

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17 1979.

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PAPER TIGERS

People's fear of 'Law and Authority', and the fear of State Force, is one of the biggest weapons in our enemies' arsenal. For the present it is the northern military state which bears guns aggressively. It is here that the struggle for national liberation runs at its bloodiest.

Many nationalist people do not take to the streets in protest against repression for fear of arrest or a beating. In all parts of Ireland many workers refuse to go on strike for a just cause for fear of being sacked. Many potential leaders refuse to lead for fear of victimisation.

People who are afraid are not free. Workers who fear the bosses are slaves. And frightened leaders are compromisers.

IRANIAN MASSES

Last Sunday we saw how the Iranian masses engaged

in antiimperialist revolution swept away a despotic regime, and upset the balance of power in the middle-East.

Last Sunday one of the most technologically modern armies in the world was smashed, not by superior fire power but by the

courage of a marching people. The Iranian army, was, in the end, only a paper tiger.

And so too the Brits, the RUC, and the British government. They are all paper tigers which we can destroy. By us showing sheer courage their law trembles, their rule collapses, their 'H' blocks totter.

STRUGGLE INTENSIFIES

By determination, by refusing to compromise, by enduring all they inflict, our stature rises, our support grows, and the armed struggle intensifies.

A United Ireland

OUR front page last week, we are informed, caused some discussion in Republican circles. We welcome such discussion.

Our reference to "a unitary socialist republic" appears to have been taken out of context. For the record, and we do welcome and hope to encourage discussion on each and every aspect of the Republican philosophy, it is worthwhile putting our comment into context.

Firstly, the Republican Movement strives for the establishment, by the Irish people, of a democratic socialist Republic based on the 1916 Proclamation.

Within this Republic as a means of giving power to the people Republicans propose a federal structure as the basis on which decentralised government can be built.

Our reference to a unitary socialist Republic does not preclude federalism, in fact, it points to probably the only way of achieving federalism.

And what of the Free State bosses in economic and political power? What of Fianna Fail and the collaborator Michael O'Kennedy who this week dined with the murderer Mason?

Enshrined now in awesome authority they too are weak.

They refuse Republicans access to radio and television; they use the threat of gaol and gaol itself against us; they 'shoot-to-kill'. But that doesn't frighten us, nor deter us from spreading Republicanism and its socialist message.

Having fought paper tigers, we will deal with the paper leprechauns!

Last Monday on the BBC TV programme 'Panorama', Mason the Barnsley Bum bungled his way through an interview. Typically he made ridiculous remarks about lack of support for the 'blanket men'; and this despite a series of massive demonstrations in support of political status (and 'Brits out') throughout 1978.

Here we show a section of the 15,000 - strong demonstration which marched from Coalisland to Dungannon last August.



STUFF MASON

Stuff Mason's words down his throat!

MARCH AGAINST H-BLOCK THIS SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY.
BELFAST

Assemble 2.30 pm Busy Bee, Andersonstown
March to Sinn Féin Headquarters, 85b Falls Road.

GIVE MASON OUR ANSWER: WE SUPPORT THE 'BLANKET MEN'

NEWRY

H-BLOCK PROTEST
Sunday February 25th
For details see page 5

SYMPATHY

The Republican Movement learns with deep regret of the death of Kathleen Thompson.

To her husband Harry and children we extend our deepest sympathy.
"GO nDEANFAIDH DIA TROC-AIRE AR A H-ANAM DILIS"

Personal possessions are few for the naked 'blanket prisoners' in the H-Blocks 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Long Kesh. The most treasured item each prisoner has 'in his sparse cell is his 'scribbler'.

The 'scribbler' which can take the form of a used tube of toothpaste, a nail, or any type of sharp instrument, is used to write political slogans on the cell walls, for Gaelic classes and even for playing bingo.

These are just some of the activities the prisoners engage in to pass the monotonous hours spent confined in their cells.

Our 'scribe' from the 'H' blocks this week, Lamh Dearg, describes how he and his cell mate pass the time 'matching voices with faces' and discussing images on the cell wall.

FACES

BY LAMH DEARG



THERE is a curious phase which I suspect all new 'blanket men' go through, when they first come in to the blocks. A few of the men in the wing I knew either outside or else on remand, most I have never met before.

The first week 'on the blanket' I got to know names and voices and the voices connected to the names. This was possible during political discussions, sing songs and general bantering sessions. I remember at the time connecting up voices and pictures in my mind of how I thought each of the men looked.

There were 'fat' voices and 'thin' voices, 'big' voices and 'small' voices.

After a short time as each man spoke or sang I immediately had a picture in my mind of how I thought he looked. Well anyway the first Sunday we went to Mass I had the opportunity to

see all the lads, most of them for the first time.

I had a chance to put a face to each voice I had previously heard. Preconceptions were way off. The 'big fat' voices turned out to be small men and vice-versa with the 'thin' voices. The strange thing is even now when I hear the men's voices the first picture I had of each of them still springs to mind.

IMAGES ON WALLS

Talking about faces, since I arrived some weeks ago a lot of other men have joined the protest and I now have a cell mate.

Last week we changed wings and our new cell has this great wall in it. Through cleaning and scraping, the wall is covered in patches where the paint has been scraped completely off and the grey cement is showing through. Some days I spend hours com-

templating these bare patches and all kinds of faces and images manifest themselves: I have seen film stars, politicians, and dancers, depending on the mood I am in at the time. My mate and I have some disputes over who the actual images are. For instance, I spotted a smashing resemblance of Che Guevara but my cell mate would have none of it. As far as he was concerned it was the spit image of the man on the front of the old John Players cigarette packet. Maybe the shortage of cigarettes and him being a smoker had something to do with his interpretation. In fact our wall is just like politics.

Political descriptions are always relative to the person giving them. For example according to Ian Paisley, Gerry Fitt is a red hot republican. Nothing could be further from the truth. As anyone with half a brain knows 'our Gerry' is a Catholic Unionist whose only loyalty is to the Queen's shilling.

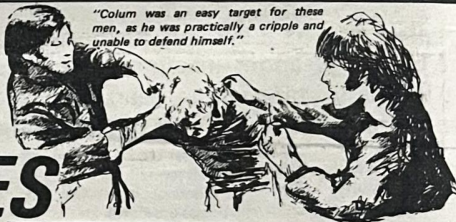
Another example is Bill Craig, he has covered various positions in the political spectrum. One minute he's a 'shoot-to-kill' extremist then suddenly he is a 'moderate' wanting to talk with the S.D.L.P. and now he's back on the extremist line. So when you hear someone being branded an extremist or a moderate check out the person who is doing the branding before attaching any credence to it.

As I said it's just like our wall. Where I see Liza Minelli, my mate sees Lulu, it's all in your own point of view.

We print here a shortened version of a piece written by Mrs. Patricia Scullion of Bellaghy, County Derry, about her 20-year-old son Colum who is currently 'on the blanket' in Long Kesh.

Her son's courage is typical of all the 'blanket men' but his plight is worse in that he has unhealed leg injuries suffered shortly before he was arrested.

This description of her son's plight, written by Mrs. Scullion on behalf of herself and her husband, was first published in 'An Ghuth', the local news-sheet of Sinn Féin in the Bundoran-Ballyshannon area of County Donegal.



"Colum was an easy target for these men, as he was practically a cripple and unable to defend himself."

UNHEALED INJURIES IN H-BLOCK

Colum was 20 years of age on November 17th 1978. He was ten years old when the troubles broke out. On leaving school he failed to get suitable work although it was his ambition to become a joiner.

Colum at 17 became a prisoner of war in the notorious H-Blocks of the only concentration camp in the Western world, "Long Kesh".

On October 9th 1976 we, his parents, received news of Colum being injured in a car bomb at Ballymena. He sustained serious injury to his legs, the first two toes of his left foot and part of his ankle were blown off and he also suffered a perforated eardrum. After having nine pints of blood at a local hospital he was transferred to Musgrave Park hospital where he had to have immediate surgery.

Two days later, after being interrogated regardless of his shocked condition and suffering intense pain, he was charged with several political offences at a bedside court.

He had considerable skin grafting carried out on his leg and foot and just two weeks before Christmas was discharged from hospital and taken to Crumlin Road Prison, although we were told by doctors at Musgrave Park that he would be under their care for a considerable time. He was made to appear at a remand court supported by two crutches but he collapsed due to his weakened condition.

BEATEN UP

Just three weeks later on January 6th 1977 Colum and his cellmate were beaten up by Loyalist prisoners, who were at that time demanding segregation. Colum was an easy target for these men, as he was practically a cripple and unable to defend himself. They tried to break his injured legs while Prison Officers looked on. He received no medical attention whatsoever apart from two tablets which seem to cover anything from a broken limb to a toothache.

Colum remained on remand for 11 months and on September 1st 1977 he was brought before a Special Diplock Court. Colum received a sentence of indefinite detention.

Never would Colum allow himself to be regarded as a criminal so he joined the ever increasing "Blanket Men" in Long Kesh.

NOT HEALED

In all this time Colum's injuries have not healed properly but be-

cause of the "no wash" protest, he cannot, nor will he be accepted into an outside hospital to have further surgery.

Life to him now is continual beatings, starvation by hunger and severe cold. He looks like someone out of the Belsen camps in the Nazi wartime, but his morale and that of his comrades is very high and they have a lot of knowledge of the outside world because little bits of news float in regularly. Also the fact that Colum knows that we his family fully support him in his fight for political status.

HEARTBREAK

Although it causes us severe heartbreak at seeing his physical condition, never at any time have we asked him to go off the blanket protest. Never will he be a criminal because had it not been for the years of misrule, repression and injustice, Colum would have been enjoying life today like any other youngster of twenty years of age.

H-Block Appeal



The LP record (above) 'The Price of Justice', is now being sold to help finance the publicity battle being waged by the H-Block Information Centre on behalf of Republican prisoners on protest for political status. Anyone wishing to buy a copy should make enquiries at 170A Falls Road, Belfast or ring Belfast 46841. The price of the record is £2.50.



H-Block pamphlet

The recently published Belfast H-Block Information Centre pamphlet (cover shown above) is available from the following address (at a cost of 45p per copy): An Phoblacht/Republican News, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin. Tel: 747611. Republican Press Centre, 170 Falls Road, Belfast. Tel: 46841.

Belturbet Dance

A dance will be held in Belturbet Town Hall on Friday 23rd February at 9 p.m.

All proceeds to go to the H-Block appeal fund.

Music will be by the Blossom Flavours.

Admission £1.

