

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith nua lml. 1. Uimhir 3. DE SATHAIRN FEABHRA 10, 1979.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1979.

(England, Scotland and Wales 12p) Price 10p

STRUGGLE ON ALL FRONTS

Ireland's in a quagmire state.

We've 33,000 British and Loyalist gunmen in six of our counties where the I.R.A. wages a fierce war of liberation. The fuel which drives the struggle is - in the north - the long experienced hardship of national dispossession (second class citizenry) under loyalism, and the resistance to British Army intervention to prop up the 'Northern Ireland State'; and - in the neo-colonial south - the faithful support and concern of Republicans for contemporary suffering, and for the unfinished business of 1916 and 1921.

We are out to set up a unitary, socialist Republic, and the condition of our people - north and south - can be explained with recourse to our history (which we repeatedly do), but more importantly, can be resolved only by the taking up of the struggle ON ALL FRONTS. This means that in the south, where in many areas the national question isn't initially of central importance, we must be mobilising behind the issues that are of importance - unemployment, low wages, bad housing, high prices and the bad effects of the E.E.C. and imperialism generally.

OUR OWN STRENGTH.

Though it's early days yet, this newspaper reads just like the **REPUBLICAN NEWS** instead of the unified, revolutionary paper we intended. We can't blame Mason for that, nor Jack Lynch and his 'Soldiers of Destiny'. They haven't suppressed us yet.

Where are all the reports on the social and economic struggles of the oppressed?

We have yet to receive them.

DUBLIN DEMO

On Thursday 1 February 1,000 militant trade unionists marched in Dublin behind the banner of the Dublin Trades Council in a 'pre-budget' march to demand the lowering of P.A.Y.E. tax. A rally was held outside the G.P.O. in O'Connell Street. Speakers pointed to the unfair burden of tax upon P.A.Y.E. workers compared with the self employed - farmers, professional men, and business men. This protest was totally ignored by the Dublin press.

Some people might expect Thomas Gill Matt Merrigan, Neil Blaney, Paddy Duffy or Seamus Mallon to save Ireland but we the followers of Lawlor, Pearse and Connolly, and Mellows, are relying in the first on our own strength.

Nobody can argue that our I.R.A. brothers and sisters with guns, and the blanket-men in the H-Blocks have not effectively undermined and destabilised British rule in the north. The same calibre of Republicans in the south can give the lead. Many workers - as yet unsupported by good propaganda - are making their demands for a decent standard of living while the trade-union bureaucracy prepare the ground to accept this week's Fianna Fail budget as an acceptable starting point for "negotiation" of a fresh "wages agreement".

NOT STICKY

This paper - like the Republican Movement - is relying upon the most courageous and progressive of its supporters (and Sinn Fein membership) supplying the lead in these hitherto twilight areas. The fact that working-class struggles could be headlines in forthcoming editions of **AN PHOBLAUGHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS** doesn't mean we are going "sticky".

For us the national question and sovereignty includes the question of labour and national wealth.

For us "the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies" dictates the necessity of the national liberation struggle, the necessity of the armed struggle, the necessity of guns!!!

PAY REVOLT IS ON!

As we go to press the Free State budget has been announced in Leinster House by Fianna Fail's Minister of Finance George Colley. All expectations were that it would be 'mild', most of the stringent measures having already been delivered in advance - for example, the cut in food subsidies.

But 'mild' is hardly the word workers and the under-privileged would use to describe it. The I.C.T.U. has been demanding taxation reforms, big increases in social welfare payments, and greater state involvement in job creation.

90% of workers in the 26 counties are on P.A.Y.E. tax and they pay nine out of every ten pounds of income tax collected; whilst the bulk of the self-employed - farmers, land lords and those in the construction industry escape the net and get away with 'murder'. But what Colley has announced has fallen very short of what the I.C.T.U. demanded and what the trade union bureaucracy needed to enter into another 'wage agreement'.

A single man on average wages has been given an insulting tax benefit of 43p!!

The I.C.T.U. was demanding a 20% increase in social welfare benefits but Colley has announced an increase of 12% for short term claimants (the vast majority of all claims) and a 16% increase for old age pensioners and widows.

This paltry increase which won't take effect until April, doesn't even compensate for the soaring increase in prices since the last budget one year ago.

Even the 20% demanded would have just brought the unemployed and underprivileged up to the standstill position.

Colley said that their aim was to reduce unemployment by 25,000, but then elaborated on how the state will only create 8,000 jobs!

Fianna Fail then hand the duties of government over to private business for them to create the other jobs; and the conditions demanded for the investment of OUR wealth (which THEY possess) is of course wage restraint and business tax concessions.

With unions representing post office workers, nurses, teachers and civil servants making wage claims up to 50%, and with Colley restricting the money available for future pay settlements in the public sector, we are certainly in for an eruption of hard-fought strikes.



Everyone settle down, stop scratching, and if you are all sitting comfortably then I'll begin. This story is about the Long Kesh Battalion "H" Troop who decided that "D" wing H-Block 5 would have the privilege of staging the world premier of the blanket men's version of the pantomime "Cinderella".

The day started with the 'H' Block chef rising to the occasion, he treated the lads to corn-flakes with three parts water, one part milk instead of the usual four parts water — well, it was Christmas!

REHEARSAL

With breakfast over it was down to rehearsal. Everyone produced their scripts from their own personal dump, the location of which I'll leave to your imagination. Rehearsals were supervised by the two writers of the 'H' troop panto Paddy Geraghty and Mickey Devine.

It wasn't long before we were disturbed by the sound of a couple of men being dragged off to the punishment cells. "The cheek of these blanketmen!" remarked a kindly, polite rattle-snake dressed as a Screw. "They think just because it's Christmas they can have a bog roll cigarette".

An air of expectancy crept over the wing, even the Screws were noticeable edgy but they just gripped their batons, tore up another few Christmas cards and carried on.

Nerves were on edge. Performers paced the cold floor. Bobby Prince Charming Sands could be heard perfecting his awfully awfully charming "how now brown cow" accent. Our resident fairy god-father Brendan Hughes was busy polishing his magic wand in preparation for a bit of hocus pokus...

The local town crier, Paul Brennan, caused a scare when he dropped his script into a pile of "Natures' delights" but the brave lad threw caution to the wind and dived into the corner to retrieve it.

Tea time dawned with the



***** ALL STAR 'BLANKET MAN' CAST *****
Introducing
 Bobby Sands, Paul Brennan, Tony Quigley, John Nixon
 'Seando' Moore, Brendan Hughes (Fairy Godfather) and
 Sean Lennon.
 Script: Paddy Geraghty and Micky Devine.
 Musical composers — Brendan Connolly and Sean Deery.
 Reviewed by Mick O'Deary

script writers having to explain to the two ugly sisters John Nixon and Tony Quigley that it just wasn't possible to smuggle evening dresses past the Screws, so they would just have to do with turn-ups on their blankets.

The tea-time cuisine lived on the wing up. Well it's not easy to eat ball bearings in shells without making a loud noise.

FANFARE

The time was drawing near. The screws left for the night to dream how they could break the smelly blanketmen in the new year. 'H' troop were preparing to battle the elements and stand at the doors. Icicles hung from some very delicate places but five minutes jogging in a puddle soon fixed that.

Suddenly there was a fanfare of trumpets, (of course I am joking), and the narrator for the night's proceedings Mickey Devine was there to begin with a few lines of poetry.

His introduction was met with a thunderous round of applause and away we went, 'Cinderella' with a few extras such as a D.M. boot in place of a glass slipper.

Paddy "Buttons" Geraghty introduced himself and he went on to have his customary battle with the two ugly sisters who came in for all the usual abuse.

Sean Lennon as Cinderella's father made his presence felt as boss of the family.

Cinderella herself had a narrow escape when a couple of Screws made a kamokasi attack down the wing to throw buckets of disinfectant under the cell doors. Cinderella wasn't a bit pleased as the fumes made her eyes water and she wanted Prince Charming to think it was for him.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION.

A special attraction at Prince Charming's Ball was the appearance of Tommy McGinn as the "Big Cropper" who belted out some rock and roll, aided and abetted by his backing group of Paddy McDonald, Jimmy "ould hand" Quinn and Paul McVeigh, otherwise known as "the three choppers" who give it the Bop showaddywaddy in the appropriate places.

But back to the plot, and many a tear was shed in the next scene when Prince Charming found and then lost his Cinderella.

Everybody 'Ahlll' for Prince Charming.

But of course every panto must have a happy ending and ours was no different.

As the end drew near the narrator once again took to the stage to announce that everyone lived happily ever after. This was the sign for the audience to once more erupt and show their noisy appreciation.

A couple of Screws emerged from a drunken slumber and stood ear-wiggling at the bottom of the wing.

What they had been listening to was an example of Republican Resistance. Perhaps the British authorities expected a block full of broken, shattered men sitting huddled in blankets. Instead they had on their hands men, as strong as ever before, who used a pantomime to pass a few hours and brighten up yet another Christmas away from loved ones.

BRIT SILENCE OVER PRISONERS' ILLNESS

The refusal by the prison regime in charge of the H-Blocks of Long Kesh to release details of the state of physical health of

Republican prisoners has always been a source of constant worry to their relatives and friends. The total clampdown on

information relating to the men's health coupled with the systematic "run around" given to inquisitive relatives is now used on practically every occasion when a prisoner is removed from his cell to the prison hospital.

Frequently relatives have only found out about their sons or husbands illness either after he gets out of the hospital or when they arrive on a visit to the prison whereupon they are refused their visit.

CONTEMPTUOUS MANNER

An example of the contemptuous manner in which the Brit administration treat relatives as well as prisoner can be seen from the case of Terry Kirby, age 22 from Belfast's Andersonstown area, who was recently shifted to the prison hospital.

His parents became aware of his removal to the prison hospital only after his aunt and



uncle were refused permission to visit him. His mother rang the 'prison welfare' only to be told that they could not help her suggesting that she should ring the Brit 'Northern Ireland Office'.

On ringing she was told that her request for details about her son's physical condition should be applied for in writing. She immediately sent a registered letter; after 13 days she received a curt reply confirming that her son was in hospital but giving no details about the nature of his illness.

Mrs. Kirby dissatisfied with the Brit response again contacted the 'N.I.O.' and they informed her to seek an appointment with the prison 'medical officer'. This she did only to be informed by the 'medical officer' that his superiors would not allow him to release information on any prisoner, referring her back again to the 'N.I.O.'.

To date Mrs. Kirby has no knowledge of the cause of illness which landed her son in the prison hospital.



The Kirby family — recent victims of contemptuous Brit treatment.



WAR NEWS

IN supplied statements the Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for the following operations:

Tuesday January 30th

BELFAST

A building housing 'air call' Telecommunications Centre and the French Consulate in Wellington Park was devastated in a bombing operation. Accepting responsibility for the attack, and specifying their target as the 'Telecommunications Centre' the I.R.A. said in their statement: "The serious damage caused to the French Consulate was incidental to the bombing operation"

Friday February 2nd

STRABANE (County Tyrone)

A mobile active service unit opened fire on a Brit checkpoint in the town centre. One Brit was shot in the leg.

The Brits returned fire but all volunteers returned safely to base.

Saturday February 3rd

CROSSMAGLEN (Co. Armagh)

A member of a Brit footpatrol

walking along Castleblayney Road was seriously injured, when the I.R.A. detonated a remote control car bomb, as the Brits passed by.

The injured Brit is a member of The Grenadier Guards, the same regiment, which lost three of its members when the Crossmaglen I.R.A. unleashed a machine-gun on a Brit patrol passing through the village just before Christmas. The Grenadier Guards are paying a heavy price for patrolling this part of the occupied Six Counties.

