIVERS and passengers of two West Belfast black taxis had a miraculous escape from death or serious injury on Friday afternoon, October 8th, when a British army saracen, converted into an ambulance, smashed into one taxi driving it back into another.

Over the years, British army and RUC personnel have been responsible for numerous deaths and injuries by reckless driving, deaths usually dismissed as 'traffic accidents'.

The latest incident occurred outside Daly's garage on the Falls Road when the British army ambulance sped down the road with sirens screaming, attempted to overtake a bus but instead veered across the road and smashed into an on-coming black taxi. One woman passenger was taken to hospital.

Commenting on the crash, Sinn Fein election candidate Alex Maskey said:

"Having seen the damage, I am amazed no-one was killed by the reckless and criminal driving of the British army. Events over the last 12 years have demonstrated that they have a free hand to murder, loot and drive irresponsibly within nationalist areas."



## Prison picket

ABOUT 50 people from Sinn Fein in London and Birmingham, and supporters from other groups, picketed Parkhurst and Albany prisons on the Isle of Wight on Sunday, October 3rd. The picket was held to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Irish political prisoner Sean O'Connell who died on October 1st, 1977, in hospital in Southampton after a last-minute release from Parkhurst Prison.

## Quebec campaign

AT A PRESS conference in Montreal on Monday, October 4th, the Quebec Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU), which represents 200,000 workers, condemned the use of plastic bullets in Ireland and demanded that the British government stop using them.

Journalists heard Irene Ellenberger, president of the Montreal central council of the CNTU, describe her experiences when she was part of an international delegation which visited Ireland in August and met, among others, representatives of the Republican Movement and former republican prisoners.

On the basis of her report, the CNTU is launching a campaign among its membership against the use of plastic bullets and also to educate them about the struggle for national liberation in Ireland.

# EEC law jails skipppers

BY BRIAN MARTIN

**FIVE fishermen were still being held in Dublin's Mountjoy Prison on Wednesday this week on charges of herring fishing in the Celtic Sea.**

The five include the chairman of the Irish Fishermen's Organisation (IFO), Joseph Maddock of Kilmore Quay, and the four others are Joseph O'Shea and Nicholas McMahon of Cahirciveen, County Kerry, and Tony Faherty and Peter Mullin from the Aran Islands.

In all, ten skipppers were arrested on Wednesday morning, October 6th, off Kinsale and their trawlers escorted into port by the Free State naval vessels LE Aisling and LE Fola. After court appearances on Thursday seven of them refused to sign personal bail-bonds of £100 and were taken in custody to Mountjoy. Two signed the bonds the following day and were released.

The refusal to sign the bail-bonds by the skipppers is in protest against the imposition by the Free State government of EEC regulations closing the herring grounds in the Celtic Sea to all fishermen since 1977.

Angry fishermen, supporting the five imprisoned skipppers, point out that the Free State is the only EEC member enforcing such a ban. Moreover, the large foreign trawlers are fishing the area for herring with impunity in flagrant breach of the regulations.

The Irish fishermen, who have been fishing in the Celtic Sea for herring, many of them for over twenty years, say they have no alternative at present if they are to maintain any sort of livelihood. The fishing industry is currently in a depressed state with many boats lying uncompleted in boat-yards and skipppers paying heavy interest on bank loans and loans from Bord Iascaigh Mhara. According to the IFO it is a choice of "going bankrupt or going to jail."

The statistics on which the herring ban is based, supposedly for conservation purposes, are also challenged by the fishermen, who claim that no accurate estimate of herring in the Celtic Sea has ever been made. As evidence of this, they point to the examination of some of the seized catch on October 6th by a Fisheries Department official which reveal many fish of over eight years old - the herring having only a nine-year lifespan.

Marine biologists at the Fisheries Research



● Fishermen and relatives protest at the arrest of Irish herring-catchers: EEC laws hit Irish workers once again

Centre at Abbotstown, County Dublin, have also collected evidence to show that the herring stocks in the Celtic Sea have increased dramatically in the past two years.

### EXCLUSIVE

A more realistic method of preserving the fishing stocks generally would be to make the declared 200-mile 'economic zone' around Ireland exclusive to Irish fishermen and, like the Icelanders, to guard the area with adequate fishery protection. Within that area, with Irish catches landed in Ireland, it would be a simple matter to control the herring catch, as with any other fish, to whatever quotas are considered necessary after a detailed scientific survey.

The development of a major Irish fishing industry, and a major Irish fish-processing industry, can only follow from that basic step.

As it is, EEC law dictates that although 25% of the waters in the EEC are designated Irish waters, Irish fishermen are only allocated 5% of the fish!

The jailing of the skipppers has reactivated the whole issue and they are receiving growing support from their fellow fishermen. On Monday night this week over 200 trawlers all around the coast are estimated to have refused to put to sea in solidarity with the imprisoned men and there were calls for the protest to be extended. The possibility of a total blockade of the major Free State ports by fishing trawlers against all shipping was also under discussion.

# Run-down of health services

BY BRIAN MARTIN

**CUTS in the health services, which at this time last month were largely on the drawing-boards of the various health authorities, and in some areas were rejected by the regional health boards, are now being implemented with a vengeance in all areas.**

In the Mid-West region, for example, the situation has now been reached where in one psychiatric hospital - Our Lady's, Ennis - patients have been locked into their wards at night because of understaffing on the night-nursing shift. Quite apart from the risk of injuries, the cuts are in so many hospitals elsewhere, are major fire hazards.

Thirty nurses are now on duty in Our Lady's compared to the recommended minimum of 39. At St Joseph's Hospital in Limerick (the other major psychiatric hospital in the region) the figure is 65 compared to the recommended minimum of 86. The problem has been aggravated by the abolition of all overtime and non-replacement of staff on holiday or sick leave (a measure applied in the general service in other regions).

Other near-certain cuts in the Mid-West are the reduction by more than 25% of the beds in the Limerick Regional and Croom Orthopaedic hospitals.

### CLOSURE

In the Southern region, the board's chief executive officer has stated that the closure of a number of hospital wards is inevitable after the fruitless attempt of the Southern Health Board to secure £1.58 million from Free State Health Minister Michael Woods to prevent their closure. The wards are in St Catherine's Hospital, Tralee, the Region

of Hospital and Our Lady's Hospital in Cork; Mallow Hospital; and the maternity ward in Bantry, County Cork. The closure of this will deprive the Kerry and West Cork region of maternity facilities.

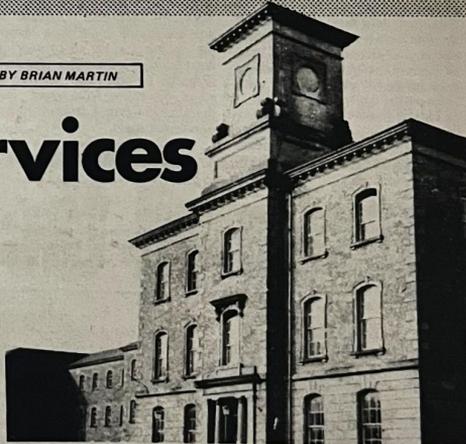
In the Western area, the nightly ambulance service in Ballina has been abolished and in future even critically-ill patients will have to wait for an ambulance from Castletare. A maternity ward in Castletare General Hospital itself has been closed.

In the Eastern region, where the health board has to make cuts of £1.46 million, the use of an ambulance by those who do not have a medical card will now cost £5 if, as expected, a package of cuts is pushed through a reluctant board. These will also include ending the dental and ophthalmic schemes and the pre-admission 'assessment' of long-stay patients.

As the Eastern Health Board mainly controls the community care and psychiatric care areas (the voluntary general hospitals are not under its administration), the mentally and physically handicapped, the aged and the very poor in the most populated area of the country will suffer the worst hardship.

### OPPOSITION

At the quarterly meeting of Sinn Fein local councillors, held in Athlone at the beginning of the month, opposition



● Our Lady's Hospital, Ennis, where patients have been locked in their wards due to understaffing

to understaffing was expressed to the recent cut-backs in health services by the Fianna Fail government.

Sinn Fein members of regional health boards are resisting these cuts in expenditure and, in particular, any cuts in staffing since the health boards are already understaffed. They are also protesting against the government decision to admit 120,000 people over 66 years of age to the medical care service without a means test.

Opposition was also expressed to cut-backs in local alcoholic units at mental hospitals and to obvious abuses in the dispensary system whereby, for example, a packet of aspirin, available off the shelf for a few pence, costs the health services over £4.

of the re-introduction of rates disguised in the form of increased charges for water-supply and garbage collection. They further decided to oppose the National House Building Agency loans scheme since the sliding scale works against the applicant and expressed support for a second tier of county council loans to meet the situation.