MARCH

SMASH THE H-BLOCKS!

BELFAST MARCH AND RALLY

Sunday March 25th. Assemble 2.30p.m. Busy Bee, Andersonstown. March to Sinn Féin headquarters at 855 Falls Road. Organised by Belfast Sinn Féin.

Report
by Paul
Rooney

EQUAL PAY FIGHT IS ON

Marchers in Dublin on Saturday February 10th.

THE first organised demonstration in the fight for equal pay, took place in Dublin on Saturday February 10th. Over 500 women and men braved the fierce weather and marched from the Garden of Remembrance to Liberty Hall, where they listened to a number of speeches.

The march was organised by members of the Strike Committee of Teletron, Tallaght in conjunction with committee members of Brownlee Brothers, Dolphins Barn and representatives of workers from Phillips factory, Clonskea. All are members of Dublin No. 13 Branch, Irish Transport and General Workers Union.

DEMANDS

The workers were marching to Liberty Hall for three basic demands:

- 1 Equal Pay now
- 2 A decent living wage
- 3 Full support from the I.T.G.W.U.

All the men at the factories had come out on strike in solidarity with their sisters, who are demanding parity in wages and conditions. At the moment, women receive £45.72p a week, whilst for the same job men receive £50.66p. All the workers feel that even £50.66 is not good enough, and so they are looking for £60 a week all round in order to combat the high cost of living.

Jacinta O'Connor, a member of Teletron Strike Committee, said:

"The 220 workers at the factory are united in their fight for equal pay. We are also looking for a decent wage. We're fed up to the back teeth of the

management, and the way they use women as cheap labour."

The first factory to come out, for these basic demands, were the 220 workers of Teletron, the electrical factory in Tallaght. They have been on "unofficial strike" for 3 weeks, with no strike pay. The I.T.G.W.U. will not recognise the strike because the workers took it into their own hands to strike (but here is the ironic note), they do recognise the action taken by the workers at Brownlee Brothers, to come out in solidarity with the Teletron, and have made the impending strike at Phillips Electrical 'official'.



Pickers at Brownlee Bros. factory on Friday February 9th.

FARCE

This 'farce', the product of Trade Union bureaucrats at Liberty Hall, is depriving the workers at Teletron of strike pay, and so weakens them for a long fight (if necessary).

John Cooper, secretary of the Strike Committee at Teletron said:

"We are working for a change in Union policy. We must emphasise that the right to strike must be given to the workers, and not to Liberty Hall."

The workers at all the factories are determined to win, they will fight to the end with or without the ITGWU.

Tony Rice, Chairman of the Strike Committee at

Teletron, said:

"This strike has been a very disciplined strike, and the march today has been very disciplined, the level of consciousness amongst the workers is very high, which shows that we can run our own affairs."

He went on to say:

"We are all in the same boat, all the women and men working in these factories, and in all the other industries. We are taking on some of the biggest electrical industrialists in the world, firms like Phillips and Thorns. We must widen the strikes, we must involve other industries, especially those where women have no equal pay. There is no going back, we are going to win."

At the moment the management of Teletron and Brownlees are not talking to the workers, and when they did meet, the management stormed out. This attitude only stiffens the resistance and makes the workers more determined in their fight.

The Equal Pay Act was passed by Leinster House in 1975, and now 4 years on, women are still fighting for equality. For the first time, workers have taken to the streets, in what promises to be a long campaign to achieve their basic rights.

Dublin Convention

On Thursday February 8th, the Griffith and Hughes Cummins, held their Election Convention at the Lansdowne Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin. The Convention was chaired by Larry Ryan, South Dublin C.C. Chairman. Also in attendance was Walter Lynch, General Secretary of Sinn Féin, and Director of Elections, aided by Brendan Golden, Leinster Organiser.

Walter Lynch opened the Convention, by stressing the importance of the local elections for Sinn Féin, and that we must contest every area. He gave the example of Louth, who are contesting the elections at all levels. He said that Dublin was a challenge, and he was confident that we would overcome, if a lot of hard work was put into the contest.

Walter Lynch pointed out that in 1974 a lot of people who had voted for Sinn Féin were under the age of 25, and taking that, and the fact that at least 50% of the electors on the register this year are in the same category, the emphasis

has to be placed on the vote of the youth.

The Convention was then opened to the delegates, who after a lively debate, voted to contest the election. Proposals were then put forward for a candidate.

Jim Gorry was elected candidate for the Dublin No. 9 Area, by an overwhelming majority.

He thanked all those who attended the Convention, and said he was honoured that the delegates had such confidence in him.

Both the Chairman, Larry Ryan, and Jim Gorry stressed that it was important that the delegates go away from the Convention, and immediately prepare for a hard campaign, and turn this year into a successful one for Sinn Féin.

Inchicore

At a recent convention for the Inchicore/Ballyfermot/Drimnagh area, Sean Thornton and Mick O'Mahoney were chosen to represent Sinn Féin at the local elections.

DUBLIN

FILM PREMIERE

(organised by Dublin Comhairle Ceannair)

"PRISONERS OF WAR"

to be shown at 8 p.m. at

No. 5 Blessington Street, Dublin

Tuesday 20th February

The film explains the background to the political status struggle in the occupied Six Counties and the conditions endured by Irish Prisoners in English Gaols.

Comhairle Cuige Laighean

Notices

DELEGATE MEETING

THE Monthly Delegate Meeting of Comhairle Cuige Laighean will be held at 2.30 p.m.

on Sunday 11th March

at No. 5 Blessington Street, Dublin

Two delegates from each Comhairle

Ceannair.

Observers Welcome

JOIN SINN FEIN

1979 is the 60th Anniversary of the first Dail

Sinn Féin are the true successors

of this great event in Ireland's history

We call on the People of Leinster

JOIN SINN FEIN

Apply to: Leinster Organiser,

44 Parnell Square.

APPEAL

Comhairle Ceannair Laighean would very much appreciate the donation of Calor Gas Heater for their Club Rooms.

Anyone in a position to meet this

request should contact:

44 Parnell Square, Dublin

or Ring 747611

(ask for Sean)

Coláiste Cumhneachain

Na Poblachta

(Republican Commemoration Committee)

Applications for speakers for Easter Commemorations should be made not later than March 15th, giving time and

full details to:

An Rúnai, Coláiste Cumhneachain Na

Poblachta, 44 Parnell Sq., Dublin 1.

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES NOW!

Available from

Mrs. P. King, 29 All Saints' Park,

Raheny, Dublin 5.

Price: £10.00 per 1,000

Honour Ireland's Dead:

Wear an Easter Lily!

West Cavan Election Convention

West Cavan, Sinn Féin Local Election Convention in Templemore Community Centre on Wednesday 21st February at 8.30 p.m.

ALL REPUBLICANS INVITED

Special category status for Special Air Services

TWO SAS killers were accorded special category treatment when they (presumably) appeared in Ballymena Magistrates' Court on February 6th. In an unprecedented move seven unidentified men in plain clothes appeared in the dock. Charges against Alan Bohan and Ronald Tempedley of murder of Dunloy youth John Boyle were read out, but the two weren't identified and none of the seven answered.

The two SAS men were granted £2,000 personal rose and left the court by a bail, and remained in military custody. When the Magistrate finished the court proceedings all seven asked court officials and

detectives to identify Bohan and Tempedley. They refused. A heated argument broke out with the pressmen pointing out that the

hearing lacked all credibility, the defendants weren't identified and in fact may actually have not been in court.

There was no actual proof that two SAS men had been charged at all. The courtroom was eventually cleared whilst protesting journalists shouted "Sham", "Travesty of Justice" and "disgusting", as they stormed out.

MORE BRIT HARASSMENT OF SINN FEIN

A leading member of Sinn Fein from County Donegal was arrested by the Brits a fortnight ago and imprisoned for three days in a typical act of Brit harassment.

On Sunday February 4th Anthony O'Malley Daly, who is P.R.O. for Donegal Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceannairí went to Toombridge, Co. Antrim, to address a political meeting.

Whilst driving home to Ballyshannon he was stopped in Omagh and arrested by the U.D.R. At Omagh barracks he was handed over to the R.U.C. who held him for three days in Gough barracks, Armagh.

Whilst inside Gough barracks, although he was not physically ill-treated he was subject to severe psychological intimidation including one interrogation spell of 13 hours facing different teams of interrogators.

After his release O'Malley Daly commented "With that sort of psychological intimidation going on day after day for seven days I don't wonder so-called confessions are being obtained".

O'Malley Daly who is a Ballyshannon Town Commissioner was incorrectly reported in Dublin daily papers as editor of the weekly "Donegal Democrat". In fact he is credit control officer and personnel manager on the commercial side of the Donegal Democrat Ltd.



CRUMLIN ROAD PRISON, BELFAST

Mother's Death- Screws Deceive

On Friday, February 2nd, Tony Millar from Derry, now in "C" Wing, Crumlin Road Jail, was taken from his cell to the P.O.'s office, where Porter and another screw waited for him. They told him his mother was dead.

Startled, young Millar asked what happened to his mother. He was told, "She was sick, wasn't she?" The screws told him that they'd provide him with a "board form" to apply for parole.

He then returned to his cell in a very distressed state. Later, he

was again taken to the P.O.'s office, only this time to be told that his mother wasn't dead at all, it was a mistake.

The revelation of this ghoulsh deception caused Tony to lose his temper and say something to the screws, whereupon he was sent to the boards. After one and a half hours in the punishment cells, "chief screw" "Punchy" Wright and an Assistant Governor told him it was all a "mistake". He was then returned to his cell in "C" Wing to recover from the nasty trick played on him.

I.R.A. ATTACK

In a supplied statement the Belfast Brigade of the Irish Republican Army have claimed responsibility for a gun attack by an active service unit on a British army patrol in the Oldpark area of Belfast on the night of Wednesday February 2nd.

In a brief exchange a member of the 'Royal Military Police' was wounded. The I.R.A. unit returned safely to base.

Green Cross workers arrested

In the early hours of Wednesday morning February 7th the Brits/RUC raided the Belfast homes of several members of 'Green Cross 73'.

During the raids the Brits arrested Gonne Nugent, secretary of the committee, Mrs. Rice full time worker, Rosaleen Ferris and Nan Saunders, both long serving voluntary workers for Green Cross.

All those arrested were brought to the notorious RUC torture centre at Castlereagh, and held for three days.

This latest raid on leading Green Cross workers follows a similar one in December last year.

On that occasion the Brits raided the Green Cross office on Belfast's Springfield Road and stole office equipment including ledgers containing prisoners' names and addresses; such information is vital to the smooth running of weekly payments to needy relatives of prisoners.