LISNASKEA (Co. Fermanagh)

Two RUC men were injured when a remote control bomb was detonated in the Banks Brae area of the village. The attack took place after the RUC were lured to the spot by a hoax bomb telephone call.

BELFAST

The recently retired head of training for Screws throughout

the Six Counties was executed by the I.R.A. The dead man retired only eight weeks ago and was the key figure in the training of screws for the barbarous H-Blocks of Long Kesh. Accepting responsibility for the shooting the I.R.A. stated: "We wish to make it clear that Mrs. Mackin was not a target and was only shot after she grappled with the volunteer. We would also point out to members of the British Administration working in the prisons that if they resign and make their resignation known to the Irish Republican Army then it would be considered whether to remove their names from the target list or not."

Sunday February 4th
COUNTY TYRONE

Six separate bombing attacks were carried out throughout Tyrone between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. The targets bombed were as follows:

DUNGANNON

Eight bombs were planted in the town's main Ulsterbus depot. The bombs exploded causing widespread damage to numerous buses.

TAMNAMORE

Several lorries belonging to a hauliers firm were badly damaged after bombs exploded in their depot.

Several buses were destroyed in fire bomb attacks in the villages of CALEDON, BENBURB and AUGHNACLOY.

COALISLAND

Incendiary devices exploded in the town's timber-yard setting the premises alight.

Monday February 5th

BELFAST

An off-licence in Tates Avenue was destroyed in a bomb attack in mid-afternoon.



THE Building containing the Belfast 'air call' Telecommunications Centre and the French Consulate, devastated during an I.R.A. bombing attack.

I.R.A. DISCLAIM FRENCH BOMBINGS

In a statement issued last Saturday from the Irish Republic Publicity Bureau the I.R.A. said: "We deny any involvement in the recent spate of bombings in France. Such actions are unhelpful to our struggle: They play into the hands of the Imperialist Governments. We dissociate ourselves from these bombings."

JOHN BOYLE MURDERED AFTER 6 MONTHS (AND A PRESS LEAK)

THE British Administration have been forced into charging two members of the SAS with the murder of 16-year-old John Boyle. John Boyle was summarily executed in Dunloy cemetery on July 11th 1978 by four undercover soldiers who had staked-out an arms dump. The soldiers killed him from a distance of 10 yards, while another two lying in some gorse 'covered' them.

These two took part in the conspiracy to cover up the truth. Others involved were the British Army Staff at Lisburn, Roy Mason, the RUC, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the British Attorney General Sam Silken.

John Boyle was just one of twelve people assassinated by the British Army last year; and the background to the charging of the two SAS men shows the corruptness of the British Administration whose original cover-up was blown by a leak to the press.

THE ASSASSINATION

On the morning of July 11th young John Boyle walked into Dunloy cemetery to see if a bag (containing guns) had been removed. He had told his father of the find, and he in turn had told the RUC. Contrary to the "primacy of the RUC" which we hear so much about, they then contacted the British Army who sent in undercover soldiers - 4 SAS men.

As John walked up to the grave two Brits in hiding shot him from behind. One high velocity bullet entered his skull and came out through his left eye. Two other bullets in the back caused severe internal injuries.

The SAS men then arrested John's brother, Hugh, who had heard the shots and ran into the cemetery. The Brits made him lie on the ground for the next two and a half hours while they gloated over their "kill", of a sixteen-year-old "terrorist". He realised his brother was dead when he heard one Brit say to

the other, "There's another bastard lying dead around the corner". Mr. Boyle also arrived on the scene and he was forced to lie on the ground.

Immediately after the killing British Army headquarters in Lisburn issued a press statement stating that "at 10.22 a.m. a patrol challenged three men seen armed and carrying bombs. One of the terrorists ran off when challenged and was shot and wounded. Weapons have been recovered at the scene."

Slowly during the day the truth began to emerge and British Army chiefs came under increasing pressure. So they changed their story to accommodate John Boyle's innocence, and they changed the circum-

stances of his murder to accommodate their yellow-card procedure (which states that soldiers can only open fire on someone carrying a weapon or explosives, or endangering life).

At 6 p.m. they issued their second



Mr. Con Boyle and his son Hugh, who were arrested after the SAS had shot dead Mr. Boyle's younger son John near their Dunloy, Co. Antrim home last summer.

statement saying that John had lifted an armalite (perhaps out of curiosity, was their implication), and when they challenged him he swung round in a firing position. They then shot him. But they would have been safer sticking to their first statement which said "one terrorist was shot as he ran off". It too would have collapsed under examination but at least they

would have got their bullet wounds in the right place.

SUMMARY EXECUTION

The whole incident showed up the "summary execution" policy which the SAS had been practicing for some time - undercover work, which Mason, in May had promised would increase. However, Direct-ruler Mason tried to cover up the incident by offering Mr. Boyle a personal apology for the "tragic accident".

Some accident.

Within a few days of the shoot-

political considerations prevailed. Normally the DPP authorise a prosecution but in this case they forwarded the file to the British Attorney General Sam Silken in London. He too prevaricated and undoubtedly the case would have been quietly dropped - like hundreds of other British Army murders. (The British soldiers who assassinated IRA volunteer Paul Duffy under similar circumstances refused to appear at his inquest, as did the soldiers involved in the murder of Jack McCartan in August '77)

LEAK

What Sam Silken didn't bargain for was that someone would leak the details of the report to the press. The section of the British press to have originally received a photo-copy of the file, also prevaricated and this gave Silken the time he needed to manoeuvre. On January 26th he directed that the two SAS men be charged with murdering John Boyle. Within days the story appeared in the newspapers and the British government had their answer ready.

The political considerations which characterised the original immunity of the two SAS men, and the delay in charging them should ultimately ensure their acquittal. People are now speculating that the charging of the two SAS men will have a debilitating effect on other undercover soldiers.

We doubt it. To hold down our country the British Government relies on murder and terror. They are its chief indispensable weapons, and the loss of the use of them would hasten its defeat.



John Boyle

Evenin' all!

I am very annoyed with Roy these days, I must confess. When he first took over it was quite amusing watching the loathsome little toady licking round my officers' nether regions — well, he couldn't get any higher, could he? — but now it's becoming plain embarrassing!

First of all there's this business of the two SAS men getting charged with murder. I told him not to let it go that far, and what do I get — sheer incompetence! Normally of course, I like my boys to get their dues whenever they get caught killing, maiming, looting, raping or just having a good time. They're automatically added to the rolls of honour and it's good for recruiting — why I even had some old Black and Tans trying to enlist the other day. But the SAS lads are different. I had given them a categorical promise that no matter what 'naughtiness' they got up to they would never be charged let alone convicted. Now, I know that the killing of John Boyle, James Taylor, Seamus Harvey etc., was

WRETCHED LITTLE ROY

perhaps 'unfortunate', but after all, they were Irish and therefore don't merit quite the same protection of the law as we Brits. Therefore I gave quite explicit instructions to the Barnsley buffoon and to the Attorney General Sam 'Speculator' Silken that there were to be no prosecutions. And what happens? They blow it! I tell you, it's the last time I leave a matter like this up to a petty crook and a mentally retarded Yorkshire psychopath.

But enough of that! I'll keep you up to date with how the lads fare, and, don't worry, they're not going to serve a day, I promise!

Anyway, what about our old chums in 5 UDR then? I know the papers censored it — silly things — but all my regular readers — thank you for the fan letter, mother — must have noticed

Hedfern, Church, Davidson and Allen up again for sectarian murders, attempted murders and arson in the South Derry area. They were all part of the UDR murder gang and all had already been sentenced for murdering John Bolton and a series of burglaries, rapes and arsons, but it was nice to see them get the credit for two more sectarian killings — Chivers and McAuley and getting life with an 18 year minimum recommended.

Only one thing puzzles me — why do the papers keep referring to Greg Allen as 'an ice cream salesman' when everyone knows that at the time of the murders he was a full time member of 5 UDR? O well! There must be some reason for it.

Not much more news this week. L-Cpl Stan Mullen got fined £50 for butting a civilian in the face at an army check

point on the Buncrana Road last February. He was bored at the time and just felt like it. Well, that's all they teach you in Borstal I suppose.

And what about John Osborne, ex-Guards who got 12 months suspended for bigamy! In my day that wasn't what the Guards were usually done for!

Then there was the case of another corporal Peter Moore of the Green Cowards who got 18 months for blackmail. Funny one this, last time I visited the regiment the lads were having a hard time making out the pictures in the Beano and now it appears that one of them has actually learnt to write threatening letters. He must have been the I.O.



Anyway, bye for now, I'm off to another screw's funeral. I wonder should we change the advert in the Newsletter about it being a great life in the prison service?

It has been suggested to me by some malcontent that we might be done under the Fair Trading Act and the Misrepresentation of the Facts Act. I'd love to sack Roy and stick him up in Crumlin for a few weeks, but I suppose he'd only crawl out under the door. It's no fun being a Brigadier I can tell you.

So long,
your old pal,
The Brigadier.

DOCTORS' EVIDENCE EXPOSES R.U.C. TORTURERS

A somewhat unique, or at least unusual, sequence of events contributed to the release from a Belfast High Court of Joseph Flynn, from Belfast's Andersonstown area, on Thursday February 1st. He had spent the previous fifteen months interned — on — remand, at Crumlin Road Gaol and H6 Block Long Kesh.

His acquittal, directed by one of the North's notorious judges, Gibson, came about primarily because the crown prosecution could not offer a "reasonable explanation" why Joseph Flynn, who spent three days in Castlereagh RUC barracks, after his arrest, was covered in bruises from head to toe. Thereby casting aspersions on the validity of a "voluntary" confession offered by the crown as the sole evidence implicating Flynn in a bombing offence.

Flynn's case was a typical one: A confession secured by brutal means; a lengthy period interned — on — remand; RUC perjurers; and the Diplock Courts "rubber-stamp" process.

But owing to a biased approach by the crown prosecutor, the incompetence of Flynn's two torturers, RUC men Flaherty and Hall, the unusually truthful statements from RUC doctors attached to Castlereagh RUC barracks, plus the evidence of Flynn's family doctor, Gibson was forced into acquitting Flynn.

Flynn was before the Court charged with five other youths with bombing the Greenan Lodge Hotel. None of the accused were caught at the scene of the explosion nor in possession of guns or bombs. They were picked up in early morning raids sometime after the bombing, taken to Castlereagh where they were forced to falsely admit involvement. The sole evidence against them rested on state-

"Flynn's case was a typical one! A confession secured by brutal means"



ments of admission made during interrogation sessions.

The Court proceedings began on Tuesday January 23 with the question of admissibility of statements made by the accused. In the case of the first two of the accused one statement was contested, that of Gerry Burke, on the grounds of ill-treatment. Gibson in his usual frame of mind accepted the RUC's version of events inferring the ill-treatment was "self-inflicted".

The next statement to be ruled on was that of Joseph Flynn. In his evidence he stated that he was arrested on November 1st 1977, from his home and taken to Castlereagh RUC barracks where he was held for three days. He stated that during two separate medical examinations on the first day of his detention by his family doctor, Dr. Murdoch, and a doctor attached to the barracks they revealed no bruises on his body. However, two days later, a third examination, carried out again by his

own doctor and another different doctor, attached to the barracks, showed that his body was covered in bruises.

Flynn stated that during the two day period he was subjected to severe beatings by the RUC men, Flaherty and Hall. The beatings consisted of being punched in the kidneys, spine, back, back of legs, rib cage and chest, and violently thrown from one end of the room to the other bouncing off the walls in the process.