Councillors from western areas objected to the 13 western counties being superseded by all 26 counties as a deprived region of the EEC. By this method, allocations from EEC funds can be spent on the more developed eastern areas which are politically stronger in electoral terms.

Sinn Fein has 30 local councillors in 14 counties of the Free State.

DIVISIONS EVIDENT IN ALL THREE FREE STATE PARTIES

# Splits and more splits

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE SPLIT in Fianna Fail, opened into a gulf by last week's parliamentary party challenge to Charles Haughey, refuses to go away as the anti-Haugheyites ignore their numerical defeat and continue their campaign.

But how united are the other two main parties in Leinster House — Fine Gael and the Labour Party?

Given the figure of 22 Fianna Fail deputies who publicly declared no confidence in their leader, it is relevant to recall that at the beginning of the present Leinster House parliament in March, only 62 Fine Gael members out of a possible 87 endorsed the leadership of Garret FitzGerald — a shortfall of 25. (Both deputies and senators vote in leadership elections in the Fine Gael party.)

A senior figure in both the recent Coalition governments, John Kelly, also then announced his retirement to the backbenches, where he would have more freedom to criticise current Fine Gael policies. And he quickly became a 'leader-in-exile' figure.

One of Kelly's themes since then has been to fly kites on the possibility of a 'national government' drawn from Fianna Fail and Fine Gael to the exclusion of the Labour Party and the influential independents.

In September this idea was taken up by Fine Gael's former education minister John Boland (who included Labour in the scheme). His call was not popular within the party and illustrates the diversification of views within it.

Kelly is generally seen as on the right wing of the party, particularly economically, whereas Boland likes normally to position himself among the new 'social democrats' grouped around FitzGerald. Possibly Boland was kite-flying the idea on his part for that wing, and did receive muted support from another 'liberal', Maurice Manning.

The real right-wing 'old guard' in the party jumped on this new resurrection of a grand coalition immediately, deputy-leader Peter Barry and Euro MP Richie Ryan leading the onslaught.

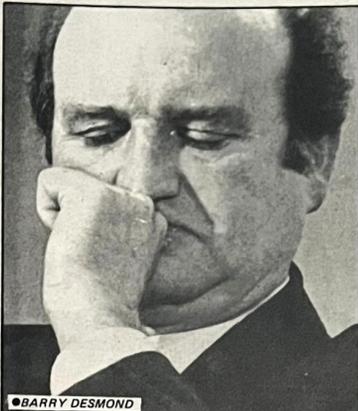
Barry claimed, correctly, that right-wing one-party rule might all too quickly be replaced with left-wing one-party rule if Fianna Fail and Fine Gael were merged. And Ryan declared that Fine Gael needed to take more seriously its conservative Christian democrat role and expressed the fear that the party was "drifting towards socialism".

## APPROVAL

It is significant that this idea of joint-government by Fine Gael and Fianna Fail received murmurs of approval from the Colley section of Fianna Fail.

However, FitzGerald, moving somewhat faster than usual, quickly scotched the idea.

In opposing the 'national government' idea in a speech in mid-September, Richie Ryan went on to display another interesting division in Fine Gael. The party's attitude in the Prior 'initiative' in the North and to the Falklands/Malvinas is being widely interpreted as a pro-British stance, Ryan said.



●BARRY DESMOND



●FRANK CLUSKEY



●RICHIE RYAN



●JOHN KELLY

"Second to none in its commitment to the EEC, Fine Gael also needs to proclaim positive nationalism," he continued.

"An unjustified sense of guilt seems to prevail that Irish nationalism is somehow to blame for the disgrace of Northern Ireland. It must at all times be remembered that Northern Ireland was created by Britain by denying Irish nationalism and democracy.

"The attitude of all Irish people should be to say: 'This is a British disgrace'." Ryan concluded.

And a fortnight later, a former Fine Gael senator in Wexford, who had also been on the party executive, Councillor Patrick Codd, resigned from the party because of what he termed its 'pro-British policy'.

At the same time, another Fine Gael stalwart, Oliver Flanagan, has embarrassed his more liberal fellow deputies by a series of speeches virtually advocating a takeover of the Free State by the armed forces because of the failure in government of all politicians.

And also causing consternation in the party ranks is the abortion issue, with FitzGerald confidante Nuala Fennell claiming that her party leader's pledge in favour of the constitutional amendment should not be taken too seriously. A position from which she was forced to retreat in the face of a furious onslaught on her liberal wing of the party from the more traditional members of the party.

It is unlikely that too many of these divisions will emerge at the Fine Gael Ard Fheis this weekend which is a very curtailed affair, at one and a half days' duration. And the theme has already been set at the weekend by FitzGerald portraying his party as the 'largest,

cohesive group' in Leinster House in contrast to the openly ruptured Fianna Fail.

But FitzGerald's claim, as recent tremors clearly show, is not one that stands up to any serious examination.

## CRITICAL

Facing a more critical party convention later in the month is the Labour Party leader Michael O'Leary.

And his organisation has become hopelessly divided on the question of coalition, a division which saw them humiliated in the Dublin West by-election earlier this year.

The question has seen O'Leary under attack from all sides.

The left wing of the party, determinedly anti-coalitionist, is centred around the party chairperson Michael D. Higgins — Labour's 'socialist conscience'. It is gathering its forces for a clear anti-coalition vote at the party convention which would prohibit the Labour Party deputies entering any future government and, the left-wing hope, force them into real opposition where policies could be developed to halt the encroachment of the Workers' Party.

The same element in the party are also seeking the right to elect the party leader themselves rather than the Labour deputies, a situation likely to put Higgins in control and dismay the Leinster House Labour members to the extent of driving such as Michael O'Leary and Barry Desmond into the more compatible arms of Fine Gael.

The anti-coalitionists have been joined by Brendan Halligan, the former general secretary of the

party. This former architect of Labour's entry into the Cosgrave coalition has, mainly from personal spite, changed his view on the matter and is opposing O'Leary with all his political cunning.

Meanwhile, O'Leary is being attacked on the other side by the former party leader Frank Cluskey, now back in Leinster House, and the deputy-leader Barry Desmond.

## OPPOSED

They have both publicly opposed O'Leary's determination to settle the coalition at the party conference this month and, implying a major lack of political acumen on O'Leary's part, are advocating that the conference should be merely asked to defer a decision on coalition until after the next general election when a special conference, with the goodies on the table, might be more easily cajoled into a favourable position on coalition.

The seriousness of this apparently mild tactical difference is put into better focus by remembering that Cluskey is one of several Labour Party deputies who, in order to show their displeasure with O'Leary's leadership, refused to attend Leinster House on several occasions in the last session when they would have been expected to speak on issues for which he had made them spokespersons.

Michael O'Leary, like FitzGerald, is also experiencing difficulties on the abortion amendment issue, with rural deputies John Ryan and Sean Treacy virulently opposing his refusal to support the amendment.

Splits, therefore, are not confined to Fianna Fail and it would seem that the homogeneous nature of the Free State parties is in danger of dissipation as never before.



## Support for Irish sought

REPUBLICAN prisoners in the H-Block have recently written to Conradh na Gaeilge asking for their support, and that of other Irish language organisations, in their demand for the right to learn and use Irish in the jail.

Representations have been made by the prisoners' leaders to the H-Block authorities on the issue but so far have only resulted in one Irish class per week in each block, taught by outside teachers. Only 15 prisoners can attend each class. Each prisoner is also allowed to receive one Irish/English paperback dictionary.

However, the prisoners regard this as inadequate for those who have a desire to learn the language to a realistic level of competence. They are seeking the right to use Irish freely in the jail without the threat of recrimination from the authorities; the right to send and receive letters in Irish; and the right to receive magazines, books, newspapers and periodicals in Irish.

Conradh na Gaeilge has taken up the prisoners' case with the Free State Department of Foreign Affairs and with the British government. In a reply to Conradh, the former say they have written to the British government regarding the situation and that they are "keeping it under review".

The prison authorities claim that the main problem regarding Irish is the absence of censors, but there have been several occasions in which warders have spoken Irish to prisoners, and certainly if a written message was discovered the authorities have no difficulty in translating it.

They also add that they have a strict rule that all letters written in or out of the jail should be "in the language of the country" which, they claim, is English.

The prisoners have also written to the GAA president, Paddy Buggy, regarding the ban on Gaelic games in the H-Block recreation area.

Excuses from the prison governor for this have included the statement that the warders supervising recreation do not know the rules of Gaelic football and that the goal-posts are not available.