During the 3 day detention the

RUC quizzed those arrested about their work for Green Cross. But in typical Republican fashion the workers refused to talk to the RUC stating that Green Cross was an open voluntary charitable organisation and its business had nothing to do with the RUC.

After three days questioning all those arrested were released without charge.

It is obvious that the purpose of these raids and arrests by the Brits/RUC is to frustrate the vital work carried on by Green Cross and also to intimidate those arrested into leaving the organisation.

But as Green Cross have displayed over the years their single-minded dedication to the cause of the political prisoners will not be weakened by attacks from the Brits/RUC.

Derry Women's Aid Protest

On Wednesday February 7th, Derry Women's Aid staged a protest outside Derry Courthouse in Bishop Street to protest against the trivial, light sentences given for rape convictions, particularly when the criminals are Brits.

By their protest, Derry Women's Aid joined a long tradition of Derry women who have found themselves forced to take action against oppression of the Irish people by this foreign

army. Mothers, wives and sisters and friends of Derry men and women held inside this same Courthouse on political charges, have often held protests on the same spot in the past. Such circumstances often awaken people for the first time to the meaning of oppression.

It is to be hoped that Women's Aid, well aware of one kind of oppression, will become equally aware of the oppression by Brits of the whole of Irish society.

Solidarity Greetings

CARLIN. Liam (Toots) (H5) Congratulations to you 'Toots' for completing two years on the blanket. From Brenda and kids. U.T.P. xxx

CARLIN. Liam (Toots) (H5) Congratulations to 'Toots' on completing two years on the blanket. From Tina (U.T.P.)

CARLIN. Liam (Toots) (H5) Belated congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. From the McNally family, Lurgan.

COULINS. Liam (H3) Solidarity greetings Liam on completing one year on the blanket. We remember you and support your struggle for political status. From your mother, Father, Michael, Lily, Rory, Rosemary and Ray.

Mc CRACKEN. Kevin (H3) Congratulations Kevin on completion of your first year on the blanket pro-

test. Love and God bless, from your Granny.

Mc CRACKEN. Kevin (H3) Congratulations Kevin on completing your first year on the blanket. Thinking of you always. Keep your spirits up. All our love. God bless from Father, Mother, brothers and sister Siobhan also your good friend Philip.

Mc CRACKEN. Kevin (H3) Congratulations Kevin on completing one year on the blanket on 13th. Always keep your spirits up. God bless, all our love from: Ann, Jimmy and family; Marie, Francis and families; Eileen, James and families; Alice, Arthur and families; Jim, Patricia and families; Tony, Shona and family; Jason, Carmel and families, friends and entire family circle.

***** Birthday Greetings

CARLIN. Liam (Toots) (H5) Block Long Kesh. Happy Birthday Toots, and congratulations on completing two years in naked confinement. We salute your courage and self sacrifice. From the Nelis family, Derry and your comrades, Denis, H3 Block, John, Crumlin Road.

HUGHES. Francis Joseph Sean, (Crumlin Road) Happy birthday 'Big Bitch'. We miss you, U.T.P. Love from Annie Oakley, Lillian Jane and the wild bunch, Donegal.

FRIEL. Billy (H5) Love and best wishes on your birthday son, God bless, from your loving father and nephew Tony.

FRIEL. 'Bap' (H5) Lots of love on your birthday 'Bap'. From your sister Jean xxx U.T.P. Your fight is our fight.

FRIEL. Billy, (H5) Happy birthday 'Bap'. Love from sister Mary, niece Amanda and Bernadette.

FRIEL. Billy, (H5) Happy birthday 'Bap', hope your next is spent in freedom. From your brother Leo, U.T.P.

FRIEL. Billy, (H5) Happy birthday 'Bap'. Lots of love and best wishes, God bless, from Joe, Brenda and Joseph.

FRIEL. Billy, (H5) Happy birthday 'Bap'. Love and best wishes, God bless you, From John, Mary, Claran.

NELIS. Denis (H3) Happy birthday Denis embroiled in H Block, naked, cold, in dirt and squalor, so shall you celebrate your 21st birthday. We salute your courage and self sacrifice. A free spirit can never be conquered. With our love and prayers. From the family circle in Derry.

Mc LAUGHLIN - Pauline (POW) Armagh. Birthday greetings Pauline on February 10th. Also congratulations on completing one year on the blanket protest. Love, Delia George and family.

Mc LAUGHLIN - Pauline (POW) Armagh. Happy birthday Pauline also congratulations on completing one year on protest. See you soon. Junior and Whitey.

Mc LAUGHLIN - Pauline (POW) Armagh. Best wishes for Saturday Pauline, we will be thinking of you. Also congratulations on completing one year on protest on your birthday. Your fight is ours. Love from Alice, Liam Paul and Liam Emmet.

Mc LAUGHLIN, Pauline (POW) Armagh. Congratulations Pauline on completing one year on protest for political status. Also happy birthday (10 February). We'll be thinking of you, from Bernie, Tony and family.

Mc LAUGHLIN - Pauline (POW) Armagh jail. Thinking of you on Saturday. Keep your chin up kid, from Jane. xxxxx

Mc CRACKEN. Kevin (H3) Congratulations Kevin on completing your first year on the blanket protest. Venceremos Kevin, from your loving sister Deirdre, Paddy, Padraic Og and Clara.

Mc CRACKEN Kevin (H3) Congratulations Kevin on completing your first year on the blanket protest. Thinking of you. God bless from the Campbell family.

Mc NALLY. Dermot (H5) Congratulations Dermot and all your brave comrades. Love from Ann Doyle (Lurgan) U.T.P.

Mc NALLY. Dermot (H5) Congratulations Dermot for completing two years on the blanket. From your proud sister Brenda and kids. xxxxx U.T.P.

Mc NALLY Dermot (H5) Congratulations to our son Dermot on completing two years on the blanket. Love from Mammy, Daddy, Nigel, Martina and wee Shileen. xxx

BELFAST R.A.C. DEMO REPORT

TWO thousand people braved the extremely cold weather last Sunday afternoon in Belfast to demonstrate in support of the 'blanket-prisoners' demands for political status.

The march organised by the Belfast RAC formed up at the junction of Whitecourt Road and Falls Road.

The RUC and Brits were in a cockier mood than usual coming to within feet of the demonstrators when declaring the march illegal. But their proclamation of 'illegality' was drowned out by the, familiar chants, from the crowd of, 'S.S. RUC' and 'RUC out' accompanied by the two fingers sign, as the crowds passed them by.

As the demonstration proceeded on its way to Belfast's city centre, down the Falls Road, hundreds of demonstrators joined in.

Despite the severe weather the crowd was in fine voice and all along the route the chants of 'Political Status for Political Prisoners' rang out. It took almost one hour for the march to reach the British barrier in College Square North.

The Brits/RUC had again thrown a ring of steel around

their cherished possession in case the demonstrators tried to outwit them by a last minute route change.

The first speaker was Mary Mc Dermott of Belfast Sinn Fein. She began her address by firmly putting the struggle for political status into its context within the struggle for national liberation. She spoke of the latest panic measures used by Mason to try to weaken the prisoners' protest such as the isolation of certain prisoners from the screws regarded as the 'leaders' of the protest, coupled with an intensification of brutality against the men.

The next speaker was Phil Flynn a member of the National Executive of the Trade Union Campaign against Repression (TUCAR) and a Sinn Fein activist based in Dublin.

He spoke about the importance of linking the rank and file trade unionist into the struggle against state repression.

He condemned the leaders of



Phil Flynn (T.U.C.A.R.) addressing Belfast RAC rally last Sunday with Brits/RUC in background.

the trade union movement for their silence on the H-Blocks claiming that it was this silence which contributed to the high level of repression in the occupied six counties.

He then went on to outline briefly the plans TUCAR had drawn up. These included raising at every Trades Council throughout Ireland and Britain the issue of H-Block and RUC torture.

He warned the people not to be apathetic towards trade unions' silence on torture. Get to the unions and pressurise the leadership to act, was his message to those who worked. He was followed by a speaker from the IRSP.

The final speaker was Maura McCrory, chairperson of the Bel-

fast RAC. She told the crowd that 1979 would be the year of victory on the status struggle. To ensure that political status was forced from the Brits the protests had to intensify. She urged the crowd to continue to come out on the streets.

Before the march ended a minutes silence was held in memory of Kathleen Thompson, described by the chairperson as a 'dedicated and fearless Republican who sang the story of Ireland's struggle for freedom'.

Shortly after the meeting ended a group of young men attacked the Brits/RUC barricade. A running battle then ensued between the militant youths and the Brits for about twenty minutes.

Belfast Vigil

Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sein Fein, held a three hour vigil outside its Belfast Headquarters on Saturday February 10th. The purpose of the vigil was to highlight the plight of the men in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and the women in Armagh Jail. During the vigil over 2000 of the recently released H-Block leaflet were handed out by the various members of Belfast Sinn Fein and a collection was taken up.

H-Block Lectures

Belfast Sinn Fein is organising four indoor lectures on the H-Block issue. They will take place during the month of March, and it is hoped to show a film before each lecture.

The dates and venues are as follows:

Ardoyne	Saunders club	Tuesday 6th March	8.00 pm
Short Strand	Lesa club	Wednesday 14th March	8.00 pm
Andersonstown	PDF club	Tuesday 20th March	8.00 pm

Ballymurphy. The venue has yet to be fixed but will be advertised later.

National Prisoners Department Established

A national department to deal with the plight of Republican P.O.W.s has been established by the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle, at its last monthly meeting. The department will publicise, organise and mobilise public opinion on the issue of political status.

It will also highlight the torture by the British government of Republican P.O.W.s and the torture and imprisonment of Republicans in the 26 counties. Joe Cahill has been appointed national spokesperson on prisons and P.O.W.s.

The department has been divided into two main sub-departments. These are an H-Block Committee, which will take responsibility for P.O.W.s on the 'blanket' protest in Long Kesh, and the women protesting in Armagh Gaol.

This committee will also cater for Republican P.O.W.s who have political status in Long Kesh and Armagh Gaols and those held on remand in Crumlin Road Gaol. Gerry Adams was selected as chairperson of this committee.

The other committee has responsibility for P.O.W.s in Britain and in Free State Gaols. Joe Cahill was selected chairperson of this committee.