When the doctors attached to Castlereagh barracks, Logan, Page, and Riddle, and Flynn's own doctor gave their evidence it became painfully obvious that the RUC would have a job working their way out of responsibility for ill-treating Flynn.

The torturers, Flaherty and Hall were visibly unnerved by the comments made by the doctors and when reciting their tissues of lies in the dock it sounded like the well rehearsed story it was.

In fact such a mess of things did each RUC man make of his version of events under cross-examination, that Gibson, rushed to their assistance on several occasions, offering them "ways out" by suggesting answers to the defence barristers questions. But all Gibson's assistance did was to further compound the RUC men's dilemma.

Finally Gibson had no alternative but to reject the evidence put forward by the crown prosecution, rebuking them for not preparing an adequate story (cover) while trying to exonerate the RUC from responsibility for inflicting the bruises on Joseph Flynn's body, by stating that he could not accept Flynn's account of what happened to him in Castlereagh barracks.

However despite Gibson's concluding remarks the verdict he was forced into making show the RUC up for the torture mongers they are.

GERRY ADAMS AND THAT McCANN INTERVIEW

SHORTLY before Christmas Sinn Féin Vice-President Gerry Adams was interviewed by Eamonn McCann for the "Sunday World". The publication of the interview was conditional upon Gerry Adams' approval. (Gerry Adams' address to the 1977 Ard Fheis was taken out of context by the BBC, and was subsequently used by the RUC to put him in jail for 7 months). McCann's article, however, was not incriminating, but far from being an interview it was a deliberate study in ridicule.

Below we reprint Gerry Adams' letter to the "Sunday World" which they published last week. In that edition McCann had the last word and was self-righteous, smug and kow-towed to his "Sunday World" bosses.

A chafar,
A few weeks ago I was interviewed for your newspaper by Eamonn McCann. In general conversation before the interview I expressed some reservations about press sensationalism in general and Sunday World sensationalism in particular.
At this point Mr. McCann volunteered to forward his finished article to me for approval before publication. He also stated that he would publish only if I approved.
A week or so later, as promised, I received a copy of his article. It was astonished at its contents. In my opinion it was neither a factual or indeed an accurate account of our conversation. After consultation with our Belfast P.R.O. (who had attended the interview) I decided, in accordance with the conditions volunteered by Mr. McCann, to withhold my approval of his article. This information was passed on to Mr. McCann

and to Sunday World. I have the name of the reporter who took the call, for Sunday World. At this point I presumed the issue to be dead.

I was somewhat surprised therefore when, contrary to Eamonn McCann's promises, the article appeared in last Sunday's issue of your paper. I am disturbed that Mr. McCann made conditions which he obviously had no intention of keeping, that he chose not to inform me that he intended to publish, contrary to my wishes and his promises and his inaccuracies and supercilious observations to one side, he appears to revel in such situations.

No doubt he will have some suitably flippant and trite explanation. An apology will suffice. That, or the publication of this letter, with as much prominence as was accorded Mr. McCann's fairy tale.

Le mess,
Gerry Adams



Gorey Leather Works — by Paul Rooney

SHUT DOWN RESISTED



Just down the road from the monument, erected to the memory of the men of Gorey, who fought in 1798, another important battle is being waged. The men of Gorey are fighting to save their main industry, the Leather Works, which is being closed out of hand by Irish Leather Works Ltd.

The tannery there is a very important part of native Irish industry, employing 200 men of the town, and so constituting the very heart of Gorey's existence. As one worker said:

"If the factory closes, you might as well put a gate on each end of the town."

There have been numerous protests and delegations from the workers, the unions and the people who live in Gorey, but all to no avail. Irish Leathers are determined to close down the Gorey factory, and deprive the people of Gorey the means to a livelihood.

HOODWINK

The directors of the factory, it seems, deliberately set out to hoodwink the workers from the start. They have been telling the workers over the past three years that the factory was doing well, that the order books were full, and even up to three months ago they were bringing in new equipment.

At the same time, they were transferring key workers to other units and were approaching the 26-County Government for loans. One reported loan was for £1 million, and another report was that they had approached Leinster House for a grant of £4 million interest free, a subsidy on leather exports, and £20 a week per worker, employment maintenance grant. And despite all that, they would not give a guarantee to keep Gorey Leather Works open.

The Gorey factory produces a high quality leather, for a high quality market, and there is only one other factory in Europe to compete

against, and that is in Belgium. There is definitely a market for Gorey leather, but the workers are being denied the right to supply this market.

Irish Leathers Ltd. have been asked to sell the factory as a going concern, but have stubbornly refused to do so. The Workers Committee approached Irish Leather, and proposed that they could run it as a co-operative, but they were refused. It seems that Irish Leathers are afraid that the workers would run it too well, and so would present a serious challenge to Irish Leathers' monopolistic position in the industry in this country.

The Trade Unions are taking a very firm stand on this closure, working closely with the Workers Committee in the factory. Already they have placed an embargo on all hides exported from this country, which involves about 15,000 hides per week. Pickets are planned for all the factories and units involved in this dispute, and as one Trade Unionist said:

"Irish Leathers Ltd. must change their decision or all the resources of the Union will be used to destroy them."

In an interview, Mick Shell, who is a member of the Workers Committee and is also a Sinn Féin Town Commissioner, said:

"I would like to emphasise the fact, that if the workers are given control of the factory, they would run it efficiently for the good of the community."

He went on to say:

"I was told 2 years back that Gorey would be closed, and I did not believe it at the time. But it has been proven now, that Irish Leathers have wanted to close up, over a long number of years."

24-HOUR WATCH

At the moment, there is in the factory, nearly £2 million worth of leather, which the men are keeping a 24-hour watch on. A barrier has been built by the workers, across the factory in order that the leather will not be spirited out. The directors have given the workers seven more days, ending on Friday 9th February, but the men see this as a pure holding action during which the directors will set up their plans to smash the resistance. The workers are pleased that the Trade Unions have placed an embargo on the export of hides, but they feel that this should be extended to the importing of hides, especially from South America. This would effectively shut down all operations carried out by Irish Leather Works Ltd.

Feelings are running high in Gorey. Shopkeepers have closed their shops in protest, and even the school children have taken to the streets, voicing their fears for the future. There has been a long family connection with the factory, and this has meant, grandfathers, fathers and sons giving their working lives to Gorey Leather Works. At least 25 men have given over 40 years service, and many more over 30 years service.

One 57 year old man, Mick Finn (who is chairman of the local Sinn Féin Cumann) said: "After putting in 37 years of workmanship, I feel very bitter at getting thrown on the scrap-

heap. Some men have worked here for 45 years. How do they feel? The future seems very bleak, how can a man of my age get another job? All my life has been the Leather Works. I feel that we have been betrayed and the only answer is that the factory is handed over to us. We will run it as a co-operative. If the factory closes it will be a disaster for the town."

Two other members of the Works Committee feel very bitter. Joe Swain said:

"One of the culprits in the whole dirty affair has been Fergus Watson, an English director." He goes on to say:

"All the other directors have been seen at the factory or at meetings, but Watson has always been absent. Why should an Englishman cause Irish workers to be put on the road?"

BLATANT LIAR

Tom (Bonny) Livingstone said: "Several months back Mr. Donal O'Brien, managing director, said that Gorey was doing extremely well, if not better than other tanneries. Now Mr. O'Brien has the bloody cheek to say that Gorey has made a loss over the past three years. I call Mr. O'Brien a blatant liar!"

The people of Gorey have become victims of the deepening economic crisis within the Free State. Under the term "rationalisation" people are being denied the right to work, native Irish industries are threatened with extinction, Irish people are being forced to emigrate or work for foreign industries.

The only way to reverse all these developments is to resist them, defend what we have, and go on to take what we need.

BELFAST DEMONSTRATION

SMASH the H-BLOCKS

MARCH from White Rock Road.
to Belfast City Centre
SUNDAY FEB 11th
assemble White Rock Road at 2.30 pm.
DEFEND POW STATUS

Organised by the Belfast Central Relatives Action Committee.

DERRY BUSES TO NEWRY

DERRY BUSES
TO NEWRY TEST
Deposit £1 per person.
Details from Shantallow
Sinn Féin Centre or:
Telephone 68926.
Book early



SMASH THE H-BLOCKS DEFEND POW STATUS!

NEWRY

March and Rally
Sunday February 25th

Organised by South Down Sinn Féin

AN AIMSIR

By LUGUM

IRELAND'S mild climate has none of the excesses of other parts of the globe. Unhappily, this is also true of our too scanty allocation of sunshine.

When barber shops were barber shops and when barbers were barbers and most of them kept verbal pace with the clip-clop of their scissors the one reliable opening gambit with any new customer was the weather.

"Sunshine will may not have had much of in Ireland but we'll always have weather. And of course, this our predilection with the weather has left its mark on our placenames.

The windforce, particularly on our western seaboard, has been found to be among the strongest and most constant

in the world and has been mooted in recent times as cheaper and cleaner than the proposed nuclear plant at Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford.

Gaoithe meaning "wind" and its genitive, gaoithe, usually are anglicised as "gwee" or "gee" and "geeha" and "geehy" and sometimes "gee" also.

Dungae is near Newcastle in Co. Limerick and is derived from Dun Gaoithe (the Fortress of the Wind); and east of Bushmills (agus ca bhfuil an te nár chuala tracht ar an mbráon a deintear an ?) in Co. Antrim is Drumnagee

(Dron na Gaoithe—the hill-ridge of the Wind).

Gap of the Wind

The "windmill" or the "mill of the wind" is Milleann Gaoithe in Co. Longford and is anglicised as Mullingee.

"Elevated bleak, mountain passes", Joyce tells us in his Irish Names of Places "very often get the name of Barnagee or Barnageehy, the "beams or gap of the wind and which frequently is translated in the English names Windgap and Windgate".

The latter is found in Windgate Road on the Hill of Howth in Co. Dublin and is peculiar in that "wind" is the translation of gaoithe "gaoithe" and "gate" is the

anglicisation of it.

"Seidean" means a gust or a puff of wind. In Co. Longford we find Lough Seidean (Lough Seidean—the Lake of the Gusts of Wind) and Knockseidan two miles west of Swords in Co. Dublin in Cnoc Seidean, the Hill of the Wind-Gusts.

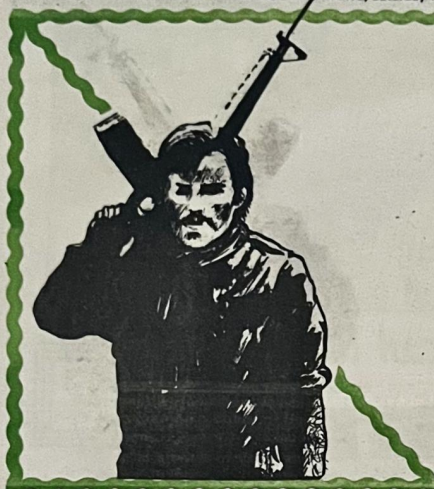
Puffing Hole

However, following the article "an" the word "seidean" is eclipsed by a "T" and in the anglicised version the "S" is dropped while the "T" remains.

Lough Ateadun is a lake near Corin in Co. An Chlair and comes from Loch a (n) tSeideain (the Lake of the Wind-gusts) Lackantedane (Leac an tSeideain—the

Flagstone of the Wind-gusts) and Ardteadun (Ard an tSeideain—the Height of the Wind-gusts) are in Co. Tiobraid Árann and Co. Chiallann respectively.

P. W. Joyce has this to say in his book on placenames: "On some parts of the seacoast, the term is used to designate rocks or caves or holes that shoot up jets or columns of water in times of storms; as in the case of the well-known puffing-holes on the coast of Clare which are called in Irish Poulteadun (i.e. Poll a tSeideain, the hole of the puffing). There is a puffing hole on the Clare side of the Shannon, four miles below Kiltedraun Point, near Carrigaholt, which retains the Irish name Poulteadun."