The prisoners point out that a set of suitable goal-posts would be inexpensive for one of the two all-weather pitches available. They hope that by enlisting the support of cultural organisations there may be some chance of their demands being met.

## Cás Uí Mhionacháin

SEO THÍOS náiteas a d'eisigh Rionn an Chultúir, Sinn Féin le gairid maidir le cas Thomáis Uí Mhionacháin ó Thír Chonailí.

Táimíní as tróid atá ar siúl aige leis an Stát, go ngléif a chearta teangeán dó. Is deacair a chreidiúint go bhfuil sé inniu an go ndúitíocht na h-icléirí éisteacht i nGaeilge a thabhairt d'fhear Gaeilteacha, agus leifreón sé go bhfuil siad arís ag brú Béaláir go h-oscailte i gceantar Gaeltachta.

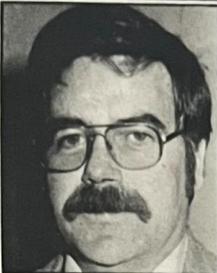
Léifreón cas Uí Mhionacháin reilais an finteacht atá ag baint le rialtas an tSaoistáit, agus an cur i gceill a bhíonn ar bun ag polaitóirí (go h-áirithe um toghcháin) nuair a bhfuil siad go bhfuil ceart ag gach saoránach a ghnó a dhéanamh i nGaeilge leis an Stát.

Eilimíd nach geuirfí i bhfeidm an tairna príosún atá ag bagairt ar Ó Mhionacháin, agus nach geuirfear fórsaí fíneála nó príosúnachta ar an saoránach faosta de bharr cearta teangeán a éileamh.

ARMAGH



J.R.O. Hagan



Jim McAllister

WEST BELFAST



Gerry Adams

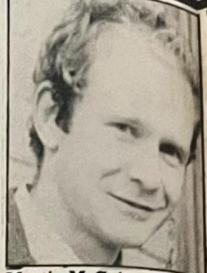


Alex Maskey

NORTH BELFAST



Joe Austin



Martin McGuinness

# Election fever spreads

BY PETER ARNLIS

WITH THE assembly elections only days away, most of the parties by the end of this week had completed their media appearances on television and radio, with the BBC this Friday night publishing the results of a public opinion survey taken within the last few days.

Election interest has been stoked by the television and radio interviews, although the newspapers (*The Belfast Telegraph* and *The Irish News*) have carried party features and profiles and most of the provincial press have been flooded with advertisements and statements from the parties on various issues.

The *Irish News* also gave notice in an editorial last Tuesday that, on the eve of the election, it would state and emphasise its support for the constitutional SDLP and against the use of force.

The *Irish Times*, which fortunately has a low circulation in the North, has also taken a policy decision, confirmed by its editor, to refer to Sinn Fein as 'the Provisionals'. It is also into promoting the SDLP, publishing extracts from John Hume's TV interview on Monday night while ignoring the comments of the Sinn Fein spokesperson on UTV on Tuesday night, praising Hume in an editorial on Wednesday and featuring a mug-shot of him on the election trail.

It is no secret that *The Irish Times* feature writer John 'Narcissus' Healy has been in love with the SDLP leader's style, devoting embarrassingly regular promotions of the political guru. At one stage a few months ago Healy's column read like a serialisation of Hume's virtues and graces.

HIERARCHY

All that is missing is the intervention of support for the SDLP from the Catholic hierarchy or sections of it. But there is time for that yet.

Sinn Fein, in its approach, has warned of the danger of the re-constitution of Stormont; the SDLP has described the assembly as a 'mere talking-shop' and have proposed a Council of Ireland (with the indulgent silence and non-commitment of the Free State government); the Sticks, like Paisley, want the assembly to work; and the Official Unionists are 'afraid' of what other more extreme loyalists will do if their efforts are frustrated.

The OUP are opposed to the assembly and intend to go back to Westminster after the summer recess and demand a change in the legislation for devolved government.

The Alliance Party, from what

their leader said on television, want 'power-sharing' and Oliver Napier said that if offered he would take a remunerative seat on one of the committees. The chances of such an offer being made are as good as the chances of a Stick being elected.

DEADLINE

Election fever has spread this week and there was some last minute rush in Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh/South Tyrone to conclude the free post before the Wednesday deadline. A considerable drop is also being recorded in the number of postal votes — only 22,771 people will be voting by post on October 20th.

Postering has continued unabated and Sinn Fein has certainly mobilised more young activists than any other party. They could be seen nightly hanging the colourful posters along miles and miles of poles and then returning to patiently replace those systematically torn down by the RUC and UDR, especially in the rural areas.

Sinn Fein's perception of the campaign, of course, is far different from any of the other parties, all of whom are engaging in constitutionalism. Sinn Fein sees not only the chance of having candidates successfully elected as being important — the winning and holding of converts as a result of the enthusiastic and dynamic mobilisation is of equal importance in a revolutionary sense.

Structures created for the purpose of the mobilisation should be built upon and there have been many sobering lessons to be maturely learnt from the broad-based nature of some of the committees which will undoubtedly be responsible for several victories.

PERSUADE

Direct-ruler Jim Prior's attempt to persuade a section of the Catholic middle class to vote Alliance has angered the SDLP who consider this their patch. Prior has made a number of statements and an appearance on television which are seen, perhaps with some paranoia by the pressed SDLP, as a combined effort to persuade some of their more right-wing middle-class supporters to switch to Alliance.

Prior gave an interview last week to *The Irish News* which, under the new ownership of Belfast solicitor Jim Fitzpatrick and editorship of Martin O'Brien, has taken a distinctively pro-

British shift. Prior's latest interview was on BBC's 'Spotlight' programme last Friday, October 8th.

The Official Unionists (the party which is expected to win the most seats) was warned that some loyalists, if frustrated by Prior from taking full control, could be tempted "to abandon the democratic process" as Frank Millar put Paisley's UDI threat.

This Official Unionist view was enlarged upon when Enoch Powell, the sitting OUP Westminster MP for South Down, who is not contesting this election because he disagrees with it (he favours integration), accused Paisley of being prepared to rebel against the Union, Paisley, when subsequently challenged on TV, did nothing to dispel nationalist fears about such a loyalist course of action, which would be the logical outcome of his 'independence' stance in recent years.

Finally, a question posed by the OUP candidate in Derry, William Douglas:

"Does James Prior advocate that we adopt the Irish Tricolour instead of our Union Jack?"

"Is that why this totally obnoxious foreign flag is allowed to be flaunted before our eyes from lampposts, electricity poles and other vantage points throughout the province?"

"It is time those hateful symbols of rebellion, terrorism and murder were removed," said the compassionate Mr Douglas.



● Bernadette O'Hagan, campaigning on her husband's behalf in Lurgan



● Martin McGuinness, canvassing in the Gohinascale area of Derry



● Jim McAllister, canvassing in Camlough, South Armagh



**SOUTH DOWN**

**FERMANAGH/S. TYRONE**

**MID-ULSTER**

Cathal Crumley

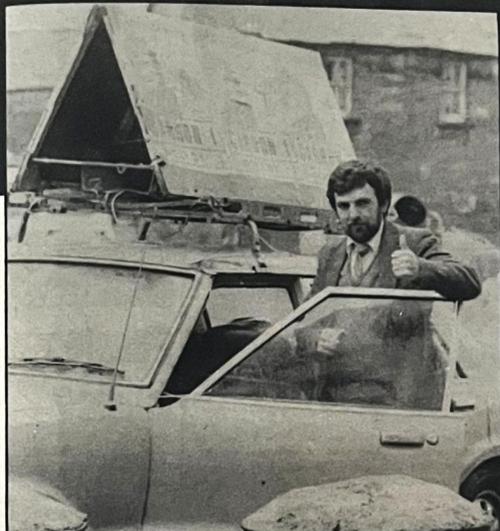
Cyril Toman

Owen Carron

Francie Molloy

Danny Morrison

Benedict McElwee



● Owen Carron in Enniskillen last Monday

● Francie Molloy, on the campaign trail last Sunday

# Harassment fails to slow campaign

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN THE northern part of the Armagh constituency, election workers for Sinn Féin candidate Joe. B. O'Hagan have established an efficient election machinery with 40,000 copies of the manifesto posted out and canvassing and posterage continuing every day. On Monday night, canvassers in the Teghnevan, Shankill and Craigmavon areas were reporting a particularly favourable response.

At the weekend, chapels in the constituency were covered by an array of Sinn Féin speakers including Bernadette O'Hagan, J. B.'s wife, who is also his election agent.