Anyone seeking information regarding the latest conditions inside the 'H' blocks should ring or write to H-Block Information Service, 170a Falls Road, Belfast. Tel: Belfast 46841

Keiran Nugent's Parents Receive Award

Last Friday night February 9th the 'Andersonstown News', a local community newspaper based in the Andersonstown area of Belfast held a celebration in the Kerri Inn Finaghy Road Belfast. The purpose of the event was the presentation of the Andersonstown News Trophy to the parents of Ciaran Nugent the first man to go on the blanket protest.

The award was given to Mr. and Mrs. Nugent by the editor of 'Andersonstown News' who told the large audience of the great sacrifice that was being made by the blanket men.

Mr. Nugent then said a few words, first thanking 'Andersonstown News' and then stressing the very relevant point that his son and his comrades were a part of that great tradition going back 800 years, of those Irish men who opposed British rule in Ireland. The evening ended with an exhibition of Irish dancing provided by An Cumann Ceili, Baile Mac Ander, who recently won the all-Ireland championship for the four hand reel. Musical entertainment was supplied voluntarily by the group Rye Grass.



Some blanket-men's relatives standing around award presented to Ciaran Nugent's parents.



Belfast R.A.C. march at Beechmount.

Smash the H-Blocks!
Defend POW Status!
Brits Out!



March
and
Rally
in
NEWRY

Sunday 25th February

Assemble 3 pm. Camlough Road Car Park

Organised by South Down Sinn Fein.

BUSES TO NEWRY

BELFAST: Details of buses are available from any Sinn Fein office.

DERRY: Tickets £2 (deposit £1) Contact Derry 68926 or Shantallow Sinn Fein centre.

DUBLIN: Tickets £2.50 from the Craft Centre, 44 Parnell Square, Tel: 747611.

G.A.A. PROTEST

THOUSANDS MARCH IN CROSSMAGLEN

Well over 5,000 GAA members and supporters took part in a march last Sunday protesting against the continued British occupation of the Crossmaglen Rangers' pitch in South Armagh.

Three men were arrested on their way to the march. They were taken off a bus at Camlough by British soldiers. Prior to the march H-Block leaflets were given out after 11.30 Mass in St. Patrick's Chapel and AN PHOBLAHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS was on sale also.

Grenadier Guardsmen took away copies of SMASH H-BLOCK handbills which had been left on car windscreens in the Church car park. The Ulster Executive of Sinn Féin had sent a delegation to Crossmaglen to distribute H-Block literature and they also took part in the march.

The protest was locally organised and was supported by the Ulster Council and most Armagh Gaeilge, Hurling and Camogie clubs. Four flag-bearers led off, followed by Father Kevin Moran, Con Short (President of the Ulster Council), Alf Murray (former president of the GAA) and Gene Larkin (Chairman of Crossmaglen Rangers club).

NEWRY ROAD

The march assembled on Newry Road where three Brits had been killed in an IRA ambush last December, and wound its way into Crossmaglen Square which had its fill of Brits, UDR and RUC men. I asked some of the organisers if the march had been filed for, and there was genuine confusion. Some said they had not filed for permission to march, while

another intimidated me that the Armagh board had notified the RUC of their intentions. Whatever the case there was no customary RUC "declaration of illegality", though Brits photographed every section of the march, and from almost every angle.

It was thirty years to the day since the field was first bought. The GAA hall was built in 1952 and the first match was played in 1954. The Crossmaglen people are proud of their field which they described as "one of the finest grounds in the county" until the British Army came along and turned it into "a shambles". The local Brit/RUC fort grows every so often, swallowing up more and more ground. One can trace the lines of encroachment, though work has stopped temporarily on another brick wall which is only a few yards from a goal post.

Helicopters daily use the field as a landing pad, since the barracks is cut off from the surrounding countryside due to the threat of IRA ambushes. Though the Oliver Plunkett football pitch is a county GAA pitch county games have almost

ceased to be played on it. People are not only harassed during matches but supporters are often stopped and arrested going to or coming from the grounds.

Local people are afraid to allow their children to play near the ground because of the situation and they feel particularly aggrieved because it is the only recreational facility in the area. They built the ground and hall with their own hard-earned pounds, shillings and pence. Never once - despite being taxpayers - did they ever have the choice of refusing government grants or aid. (This is in contrast to the velvet-glove approach of the British Government in those areas of urban guerilla warfare, where in attempting to buy off local resistance they are injecting millions of pounds into leisure centres etc.).

THE MEETING

Father Kevin Moran said at the meeting which was held on the pitch and only a few yards from the army post, that "the damage people can see is bad enough. Perhaps the damage you can't see is even worse. And that

is the damage to the community. We are prevented making full and adequate use of the amenities which we provided ourselves. To do damage to this pitch in Crossmaglen is really to strike at the local community".

Father Moran continued; "This is the message we want to go out - to military and political bosses - cease forthwith the trespass; compensate us for the damage done; allow us the privilege of using our own property as we want to use it. And ultimately, of course, leave here, because your presence here is, as far as most of us can see, not warranted".

John O'Reilly (Chairman of Armagh County Board) thanked the people for showing not just solidarity behind Crossmaglen "but showing to the British forces and everything that comes with them that the people of Armagh are nationalist and Irish to the core and believe that the field that belongs to the GAA belongs to the people of Ireland".

Con Short, President of the Ulster Council, pledged the support of Ulster's 500 clubs and said, "If the English were not such fools as they are they would know that this is a festering sore and that this sore will continue to fester not only in this district but in this county, and in this country until Cross-

maglen has their property returned to them and we in the GAA can say that the English Army interrupts us no longer."

Most speakers praised the efforts of the GAA President, Con Murphy, whom it seems has played a leading role in the struggle to reclaim the ground. The march was clearly strictly nationalist in fervour - many of the organisers (Rangers' Club Chairman Gene Larkin for one) clearly wanted to distance themselves from being labelled as "Republicans". For example, speakers placed great emphasis on the march as a "peaceful and dignified protest". And there was no mention of the festering sore of H-Block or Brit torture.

A GREAT CURRENT

This aside, however, the protesters represented a great current of nationalist discontent which the Brits often presume as non-existent, and only existent where at its boldest and most politicised it surfaces as Republicanism.

Considering the the GAA had only asked its Armagh clubs to send delegations along to the march, it is clear that a full mobilisation of members throughout Ireland on the occupation of Oliver Plunkett pitch would bring out tens of thousands of people, and would certainly con-

Report By Sean



Marchers behind the banner of Crossmaglen Rangers last Sunday.

Marchers in Crossmaglen last Sunday, with Tommy Lynch, Vice-Chairman of Crossmaglen Rangers at their head.



tribute to shifting the Brit from at least, Crossmaglen!

AN PHOBLAHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS asked Tommy Lynch, Vice-Chairman of Crossmaglen Rangers what he hoped to achieve by the protest.

Tommy Lynch: "This is to show the strength of the clubs in the county against the occupation of this ground. I asked the clubs to come along and support this".

AP/RN: "Does the GAA find what the Brits are doing here to day as provocative, etc. photo



Brit fort on GAA pitch.

Six County Independence

PRESERVING PRIVILEGE

By
Peter
Dowling

THIS article is the first of two articles by Peter Dowling which take a look at 'six-county independence', a 'solution' to the war in the North which has been totally rejected by the Republican Movement.

This first article examines how British attempts to 'reform' and thus 'pacify', their sectarian six-county colony have led to strong currents of disaffection amongst Loyalists; a section of whom are now looking at the 'option' of protecting the sectarian privileges of the Protestant Ascendancy 'independent' of the British.

The second article, to be published next week, will stress that no form of 'Ulster independence' should be regarded as a 'stepping stone' to a free united Ireland, but that it is a trap to be avoided at all costs.

Faced with militant nationalist revolt in the occupied six counties over the last decade, the British have tried to destroy the spirit of the risen people through direct military repression. Systematic harassment, brutality, torture and murder, as presently evidenced by Castlereagh, the H-Blocks and SAS stake-outs are part of routine British 'counter-insurgency' strategy.

But the British have also tried to under-cut republican resistance through 'reforming' the six-county Orange statelet and attempting to 'accommodate' the nationalist people.

BRIT 'REFORMS'

The British have introduced legislation providing for 'equal opportunities' in employment and outlawing 'religious discrimination'; they have taken any meaningful power, such as housing allocation, out of the hands of the predominantly Orange local councils; they have poured millions of pounds (Melchett's Millions) into schemes to alleviate social deprivation and millions of pounds into projects (such as the De Lorean car plant) to provide jobs for the unemployed. Five years ago they set up the Sunningdale 'power-sharing' agreement and today they still insist on any six-county administration being 'acceptable' to both 'sides' of the community.

They have done all these things, not out of any new-found sense of 'justice', 'democracy', or 'fair play' but in order to under-cut nationalist resistance; in order to remove the international embarrassment of having a sectarian 'skeleton' in their back yard; in order to facilitate 'good relations' with the Free State; and in order to 'normalise' the situation within Ireland as a whole. ('Normality' being the firm-safeguard of Brit political and economic interests anywhere.)

These attempts to 'reform' their six-county statelet have met with little success and owing to the very nature of that statelet will never meet with significant success.

(British imperialism has historically created a situation in Ireland which present-day British governments are trapped within whether they like it or not. Their only real way out is to get out lock, stock and barrel.)

The British have failed to reform their six-county

statelet for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the rigidity of the sectarian structure of their Orange colony. For example, their sectarian militia the RUC, remains just that; and sectarian patterns of housing and employment have been re-enforced in the last ten years, rather than being broken down.

Secondly, the strength of popular loyalist bigotry, that is, the Protestant desire to preserve their marginal privileges which is best illustrated by the May '74 UWC stoppage.

Thirdly, the British army is too blunt an instrument with which to implement reforms; it gasses, maims and kills people rather than winning them over.

Finally, and above all, whenever it comes to the crunch with Loyalism, the British draw back; for they are keenly aware that Loyalism is a decisive divisive instrument in their control of the whole of Ireland. For propaganda purposes they mainly justify their presence, through its presence. To smash it would be to jeopardise their own continued rule and interests.

LOYALIST RESENTMENT

But over the last decade continued British attempts to 'reform' their Orange statelet, despite their lack of significant success, have had an important effect upon the Loyalists. The Brits current refusal to restore Stormont infuriates them.

Their very loyalty to Britain has been put into question.

Loyalist sectarian privilege is guaranteed by the continued existence of the six-county statelet and of the border; which in turn are guaranteed by the British. So the Loyalists have always viewed the British as their benefactors in that it has been the British who have guaranteed Protestant privilege.