WHAT OF WITH

IT is now inevitable that the result of the present Republican campaign will involve a withdrawal of British Armed Forces. The I.R.A. has proved that it cannot be militarily defeated by internment in any of its forms or by S.A.S.-type assassination of volunteers. Nor is it possible that the British government will be able to achieve any substantial political victory by drying up support for the I.R.A. within the Six Counties.

The British government far from stupidly believing that the troops can impose 'peace' in the North, is well aware that without a withdrawal of British regiments, there is no opportunity for those posing as representatives of the Nationalist population -- the S.D.L.P. and others -- to get together with their fellow opportunists in the Unionist parties in the formation of a supposedly reformed 'Northern Ireland' state. So why are the troops still there?

The basic answer is that the main political drive on which the Brits are relying -- that of 'Ulsterisation' -- has, as yet anyway, failed to have any major impact. The most obvious expression of 'Ulsterisation' is the attempt to replace the Army by the RUC in the Nationalist areas. Having achieved this, it would be easier for the Brits to explain at home and abroad that the 'Irish problem' is an internal one of dealing with a handful of criminals, lacking popular support, rather than a War against British imperialism as it increasingly appears to be to those looking in from outside.

The success in imposing the R.U.C. on the Nationalist areas would be a major setback in some respects. Luckily, the present achievement of the R.U.C. in driving unescorted through certain Nationalist areas, but at high speed and relying on the saturation of these areas with regular and undercover Brits, is about as far as the R.U.C. look like getting in implementing this aspect of 'Ulsterisation'.

The other major prong of this 'Ulsterisation' policy of Mason's is the attempt to encourage for-

rein industry to the North, as part of his claim that life in the 'Province' is returning to 'normal', disregarding the fact that 'normal' in the Six Counties has always meant high unemployment, poor housing, and religious and political discrimination!

The truth however is that despite much publicised 'successes' like the De Lorean factory in Twinbrook, more industry is leaving the North than is investing, the majority of new investment is still sited in Protestant areas, Loyalist-run factories in or near Nationalist areas such as Sirocco and Mackies still refuse to employ Catholics, and -- in fact -- the likelihood is that even the De Lorean factory will end up employing very few Catholics out of its workforce of 2500. The inevitable concessions to Loyalist bigotry of the kind that have already been witnessed in the Poleglass housing affair, will see to that.

'Ulsterisation' failed

The reasons why 'Ulsterisation' has so far failed to take hold anywhere but in Mason's fevered

imagination are: (a) the I.R.A.'s campaign of industrial sabotage, which even Mason has been unable to ignore, and (b) the mass resistance from the Nationalist areas which centres on H-Block,

P.O.W. Status

The POW status issue is possibly the biggest dilemma the Brits have faced in the last ten years. Despite blanket censorship by the British media, even they have been forced by the sheer barbarism of the conditions there and the constant efforts in Ireland and Britain to publicise them, to give some idea to the British public of H-Block.

For 'Ulsterisation' to succeed, the Brits need to be able to 'buy off' the Nationalist population at some stage, with promises of jobs, houses, leisure centres, etc. Yet the mood in these areas, largely because of the 'blanket protest', makes this 'buying off' impossible even for them to consider as a possibility as long as the 'H-Block' protest continues. Yet to give in and grant any acceptable form of 'Special Category' status is an admission that the 'H-Block' men are right in asserting that they are Prisoners-of-War and that the 'Irish problem' is not a problem at all, but a massive-sized headache for British imperialism.

The 'H-Block' protest could well be the issue which changes the course of the War and brings a British withdrawal very much nearer. Once it admits that it is fighting a War, publicly, as it does privately in the boardrooms, Cabinet, and Army officer clubs, the combination of international opinion, economic pressure from international consortiums, and the futility of its position, will make at least a military withdrawal by Britain unavoidable within a short space of time.

Why should there be this pressure from the big consortiums?

Because whilst Western imperialist involvement in the Third

World is convenient to capitalism as the most efficient method of exploiting Third World natural resources, explicit imperialist involvement within Western Europe itself would definitely be 'bad business', for it would be too public and too blatant a violation of the sham of Western 'liberal democracy', which acts as the main safety valve in capitalist society against workers coming to act in their own genuine interests.

What possibilities?

Before this withdrawal takes place, it is vital for all Republicans to consider what are the possibilities open to Britain, and how we in the Republican Movement must best respond.

It is only possible to speculate at the moment whether Britain will be forced by the course of events to make any commitment to Irish unity, or whether it will gamble on the Unionist/S.D.L.P. bandwagon being in a strong enough position, backed up by the R.U.C./U.D.R. and British military advisers and equipment, to hold an 'independent' Six-Counties. What is certain is that Britain will not risk again the option of devolved local government within the 'U.K.' on the old Stormont model, nor will it ever agree to 'integration' with the British 'mainland'.

Ideally, it would like to be free of the constitutional headache of the North, while still being able to use it as a source of cheap imports and a market for British exports, and as an Atlantic base in the event of a NATO-Warsaw Pact conflict, or indeed in the event of a revolutionary socialist government in Ireland such as Sinn Féin aims to establish.

What is equally certain is that Britain will not voluntarily hand over control to a revolutionary, provisional government, knowing the commitment of a future Republican government to the removal of private enterprise, non-membership of power-blocs such as NATO and the EEC, and eventual help to genuine nationalist movements in Wales and Scotland, as well as to -- who knows? -- the British working class.

'Independent' 6 Counties

What seems most likely in view of the current 'Ulsterisation' policy is that Britain will initially gamble on the 'Independent Six-Counties' option in the hope that sufficient Nationalists will see this wrongly, yet again, as 'the freedom to win freedom' as Collins saw the Treaty in 1921, or as an acceptable compromise.

An excellent lecture on future problems facing recent meeting of the Fitzsimmons/O'Hanlon School, as part of their current education programme.

A very fruitful discussion followed the talk, changed to the one published here.

Whilst 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' have feel that it is a very useful contribution to our 'ion', of the pitfalls of 'six-county independence' and of the possibilities of civil war.

Our main important disagreement with the text 'ability' of British withdrawal.

Only if we fight, and fight long and hard, will B The British Government are currently certainly use of their troops; the option of 'six-county in 'ution' being prepared in the background.

Also, whilst a victory for the prisoners in the battle won in the overall war against the Brits, the granting of political status 'will make at le available within a short space of time'.

The Brits are well-enough practised diplomats 'special category status' to our POWs in practice als'. It will certainly take more than a victory in an victory.



The Loyalists have no military experience of anything other than sectarian assassinations.

The stark truth is that an 'independent' Six Counties would have to be even more repressive of the Nationalist minority than before, simply to survive. The Six-Counties cannot be reformed.

Under capitalism, a high level of unemployment would be required to safeguard the pool of very cheap labour that has always existed there. Wages, as well as the purchasing power of those wages, are considerably lower than in any part of Britain. Even if this cheap labour pool was not the basis of industrial exploitation in the North

that it is today, the v of modern capitalism is thing like full employment possible.

Capitalism is only sy the way it oppresses; is haphazard as the (profits) of on consor with another. This 'ce ness', in a time of reced icularly, results in 'tion' (which, under means unemployment, high unemployment, especially semi-skill would continue as al given to Protestants, protect the electoral of the present, mon ist interests.

The paper promiss rights and social equ remain unfulfilled be could not be fulfill ism would be incap sisting the economy that could guarantee full employment



Attempts to replace the British Army with the R.U.C. have failed -- Two R.U.C. men lie injured on the ground after being blown-up by the I.R.A. in Forkhill.

T KIND H DRA WAL?

problems facing the Republican Movement was given at a meeting of the Sinn Féin Cumann, High Wycombe, England programme.

led the talk, as a result of which the text was slightly

News have certain disagreements with the text, we refer to our analysis of British strategy, of 'Ulsterisation', of future intensified Free State collaboration.

with the text would centre around its suggested 'inevi-

and hard, will British withdrawal be 'inevitable'.

ntly certainly pursuing a military solution through the 'six-county independence' thus remains a possible 'sol-

nders in the H-Blocks will certainly be an important factor. In fact, it is a gross over-statement to suggest that the British will make at least a military withdrawal by Britain un-

ed diplomats that they would be prepared to grant the British, whilst continuing to call them 'criminals', a victory in the H-Blocks to ensure overall Republic-

is today, the very nature of capitalism makes any full employment im-

alism is only systematic in that it oppresses; in itself it is a hazard as the 'interests' of one consortium clash with the interests of another. This 'competitive' nature of capitalism results in 'rationalisation' which, under capitalism, results in 'rationalisation' (unemployment). Given the nature of capitalism, most jobs are semi-skilled jobs, which are always to be replaced by more skilled jobs. Protestants, in order to maintain the electoral supremacy of the present, monied Union-

paper promises of civil and social equality would be unfulfilled because they are not to be fulfilled; capitalism is incapable of subverting the economy to a level of full employment — without

which, employment for Catholics on a fair basis is inconceivable. Equally, talk of socialism within an 'independent' Six Counties framework is naive or misleading, not merely for the cultural reason that 'Northern Ireland' is based on the concept of Protestant supremacy and a 'Protestant parliament for a Protestant people', but also because the myth of supremacy is the trick by which Protestant workers are themselves exploited by landowners and industrialists in the Six Counties.

To destroy that myth inevitably means coming to terms with the British role of 'divide and rule' in its entire colonial history and thus the imposed and artificial nature of 'Northern Ireland' itself. Socialism then, can only come about in Ireland, as Connolly saw, in the context of national self-determination.

War not stop

It is an obvious as well as a stated fact, it follows from this, that the War of Independence would not stop if the British tried

to impose an 'Independent Six Counties' solution as they pulled out. Nor is it likely that this 'solution' could be 'sold' to the Nationalist people in the North so as to dry up support for the I.R.A.

The probability is that the S.D.L.P. — if they were stupid enough to support this brand of 'internal settlement' — would show themselves beyond any further doubt to be the power-hungry opportunists they are, as surely as Muzorewa, Sithole, and Chirau have revealed themselves in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Without a ceasefire from the Republican Movement, the Brits, or the puppet regime they leave behind could only further alienate the Nationalist population by

Obviously then, the attempt to impose Irish 'unity' from Westminster and Leinster House would lead to the possibility of renewed conflict between the Republican Movement and the Forces of the Free State. It seems unlikely that the Free State and the Brits would stand by and allow democratic elections to be held throughout Ireland, while the Republican Movement exercised its 'de jure' position inherited from 1918 by forming a provisional government of the Irish Republic — in the direct tradition of Pearse, Connolly, Clarke, and the other signatories of the 1916 Proclamation.

Furthermore, it is inescapable that the Free State Army is both



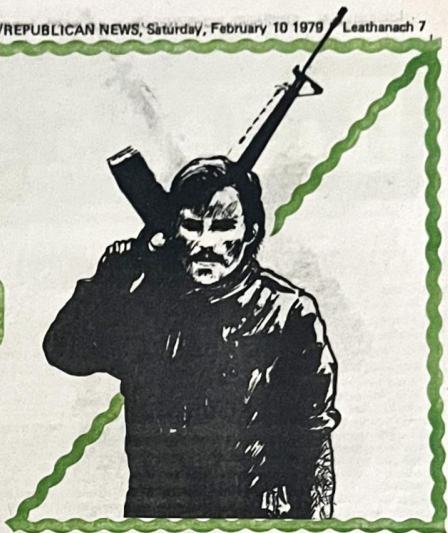
R.U.C.
— Loyalist
Collaboration

increased repression.