An attack on Sinn Féin from Workers' Party candidate Tom French, in the local *Lurgan Mail* on October 7th, met with a sharp retort from J. B. O'Hagan who, in a statement, spelt out Sinn Féin policy in no uncertain terms:

*"It is not to our shame, Mr French, that a small nation such as ours should be conquered by a more powerful neighbour, but it is a shameful thing for those who are conquered to collaborate with the conqueror and to help him maintain his immoral superiority. And in so doing contribute to the suppression of his own countrymen."*

Steady progress has also continued in the south of the constituency following the establishment of an election office in Armagh city.

Car caivalades through the nationalist areas of Armagh city and along the border through Keady and Middleton were well received. The cars were detained for a long period at the permanent checkpoint at Middleton, but an argument with a British army officer, conducted over a loud-speaker by Sinn Féin candidate Jim McAllister, proved extremely entertaining for local people.

On Wednesday, McAllister was canvassing in his home town of Crossmaglen where he naturally expects a great deal of support.

The permanent Sinn Féin centre in Camlough, South Armagh, is producing a bulletin detailing harassment of election workers in the last two weeks.

**BARN-STORMING**

In North Belfast the steady plodding of Joe Austin and his team of election workers through posterage, meetings and canvassing, was relieved on Sunday last with a barn-storming exercise carried out in the Ballybone area where the local band provided what was described as a 'rollicking musical accompaniment'.

The area was swamped by RUC who threatened to prosecute the band but failed to dampen spirits.

In other incidents of harassment, several of Austin's election workers in Ardoyne were detained for half-an-hour while putting up posters in Flax Street. And in all aspects of election work there is a constant RUC or British army presence.

On Sunday night, a successful function was held in the New Lodge Road to raise election funds and on Monday this week the second canvass of the New Lodge Road and Ardoyne areas began.

**DOOR-TO-DOOR**

In West Belfast both Sinn Féin can-

didates, Gerry Adams and Alex Maske, have been conducting door-to-door canvasses under the constant scrutiny of RUC and British army patrols, and with several delaying interventions.

On Friday last, Gerry Adams and some of his election workers were stopped by British soldiers outside the Falls Road election office and their election car pulled apart. Reminders that the Brits were violating the Representation of the People Act were ignored.

However, as in a similar incident in the New Barnsley/Dermott Hill area last week, a crowd of local people gathered and won a British army withdrawal.

On Thursday morning last week, October 7th, Andersonstown election worker Padraic Wilson was arrested from his home under Section 11 of the Emergency Provisions Act.

Gerry Adams described the arrest as "a new twist in the NIO's campaign of harassment and interference," and added: *"The NIO and their masters' position evidently feels threatened by the Sinn Féin intervention in the elections. How else can one explain the mounting numbers of Sinn Féin election workers being harassed going about their legitimate business?"*

The level of electoral activity and the enthusiasm of Sinn Féin workers has not been affected, however, by these tactics.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

In Derry, which has been deprived of the presence of one of the Sinn Féin candidates following the arrest of Cathal Crumley, the other, Martin McGuinness,

has been addressing meetings in the city itself and throughout the county area in Dungiven, Feeny, Craigbans, Limavady, Magilligan, Faughan Vale and elsewhere.

House to house canvassing has taken place in the Bogside, Shantallow, Creggan and Gobnascalle areas of Derry city. Street meetings, supported by local bands, have proved one of the more popular aspects of canvassing, drawing crowds out into the street.

With the extremely high unemployment levels in Derry, the city's unemployment exchange has been an important focus for electioneering. Each morning over the past weeks, McGuinness and a team of 'unemployed' election workers handed out leaflets and Sinn Féin manifestos.

A reflection of the jobless figures is that, in three hours one morning, 1,700 leaflets were distributed outside the exchange.

**INCREASE**

In South Down an appreciable increase in local election workers for Sinn Féin candidate Cyril Toman in the past week has seen a corresponding boost to the campaign there.

In Castlewellan, on Sunday, leading GAA figure Joe Keohane, the former Kerry football star, addressed the attendance at the County Down football final on behalf of Sinn Féin.

All the main chapels in the constituency were covered by Sinn Féin speakers on Sunday, with some particularly successful collections reported in the rural areas.

On Thursday, October 7th, three Sinn Féin election workers, Ray Collins, Gerard Murphy and Brian Clark, had passed an RUC vehicle in Newry's Chapel Street and, as they did so, heard

a gun clicking behind them. A voice shouted: "Stop, or I'll shoot!"

Three RUC men then jumped out of the vehicle and searched them, telling them that as unemployed people they were not allowed to put up election posters!

**EXPERIENCED**

The experienced election machine in Fermanagh/South Tyrone was quickly into its stride early in the campaign and all areas of the constituency were speedily covered with posters of the two Sinn Féin candidates, Owen Carron and Francie Molloy.

As in the two preceding elections in the area, the RUC and UDR have kept up a strong campaign of harassment and have been tearing down posters which, however, were replaced immediately.

In Coalisland and Dungannon there have been reports also of SDLP supporters tearing down Sinn Féin posters and replacing them with Austin Currie ones. A football challenge which they have not the numbers to carry out successfully.

On Monday, October 11th, election worker Brian McCaffrey was arrested at his home in Roslea, County Fermanagh, and taken to Gough Barracks.

**RECEPTION**

The town of Carrickmore in County Tyrone was sealed off by the RUC on Friday last in an attempt to disrupt a public Sinn Féin election meeting which was advertised to be addressed by the Mid-Ulster Sinn Féin candidate Danny Morrison.

Belfast man Morrison has been receiving a warm reception in the constituency where he shares the Sinn Féin ticket with Benedict McElwee.

McElwee, brother of the dead hunger-striker Thomas McElwee, who has proven to be an extremely popular candidate, particularly in his local South Derry area, made something of a publicity breakthrough last week with an interview in the staunchly unionist newspaper, *The Mid-Ulster Mail*.

Incidents of harassment in the constituency have included the arrest, for the second time in two weeks, of Sinn Féin election worker Eugene Scullion. And on Thursday last week, Benedict McElwee and two election workers were detained by the RUC for half-an-hour whilst travelling through Magharafeet.

ALL letters should be addressed to: The Editor, An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parrell Square, Dublin 1. Letters should be written as clearly as possible, preferably on one side of paper only. Names and addresses should always be included, even when not for publication.

# Mála poist... Mála poist..



## Assembly elections

**A Chara,**  
Much has been said in recent editions of our newspaper regarding the decision of Sinn Féin to stand in the elections. I would therefore like to avail myself of the opportunity through the columns of our paper to express my full support for Sinn Féin's decision to stand in the election in order to expose the hypocrisy of the SDLP in their dealings with various British administrations.

After all, who were the famous MPs who vowed never to return to Stormont but helped to sign the very internment orders that deprived our areas of many men and women? A united boycott of the elections for all nationalist parties was proposed by Sinn Féin but this was rejected by the SDLP as they want a return to Stormont just as much as the unionists do. How long do you honestly think it would be before the SDLP were back in Stormont propping up colonial rule for the British government?

It is my opinion that the Republican Movement's decision to stand in these elections is a further extension of the armed struggle, and whilst armed struggle is essential in forcing the British government to withdraw from Ireland it is only by politicising ourselves and the nationalist people throughout the 32 counties, that we will be able to reach the eventual goal of the 32-county socialist republic.

The days of the cropies lying down are gone forever, so I ask my friends and comrades to ensure that the SDLP are no longer able to misrepresent the views of the Irish people.

As a POW here in England I would therefore call on my relatives, friends and supporters to give all practical help to Sinn Féin's election machine, no matter how little it is, contribute and support as best you can, because in working for Sinn Féin candidates you are making sure that the Stormont we destroyed in 1972 will remain destroyed.

Ronnie McCartney,  
Hull Prison,  
England.

**Dear Editor,**  
From information obtained through the extensive series of canvasses being carried out by republican election workers and also from letters to the newspapers, it is clear that a number of voters will be abstaining from casting their votes on October 20th.

The main reason being given is that, by voting, they will be giving credence to Britain's right to exercise control over the six counties. Equally, these voters, or non-voters, are saying that the Republican Movement is also giving credibility to the British claim.

I do not for one moment doubt the sincerity of this view, nor would I presume to criticise those who hold it. However, I would urge each and every one of these potential non-voters to rethink very carefully their decision with a view to a possible change of plans.

If, as they say, they object to supporting British elections

**A Chara,**  
To continue the debate on 'Which way forward for the Republican Movement?', it might be a good idea if republicans paused for a moment to consider what we mean when we use the term socialism.

It seems there's a lot of confusion in the world today (including Ireland) as to what is socialist state or what socialism means. This confusion seems to have spread even to some people in the Republican Movement.