But in as far as the British have tried to reform the Orange six-county statelet and to erode sectarian privilege, the Loyalists now resent British interference. They are more loyal to the crown in their pocket than to the Crown on the English throne.

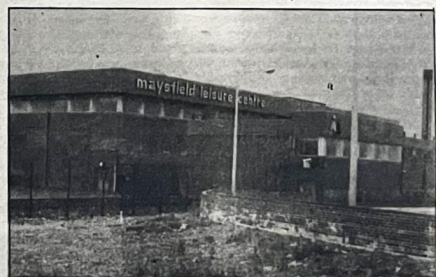
This whole situation has created strong currents among Loyalists such as the UDA, in the direction of maintaining partition and privilege 'independent' of the British. From the Loyalist camp this is the underlying driving force towards an 'independent' six-county statelet; not new feelings of 'Ulster' brotherliness, but the same old sectarian sentiment: "this we will maintain".



NEW ARDOYNE HOUSING.



DE LOREAN MOTOR CARS LTD., TWINBROOK.



MAYSFIELD LEISURE CENTRE, NEAR SHORT STRAND.

'REFORM'

British attempts to 'reform' their sectarian six-county statelet have been on various fronts:

HOUSING (new houses for Catholics through the Housing Executive), for example, new Ardoyne housing (see photo top right)

JOBS (job creation schemes), for example, £50 million put into De Lorean sports car plant adjacent to Catholic Twinbrook. (see photo middle right)

SOCIAL FACILITIES (to alleviate social deprivation), for example, Maysfield Leisure Centre adjacent to Catholic Short Strand. (see photo bottom right).

These well-publicised British attempts to 'reform' their Orange statelet have led to strong currents of Loyalist opinion favouring an attempt to maintain their privileges 'independent' of the British through an 'independent Ulster' backed by the Americans.

G.A.A. PROTEST
ARCH
LEN

eamus Boyle



graphing the marchers, they've two helicopters in the air, and a heavy presence on the ground?"

Tommy Lynch: "It must be. What other way can you look at it. There's provocation here all the time. I came to a match about three months ago and the helicopter landed eleven times during the game."

"I wonder how the English people would like it if it was happening in Wembley or Anfield..." (he broke off for a second) "...it mightn't be all that far removed from what you know! Some of these days they might take the notion and land there!"

GAA find ing here to 2,9. photo-



Post Bag



All letters should be addressed to:
The Editor, An Phoblacht - Republican News
170, Falls Road, Belfast 11

GLEN BARR WANTS HIS CAKE AND TO EAT IT TOO

JUST when we were beginning to enjoy a little measure of success in telling the American public the underlying facts behind the continuing struggle in Ireland, along comes Glenn Barr to these shores to add further confusion. He brings a message that will have the effect of boring the American public after all the trouble we have had in getting their attention these past ten years.

I met Glenn Barr in the company of Mr. Paul O'Dwyer not long ago. I must confess that I was very glad to see him and to hear that he wanted to bring the age-old friction between his loyalist followers and our nationalist people to an end. I was ready to remind him of Wolfe Tone's ideal which would supplant religious terms for the term Irishman.

However, the only good word he brought was that his people were, at last, disillusioned by the British connection and were ready and willing to terminate their fealty to the throne of England. His extended hand of friendship to the nationalist (native Irish) people of Ireland was too short to reach them. His reasons for the new position of his people were known to an observer of politics in Northern Ireland long ago. In other words we all knew that sooner or later the loyalists would discover that they were all just "Paddys" to their British overlords. It was only a matter of time, for one of the revelations of the conflict which began in 1968, was that the British man-in-the-street did not regard the Northern Orangemen as the elitist he considered himself to be. The logical conclusion following upon that realisation, devoutly to be wished, would have been that since he shared the same island as the "old" Irish and shared their common destiny as well as the disdain of Established Britain, he must surely integrate fully into the national life of Ireland. But not so.

Glenn Barr refused that waiting embrace of Róisín Dubh. There was no real nobility in his abandonment of loyalty to England. He wanted his cake and eat it too. The three things given to Glenn Barr by the partition of Ireland were the continued presence of British troops on Irish soil, the disfigurement of Ireland and best of all, his power of dominance in the saved-off portion in the north-east called by him "Ulster".

His present, new posture which he expects us nationalists to accept with enthusiasm, relates to his people two of the three things just mentioned. There was never even a whisper that London might in any circumstances consider leaving the North and Glenn Barr up until 1968 would not have for a second, entertained such a thought. But the IRA changed all that. Their units blew holes in the British structure in the six counties. As everybody knows, England, for the first time in 800 years, talked softly, discreetly but clearly of getting out of Ireland. Glenn Barr did not want to base his own future on such an uncertainty so he decided to bring the whole matter to a head.

In the new Ireland envisaged by Barr he would still be boss in the North and he would be able to keep at arm's length the people of the "South" as he calls them. To a great extent he would be able to carry on "business as usual" as it had been since the formation of the state of Northern Ireland in 1921. He seems to think that the primary aim of Irish patriots

is the eschewing of bloodshed at any cost just as long as we get British troops to leave the country. The restoration of the Sovereign country of Ireland to its people does not seem important to him. The fact that he represents a minority doesn't bother him either.

He claims that the nationalists (or Catholics as he refers to them) in the six county area would accept his new arrangement and he claims that he would regard them as equals in his new Ulster.

How can he reconcile this with the contention that his people have a "problem of identity" with the Catholics of the South? He must surely know that the nationalists of the North have no such problem.

The Orangemen's problem of identity with "Catholics" is VERY well known even though they were born and reared a block or a field away. Since we are one of bone with the majority of Irish people, how can Barr endorse, overnight, the Nationalist Northerners with some quality of acceptance to him while viewing the Southerners with a jaundiced eye, condemned forever by this "problem of identity".

In plain language, Glenn Barr says that he and his people just cannot "take to" the Southern people but he will trade his loyalty to a foreign country (England) if we will accept his new partition of Ireland, in which the nationalists of the North will be the ruling power in leadership. The surprising and disturbing thing about this is that there are some prominent Americans in public life who think that Glenn Barr's new approach is a step in the right direction.

Strange that these very Americans can accept as a valid position, Barr's claim that his people cannot integrate with others beside them because of a problem of identity, while they export by specially enacted laws the full integration of two main differing ethnic groups in the cities of the United States who are separated by a much wider chasm than the imaginary fears separating the Orangemen of the North from the native Irishmen of the South or the North either.

Glenn Barr, while sojourning in America should visit the battlefields of the Civil War and remind himself that what was good for America is good for Ireland too.

Tom Duffy,
I.H.S. News Service
Bronx, New York, U.S.A.

Inchicore Problems

A Chára,

I have been informed by C.I.E. that the location for a bus shelter at the bus stop opposite the Model School was inspected and found unsuitable for a bus shelter owing to the narrowness of the footpath. C.I.E. stated that a minimum width of 9'6" is required to enable a shelter to be erected.

Furthermore, the Manager of Dublin City Services informed me that an application to the Planning Authority in respect of the erection of a bus shelter opposite the Pine Tree public house was refused on the grounds that it would be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area, due to its proximity to the nearby houses.

Following representation made to me by some people in the Bluebell Area regarding the provision of a right of way at Landsdowne Valley, I wrote to Dublin Corporation's Engineering Department. Presently they are considering the matter and progress will be reported.

Recently I wrote to the Engineering Department Dublin Corporation, regarding the provision of lighting facilities for the Play Area at Spiddal Park. My application for same has been referred to the Community and Development Dept. Dublin Corporation for consideration. Progress on this matter will be reported.

Finally, may I thank Dublin Corporation's Traffic Dept. for providing the Inchicore people with a pedestrian crossing at the above location. It was a facility that was required urgently in this area.

Mick O'Mahony,
Local Government Officer
Robert Emmet Cumann,
13 Abercorn Terrace,
Inchicore, Dublin 8.

'Sinn Fein' Soon To Be 'Ourselves'?

A Chára,

Tá súil again nach bhfuil Sinn Féin chun nu dhubháigín chéanna a baint amach, trá mheán "An Phoblacht - Republican News" is atá bainte amach cheana féin ag Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Lucht Oiliúir agus na Stickeys. Más é seo an aidhm atá ag na seachtar agus foilsíodh an iris nua; dearbhaím go bhfuil tosaigh maith déanta agbair agus, mar a deirann an tseanfhoil, "tosaigh maith, leath na hoibre".

In uimhir a thrí, mar shampla, lochtlaíonn seachtóir an iris Maolheachlainn O'Caoláir tasc gur chuir sé síos R.T.E. mar "a National T.V. service" i lár a scríobh sé chuig "Postbag". Aontaim, dár ndóig, leis an cinnéad seo, mar tá R.T.E. "partitionist" ach sa bholgán chéanna, deirann an t-seachtóir go n-ontolona sé go cruil leis an litir, gan an botún amháin seo. Tuigim ó máid sin go bhfuil "An Phoblacht-Republican News" in eagan na n-earraí seachtóir atá fíoch shíl ag R.T.E. ag Rialtas na Breataine agus ag an Rialtas Seoiriastach chun an náisiún seo a dhíghaolú.

Cén fáth, mar sin go bhfuil "An Phoblacht - R. News" ag tabhairt an méid sin dreachmhéas is atá d'fiteangaisníuistí?

Thosaigh an iris nua le 936 focail as Gaeilge; shéimeadh an figiúir seo go dtí 350 san tarna foilsíocháin; ach shroich an páipéir grinnéall úafásach nuair nach raibh ach 21 focal Gaeilge a fheidil in uimhir a thrí.

Má leanann an cleonadh seo, ní fada go mbeidh na téarmaí "Ourselves", "The Republic", Rory Brady, Davy O'Connell, Ned McCombe agus Christine Ellis i gceist ag an ghléasacht Phoblachtach in ionad "Sinn Féin". "An Phoblacht", Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Daithí Ó Conaill, Eamonn Mac Thomáis agus Christine ní Ellis.

An bhfeadfaí a léithéad a shamhalt? Níl ach dhá phointe eile le déanamh again:

(i) Ba chóir go mbeadh leathnach amháin ionann, ar a laghad, gach seachtain, tionsant don Ghaeilge san pháipéir.

(ii) Tá stair ghloimhir ag an ghleasacht Phoblachtach. So bhliain seo an Phlarsaigh, má tá na cumhachtaí a dhíríonn "An Phoblacht-Republican News" náim-deach don Ghaeilge agus tá a shliocht sin ar an scéal adhmaid é go hoscailte agus ná bíg ag ligint airéir féin go bhfuil bhur ndóthan é ndanmhán agbair chun ár dtéanga maorga a cheomhú - Mar Níl. Is maise, le meas,

"Oganach Poblachtach Soisialachóir
Gaeilch Míshásta"
Baile Átha Cliath.