Eventually then, the Brits will be forced to attempt to negotiate some form of United Ireland. What would suit them best is the absorption of the North by the existing Leinster House set-up, with private enterprise and landed interests in the North remaining intact. To that end they would presumably be prepared to give a sizable hand-out to the Leinster House government, confident that they would be dealing with an Irish Government as sympathetic as it has been in the past to the demands of stronger British capitalism.

Impose Irish Unity

Certainly there would be no need for the Brits to insist as they did in 1921 on 'Treaty Ports', for a capitalist controlled united Ireland would remove the last obstacle to membership of NATO, whereby Ireland would be forced to surrender her neutrality and to provide 'defence' facilities for its NATO 'allies'. In every important respect then, political, economic, as well as cultural, Ireland would have lost her apparent freedom just when she seemed to have gained it.



course it is by no means certain that the entire Free State Army, or even a substantial part of it, would fight against the Republican Movement.

There is no guarantee for Leinster House that Free State soldiers would be prepared to play the role of traitors that would be expected of them. However, the real danger of such an attack points to the ever-increasing need for Sinn Féin to expand and develop as a powerful political force in explaining Republican policies to the people — particularly in the 26 counties where it seems frequently lax.

Protestant backlash

The threat of a 'Protestant back-lash' when the Brits do pull out, while a real possibility, is probably not the biggest problem. There is no doubt that organisations like the U.D.A. and U.V.F. could and perhaps would launch a campaign of terror in parts of the Six Counties, resulting in a large loss of Nationalist lives. That danger would obviously be increased if the withdrawing British forces did not disarm the R.U.C. and U.D.R. — something they might be afraid or unwilling to do.

However, as there would obviously be no future in a campaign of this sort since a Six County (or more likely a three or four county) state could not survive without a massive subsidy, which it would not be in Britain's interests to give, it is probable that such a campaign would receive little support from Protestants, most of whom would be more concerned either with getting out of Ireland altogether, or with coming to terms with a united Ireland. Consequently, any Loyalist campaign would probably fizzle out.

The matter of record, that the I.R.A. has consistently out-thought and out-fought sectarian loyalist groups in the past, should act as a further deterrent. Most important perhaps, thousands of Nationalist men and women have first-hand, recent experience of fighting a War over the last ten years — the loyalists have no experience of anything other than sectarian assassinations, and might not have the stomach for a pitched confrontation with the I.R.A.

The one thing that is certain in all this is that Britain will have considerable power to hasten or delay the transition to a democratically elected 32-county government. The Brits will explore every alternative to the possibility of a genuine Republican government and the implementation of the Eire Nua programme, and will try to exploit these alternatives.

The responsibility for preventing this British politicking will of course fall mainly on the Republican Movement in Ireland, and on Irish people. However, it is also the responsibility of all socialists in Britain to try to create the sort of broad-based solidarity movement which can put real pressure on the British government when the time comes, to force it to declare in favour of genuine self-determination for the Irish people, and to disarm its colonial agents of the R.U.C. and U.D.R. The basis of that movement must be built now.

It is the responsibility of Sinn Féin to assist, and in part to direct, the building of that movement, as its most constructive political role in Britain.



British troops on Belfast's Springfield Road, attempting to quell the spirit of the risen nationalist people after a Belfast H-Block protest early last year.

The I.R.A. has proved that it cannot be militarily defeated by internment in any of its forms or by SAS-type assassinations of Volunteers.

Post Bag



All letters should be addressed to
The Editor, An Phoblacht / Republican News,
170a Falls Road, Belfast 11.

CONNOLLY CONTROVERSY

A Chas.

As one who taught Mr. Roger Falligot most of what he knows about Connolly, I have a certain interest in his book and, hence, in Mr. Desmond Fennell's review of it (*An Phoblacht*, Ennair, 6th and 13th, 1979). Indeed, insofar as Mr. Fennell's review is likely to be read by more Irish people than the book, it is necessary, as it were, to review a review, to correct some errors therein.

First, however, let it be said that Mr. Fennell's work is welcome because it shows how far the Republican Movement has come from the days when it was possible for Brian O'Higgins, a respected ideologue, to insist without evidence, that Connolly deserted Socialism for Nationalism in 1916. Mr. Fennell's acceptance and publication of the Lysaght-Falligot account of Connolly's political approach to the Rising and, even more, of the organisational concepts that helped about Labour's participation in it and, far more, in the national struggle after is more important than the confusion that he encourages on four other points.

1. **Marxism.** Connolly was no Leninist in the full sense of the term; how could he have been?

He certainly considered himself a Marxist. In *Labour in Irish History* he describes Karl Marx as 'the greatest of modern thinkers and first of scientific Socialists' and asserts the validity of the method of Historical Materialism. He wrote no such phrase for Proudhon.

His 'Non-Marxist'... rejection of the idea that socialism is a total philosophy with views on everything, was not Marx's or Lenin's, but it was common among his contemporary (Second International) Marxists. His formula 'Religion is a private matter', was the position of the second International model Marxist German Social Democratic Party. It's application (like Connolly's) was not Lenin's. However it was drawn up precisely as a Marxist counter to the Anarchists' claim to assert programmatic 'views on everything' including religion.

For himself, Connolly wrote his friend Matheson in January 1908: 'I have not gone to my duty for 15 years, and have not the slightest tincture of faith left. I only assumed the Catholic pose in order

to quiz the raw freethinkers.' Why, and how, he took the sacraments eight years later is anyone's guess. Probably the stick was bent by both sides in the transaction so that they could be given and he could take them. There is no evidence that Connolly shared by then the religious zealotry of his lieutenant, Michael Mallin.

Finally, I simply do not understand the implication that Marxism is somehow incompatible with writing 'good, jargon-free English'.

2. **Syndicalism.** For his syndicalism, which is a rather more developed strategy than 'Revolutionary Trade Unionism', Connolly owed less to Proudhon (who was, anyway, only the stepfather of the French type thereof) than to the empirical response of the newly-conscious American unskilled workers to their organisational needs against the rigged politics of the time (as of America today). Significantly he called his strategy by the American name, 'Industrialist' rather than 'Syndicalist'.

3. **Marriage.** While it is generally true that Connolly 'defended monogamous marriage' his formulation on the subject is vaguer than Mr. Fennell implies. What he actually declared (at the beginning of his debate with de Leon) was 'that the tendency of civilisation is towards its (marriage) perfection and completion, instead of towards its destruction'. How he saw this perfection occurring we don't know. There is no evidence that he formulated anything detailed on the matter at all. There is evidence that he was provoked into his statement by personal dislike of the life styles of some of the free lovers in the Socialist movement. He does not seem to have agreed with Catholic Social Thinkers on the importance of marriage: just the opposite.

His position was that the economic achievement of Socialism (and, in the

course of this achievement, the political independence of Ireland) had to be achieved before social matters within it could be rectified. This undoubtedly shallow and somewhat contradictory view of an important matter is what encourages M. Falligot to suggest that he would have altered it had he lived longer.

4. **Blood Sacrifice (or Redemption).** M. Falligot was right not to stress this. The terms of the article quoted by Mr. Fennell could be used to justify equally the other wartime and immediate post-war military struggles, such as that of October 1917 in Russia and that of Spartacus in 1918 in Germany. The fact was that though Connolly was by then writing with an essentially military revolt in mind, neither he nor, indeed, Pearse expected that the actual event would be the sacrifice that it was. Eoin MacNeill changed matters and made them martyrs.

What Connolly seems to have surrendered to Pearse, as C. Desmond Greaves remarks in his biography of Connolly, was the idea of forcing the British to make a first move that would provoke mass opposition from the Irish population—particularly the Labour movement: instead he adopted Pearse's military strategy.

On Mr. Fennell's second piece of evidence for his 'Blood Redemption' theme, there is no recorded evidence for Connolly's alleged 'joy' when leaving Liberty Hall 'to be slaughtered'. O'Brien does not mention it in his eye-witness account. If, indeed, Connolly did not seem despondent, his cheerfulness was, as likely as not, to encourage his followers to persevere in a step that though mortal, had to be made last worst of all.

Miss M. O'CONNOR LYSAGHT
Clanawley Road,
Dublin.

R.T.E. 2 British

A Chas.

It is not at all surprising that R.T.E. 2 has failed to attract the number of viewers which was anticipated by the R.T.E. Authority and Management. Their much trumpeted policy for R.T.E. 2 was '80% British Programmes'. Eighty percent dependence on imported programmes placed R.T.E. at the very top of the World League of culturally dominated TV services; even higher than Singapore and Guatemala, and considerably higher than Chile!

This unique insult to the people was rationalised as accession to the demands of the vast majority of the people in the formerly single-channel areas, who, if we were to believe R.T.E., were clamouring for more and more British programmes.

We submit that the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs can no longer ignore his responsibility in relation to R.T.E. The fundamental reason for there being a national TV service has been constantly undermined since its foundation. The gods which it has served are commercialism and Anglo-American culture, with a very big swing in recent years to a provincial British outlook. If the Minister wishes to trace the events which have led R.T.E. to the present embarrassing debacle over R.T.E. 2 he could start by having a look at the secret memorandum 'Television Development in Ireland' which was sent by the R.T.E. Authority to his predecessor on 11th January 1974.

If he has any difficulty in tracing it in his files we shall be very pleased to be of assistance to him.

In this document the Authority argued in favour of a second TV channel under their control. When trying to convince the then Minister for Posts and Telegraphs that he should give them the second channel instead of handing it over to Britain, the R.T.E. Authority did not take their stand with the 100 countries which have opted for cultural sovereignty and self-respect by deciding to end media dependence, nor did they see the second channel as a means of serving real needs of people in Ireland.

Their argument was that 'the most practical and beneficial approach, in order to meet the Minister's objective would be to give R.T.E. responsibility for a second service and so provide an opportunity for further interpenetration between the Irish and British Television Services'.

'Interpenetration between the Irish and British Television Services', of course, meant a one-way street. The results of their monumental underestimation of the people is now to be seen in the R.T.E. 2 TAM ratings.

Is mise le meas,
MAOLSEACHLAINN O CAOLLAICH
Cathairleach
Fochiste na Mor-Mheán Cumarsaíde
Conrad na Gaeilge
Dublin.

EDITOR'S NOTE: An important point of terminology is raised. Whilst agreeing with the general line of argument of this letter, it is an error to describe R.T.E. as 'a national T.V. service' either at its foundation, or in its present-day role. 'partisanist' through and through would be a more accurate description.

New York leftists solidarity

Dear Sir,

At a demonstration in New York on December 16th about 1,000 people marched against the Shah of Iran. At the same time as this was taking place, Irish Republican demonstrators were picketing the British Airways office about the H-Blocks in Long Kesh. After the Anti-Shah march, the demonstrators joined the H-Block protesters and chanted of 'Britain Out of Ireland, U.S. Out of Iran' rang out. This act of solidarity is an indication of the growing awareness among leftists in New York, partly due to Republican

News being available to people for the first time.

In the past most U.S. leftists have either ignored the Irish struggle or have supported the Sticks under the false impression that they were the only socialist Irish group. But now more and more leftists are beginning to see that the Provisionals are the only group waging a true anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland.

Brooklyn,
New York, U.S.A.
JANET GREENE

Prisoner to be sent to Scotland

Dear Sir,

Myself and Mrs. Ward went up to see my daughter, Janette McMahon, on Saturday 3rd February in Armagh Prison. She is being held there until they find somewhere for her in Scotland as she was sentenced to Borstal. Seemingly there is no Borstal in the Six Counties for girls so they intend sending her away. But up to now they can't get anywhere to take her.