The founders of socialism defined it as the means of production, distribution and exchange being in the hands of the working people themselves. But socialism also means more. It means freeing people from all forms of oppression and from the day-to-day worries that capitalist society brings - poverty, unemployment, bad housing, lack of medical care, etc. It also means the right of every nation to self-determination.

Let us look at the so-called socialist countries from this point of view. It is true there is no unemployment or worry about medical care but at what cost has this been brought about? Are the workers and small farmers really in control?

The last two years give their own answer: ten million Poles joined together in workers' farmers' and students' unions to fight for a more democratic, as well as socialist, state.

Among the things they fought for were an end to special shops for ruling party hacks, an end to special medical clinics for senior civil servants and members of the police, for the right to

then surely the best way to publicly demonstrate their objections would be for them to come out on October 20th and cast their votes for republican candidates.

By not voting they are effectively increasing the pro-British votes, they are in effect remaining silent and, in the long run, helping to increase the percentage in favour of Prior's proposals.

Their individual policy of abstentionism can be more clearly emphasised by voting solidly for the only genuine abstentionist candidates in the field: Sinn Féin. I'm sure those who say they will not be voting would resent being classified as unionists and would never dream of voting unionist. However, if they do not vote then they will, in effect, be helping to increase the unionist votes. It must also be a matter for consideration when they come to make their final decision that, to date, Prior's term of office here has been a complete failure. He has failed to make any impression with any school of thought on either side of the community or on either side of the border.

If he is to return to England with any hope of becoming a force at Westminster then he must have some degree of success here. That will only be obtained if his assembly can become a reality. By people in the six counties not voting for republicanism on October 20th his hopes of success will be greatly increased.

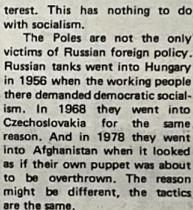
I would therefore again urge all who are intent on abstaining to have second thoughts. Think carefully of what it will mean if one vote, a hundred, or a thousand votes are lost in this way. The only way to make your votes count is by using them,



free trade unions and an end to censorship, which we as republicans know a lot about. But they found these hard to get by negotiation with the government. So at their conference in September a year ago, Solidarity called for free elections so that Poles could choose their own rulers. How did the so-called socialist state react? By military crackdown, internment, riot police and, on August 31st last, by tear-gassing and shooting demonstrators. All very familiar to republicans.

That's not all that's familiar. Everyone knows that Polish military ruler General Jaruzelski is no more than a puppet of the Soviet Union. I wonder does he also bring silver teaspoons with him when he goes for 'summits' to Moscow? Whether he does or not, Russian premier Brezhnev keeps Poland under his thumb in the same way as Thatcher keeps a grip on Ireland - both for their own self-interest.

● GENERAL JARUZELSKI



They are no friends of national liberation movements either if

it conflicts with their own interests. They support the military government of Ethiopia in its slaughter of the Eritrean people.

China, another self-styled socialist state, is no better. It was one of the first powers to recognise the Chilean junta. And when Thatcher was welcomed there with open arms last month there was no word about the hundreds of Irish freedom fighters she had murdered.

I think we should clear up what kind of socialism the Republican Movement stands for because it often comes up when we're selling AP/RN. We should be clear that for us socialism does not just mean the improvement of the living conditions of all ordinary people. It also means their complete freedom and control over their own lives and self-determination of every nation.

Ray Coady,  
Waterford.

of the Flinnore Drive All-Stars football team. The team's guiding principle was to achieve off the field with stones what it couldn't achieve on the field with balls.

Paddy Logue,  
Derry.  
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Paddy Logue and Daisy Miles were both incorrectly described as founding members of the SDLP, this was due to a typesetting error. We apologise to both Paddy and Daisy for this and any embarrassment caused.



● BRUSH SHIELDS

## People's music?

**A Chara,**  
In the enjoyable review of Brush Shields' music (AP/RN September 30th), it's claimed that rock music, as the most popular form of music among our youth, is a people's music. This, I feel, is highly debatable.

When we refer to an army, language, priest, etc., as 'a people's' we speak of something or some person which is of and for our people.

Most pop/rock music does not fulfil the above criteria. It is the product of a huge capitalist industry which markets sound for profit, regardless of either quality or content.

Brush Shields' music, as it reflects the views and experiences of a community by members of that community, can be described as a 'people's music'. Pop/rock music of the 'Top 30' kind, which is the most popular with our youth, cannot.

That the majority of our youth follow and admire the musical creations of Anglo-American businessmen - while disregarding the music of Brush Shields or Seamus Ennis - is an indication of the vast cultural oppression in this country. If their soldiers cannot make little Englanders of us their television, newspapers and radio shall. This appears to be the British thinking.

Our situation is not too far removed from that of the developing countries as described by a leading Black Power revolutionary:

"What the West was able to do was impose its culture and, it told everyone: 'We are better, we are civilised'. And because of its force all of the non-white countries began to try to imitate Europe... because nobody wanted to be uncivilised - so that all other non-Western people have been stripped of their own culture. They have been forced to accept a culture that does not belong to them. And so messed-up are the minds of people of colour that in certain sections of Vietnam today (1967) they in Japan certainly, women who have slanted eyes are cutting their eyes so that they can get round eyes to look like the Westeners."

More debate on our messed-up minds, let do thail.  
Tomás MacCoin,  
Béal Feirste.

the only voices heard are those which speak out!  
L. Wilson,  
Belfast.

## Unemployed harassed

**A Chara,**  
The Tommy Langan Sinn Féin cumman, Sligo town, have received a number of complaints from unemployed people regarding the actions and behaviour of unemployment officers from the Thomas Street unemployment exchange.

Welfare officers are apparently insisting that claimants remain in their homes for up to five days a week until the officers call to investigate their claims.

If the officers arrive - and they don't always arrive on the day they say, if at all - and the claimant is not at home, then he/she is considered to have been working 'on the side' and has their benefit stopped or reduced.

With chronic unemployment affecting the country generally, and rural areas like Sligo in particular, the chance of a job 'on the side' is next to zero and we consider these assumptions to be insulting and the confinement of unemployed workers to their homes, on the off-chance that a welfare officer might call, to be another form of petty harassment of those forced onto the dole by our corrupt and inefficient economic system.

PRO,  
Tommy Langan Sinn Féin cumman,  
Sligo town.

## Scottish Republican Party

**Comrades,**  
On Wednesday, September 29th, a meeting of the Scottish Republican Socialist Clubs was held in Glasgow with a view to forming a much-overdue Scottish Republican Socialist Party (SRSP). Delegates to the meeting, from the main towns and regions in Scotland, were unanimous in their decision to form a party immediately and further meetings will be held leading up to our first at this.

The Scottish Republican Socialist Clubs were formed in 1973 but the decision to finally form a party came to a head following the Scottish National Party's expulsion of the republican socialist 79 Group and the militant Siol na Galidheal (Seed of the Gael). The SRSP intends to pursue more republican socialist policies and to be more militant than both of these organisations many of whose members are in the SRSC and SRSP.

As organiser of the SRSP, I have been asked to write to *An Phoblacht / Republican News* reaffirming our support for all those genuinely engaged in the armed struggle against our common enemy - Anglo capitalist imperialism.  
Domhnall MacAindreas,  
Box 15,  
488 Great Western Road,  
Glasgow,  
Scotland.

## An Cumann Cabhrach

**A Chara,**  
An Cumann Cabhrach proposes to hold its 1982 annual 'Sale of Work' at the Manston House, Dublin, on December 3rd, 4th and 5th.

This, as you are no doubt aware, is in aid of the families of republican prisoners some of whom are in dire straits.

Anyone who wishes to contribute financially or materially to this worthy cause should phone Dublin 507195.

E. Barrett,  
An Cumann Cabhrach,  
Dublin.

## Paddy Logue

**A Chara,**  
Your front page of September 30th, singled me out, and another trade unionist, as working for the Sinn Féin election campaign. This is true, but there are over 200 others also working. I can only assume that you don't believe Martin McGuinness and the Republican Movement in Derry can stand on their own two feet without the token assistance of two minor trade union figures.

By the way, I was not a founding member of the SDLP and have never been a member or supporter of that party. The only time I was a founding member of anything was 30 years ago in Creggan when I was one of the founding members

# Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE

# Bizarre concept

THE CONCEPTS of democracy currently being put forward by the anti-Haugheyites in Fianna Fail are particularly interesting, if a little bizarre.

They are still bewailing the fact that there was no secret ballot on the motion of no confidence so that Fianna Fail deputies could not hide that they were flouting the wishes of those who put them there — and if on the losing side, could pretend they voted the other way.

Moreover, they still insist that having obtained 22 votes against Haughey's 68, they really won and therefore Haughey should resign.