Early Taste of Brit Justice

A Chára,

The RUC and the courts are taking pains, as usual, to educate school children about the true nature of this sectarian Orange state. On Tuesday February 6th, a fourteen year old Derry boy was fined £10 and bound over for two years after being charged with disorderly behaviour.

Did he beat up a teacher, you may ask? Destroy school property? Or what dreadful crime did he commit?

The answer is laughable. The "defendant" gave "the fingers" to a bus load of children passing by on the street. It seems the RUC were sent for by some Loyal supporter, when a bit of shouting occurred at a school in Tullyvalley in the Waterside of the city.

The RUC claimed they were given verbal abuse and that the "defendant" gave "the fingers" to a bus load of children passing by his school. The boy's solicitor, still probably living in a world of sanity, explained that the boy was merely returning the gesture which was first given by those on the bus. But such explanations, along with the common knowledge that many boys of this age commonly give the fingers sign among themselves, even in slugging their friends, obviously failed to reach the "other-worldly" members of the court, and the boy, with two years still left at school, already has a "record". Such is British justice.

Derry Sinn Féin.

A Chára,

I hope that Sinn Féin, through the medium of "AP-RN" is not going to sink to the same depths of hypocrisy as Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour and SFWP have done. If however, this is the aim of the editor and publishers of the new paper, I assert that you have made a good start and, as the saying goes, "A good start is half the battle".

For example, in No. 3, the editor faults Maolheachlainn O'Caoláir because he described R.T.E. as a national T.V. service in a letter he had written to Postbag. I agree, of course, with this criticism as R.T.E. is partitionist through and through; but in the same mouthful the editor says that he goes along with the letter's contents, that one indication apart. I understand from this that "AP-RN" is opposed to the despicable attempts of R.T.E., the Brits Government and the Free-State government to "de-Gaelicize" [anglicize or should that be Germanize] this nation.

Why, therefore, is "AP-RN" granting such disrespect as it is for our national language? The new publication began with 938 words printed in the Irish language; by the second copy this figure had slid to 350, but the paper hit a scandalous rock-bottom when only 21 Irish words appeared in No. 3.

If this inclination continues, it won't be long before the terms "Ourselves", "The Republic", Rory Brady, Davy O'Connell, Ned McCombe and Christine Ellis replace "Sinn Féin", "An Phoblacht", Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Daithí Ó Conaill, Eamonn Mac Thomáis and Christine ní Ellis.

Can such be imagined? I have put two more points to make: (i) A full page, at least, should be devoted every week to our native tongue in "AP-RN".

(ii) The Republican Movement has a glorious history. In this, the commemorative year of Pádraig Pearse, if the guiding powers behind "AP-RN" resent the Irish language (and such seems the case) admit it openly and don't pretend to yourselves that you are doing your share to protect our majestic language - because YOU'RE NOT.

Is maise, le meas,
A Republican Socialist Irish
Discontented Youth
Baile Átha Cliath.

Armagh gaol

A Chára,

We, the women protesting PoWs in Armagh Gaol ask for your support in the fight for political status and an end to the barbaric treatment of our comrades in H-Block. As you know, the fight for political status has been going on since March 1, 1976, when the British Government tried to introduce a criminalisation policy directed against Republican PoWs. Britain once again has shown their 'Jack boot' tactics. Although they have tried their most callous and hypocritical methods to criminalise us, they have not and will never succeed. This is proved by our comrades in H-Block, who, although suffering the deprivation of their basic human rights, fight on with even more determination and we the women protesting PoWs stand firmly behind them.

The situation in Ireland is what is termed a 'war situation'. Therefore, individuals whose ideals lead them to committing actions which are politically motivated, should be recognised as political prisoners. We are tried in special courts, so why deny us special category status? Why go to such lengths as putting us on lock-ups 21 hours per day, taking daily remission of us, giving us beatings on the smallest excuse, refusing us all forms of prison privileges such as weekly visits, education facilities, parcels, handicraft, association? to name but a few - just to let us know we are criminals.

We would like to state quite emphatically that we are not criminals and we will never succumb to their outrageous criminalisation policy being relentlessly pursued by the Brits.

P.R.O.,
'A' Coy.,
Protesting PoWs
Armagh Gaol.

Boyle Press Leak Not Delayed

Dear Sir,

In your article last week on the killing of John Boyle you mention a press leak of a section of the RUC report to the Director of Public Prosecutions and comment that "The section of the British Press to have originally received (the document) also prevaricated and this gave Silken the time he needed to manoeuvre".

The statement is inaccurate and the conclusion illogical.

I and a colleague from one of the newspapers in the Republic were "leaked" a copy of a section of the DPP file and there was no hesitation on the part of either of us in ensuring that it became public knowledge. What we did do, however, was to make sure that other

facts in our respective stories were accurate and time was spent in further research.

The oblique suggestion that we hesitated for political reasons is one I find grossly insulting and I ask you to withdraw it.

In any case, how Silken could have "manoeuvred" before he knew the file was leaked? I do not know. That conclusion implies an acceptance on your part, naïve, if I may say so, that the DPP did in fact instruct the RUC to bring murder charges on the date he claims he did.

Peter Fearon
Press Association,
Belfast.

Oxford H-Block Picket Fined

A Chára,

A member of the Oxford H-Block Committee/Oxford UTO appeared in court last week, charged with a breach of the peace in connection with an anti-recruiting picket of the Royal Green Jacket regiment last December in the city shopping centre, as reported in Republican News before Christmas. As a result of the picket, one Green Jacket assaulted one of the literature sellers, before being dragged off by a woman shopper. Both the soldier and the picketer were then arrested. The Brit of course was quickly released without charge - only his victim was left to the whim of British 'justice'.

In court last week, the Green Jacket - a Corporal Dean of the 2nd Bn. RGJ - admitted in the witness box assaulting the Troops Out seller but claimed that he lost

his temper because a lot of his 'mates' had been killed in the North. He agreed that while on duty in Ireland he frequently lost his temper and assaulted people! He also admitted that none of the picketers had provoked him in any way. Except by their presence!

In spite of this his victim as usual was found guilty of a breach of the peace, fined £20 and bound over for twelve months. The only major surprise of the trial was that the Brit was then bound over to keep the peace for twelve months as well! This of course will be no problem for Corporal Dean, as he's helping the 'keep the peace' in the Six Counties anyway. It's nice to get recognition from the courts?

Slán,
DPS
Oxford.

IRAN

THE ANSWER IS OIL

BY DHEARG DOOM

IRAN. Our television screens are swamped these days with pictures of rioters in the streets, burning buildings, and hysterical members of the 'security forces', earning their mercenary pay by shooting down civilians in the street.

We are overwhelmed with stories about the Ayatollah Khomeini, the 'mad mullah', the elderly exile in Paris who is suddenly transported back from obscurity to the storm centre of Teheran. We are told stories about an imminent 'Jihad', or Holy War, and the people of Iran will be subjected to a strict theocratic Muslim regime with the concomitant features of public flogging, hand amputation for theft, closure of cinemas for 'immorality', etc. etc.

This may well be true. The Ayatollah is an unknown quantity.

What is of more interest is why should the British media devote so much time to Iran?

The answer is simple.

The British government and, by extension, the media, doesn't give a monkey's about the people of Iran. What they do care about is oil. Iran is one of the world's major oil exporters. Because of that the Americans have been prepared to put up with the Shah's fascist police regime. They, like the Brits, who, even a month ago, were prepared to send their plastic envoy, HRH Elizabeth, off to Teheran to prop up the shaking regime of the Shah, are prepared to turn a blind eye to the SAVAK, Iran's own torture squad, to the corruption, graft and blatant extortion.

The Shah, 'Pahlavi', and his thieving family have now skipped the country. They have been moving their ill-gotten gains out to anonymous bank accounts in Switzerland and America. But that's all right. Just like the Viet-

nam war criminals, Ky and Minh, they will be allowed to reside in luxury in the USA or England, spending the money they stole off the people. No one will extradite them for war crimes, of which they are all manifestly guilty. But, alas, their usefulness is now at an end.

RELEVANCE

This brings us to the essential question. What relevance has Iran for us in Ireland?

Sure we can read of street riots, 'reminiscent of Belfast'. Of 'people in the street making Derry cocktails' (as opposed to Molotov). But what does that mean to us?

The news comes through that Bakhtiar, the Shah's nominee, has been deposed—or has committed suicide. The army has apparently gone over to the Ayatollah. The expected civil war will probably now not take place,

to the disappointment of the CIA who, with experience in Iran, were hoping to do another Mossadeq. So what will happen in Iran and why should we care?

The simple answer is, as always, oil.

In America today, despite the fact that it is the richest country in

the world, and one of the great oil producers, petrol is being rationed. If one needed a tangible example of how capitalism doesn't work go to Texas. There the oil wells gush every day and yet, because America exports so much oil, the punters can't get enough cheap petrol to fuel their 'gas guzzlers'.

It's the same in Britain. Despite the much famed 'North Sea Oil', the Brits still have to import a lot of oil and that means, with exports from Iran at a standstill, your petrol is going to go up to £1 a gallon before the end of the year.

More than that, the overthrow of the Shah and the success of the Ayatollah, who despite his possibly reactionary traits (if one is to believe the Western capitalist media) is definitely a sound man on the question of 'perfidious Albion', must mean that Britain, who up to now had been propping up the fascist Shah, (and making a lot of money by flogging his stormtroopers masses of sophisticated gear) is in deep trouble.

If, as can be expected, the Ayatollah, through his puppet Mendi Barzagan, himself an ex-internee who knows exactly what torture methods SAVAK, the Shah's secret police used—including the techniques they 'picked up' from the Brits—does succeed in taking complete control of the country, we can be sure that, in addition to the already promised boycotts on oil supplies to Israel and South Africa, there will be sanctions against the Brits.

This will clearly hurt England's economy, for Iran is in the top three of all their importers. Tough!

AMERICAN BLUFF

Two weeks ago the media were hinting, as a result of carefully placed leaks, that if, by any

remote chance, the wonderful Shah or his puppet were forced to exit from the stage, 'the Americans would be obliged to go in to save the country from a Russian invasion'. This, of course, was so much bluff.