I would like her to do her time in Armagh gaol as I would be able to visit her. But on Saturday she told me that she

had been informed that she will have to serve her time in a Borstal.

She also told me that on the Thursday previous they took her to court and sentenced her to three months for an unpaid £15 fine she had against her for fighting with the RUC. But no one told me she was in court. The first I heard of it was when I went up to see her.

Yours truly,
JACKIE McMAHON

High Wycombe meeting

A Chas.

A public meeting was organised recently by the Fitzsimmons/O'Hanlon Cumann High Wycombe, as part of the build-up campaign for the Bloody Sunday Commemoration March.

The hall was filled to watch the U.T.O.M. film, *Home, Soldier, Home* and from P.A.C., Tony Sheridan from the R.C.G. and our very own Jimmy 'Wee Boots' Reilly, who climaxed the evening. The speakers reminded the meeting of the despicable assassination of the Civil Rights demonstrators in Derry of 1972, and outlined the heroic struggle of our PoWs in their fight to gain political status. All were urged to go from the

meeting resolved to take a more positive, a more active part in supporting the principles so firmly held by the men and women in Irish and English gaols.

We would like to thank not only all those who travelled long distances, but everyone who gave so generously to the collection, allowing us to raise almost £30.

To round off the evening with a chance to get to know each other, the meeting adjourned to the best pub in Wycombe for a chat and a few songs (—we missed you, Frank!)

Farnham Common,
Bucks, England.
SUE PAYNTER

Affirmation of loyalty

A chas

There have been rumours to the effect that I have ceased working for 'An Phoblacht' (i.e., before the amalgamation) because I was 'cut up about my son'.

This, of course, is not true. The reasons I left 'An Phoblacht' were administrative.

My son is in jail as a result of the British presence in Ireland and the complete lack of scruple on the part of the Crown's colonial servants in the 26 Counties. He is among hundreds of innocent people who have been tortured and jailed north and south of the Border.

I wish publicly to affirm my loyalty to the Republic declared at Easter, 1916, and ratified by the overwhelming majority of the people of the 32 Counties of Ireland in the 1918 general elections, repeated by the people at the local government elections of 1920; to affirm my allegiance to the legitimate administration of the Republic, the leadership of the Republican Movement; and my confidence in that leadership to free Ireland and her people from all foreign domination, cultural, economic, political.

Deasun Bretnach,
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

Castleblaney Convention

Frank Stagg commemoration

Sir,

This month we commemorate the death of Frank Stagg, who died on hunger strike, in protest against the British Government's refusal to allow him to serve the remainder of his prison sentence, in a prison in his native land.

Even death, with the help of the pro-British Coalition Government, he was denied his last wish, to be buried alongside his fellow comrade, Michael Gaughan. Thanks to Frank's living comrades, his dying wish was finally restored, when late at night, in the presence of our clergy, Frank Stagg's body was exhumed and laid to rest besides that of his dear comrade, Michael Gaughan.

We should all salute this brave Freedom Fighter, who carried aloft the torch lit by Tone, the Fenians, Pearse and Connolly. In commemorating Frank Stagg's anniversary the flames of resistance are kept alive and in doing so, we also give a tremendous boost to our Republican faith, which enables us to carry on the struggle.

Frank Stagg was one of the brave few. Although born in the relatively safe haven of the Free State, Frank, like his comrades before him, chose to support his Northern comrades in their fight to establish a Thirty Two County Socialist Republic. Here, in this present so-called Republic, not enough of us appreciate the magnificent courage and spirit of self sacrifice which animates our Northern Brothers and Sisters, in their battle for a National Liberation. People like Frank Stagg helps to redress the balance somewhat.

We appeal to all Republicans to come and march with us from Mount Street Bridge to the British Embassy, Ballsbridge, on Sunday 18th February at 3.30 p.m. sharp.

J. LUNDY (P.R.O.)
North Dublin Comhairle Cheannair
SINN FEIN.

Loch Garman select candidate

A Chas.

At a recent meeting of the Padraig O'Pearraill Cumann, Loch Garman, it was decided that Philip Kelly, Secretary/P.R.O. of the Cumann would contest the Local Elections on behalf of Sinn Féin in Wexford town.

Philip Kelly has pledged himself to the task of highlighting the plight of the prisoners in H-Block and, indeed, of all Republican prisoners. Issues such as unemployment, bad housing, inadequate hospital treatment, bad roads and nuclear power will form the basis of Philip Kelly's policy.

The Cumann has decided to defer the selection of a second candidate to contest the elections until a later date.

Is mise le meas,
P.R.O.
Padraig O'Pearraill Cumann
Loch Garman

A chas.

The Convention for the local elections in the Castleblaney/Carrickmacross/South Monaghan area will take place in the Hope Arms, Castleblaney, on Wednesday February 14 at 8.30p.m. P.R.O.

Castleblaney Sinn Féin.



English prison report courtesy of An Cumann Cabhrach, Birmingham

SIX CONTINUE ON THE BLANKET

The System suffered by the four P.O.W.'s 'on the blanket' in Albany prison, Isle of Wight, since 8th October last becomes more and more repressive daily. The P. O.W.'s continue to be in good spirits despite unceasing daily harassment.

The latest escalation has been the removal of the mattress from their cells at night, leaving them to sleep on wooden planks, set on top of concrete blocks. In addition they now receive their mail only once a fortnight.

The four P.O.W.'s Anthony Cunningham, Liam Baker, both from Belfast, Robert Cunningham (Tyronne) and Patrick Guilfoyle (Tipperary), are, of course, totally segregated from the other Irish P.O.W.'s and the prisoners generally. Their cells are totally devoid of furniture since protests started about prison conditions last May. Every morning the screws still hose down the general area where the P.O.W.'s are held. No cigarettes, family photos, watches or radios are allowed.

Other P.O.W.'s are also continuing their protest action of non co-operation with the prison authorities, protests

which started last April when visiting and other conditions in Albany seriously deteriorated. They find themselves spending most of the time in the 'punishment cells'.

OTHER TWO

Meanwhile the other two P.O.W.'s 'on the blanket' Mick Murray (Dublin) in Wormwood Scrubs and James Bennett (Belfast) who was moved to Manchester Strangeways, continue their protest. They, like their comrades in Albany, are being held in total isolation from the rest of the inmates in their respective prisons. Latest reports indicate that they are in good spirits despite their deliberate segregation by the British prison authorities, in an attempt to undermine their morale.

'LOCAL' PRISONS

Shortly after James Bennett was moved into Strangeways, Eddie

Butler (Limerick) was shifted out (13 December) to Winson Green prison, Birmingham. Eddie has now been in solitary confinement since February 1978. The practise of holding a solitary political prisoner in what are called 'local' prisons, is on the increase, the reason being fairly obvious. For a start 'local nicks' are totally unsuitable for holding top-security political prisoners. So under rule 43 'Good Order and Discipline', the governor in the jail always keeps the P.O.W.'s locked-up in solitary confinement, for his (P.O.W.'s) own protection, would you believe?

In addition many of the 'privileges' allowed the P.O.W.'s in the top-security jails are not available in the 'local prison', so you have the situation where a P.O.W. is held in total isolation from his comrades and the world in a deliberate attempt by the authorities to break down his spirits.

Irish P.O.W.'s give evidence

Irish P.O.W.'s are amongst those prisoners giving evidence in the trial of Hull Screws and assistant governor at York where they are charged with assaulting prisoners following the Hull prison riot in August 1976. Amongst those who are giving evidence are Ray MacLaughlin, Gerry Cunningham, Joe Duffy and Johnnie Walker.

When Ray MacLaughlin gave evidence the defence seized the opportunity to try to devalue his evidence by suggesting that Republican prisoners had "terrorised" the jail. This hardly fits in with the fact that the prisoners on the roof in Hull flew the tricolour in a gesture of defiance and that English prisoners have testified their horror at the way Irish prisoners in Hull were treated.

GARTREE RIOT

Irish P.O.W.'s charged following the Gartree riot have been refused legal advice and advisers to help them when they appear before the kangaroo courts of the Boards of Visitors although the High Court in London recently ruled that these were "legal" proceedings. It is also noteworthy that although many prisoners were involved in the riot, only Irish, anarchist and other political prisoners have been charged. Those awaiting trial have been held in solitary for four months so far.

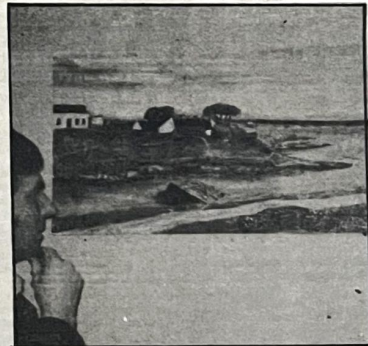
REPATRIATION

Giuseppe Conlon, who is seriously ill in the Scrubs, has been refused parole and repatriation despite the likelihood that he may not live to the end of his 12 year sentence.

Billy Armstrong has been refused parole to enable him to visit his father who is fatally ill in Belfast.

—Report courtesy of Prisoners Aid Committee, London.

PRISONER'S PAINTING



A painting done by a Republican Prisoner in Albany prison, Isle of Wight. Contributions to the Cumann Cabhrach fund go towards purchasing paints, canvas, wood and leather for use by the prisoners.

An Cumann Cabhrach

A report
from England

The committee and members of An Cumann Cabhrach in England take this opportunity through the medium of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* to thank all those who over the last 12 months have contributed so generously to our prisoners and without whose help it would not have been possible to carry on our prisoners and dependents welfare programme at the level attained in 1978.

The committee wishes to thank particularly, the Sinn Fein organisation in Britain, whose contributions and unceasing support far exceeded our expectations. Special thanks here, to Sinn Fein cumainn in Hammettsmith, Halifax, Kilburn, Manchester, Nottingham, North

London and St. Albans, and to the individual supporters in Scotland, Ireland, Australia and North America who made themselves available, very often at short notice, in time of need. We gratefully acknowledge your contributions and your generosity, and on behalf of the Irish Republican Prisoners in British jails we thank each of you for the help you have given us over the last 12 months. We look forward to your continued support as we all march together for freedom for our prisoners and our nation, and the Socialist Republic.

Michael Holden,
Organising Committee,
An Cumann Cabhrach
(England)

THANKS An Cumann Cabhrach

Cumann Cabhrach acknowledge with thanks the following contributions received during December 1978:-

● ●
Hammersmith Sinn Fein . . . £50.
Kilburn Sinn Fein £50.
Eire Nua Club (Australia) . \$200.
Ceann/Plunkett SF Cumann
Inverness, Scotland £25
J. Horgan, Bromley, Kent . . £20
Eddie Reidy, Kilburn £4
Ann Ryan, Leicester £1
"Alec" (I.M.G.) £1
Oliver Bruen, Watford £1

'Prisoners of War' film now available

"Prisoners of War" is a film made for the Prisoners Aid Committee in London as a contribution to the campaign of Irish political prisoners for political status. The film is in colour and lasts for twenty minutes. It is a moving and graphic account of the sufferings now being imposed on these prisoners by the British government. The film includes interviews with the relatives of prisoners and with former H-Block prisoner

Martin McKenna as well as with Jackie Kaye, secretary of the PAC. It also shows the massive Coalisland-Dungannon march in August 1978.

The film is available now and will be sold by the PAC for £250 (or foreign currency equivalent) plus postage. In England the film is available for hire.

Please apply to PAC, Box 9, 2a St. Paul's Road, London N.1.

**Help the
Prisoners**
Support
**An Cumann
Cabhrach**

On January 13th (prior to the merger) 'Republican News' carried an article by correspondent 'Daniel O'Donnell' which was a criticism of the activities of Belfast's "Lower Falls Residents Association".