Picture then, if you will, a future Fianna Fail government led by the democratic George Colley.

All votes in Leinster House, instead of by open trooping through the *ni* or *tá* lobbies under the stern eye of party whips, would be by secret ballot.

And if the opposition got more than one quarter of the total votes cast, then the government would resign!

Allowing for the long holidays when Leinster House is silent, I reckon that would be about sixty-odd general elections each year.

A small price to pay for democracy. And not likely to affect the efficiency of government one bit.

☆☆☆

Harassment of Sinn Fein election workers reached such a peak last week in West Belfast that the election committee, with tongues firmly in cheeks, decided to phone Stormont to complain.

Marie Moore, on behalf of the committee, phoned the NIO and, when queried on what department she required, sought advice from Gerry Adams.

"Ask for the Department of Harassment and Coercion," he advised her.

Ms Moore duly complied with this instruction — and she was put through to James Prior's office!

☆☆☆

Picking out the nationalist candidates from the unionist ones on the official list for the Derry constituency would be easy, even without the party titles being given.

Some have 'Derry' as their home, others 'Londonderry'.

But only one of the candidates goes as far as to add 'Northern Ireland' after that. He is one Eamon Melaugh who gives his address as 1 Mulroy Gardens, Creggan Estate, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

As you might have guessed, he is standing for the Workers' Party.

☆☆☆

Ballymena, County Antrim, it would appear, is central to Russian plans for the nuclear defeat of Britain. And, according to councillors in the DUP stronghold, Russian agents under cover of the Ballymena CND committee are attempting to get hold of the town's defence plans.

The latest meeting of Ballymena Borough Council refused to disclose where the regional bunker is situated, as the CND committee requested. It also refused to declare Ballymena a 'nuclear-free zone'.

According to the DUP bloc on the council, the Russian leaders have been plotting to spread communism to County Antrim "ever since they grabbed power in 1917" and now they are using the local CND to leave Ballymena defenceless.

☆☆☆

And the DUP on the Lisburn Borough Council Recreation Committee has persuaded, with little difficulty, the other committee members to recommend to the full council that St Colm's High School be banned from hiring the council's community bus.

It was claimed that an Irish tricolour had been flown from the bus when a group of pupils from the school travelled to the All-Ireland Gaelic football final in Dublin in September.

☆☆☆

The news that a British minister at the Northern Ireland Office and a senior Tory backbencher with a particular interest in Irish affairs were debating the immediate withdrawal of



● CAOIMHIN O CAOLAIN: In the lion's den

British troops from the North with a Sinn Fein representative is the type of thing that has Ian Paisley screaming headlines, particularly, I would have thought, at the height of an election campaign.

And, given recent-enough experiences, the same news might have a good number of republicans losing sleep as well.

The drama stops there however. The strange gathering did, in fact, take place on Monday last in the form of a debate at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, organised by the students' union, on the motion "that this house calls for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland."

One of James Prior's deputies, Nicholas Scott, and Tory back-bencher Michael Mates, were the guest speakers against Caoimhin O Caolain of Monaghan, who was invited to represent Sinn Fein, and Pat Arrowsmith of Troops Out and CND.

For O Caolain the experience in the upper-class melting-pot of Britain's future rulers was not unexpectedly gruelling although he is reported to have performed admirably.

The gentlemanly rules of debate were apparently in abeyance for the evening as Scott, supported by Mates, denounced the Sinn Fein presence as an insult to the house and refused to listen to any O Caolain interventions in the normal 'points of information' allowed by

the debate format.

The mention of the name of Bobby Sands was met with loud hissing from a sizeable section of the audience and a Longford Irish man, Conor Gaerty, was produced as one of the main student speakers against a British withdrawal.

In the face of this, another student proposer of the motion changed sides and decided he wanted the British to stay put after all.

The vote on the motion eventually went 47 in favour of immediate British withdrawal, 338 against, and 100 abstentions.

☆☆☆

A British army officer and 23 of his men, all members of the Second Light Infantry Regiment, appeared at Newry Magistrate's Court last week on charges of a variety of thefts from a school, a factory and two garages in the South Armagh area during their tour of duty there earlier this year.

Items stolen included photographic equipment, motor accessories, clothing and radios.

☆☆☆

The British royal family has, of course, lost a lot of its *mustique* in recent times, but what a humiliation this week when none of them were invited to celebrate the South Atlantic slaughter in the London march-past on Tuesday.

Instead, there on the platform taking the salute, and fully rigged out in regal hat and handbag, was Margaret Thatcher herself.

In Latin America, that would be described as a 'bloodless coup'.

☆☆☆

There was a lot of fuss in the press beforehand that none of the British army maimed and injured, of which there are hundreds, were allowed to parade, or were invited to the celebratory luncheon afterwards.

The appetite for war and for food can be badly affected by such sights.

☆☆☆

But such an omission was nothing to a Ministry of Defence which sent a bill of £31 to the family of 19-year-old Keith Phillips, a Royal Marine who was killed in the Falklands.

The bill was an estimate of the value of his kit which he had lost in the process.

I suppose someone had to pay for it; after all, there is a recession on and the Tories have no time for those looking for free hand-outs.



## WHAT'S ON

**IRISH SOCIAL NIGHT**  
Featuring music & entertainment  
9pm Thursday 14th October  
The Stag's Head  
Linenhall Street  
**DUNDALK**  
Admission £1  
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach

**BALLAD SESSION**  
Featuring 'Brimmer'  
Friday 15th October  
The Greyhound Lounge  
**DULEEK**  
County Meath  
Admission £1.50  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**JUMBLE SALE & CAKE FAIR**  
11.30am Saturday 16th October  
St Paul's Hall  
Shaws Road  
**BELFAST**  
In aid of Sinn Fein Election Fund

**PRE-ELECTION SOCIAL**  
Featuring 'Shebeen'  
9pm to 12pm Saturday 16th October  
Woodville Arms  
Kilwickie  
**LURGAN**  
County Armagh  
Admission £1  
Speakers: Jim McAllister, B. O'Hagan  
& Joe Keohane, ex-Kerry GAA star  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**BALLAD SESSION**  
Featuring 'Brimmer' & 'Brogue'  
9pm Saturday 16th October  
Spa Hotel  
**LUCAN**  
County Dublin  
Admission £2

**FOLK & COMEDY NIGHT**  
Featuring Paul Malone  
8pm Thursday 21st October  
The Brown Derby  
James's Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Buses 21, 21A, 78 & 78A

**ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SOCIAL**  
Featuring 'Shebeen'  
8.30pm Friday 22nd October  
Pound Loney Club  
**BELFAST**  
Admission £1  
Organised by the Lower Falls  
Commemoration Committee

**ELECTION FUND DANCE**  
Featuring 'Blooded Sound'  
9pm Friday 22nd October  
Two-Mile Inn  
**MIDDLETON**  
County Cork  
Admission £1  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**VIGIL AGAINST NATO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**  
Wednesday 27th October  
GPO  
**DUBLIN**  
Organised by Irish CND

**BALLAD SESSION**  
Featuring 'The Irish Brigade'  
Thursday 28th October  
McCaugh's Lounge  
Market Street  
**MONAGHAN TOWN**  
County Monaghan  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**PRISON PICKET**  
1pm Sunday 7th November  
Love Lane  
**WAKEFIELD**  
England  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION**  
1pm Sunday 21st November  
Alexandra Park  
Alexandra Road  
Moss Side  
**MANCHESTER**  
England  
Organised by the Manchester Martyrs  
Memorial Committee

## Draw results

An Cumann Cabhrach, Dublin  
September draw  
£100: No. 89; £50: 11; £25: 196;  
£10: 97, 282, 32, 7, 33, 119, 299,  
332, 360.

# REVIEW PAGE

## TV & RADIO

### A political week

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

'ELECTION '82 FORUM' has been running all week on BBC1. Presented by Brian Walker and David Dunseith immediately after 'Scene Around Six', its declared object is to give the parties contesting the elections in the North an opportunity to "put their policies before the people."

The first programme on Monday last week was more concerned with denying such an opportunity to one of those parties.

The main story on the news directly beforehand was of the tarring and feathering of a Ballymurphy youth and it was liberally illustrated with old newscast of such incidents ten years ago.

With the scene thus carefully set, David Dunseith introduced Sinn Féin's Danny Morrison and, without so much

as a pretence at professional journalism, unleashed his own hostility against him. Brian Walker was quick to join in. Morrison's opening remarks in Irish had Dunseith bristling as if someone had opened an Orange lodge meeting with a decade of the rosary.

Even without Morrison's calm and controlled handling of their aggression, the verbal assaults of Walker and Dunseith must have raised many 'moderate' nationalist hackles and put extra voters Sinn Féin's way.