Of course, the Russians are interested in Iran, but there is no way that they are going to invade, any more than the Americans, with the wishy-washy Carter administration in control, are going to make anything more than threatening noises. Suggestions of a nuclear world war being imminent with Iran as the raison d'être are nonsense.

What we, those who are involved in the people's struggle in Iran, can, and should do, is learn from their experience. Two months ago no political commentator would have given a nickel for the chances of an elderly religious old-timer, who had left Iran fifteen years ago ignominiously bundled up in a carpet, becoming the ruler of one of the richest countries in the Middle East.

They reckoned without the wrath of the people. They reckoned without the riots on the street, the resentment against the Shah and his secret police. They reckoned without the innate nationalist feelings of the people. The message that those so called 'experts' and the British government should have got by now, loud and clear, is 'Beware the risen people'.

Today, Teheran, tomorrow, Belfast? Don't write it off as a fantasy. The Shah did and look where he is now!



Heavily armed Iranian 'Brit' hit on the shin by a stone.

REPRESSION HIGHLIGHTED IN PARIS

REPORT BY SINN FEIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU

A European Conference to build an International Campaign against repression was held in Paris on 27th, 28th and 29th January.

The conference was organised by the French OCI, and delegates representing various progressive organisations from all over Europe were invited to participate.

A delegation from Sinn Fein took an active part in this conference. They were Joe Austin, Belfast; Sean Halpenny, Dublin; and George Marshall, Dublin.

Over the three days, there was lively debate on the various aspects of repression in Europe, and Ireland was used as a focal point by many of the delegates. The Spanish and the Portuguese delegates described vividly the repression they have to face, and the tremendous resistance the people give, especially the small nations of the Basques and the Catalonians.

Joe Austin in his speech to the

Conference, reminded the delegates that it was the 7th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, and went on to give a vivid account of the H-Blocks and the repressive regime of Britain.

The Conference was one of the broadest based meetings of groups that had come together in Europe, and much valuable experience was gained by the interflow of information between the various delegates. The struggle in Ireland is now definitely an international struggle, and it is indicative of the level of importance of Ireland, that Sinn Fein is being invited to so many international conferences.

On the evening of Monday January 29th, a rally was held to close the three day conference. 3,000 people packed themselves

into the hall, to listen to speeches from the President of the O.C.I. Pierre Lambert, and representatives of Sinn Fein, the Basques, Bretons Catalonians, Polish, Italians and others.

Sean Halpenny and Joe Austin spoke to the massive crowd, who gave them a tremendous reception.

Sean Halpenny, brought greetings to the people of France and to the people of Europe, and said that Ireland and the small nations of Europe were fighting one battle, the battle against Imperialism and Repression. Joe Austin spoke about the men in H-Block and that an international campaign should be built to fight this savage repression in Ireland.



Iranian people take to the streets in defiance of the Shah's military repression.

British pollute Irish sea

The bad effects of British capitalism and imperialism upon the welfare of the Irish people are far-reaching and often hidden from the 'naked eye' especially in the twenty-six counties.

Industrial pollution is one such 'hidden' effect upon both the people and the environment.

A recently published study conducted by members of the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth (England) has revealed that zinc pollution off the British west coast is being carried by the prevailing sea currents up Ireland's east coast to the

detriment of fish stocks in the Irish Sea. The high proportion of zinc in the water is inhibiting the process by which microscopic fish food (plankton) develops in the sea through drawing nourishment from sunlight.

With virtually the whole of the Irish Sea in the danger zone, in-shore waters already over-fished, and EEC restrictions on zones and catches, serious damage to the vital lowest part of the sea-food chain is bad news for both the fisherman's pocket and the fish-eater's pocket.



3,000 people heard Sinn Fein delegates speak at a Paris rally against repression and imperialism.

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST THE E.E.C. — By Christene Ni Elias

IF one were to rely on the reports in the establishment press, one could not be blamed for believing that the E.E.C. is just one big happy family and that all the ordinary people in all the other Common Market countries have been successfully seduced by the generous handouts from Brussels and that only the Republican Movement in Ireland is being unreasonable in continuing to resist the EEC Utopia. In fact, the media are conveying a very false impression of what is actually happening: there exists a considerable number of parties and groupings throughout Europe who oppose the E.E.C.

FORCIBLE OPPOSITION

Criticism of the E.E.C. and opposition to it has been voiced more and more forcibly in recent months as a result of the forthcoming elections to the 'European Parliament'. In an effort to familiarise ourselves with all aspects of anti-E.E.C. activities, representatives of the Republican Movement have, for several months, been meeting with other European anti-imperialist groups.

As reported in 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' a fortnight

ago as a result of these discussions, an international joint anti-E.E.C. campaign has been launched by Sinn Féin and twenty-two other European socialist parties and organisations. The agreed platform document has been endorsed by political groups from all nine member-states of the EEC as well as delegates from Spain, Euskadi (Basque), Portugal and Brittany.

The basic principles embodied in the agreed platform manifesto express total resistance to the Europe of big business, unemployment, repression, austerity,

nuclear power and imperialism and call for support for the international socialism of workers, the protection of democratic rights, the struggle for national self-determination and minority rights, the liberation of women and 'the safeguarding of our environment.

NATIONAL LIBERATION

In a special section, entitled 'For Freedom and the Rights to National Identity and to Self-Determination', the manifesto states: "In each state, the struggle against the European institutions is also a struggle for national identity. We uphold every people's right to self-determination and declare that each struggle must develop its own claims. In particular, this struggle for self-determination concerns the Irish and Basque peoples who are struggling for the unity and the freedom of their countries".

The united opposition movement has chosen as its first tar-



Spanish and Basque delegates at the recent anti-EEC conference in Brussels

get in the struggle against European imperialism the problem of national identities and the denial of self-determination. The campaign on this particular aspect will be launched at a conference in Sardinia in mid-February which is to be hosted by the Democrazia Proletaria party of Italy in conjunction with the Sardinian National Movement.

Another important facet of the agreed programme is total condemnation of the uniform and intelligence-killing cultural model that is being imposed on working class people throughout Europe. The recent Brussels conference agreed that the 'Eurovision Song Contest' is an excellent symbol of this trend and one of our first activities together will be to stage a "Coun-

ter-Eurovision Song Contest". Each participating country in the anti-EEC offensive will be sending a representative singer or group to take part in this competition which will provide a spectacular concert, highlighting the true national and cultural identities of the peoples of Europe.

SOCIALISTS TOGETHER

The agreed campaign platform explains that "we are all struggling for socialism against the present Europe of capital and its institutions. We are fighting for a socialism in which the working people participate in and administer society directly".

It is evident from our discussions and decisions that the Republican Movement has much in common with our new partners in the anti-EEC front. We all uphold the rights of working class people and are willing to struggle together to achieve a new kind of Europe of free peoples and free nations.



French delegates from the P.S.U. and O.C.T. at the recent anti-E.E.C. conference in Brussels.

Bernard Navacelles of OCT (right) explains:

"At the moment in France there is no mass movement against the EEC. This is very dangerous. The danger has been realised by the farmers. They have had to fight for everything since France joined. Twenty years ago, 20% of our population was involved in agriculture: now only 7-8% of our people are in farming".

The Cuban Revolution 20 years later

TINPOT DICTATORS CAN BE OVERTHROWN

BY JUAN SOSA

On January 8th 1959, Fidel Castro led his victorious army into the capital city of Havana, after a two year guerrilla campaign. The corrupt dictator Batista had fled the country and the people were in the streets taking on the last strongholds of the dictatorship.

On the 20th Anniversary of this remarkable revolution it is time to look backwards... and forwards.

Castro led a democratic revolution - that is, for free democratic elections; which was also a nationalist revolution - that is, mainly directed against North American imperialism which for many years had dominated Cuba. It was only in 1961 that Castro declared a socialist revolution.

NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

In the early years the aim of the Cuban revolutionaries was to carry out a nationalist-democratic revolution which would lead to a more humane society. But, on the



Che Guevara

one hand the United States launched an economic blockade of the island, which meant that the Cubans had to turn to the Soviet Union for trade. And on the other hand, the middle class (which had always called itself "democratic") chose exile in Miami rather than the hard job of building a new society.

The effect was to place the revolution at the crossroads - either capitulate to U.S. and middle class blackmail and retreat, or move forward decisively to build a new free democratic and socialist society.

The second choice was the one taken. Since then, the revolutionary process has brought a decent standard of living, a good education and free health service to all Cubans for the first time.

Havana, once the red-light district of the Caribbean where rich American tourists went for

their "fun", became the headquarters of revolution on the Latin American continent.

Not all went well however. In 1967, Che Guevara was murdered in the Bolivian jungle after the failure of his attempt to launch the revolution in that country. Since then Cuba has been politically isolated in Latin America, as one after the other revolutionaries were defeated.

The link with the Soviet Union essential for Cuba's survival, also brought its problems, with a growing tendency to use bureaucratic rather than revolutionary methods as in Eastern Europe. This does not mean that revolutions are bound to fail, but that a small socialist island in a hostile capitalist sea will inevitably face immense problems. In celebrating its twentieth birthday these days, the Cuban Revolution has shown that socialism is not only neces-



Fidel Castro during liberation war against Batista.

ary but also possible.

SHINING EXAMPLE

In Latin America today, Cuba remains a shining example of hope to millions who live a bleak life of torture, repression and dictatorship. Thousands of rebels have been inspired by the Cuban Revolution to take on their Rebel Army led the Cuban corrupt decadent, capitalist governments, which are just as subservient to U.S. imperialism as Cuba was twenty years ago.

Across in Africa, Cuban volunteers have recently helped the Angolan people defeat British mercenaries and South African racists. This action was international solidarity at its best, worth more than thousands of pious resolutions passed at conferences and so on.

In Ireland, the 20th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution also gives us encouragement. Like Cuba, we are also an island alongside a bloody imperialist monster. Ireland too is dominated economically and politically by a foreign power, just as Cuba was run by American bankers and sugar barons. But also as Castro's Revolution to take on their Rebel Army led the Cuban corrupt decadent, capitalist governments, which are just as subservient to U.S. imperialism as Cuba was twenty years ago.

Imperialism whether American or British, can be defeated. Tinpot dictators, whether Batista or Mason-Cressy-Newman, can be overthrown. The Cuban revolution was twenty years old last month, the Irish Revolution is long overdue.

Report on Theatre Writers' Union conference on censorship, London.

EXCLUSION FROM THE MEDIA

Report by Pauline Greene

A T.V. film by a well-known director about an Irishman who died sixty years ago is banned; 10,000 copies of a book about how British troops interrogated Irish internees are shredded on government orders; an artist designs a poster of a Republican wall-painting showing a giant shamrock and slogans: an art magazine reproduces the poster but minus the slogans.