The majority of our readers will not be familiar with the original article but the issues will become clear in the course of reading the L.F.R.A.'s statement and our correspondent's reply.

STATEMENT FROM LOWER FALLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Our attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in your paper on January 13th headed 'THE GOLDEN NUGGET' and containing many inaccuracies and mistruths.

As the so-called facts in this article were never verified or no attempt was ever made to contact the committee concerned, the article does little credit to your paper and is a poor reflection on your standard of journalism.

The article, which we regard as the product of an ex-member of our committee, who walked out when he found that he could not have everything his own way, portrays the Committee as an unconstitutional bunch of collaborators who are taking the people of the Lower Falls for a ride.

The original Golden Nugget story which appeared in Republican News 13/1/79.

WILD ALLEGATIONS

The mere fact that the wild allegations contained in the article have been published seems to imply 'open season' on the Lower Falls Community Centre, and the fact that your paper gave the article such prominence means that most of the damage has been done and will take a lot of undoing.

The half-truths, lies and insinuations can all be answered and exposed for the mad rantings of a frustrated glory-seeker.

However, to do so takes space, probably more than you can allow, so let us just concentrate on two or three points:

It is alleged that the committee got £8,000 in grants which they used to equip bars, and pay each other for work carried out. The truth is that we were awarded 85% of £6,000 (£5,100) for essential work to the premises: new toilets, roof repairs, glass, stairs and internal flooring. The money was never handled by the committee at any time but paid directly to the contractors by the Department of Education who insisted on competitive tendering for all jobs.

None of this money was used to provide bars nor were any members of the committee involved in supplying or carrying out any of these contracts.

THE CONSTITUTION

Your permanent correspondent also claims that the Constitution of the Lower Falls Residents Association cannot be changed. We would refer him to clause 13 of that constitution which is headed 'Changes to Constitution'.

In the case of the Community Centre the procedure outlined in clause 13 was followed to the letter; so much for his insinuation that the Centre's Management Committee is unconstitutional.

By far the most damaging section of the article is the one where it is implied that we carry favour from the British Army and the R.U.C. in order to get a licence. In this particular section time and committee are deliberately confused to such an extent that the impression is given that there is no difference between the two committees involved or between incidents alleged to have happened six years ago and the present time.

OCCASIONAL LICENCES

Whatever the truth about these allegations no member of the present committee was involved nor do the minutes of committee meetings for that period record any such incidents.

It is also alleged that the R.U.C. drive past our door to raid other clubs.

Why shouldn't they?

We operate on occasional licences and as far as the R.U.C. is concerned there is nothing illegal in that. As for being advised by the police it is true we have applied for a licence and in order to do so we have had to approach the R.U.C. but then so has

every other club that has obtained a licence and that includes those with the most extreme republican views. The only way that it is possible to get a licence is through the courts and police and the procedure is the same for all from the most extreme Loyalist to the most ardent Republican.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

As for why we have applied for a licence at all. The building we occupy was never intended as a permanent Community Centre. We have always insisted that such a centre would be located within the Flats Complex. That centre is now ready and most of the activities held in our centre will now be transferring to the new centre.

Although activities like teenage discos, lunch clubs and educational classes were dismissed by your correspondent as being of little importance or at best window-dressing they have always been to us very important and central to the centre's activities.

With the loss of these activities to the new centre we are left with a building that could still provide a service to the community but for which there is very little community demand, other than that of a social and recreational nature.

It is our intention to try to cater for that demand but to do so without exploiting the people of the area through high prices etc.

Articles such as 'The Golden Nugget' do little to help us achieve this objective. Our books are open for inspection by any member of our club or for that matter by any interested party who feels he or she has a stake in the centre.

We employ professional accountants to look after our accounts which contrary to popular opinion do not relate to a fortune.

We do not expect that this statement will do much to correct the damage that has been done but we would ask your paper to check their facts in future and practice at least good impartial standards of journalism.

A criticism of a Belfast social club

THE GOLDEN NUGGET

By DANIEL O'DONNELL

SINCE Divis Flats were first built ten years ago they have been a living hell for the people forced to reside there. The situation in Divis has deteriorated to an almost unbelievable extent over the past few years even though a residents association has been in existence from 1973 claiming to represent the interests of the people of Divis.

The repair problem is horrific, for various reasons, but mainly because of the attitude of certain members of the residents association whose interests lie most definitely not with the people of Divis.

The last approach of this association, supposedly representing the people of the area, let turn permit the Housing Executive to approach the 'residents' problem' without any sense of urgency. The same way attitudes are shown in the other

ELECTED THEMSELVES
The caucus from the residents association took charge of the bank and elected themselves as the management committee. It is hard to see the justice that the place was a common



'The Bank' — drinking club or Community centre? The name of the bank also describes himself as Chairman of the centre. These people paid themselves wages and sought to be asked who does one

join in arranging and providing for the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures and classes.

This constitution has not been abided by in any shape or form.

SELF PITY

The self pity expressed when they speak of open season on their little club will gain them no succour in Divis Flats. Few people if any will express support for this clique.

The accusation from the original criticism regarding the R.U.C. still stands and is fact. The caucus from the bank presented a phoney illegal constitution to the R.U.C. which effectively cuts off the residents Association financially.

CLAUSE 7 states: Finance: All monies raised by or on behalf of the Community Centre shall be applied to further the objects of the Centre and for no other purpose.

The significant part of this clause being "for no other purpose".

TROPHIES

As for the trophies to and from the Brits, they in themselves are important but as far as the people of Divis are concerned it was just as crucial that decisions taken by the L.F.R.A. be abided by. Many important ones such as trophies for the Brits were not. In their reply to the question about a licence they neglect to mention that the 'bank' did operate without a licence for the period of time referred to while the R.U.C. turned a blind eye. As the R.U.C. launched a purge on illegal clubs the bank was opened, from Wednesday to Sunday each week. No occasional licence was ever issued to cover this.

PROPER CONTEXT

They declare that I make little of activities such as discos, lunch clubs and educational classes. This is not so. If the original criticism is taken in its proper context it is clear that I accuse them of using and abusing the few groups that used 'the bank'. I would appear as living in a fool's paradise to go and ask the people who attempted to make good use of the bank what they think of the treatment and facilities offered to them. The shabby way in which these groups were treated is nothing short of a disgrace.

NEW ASSOCIATION

To conclude I would say to the people of Divis, claim what is your own right. The Education and Library Board do not finance drinking clubs and classes. They financed a community centre to better, in a very small way, the quality of life for the people of 'Divis'. The bank and every piece of furniture in it belongs to the Lower Falls Residents Association. Call for the formation of a new association and let the resources which are most definitely there to spare head a new campaign to have Divis demolished. Just as the people of Turf Lodge Flats have succeeded so can you.

MORE ON THE GOLDEN NUGGETT

Daniel O'Donnell replies

These people argue that "Daniel" was wrong to quote £8,000 in relation to grants received. They say it was only £5,100! They refer only to money received from the Education and Library Board whilst conveniently neglecting to mention cash received from "community services" and donations from private sources including a building firm that was engaged in the Lower Falls. The private donations were never even acknowledged.

The patronising attitude adopted in their reply towards this paper and their choice of words is to say the least, pathetic. The points to which they chose to reply shows that there are questions in the original article to which they have no answer or that they are unwilling to reply to.

For them to assume that they know of my identity is quite foolish because of the fact that so many people are of the same opinion as myself and that a large number of people are aware of what goes on in the bank.

OBSTRUCTION

I spoke to the young man who took charge of the "summer opportunities for the young" scheme, which was based in the bank in the summer of '78. This is what he had to say:

"It could not be described merely as a policy of non co-operation towards the youth scheme. In fact it amounted to a deliberate obstruction by the people who run this so called community centre. An example of this was the fact that myself and the youths spent more mornings sitting on the steps of the bank because the people involved with the bank conveniently ensured that the keys were not available."

Other people who attempted to arrange activities in the bank have expressed similar sentiments.

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

These people who run the bank claim that they did not carry out any of the renovation work and that none of the money was used to provide bars. It is a fact that they did carry out some of the work and in their own words 'only paid themselves what they would get doing the double'. It is significant that they make no reference to the accusations that they pay themselves wages for doing the bar or cleaning, in their little jobs for the boys scheme.

As for bars, anyone on entering the place can see and smell that drinking was the biggest and is now the only activity in the place.

A Falls Community Council Document Titled 'written evidence to the review body on liquor licensing' states: "Registration as a club limits the use of a community centre and in our experience tends to have the centre regarded as a drinking club and nothing else."

The bank has never been known as anything other than a drinking club and if the sentence above is anything to go by we can now expect the situation to deteriorate. If that's possible.

CONSTITUTION

As for changes in the constitution clause 13 states that "no alteration shall be made to Clause 2 without the approval of the Court or the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction."

And clause 2 states: "In furtherance of the above objects, (of promoting the benefit of the Lower Falls inhabitants) but not further or otherwise, the Association may: obtain, collect and receive moneys and funds by way of contributions, donations, and any other lawful method; affiliate to or accept affiliation from any body having objects similar to those of the Council; render administrative and financial services to other local groups having similar objects; arrange and provide for or



—Lilly Fitzsimmons
(Belfast R.A.C.)

Four hundred Union Jack waving fascists made repeated attacks on the Bloody Sunday commemoration match held in London a fortnight ago. A member of the United Troops Out Movement was beaten unconscious in a tube train on his way to the march; he was set upon by a gang of between 15 and 20 thugs who chanted 'British Movement' as they left the tube station.

The Sinn Fein organised march, which attracted about 2,000 supporters, was repeatedly harassed and attacked by about 400 members of the British Movement and the National Front, all the way from Hyde Park to the rally at the Embankment.



FASCISTS FAIL TO STOP LONDON 'Bloody Sunday' MARCH

Smoke bombs were thrown at the protesters in Oxford Street and police arrested about forty fascists when they

sat down in the road.

At the rally after the march the first speaker was Jim Reilly of Sinn Fein, who congratulated the marchers for their dis-

ciplined behaviour in refusing to be provoked by the fascists.

The rally was chaired by Kevin Colfer, Chairman of



—Michael Holden
(An Cumann Cabhrach)

Kilburn Sinn Fein, who introduced the main speaker, Lily Fitzsimmons of the Belfast RAC. She brought greetings on behalf of all the relatives of the prisoners in the H-Blocks, and she read out a letter by one young prisoner in the H-Blocks, smuggled out on a piece of toilet paper. She concluded: "If the six-county state needs the H-Blocks to survive then it has no right to survive."

Other speakers were Michael Holden (An Cumann Cabhrach), Jackie Kaye (PAC), Alastair Renwick (UTOM), and representatives of the RCG and the 'Women in Ireland' group.

A message of solidarity from Iranian students in Britain was read out; the message called for an end to imperialism in Iran and Ireland.

European solidarity groups meet

OVER the last weekend of January a conference was held in Frankfurt, West Germany, which was attended by many of the Irish solidarity groups in Western Europe. Delegates from Norway, France, Holland and Germany were present at the conference which was organised by the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee (W.I.S.K.).

It was the first time these groups had got together and they took the opportunity particularly to discuss co-ordinating the protest activities in support of Irish prisoners in British Gaols. Also present were delegates of European groups interested in political prisoners throughout Western Europe.

The conference was attended by members of Sinn Fein including Richard Behal. He stressed that the reason for conflict in Ireland, and for so many men being in prison is that the Irish people are asserting their

right to national self-determination. Other Sinn Fein speakers outlined the political situation in Ireland, North and South, and detailed the plight of the H-Block prisoners.