● MORRISON: calm and controlled

Needless to say, the treatment of the other party spokespersons was markedly different. It has been a very 'political' week on radio and television generally. The crisis in Fianna Fáil was naturally the focus for RTE. 'Today Tonight's' first programme in its new series covered the Haughey/McCreery confrontation and the British Tory party conference.

The report on Fianna Fáil was stumbling and dreadfully amateurish and contrasted strangely with an excellent hard-hitting look at the Tories. The coverage of the conference was backed up with interviews with Labour MPs from their conference the previous week in Blackpool and interviews in unemployment black-spots in the North of England.

One man, made redundant in his fifties, talked about fighting in the Second World War and compared his treatment to all the ballyhoo about the men coming back from the Falklands/Malvinas. "They'll be forgotten too," he said. "They'll be thrown on the scrap-heap just like me."

The launching of a new daily newspaper in the twenty-six counties was the subject discussed on RTE Radio 1 on Thursday's 'Day by Day' programme. The Daily News in its first new daily since the Irish Press started in 1931. Cecil King, former boss of the Daily Mirror, summed it up succinctly: "It should succeed," he said, "it's even more brainless than the Mirror or the Star."

Hugh MacLaughlin, owner of this new 'clone' of the British tabloids, was rather offended by this remark.

"The industrial worker and the young need a simple read," he patronisingly argued.

RTE Radio 1's 'Play of the Week' last Wednesday was an adaptation for radio of Jennifer Johnson's book 'How Many Miles to Babylon?'

The story is of two young men, one from an Anglo-Irish upper-class family dominated by a cold snobish mother, the other the son of one of their tabloids. They are boyhood friends in spite of the

class barriers between them and both join the British army during the First World War.

The play exposed the exploitation and ill-treatment of working-class men in the British army and showed how class discrimination was rigidly enforced even in the trenches. The poor boy is accused of cowardice and sentenced to death by a court-martial.

To save his friend from the horror of public execution, the officer shoots him himself.

The theme of the relationship between Anglo-Irish landed gentry and the native Irish in the early part of this century is one which Jennifer Johnson has used in several of her books. The radio version of this one was well done, with the background sound effects, particularly in the war scenes, very convincing.

Television has spoiled to a great extent our ability to "see" things unless they are obvious, but Denis Hawthorne's handling of this play evoked perfectly a feeling and understanding of the times, and of the book.

## Struggle in isolation

BY GERRY ADAMS

THE NAME of Fr James McDyer has for a long time been synonymous with communal development, especially in the west of Ireland, and his autobiography gives a rare insight into the man and the problems he faced in a lifetime of struggle against bureaucracy and indifference and for the betterment of the people he lived among.

Fr McDyer was born on a small farm in Glenties, County Donegal, and he starts his autobiography with recollections of childhood in that area in the second decade of this century. In the first few chapters he outlines graphically and with humour the environment and events which moulded his character. Through his eyes we witness the 'convoy' or comoradh as neighbours and family gather to bid farewell to those about to emigrate to America, Australia or New Zealand. We see the harvest fair and ceilí, the family at play or at work, and the routine of life in a rural school.

We witness also, as Fr McDyer's schooling bridged the transition from the British regime to the Irish Free State, how the Black and Tan War, affected the population and especially the young people in

West Donegal. As Fr McDyer says: "For those of us who lived in the county of Donegal, the partitioning of Ireland was humiliating and exasperating. Naturally we were overjoyed that we belonged to that part of Ireland which was formally independent. But as part of the province of Ulster, which had traditionally asserted its independence of the British, it grieved us that six of the counties of our province still remained under the British crown ... I felt cheated then and I have felt cheated since that a minority in our island could dictate the destiny of our land."

These then were the events and the influences which moulded the young McDyer and which led him to set off to Maynooth where he studied for

## BOOK

the priesthood before spending ten years in England as a curate from where he returned in 1947 to Tory and then in 1951 to Glencolumbkille.

He found the beautiful isolated Glen of Columbkille and its surrounding parish in decline, its population sucked dry by emigration and the lack of industry, and he resolved to rectify this situation and to breathe new life and pride into a neglected and impoverished people.

From here in, as the autobiography relates the struggle against local indifference, against government departments and bureaucracy, quotable quotes appear in almost every chapter.

"Rural communities are different from urban communities. In the urban setting there is usually the presence of a changing population and the consequent interaction of new ideas. Rural communities generally can expect no such replacements and the exodus from them usually siphons off



● Fr McDyer and local children at Glencolumbkille school

the most entrepreneurial and ambitious types. This process carried on for over a hundred years is bound to leave behind it a debilitated population where neglect has given way to despair, and despair to introversion, apathy and conservatism."

If this is true of an isolated community it must also be true for a political organisation and the lesson and the remedy, more easily applied to a political movement than a community, is CANDID.

Fr McDyer's efforts to start a communal farm as a solution to the problem of small, un-economic holdings also make interesting reading, like his as-

sertion that, "land is the most natural resource that God has given us" and his candid acknowledgement that, "the profits of any enterprise should be owned by the people and utilised for the good of the people."

He is equally sound on the question of EEC membership and, for a priest, on the role of women, asserting that women are much more dependable, industrious and conscientious than men and criticising those who push them into a secondary role.

From the building of a community hall and the provision of electricity, through road-building, piped water and other community and voluntary enterprises to the first co-operative factory, Fr McDyer brings us through the many and varied local efforts to bring industry, and thus stability, to the area.

He gives graphic accounts of the failures as well as the successes and, though we may not agree with all his conclusions in his story, which in many ways also the story of Glencolumbkille, is interesting reading.

In the end, of course, Glencolumbkille was one of the few lucky areas and other less fortunate districts, especially along Ireland's west coast, are now in decay with a whole rural way of life vanishing in the process and all of us impoverished as a result.

This was obviously Dublin government policy and as McDyer says himself: "One very prominent politician advised me to leave things as they were and that eventually these scattered communities of Western Ireland would find their own level of decay."

A worthwhile book then, well-presented and designed, if a little expensive at £7.50 for a hardback of 118 pages, but well worth putting down on your Christmas list. ■ 'Fr McDyer of Glencolumbkille' is published by Brandon Book Publishers Ltd., Dingle, County Kerry, price £7.50.

## Córas oideachais nó córas éadóchais?

LE COLLA Ó MUIRÍ

CHUALA mé an-chuid cainte ar an dráma seo 'The Hidden Curriculum' le Graham Reid agus an teachtaireacht ata ann do lucht ordeachais sna Se Chontae. Ta se a ra nach mbaineann an cursa leinn in son chor leis an saol ata ann don mhóil mor oganach a fhagann an scoil gan post ar bith ar fail acu.

Chuaigh me mar sin an-dráma a fheiceáil don féin agus cheim mé ag éir. Ta sé suite i gceantar siontachacht in iarthar Bhaile Feirste. Ceantair an lucht obair atá ann. Ag an tús tá muinteoir d'arbh ainm Tony Cairns ag iarraidh suim i bhfíliocht a spreagadh i measc a chuid daltaí.

Deireann sé gur choir go mbéidís eolach na rudaí a bhíonn ar siúl ina dtimpeallacht. Ach is iordán é sin mar níos móille sa dráma is léir nach raibh tuairim dá laghad ag Cairns ar an mhéid iar-daltaí dá chuid a bhí thíos leis sa saol.

Cloisann an maitiúr faoi

## PLAY

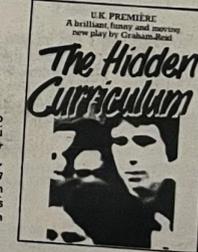
iar-dalta a scaoileadh marbh. Cloisann sé faoi iar-dalta a bhí ar meisce agus mar gheall ar ar tharla is í ar meisce bhí brú sóisialta uirthi pósadh a fear nach raibh í i ngrá leis. Cloisann sé faoi Roy Alesander, a bhíodh cúlín Ros Reng, ach atá i bpríosún toisc gur charaigh sé Caitlicigh.

Cuireann seo uilig uafas ar an mhalistair meán-aiomeach. Tá sé ina chónaí i ndomhan eile ar faoi i gcomparáid le hógáine an lucht obair. Níl aon fhad-

banna lena pháistí féin cosúil le fadhbanna na ndaoine óga seo.

Léiríonn an dráma go bhfuil a lán doibrín sa saol i measc an lucht obair, agus gur féidir seo a cheilt ó choda eile an phobail. Is follas go bhfuil coisnias ag an Uas. Cairns ach go fírinneach níor thug sé ós chomh dona is a bhí cúis.

Nuair a thosaíonn sé ag smaoinneadh faoi cad is féidir a dhéanamh cuireann muinteoirí fríthghníomhach ina seanán. Mar shampla phléas connaire roinn na staire nuair a mhol Cairns go mbeadh stair na hÉireann



Feirste. Lbhig easpa muinteoir stair na hÉireann an "murder machine" ag obair. Agus c'á bhfuil feagair na ceist. Scríobhinn a Phiaraisigh agus scríobhinn Uí Chonghaile. Bóthar na Saoirse.



## Séamas Ennis

LE MARTAS MAC DIARMADA

RUGADH Séamas Ennis an 5ú Bealtaine 1919, mac i glann mhór cheoil, fídeoirí agus feadógaite ab ea iad a athair agus a sheanathair araon. Chuaigh sé i mbun foghlama ar an phibú uilinne agus ón aois bliain is fiche bhí sé in ann breacnuithe coimleácha a chur isteach ina chuid ceoil. Seanchaí, amhránaí, fear bhoideasa craoltóir raidió agus feadógaí agus fídeoirí den scoth ab ea é.

Mar fhearg d'fís don cheoil, bhain sé amach cáil agus eol,

## MUSIC

dó féin i measc mhuintir na hÉireann agus thar síle. D'fhóg sé oidhreacht mhór ina dhiaidh idir theipeanna ceoil agus daoine a thóg ón chuid ceoil... Liam Óg Ó Flúinn, Roibeard Ó hAnnainn (as and Mhic Nuála).

His thoughts will reach their own pupils. Death does not mar his teaching... drink his music, his peaceful drones, his calming regulators, the master of the slow air. The physicians of Ireland will miss

his stick and stroll, from Limerick to Galway women shall cain, after his passing, the young cannot yet appreciate the strength of the master. Seamas, the man of all the Gaeltachta, but still the man from County Dublin. The talents, gifts of this brother and comb-cheoltóir are shared by Cumann na bhFídeoirí Uilleana, that he founded in 1968.

He had no secrets, for he shared all that he ever learned. In August 1947, he went to work for RTE. In April 1952, he began work with the mob-

ile recording unit of the BBC. He had left RTE because "folk material was misrepresented in Ireland. I felt that I was knocking my head against the wall."

Dúirt Sean MacRiamóin faoi, cois na huairse: "bhí na ceitire buanna aige... ceoil, cáinte, cuimhne agus comharanachta. Bhí, agus ar ndóigh, dáiseachta. Cuireadh 6 De hAoine Bú Deireadh Fomhair 1982.

A Mhaighdán gheall ghliormhar Mhuire spreigh do bharracháil...



# JACK NOLAN OF THE FIGHTING FIFTH

BY MAIRE DE BARRA

"WHAT FIRST made me really conscious of a foreign presence in our country which needed to be defeated was when, one day, as a young fella, I was surrounded by a group of Black and Tans as I was going down the road.

"They asked me was I a 'Shinner' and I replied that I was. Well, they walloped me across the road and gave me an awful hiding. When they were finished with me they asked me was I still a 'Shinner'. 'I am', says I, 'and whether long or short I live I'll be a Sinn Feiner until I die.'"

Jack Nolan of Ballynahill, County Limerick, is a life-long republican who began his political activity at the age of 17 years when he joined the Irish Volunteers in 1917.

"First, I was given the job of carrying dispatches and helping to block roads and bridges and dig trenches and the like. After that I carried guns to areas where ambushes were planned and eventually, as I became a more experienced soldier, I began to take part in the ambushes themselves.

"It was a great risk for known republicans to carry guns because that was the time of the drumhead court-martial which meant that if you were caught with anything you could be tried on the spot. You would naturally be found guilty and they wouldn't think twice about executing you in the morning."

The IRA division to which Jack Nolan belonged was known as the 'Fighting Fifth', and it undertook many successful ambushes in the West Limerick/North Kerry area.

In one attack, an RIC man was shot dead in Loughill and some were wounded but Jack recalls with some humour that their main target that day was a very lucky man who got away without injury — but nevertheless someone managed to shoot the buttons off his coat!

The next place the West Limerick column took was Foynes where the post office and the court-house were the main targets.

## GRENADE

"The enemy forces put out a white flag so that we thought they were surrendering. But as soon as they thought they had us off our guard they began to fire on us. Well, if they did, we replied with a grenade through the window and the fight was over. They came out bawling and crying with their hands in the air."

From there they went on to take Tarbert in a successful attack which was to last six hours.

"The barracks there was very strongly guarded and we knew that the chances of getting through were fairly slim.

"We took over the house opposite them and began firing at nine o'clock that morning. The bullets came at us from every side and the house was riddled like a pepper cannister. Of the seven Volunteers in the house only one got out without being wounded. But we eventually managed to get a length of piping into the barracks and we poured petrol into it and set it on fire and, I tell you, that settled them.

"Fr Connors was the priest in Tarbert at the time and he was very anti-republican. Well, he had a great time condemning us after it."

As was the reaction in most parts of the country, the Truce was welcomed in West Limerick.

"We were delighted to see it coming because the way things were, the war was dragging and we used the Truce to build up our forces. It was our busiest time with recruiting and drilling. Of course, we were told it wouldn't last long but we were soon to find out what the British had in mind.



● Joe Cahill, general secretary of Sinn Féin, greets Jack Nolan at this year's An Cumann Cabhrach testimonial dinner to honour veteran republicans



● Members of the murderous Black and Tans with an IRA suspect in 1920

"They are a treacherous lot that never had any pity for the Irish, and believe me they never will."

## HARD-LINE

When the Treaty was signed not many around Jack Nolan's area sided with it.

"The West Limerick republicans were very hard-line and most of them opposed it fiercely.

"All they did to form the Free State army was to change the uniforms of the former British army and the Black and

Tans. Many of them were the same men in different uniforms who betrayed the republic for one pound four shillings per week.

"During this time the Free State forces were determined to assert their authority and establish themselves.

"They would stop at nothing — they looted, burned and shot all around them and, of course, they introduced internment.

"After knocking out a bridge in Askeaton we were headed for Foynes and luckily we had been tipped off not to carry our

guns. They came on us in Foynes and arrested the whole lot of us. They took us to Limerick Jail and informed us that we wouldn't spend anything less than two years there.

"From that day I was determined that I would only stay there as long as it would take me to figure out an escape route."

Jack Nolan and some others began digging a tunnel which took them five months to complete. He still proudly keeps the iron hook with which he did a lot of his digging.

"We had five concrete floors to go through and a six-inch nail and a hammer to get us through it. We had an engineer inside who was able to advise us on measurements and the like.

"We'd start digging at about six in the evening and we'd dig all through the night. In the morning then we'd have to call up sick in order to be allowed to stay in bed.

"We used to bring bread and milk down the tunnel with us every night to keep us going.

"Eventually, we got as far as the jail boithrin which was our exit point. On the night before the planned escape a few of us were down there and we saw a fella and a girl passing by.

"T'anam on diabhal, I was so close to them that I could have grabbed the girl by the leg — little did they know they had an audience. But I needn't tell you, we wouldn't chance such a thing after our five months hard work.

"On the night of the escape everything went as planned — about 25 of us got out and 60 more got out before the tunnel was discovered.

"We used to have men on the run in jail at the time as well. They had so many of us in they couldn't keep track of us all — Jack D'Arcy was one of those."

## PANTOMIME

Jack Nolan goes on to describe his experiences of the Catholic Church during the Tan War and then through the Civil War.

"They thought they were doing an awful thing by excommunicating us, but (and Jack laughs heartily) we didn't take a blind bit of notice of them! They'd be clipping us constantly off the altar.

"It used to be very funny at times because I'd get up and walk out of the chapel, and when they were finished clipping us I'd walk back in. Then Molly Connors would come down off the gallery shouting: 'Who fears to speak of '98?' It was a pantomime!

"But on a more serious note, they did frighten a lot of people who thought they had the power to put horns on their heads.

"They propped up the Free State all the time and while there was nothing wrong with the Free Staters plundering all over the country, we were excommunicated for defending our rights."

Jack looks back on his long involvement in the Republican Movement and though many things have changed through the years he says there are many more that still, unfortunately, remain the same.

"The Free State establishment are still trying to put down the republican side, the clergy are giving them a hand, and British soldiers still walk the streets of our country.

"There are a lot of people who will try to tell you that today's IRA are not a legitimate force whereas they were in the past. But the only difference I see between them is they're more alert now than we were, and they have more intelligence and better equipment.

"If they weren't an army of the people they would have been wiped off the map long ago!

"But I'd warn republicans to be vigilant because Britain is prepared to hang on here even if she loses her last penny."