A resolution was passed condemning the treatment of Irish political prisoners and supporting their demand for political status, whilst noting that the various states of Western Europe are co-operating in the suppression of those struggling for freedom.

The conference ended with the resolve to have an annual conference of the various Irish solidarity committees, the next one to be in France.

The gain of such a conference is that Western European countries will hear more clearly the message of British torture, inhumanity and murder in Ireland and particularly of the brutality meted out to prisoners in the H-Blocks.

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL - PRELIMINARY HEARING

Full scale Tribunal in summer

THE preliminary hearing of the 'International Tribunal on the British Presence in Ireland' was held in Paris a fortnight ago.

Three judges presided at the weekend hearing: Judge Bloch (France); Ron Knowles, editor of the NUJ paper the 'Journalist' (England); and Phil Flynn, deputy general secretary of the Irish Local Government and Public Services Union (Ireland).

They concluded that there was a 'prima facie' case for an investigation of the British presence in Ireland and they sanctioned the convening of a full-scale tribunal hearing in the summer.

The judges heard evidence alleging infringements of human rights in the North of Ireland. Witnesses presented evidence regarding British repression, including personal testimony of interrogation procedures and statements from prisoners smuggled out on toilet paper.

Evidence relating to the broader impact of the British presence, such as the disadvantaged position of Northern Irish Catholics in the fields of employment and housing, was also examined.

The judges stated: "We have no hesitation in saying that the presence of Britain in Ireland

raises serious and disturbing questions. We regard it as fundamental to the whole question of Britain's presence in Ireland to examine the manner in which the Northern Ireland statelet came into being and the manner in which it has been maintained and also through detailed consideration whether in fact it can be maintained without resort to breaches of human rights charters."

NEXT MEETING

The London-based Tribunal Planning Committee continues to need assistance from anyone who can help. Its next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 13th February at the St. Clement's Building of the London School of Economics.

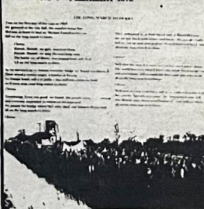


Sean Halpenny (Sinn Fein), Richard Behal (Sinn Fein) and a German comrade displaying the large amount of literature now available in different European languages.

TROOPS OUT

Paper of the United Troops Out Movement

VOL. 2 NO. 4 FEBRUARY 1979



Latest Troops Out paper

The February issue is now available including:

- H-Block — Who is to blame?
- Conveyor Belt Justice — the truth about political prisoners
- European Groups in Solidarity
- Long March to Burntloft
- Land for the People — the story of the Land League

From: Troops Out
(Literature Committee)
Box 10, 2a St. Paul's Road, London N1.
Cost including postage: 18p per copy
£1.80 per year (Britain and Ireland)
Other countries: 35p per copy,
£3.50 per year.

***** **Birthday Greetings**

CLARKE, Tony (Wakefield).
 Happy birthday Tony on this another 21st (Ha! Ha!). Thinking of you always. Good love, Liam, Belle, Theresa and Gerard.

CLARKE, Tony (Wakefield).
 Happy birthday (Uncle Tony) will be thinking of you in the Suffolk, Good luck, Eamon, Marion and family.

CLARKE, Tony (Wakefield).
 Happy birthday Tony. It is great to be young. You are always in our thoughts. Love, Mary and Manus.

CLARKE, Tony (Wakefield).
 As we think of you today a little prayer, we'll kneel and say, That Britain's tortures will decay and God will see us free someday, Good luck and God bless from nephew Michael H-4 Long Kash and Theresa.

CLARKE, Tony (Wakefield).
 Happy birthday Tony and all the best in your old age. Lots of love, Anne and Joe.

HIGGINS, John (Parkhurst).
 Best wishes on your birthday-you will soon be as old as me-but not as fit. 'Boots'.

NELLIS, Denis (H-3).
 Greetings to you on your 21st birthday. May your courage and good spirits be an inspiration to us all. From, Ellen Coveney and family and friends in Cork.

McILHENON, Gerald (Frac).
 Birthday greetings to 'Frac' on this your 23rd. We pledge solidarity with you in your fight for P.O.W. status. From Newtownabbey R.A.C.

Frank Stagg commemoration

A march commemorating Frank Stagg's death will take place from Mount Street to the British Embassy, Ballsbridge, Dublin, on Sunday 18th February at 3.30 p.m. Please bring Sinn Féin Cumann banners.

Sympathy

McCORMACK, Maggie
 Deepest sympathy is extended to Maggie McCormack's sisters, Mary Haniffy, Dublin, and Nellie Galvin, Streamstown, to her nephew Brian McCormack and family, Donore, Streamstown, and the McCormack family, Dublin from the officers and members of the James Daly cumann, South Westmeath and North Offaly Sinn Féin.
 Ar dhaig de go raibh a n-áinm.
 "Iol from their sleep the people rose, and their chains like a reed they broke. It stirs me still, that solemn sight, of the proud old land made free. Our flag aloft from her castles tall, and the ships on the circling sea. And the joyful voice, like a roll of drums, of a nation's jubilee!"

Maggie McCormack

The death took place at the County Hospital, Mullingar on Thursday 11th January of Maggie McCormack, Corgrove, Streamstown, Co. Westmeath.

She had been a life long member of the Republican Movement. In her youth she had been a member of Cumann-na-Ban and had played an active part by carrying numerous despatches throughout Westmeath and Offaly.

Prior to 1916 the McCormack home at Corgrove, was a meeting place for Republicans. Among

the many callers were, Thomas McDonagh, Liam Mellows, Dick Bertles, Padraig Bracken, Sean McGuinness and Thomas Malone.

Two of Maggie's brothers Dan and Brian were interned in Frognoch and later Dan was transferred to Brixton where he undertook a lengthy hunger-strike. From his harsh treatment in Brixton he died at an early age.

At her well attended funeral the coffin was draped in the tricolour in spite of objections from the priest officiating.

IN MEMORIAM

CUNNINGHAM, Joseph (7th Anniversary).
 In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Vol. Joseph Cunningham 'E' Coy, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, I.R.A. killed on active service 10th Feb. 1972. The dust of some is Irish earth among their own they rest, And the same land that gave them birth has caught them to her breast, And we will pray that from their clay full many a race will start, of true men like you Joe to act as brave a part— Always remembered by his Wife, Sons, Mother, Father, Sisters, Brothers and family circle.

CUNNINGHAM, Joe (7th Anniversary).
 In proud and loving memory of our dear friend and comrade Vol. Joseph Cunningham 'E' Coy, 3rd Batt. murdered by R.U.C. on the 10th Feb. 1972. Always remembered by Marie and Jim.

CUNNINGHAM, Joseph (7th Anniversary)
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Joseph Cunningham 'E' Coy, 3rd Batt. Ogligh na hÉireann.
 A mhíle na ngai deán idir gúir ar a n-áinm uasal. From Staff and Volunteers Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann.

STAGG, Frank (3rd Anniversary).
 In memory of Prisoner, a patriot who followed the hard road of McGinney, From Jerry Magley (Leicester prison).

STAGG, Prisoner (3rd Anniversary).
 In memory of Prisoner, a patriot who followed the hard road of McGinney, From Jerry Magley (Leicester prison).

Solidarity Greetings



CARLIN, Liam (Toots).
 Congratulations to our son Liam from our proud Mother, Father and all the Family. We send love to you on this your second anniversary of your ordeal on the blanket for Ireland's sake, God bless. Victory to the blanket men.

COLLINS, James Emmanuel (H-5)
 We are all thinking of you and congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. From Mum, Dad, Brothers, Brian, Gerry and Sisters Michelle, Denise and Karen.

COLLINS, Emmanuel (H-5).
 Congratulations Emmanuel on completing 2 years on the blanket. Keep your chin up. Your fight is our fight. From the Hamill Family.

COLLINS, Emmanuel (H-5).
 All the very best wishes Emmanuel on completing two years on the blanket. You and your brave comrades are always in our thoughts. From the Cullen Family.

COYLE, Patrick (H-3).
 Congratulations on completing 1 year on the blanket. Keep up the fight! We are behind you all the way. From Father, Mother, brothers Hugo, Philip, Vincent, Paul, Raymond, Declan, sisters, Yvonne, Angela and Marion.

COYLE, Patrick (H-3).
 Congratulations, 1 year on the blanket. If they are criminal, what then shall we call the British Crown? From brother, John, Margaret and the children Orla John and Connor.

COYLE, Patrick (H-3).
 Congratulations on completing 1 year on the blanket.
 To put on a prison uniform and abide by all their rules, my head held high I did not comply with the wishes of those fools. From brother Joe, Geraldine and Caitlin.

COYLE, Patrick (H-3).
 They can imprison our bodies, but never our spirits. From our sister Marion, Limerick Gaol.

GALLAGHER, Denis.
 Congratulations son for completing one year on the blanket. Your fight is ours. Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Geraldine, Jacqueline and Ann. God Bless.

GALLAGHER, Denis.
 Best wishes for 1 year on the blanket big brother. From, Elizabeth, Jim, Tracey, Michael and Karen. And from, Phil, Josie, Shaun, Charles, Emmett, Brenda, Sharon and Deborah. God bless. From Helen, Tommy, Michael, Helen and Paula, your fight is our fight. Also from Kathleen, Dessy, Denise, Fiona, June, Terry and John. And from Magella, Noel Denis, Charlie, Ann, Shean and Catrina.

GALLAGHER, Denis.
 Congratulations dear friend on 1 year on the blanket, your fight is mine. God bless from Mickey.

McLAUGHLIN, COLLINS, RAINEY (H-Block). Newtownabbey R.A.C. salute and pledge our solidarity with Terry McLaughlin, Liam Collins and Terry Rainey, on completing 1 year on the blanket. "It is not those who can inflict the most but those who endure the most who will be ultimately victorious". God bless you all.

O'CARROLL, Patrick (H-3).
 Congratulations on completing 1 year on the blanket also to your comrades 'Sa' Margaret, Danny and Family. "Not those who inflict the most but those who endure the most who will ultimately be victorious".

O'CARROLL, Patrick (H-3).
 Congratulations Paddy, on completing a full year on the blanket. We're behind you and all of your comrades all the way. May God bless you. Our day will come. From your proud and loving sister, Helena, Connie, Margaret and John.

WALSH, Sidney (H-6).
 Congratulations Son on completing two hazardous years in Britain's hell hole. If we had a wish it would be to have the keys of Long Kash to set you free. From your Mother, Father, Brothers and Sisters. Thinking also of Bobby Sands and Emmanuel Collins.

WALSH, Sidney (H-6).
 Solidarity on completing two years on the blanket. Our meetings are seldom, our writing times few, but never a day begins or ends without a thought of you. With love Evelyn.

WALSH, Sidney (H-6).
 Congratulations brother on completing two years on the blanket in naked defiance of the British crown. "There's a prayer on our lips and pride in our hearts as two years end and another one starts". Your loving sister Liza, Tony and niece Toni.

WALSH, Sidney (H-6) Block.
 You are constantly in our prayers and thoughts. Grannie Granda and Tony.

WALSH, Sidney.
 Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. A blanket for a pillow, a blanket for a gown, a blanket for companionship, a blanket cold and brown. From your Aunts, Uncles, Anne, Victor, Marie, Joe, Maureen, Ned, Arthur, Bridget, Eilish, Sean and Marion.

WALSH, Sidney (H-6) COLLINS, In the indomitable spirit lies the ultimate assurance of Victory. Jim.

WALSH, Sidney (H-6).
 Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Your fight is our fight. Thinking of you always, Lily, Dicky and family.

WALSH, Sid (H-6).
 Solidarity Sid and congratulations on completing your second year on the blanket. Think of you often, from Dan and Deborah.