The above are just a few of the many examples of censorship that came to light at a 200 strong conference organised by the Theatre Writers' Union in London on 28th January.

OVERT CENSORSHIP

The increasing incidence of overt censorship over the last few years - most obviously, but not exclusively, relating to Ireland - has led to a number of discussions on the question.

The intention of the Theatre Writers' Union was to get away from the compartmentalisation of media workers, and bring together people from all different parts of the media: theatre, television, journalism, visual arts.

During the conference it became clear that their concern about censorship is leading media workers into making a general critique of the role of the media.

The conference helped this process by bringing together speakers on key areas which are maltreated by the media: industrial affairs, sexual politics, race, Ireland.

It became obvious that the perspectives of whole sections of the population-unofficial strikers, gays, women, blacks, Irish Republicans - are excluded from the media.

This exclusion is achieved in a number of ways. Sometimes, the state intervenes directly to repress those who raise unpalatable views.

Sometimes the broadcasting authorities step in to ban a TV programme, as the IBA has done several times over *This Week's*

films on Ireland. In relation to Ireland, yet more insidious forms of control operate, in the shape of directives to production staff to 'refer up' programmes for vetting at high levels. The process is often yet more subtle. Comedy is used to denigrate 'targets' such as Irish people.

BRIT QUANDARY

The state on the whole prefers to avoid open censorship, which inevitably leads to friction. That Irish coverage has been the chief victim of obvious interference because, as lecturer Philip Schlesinger, put it, "Northern Ireland has presented a crisis for the British state and the British media, and especially for the public broadcasting system".

The consensus within the media establishment cannot be relied on, because the repressive methods being used by Britain in the north of Ireland actually conflict with the establishment image of 'justice-loving Britain'.

Torturers? No!

Inevitably investigative journalists begin to ask questions. The authorities are in a quandary: allowing the truth to get through leads to awkward questions about the war, but using open censorship equally exposes the state's role.

The success of the Theatre Writers Union conference probably lay chiefly in its potential for increasing media workers' awareness of the overall role of the mass media, and the setting up of a committee which aims to act as a pressure group on the trade unions.



DUIRT SIAD

They said

"I believe most people in Northern Ireland accepted with reservations that the D.P.P. was acting, or attempting to act in a fair and impartial way!" Gerry Fitt.

"Look what they've done to poor Gerry Fitt" Frank Maguire.

"The E.E.C. countries have become the dominant partners in the regime of terror in South Africa" Mr. Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress.

"There has developed, over the last 20 years, a very close collaboration between the N.A.T.O. military command and the South African army and navy" Sean McBride.

"They didn't run, you know, like we thought they would. They stayed to fight. What do you think of that?" White soldier after an encounter with black Zimbabwean freedom fighters.

"Tortures are used to force confessions from persons generally recognised as innocent" Professor Georges-Albert Astre of the World Peace Council speaking about occupied Ireland.

"The absurdity of them saying I was Joe McCann meant that I would have resurrected from the dead. The Canadians got all this information from the R.U.C. and you know what the intelligence test for entering the R.U.C. is?" James McCann.

"Ireland just doesn't seem to be interested in human rights" Fr. Pat Rice, who worked with the oppressed poor in Argentina.

"Provisional Sinn Féin is to be commended for its fine campaign to draw world attention to the cruel and inhuman deeds of the British government in Ireland" Brian Stephens, 'Hibernia' columnist.

"But I didn't get on with Mason. There's something about Mason. He could be a bit insecure. He's a very small man, you know". Frank Maguire.

Lyreacrompane agus all that!

It is not often that a new book on placenames is published and so we give a special welcome to "The Plains of Royal Meath", a list of townlands, baronies, parishes, electoral divisions and national monuments of that county.

The author, Jack Fitzsimons, a Meathman of many tastes, is also the author of "Bunglow Bliss" and "New Homes from Old", two practical handbooks on build-it-yourself and convert-it-yourself; an epic poem titled "Towards the Emancipation of Women"; "The Parish of Kilbeg" the history of a parish; and two books of fiction, "Peeping Through the Reeds" and "Call me a Dreamer".

In his preface in Irish he makes it clear that the purpose of this labour of love is not to make his fortune, "Rud a deirim go cinnte, ní le airgead a thuillint.... Nuair a bhíos im' ghasúr beag ag dul go dtí an bhunscoil b'áluinn liom ainmneacha i nGaeilge a d'fhoghlaim, mar shompla, Inbhear Colpa ag Béal na Bóinne. Tá fuaim san ainm seo, sílim, cosúil le teacht agus imeacht na taoidé ar an trá i Leath-Thóin.

"It was, then, the poetry in the sounds and meaning of placenames, and particularly those of Co. na Mí, that decided him to undertake this work.

On page two Mr. Fitzsimons

writes: "The Irish names and derivations have been taken from these (Ordnance Survey field names books, typescript copies) without elaboration, except in a few cases and in these instances the sources are given".

Therefore, if we wonder at some of the original Irish names given we are not finding fault with Mr. Fitzsimons, although it would be interesting to know if he himself had any reservations.

"Bodeen" is given as Bojdín, a little fire; but the new Ó Donnáil Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla has nothing to indicate that this is in any way correct.

If by any chance this townland got its name from any physical shortcoming of a former landlord, we can readily understand why he might wish its origin to be considered other than what we understand by it.

The Irish given for Keenog is Caonóg, mossy land; but again we do not find this meaning in the Ó Donnáil dictionary, though it does give us a choice of: Five of trumps (at game of 25); chief, champion; or, a blow, a clout; if we presume that the anglicisation fairly represents the sound of the original Irish and that the Irish is cianóg also cianon also cionn.

Gunnocks is given as gunóg which we are told is a little gun, and it is suggested that it might be a corruption of an English word. More of this book in the future.

By Lugum

Tyneside Anti-Brit Picket



To commemorate the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry members of the Tyneside Irish Solidarity Campaign, combined with 'Rebel' and 'Revolution' Socialist youth groups staged an anti-recruiting picket outside the Brit 'Careers Information' office in Ridley Place, in the town centre of Newcastle on Saturday January 27th.

The picket was a success with support from about 25-30 people, most of whom were still at

school or college.

Hundreds of leaflets were handed out appealing to young people not to join the British army; highlighting the true role of the Brits in the occupied six counties; and their strike breaking activities in Britain over recent months.

The response from local people was varied with some showing sympathy and others being downright hostile.



KATHLEEN THOMPSON

—AN OBITUARY

BY A FRIEND

Kathleen Thompson photographed ten weeks ago attending a pre-Christmas Republican function.

The tricolour draped coffin with its Cumann na mBan guard of honour, followed by family and friends, comrades and ordinary people makes its last slow journey down the Glen Road. The struggle for life ended in Montgomery House at 2.50 p.m. on February 9th. A mere 35 years since her birth in Belfast's Carrick Hill. Kathleen Thompson was dead.

Or is she?
Is this real? It's only two weeks since she told me to mind myself. Only two weeks since she said "Once I get over this shortness of breath I'll be on my feet again". And now she's dead.

Or so they tell me.
Remember the lean years? Remember the 60's. Remember her singing "A lonely Belfast Graveyard". Remember....

When did she join Cumann na mBan? It must have been about 1959. Twenty years ago. Twenty years..... That's when she met Jimmy Steele. They formed a firm and lasting friendship, Jimmy gave Kathleen the words of many songs and she has given life to those songs and many more since then. But always she insisted that she was a Republican first and a singer second. And she never made any apologies for her Republicanism.

In 1963 she went to America for two years. Remember the press clippings, the letters home? Successful concerts. One after the other. And then back to Ireland again. She got leave from Cumann na mBan but always remembered her association with that organisation. Later she

was to dedicate "Soldiers of the Rear-guard" to them because "the soldiers of Cumann na mBan are the rear-guard of their comrades of Oglagh na hEireann". In 1965 Kathleen joined and devoted her energies to the National Graves Association. In her spare time she sang at Republican concerts and ceilidhs.

Remember her singing at An Ard Scoil, Cluan Ard, An Cumann Beag? Remember her at the Felons club at Milltown? In the 43 club? At the Ulster Hall? Before the war. When the only flying column was that headed by herself and Eamonn Lavery.

1969

That changed in '69. In the re-organisation of the Republican Movement which followed, Kathleen never deviated and was among the active Republicans who gave their allegiance to the then provisional Army Council. In 1971, she and Eamonn Lavery married and as British terrorism intensified and their prisons filled with P.O.W.'s Kathleen turned her attention to this new dimension of our struggle. She was a founder

'GO nDEANFAIDH DIA TROCAIRE AR A H-ANAM DILIS'

member of the Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Committee and became their voluntary welfare officer to Armagh Gaol, a commitment she has fulfilled until now.

In 1973, tragedy struck when Eamonn was killed in a car accident. A year earlier he and Kathleen had entertained the evacuees at Lenadon following the breaking by the British Government of the '72 bi-lateral truce. Now she was alone, but in a year which was crucial to the Republican Movement she continued, like many good Irish women, to play an active part in the resistance struggle. During the Hunger Strike in England, she volunteered and was forced fed at a protest in Hamill Street, Belfast.

On St. Patrick's Day 1975, she sang Republican songs to a capacity audience in America's Madison Square Gardens. Later that year she made her last L.P. "The Price of Justice" plus a single. The royalties of both records were to go to prisoners' relief committees and it is worth noting that Kathleen never received expenses and always refused to accept fees for her performances. "The Price of Justice" smuggled into prisons, was heard in Long Kesh, Armagh and in Parkhurst gaol in Britain.

In 1976, she found new and deep happiness when she and Harry Thompson were married. She, Aine, Maire and Harry were to have three wonderful years together. During this time, despite illness and on top of her work for the Republican Movement Kathleen found time to work for the Montgomery House Lourdes Committee, for the handicapped and for the aged.

BLANKET MEN

This year she was to record two songs dedicated to the blanketmen in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and only last month she was still courageously rehearsing at home. To the blanketmen she had a special devotion, as can be seen from the monies she raised for the H-Block fund and from her attendance at many

protests and demonstrations.

How then will we remember Kathleen Thompson? For many of us her acts of kindness and generosity, the honest and straight forward way in which she fearlessly expressed her opinions and her unstinting devotion to duty will remain the dominating memory.

Many, many more will recall her morale boosting concerts. As many as four in one night, in Toome, Bellaghy, Derry and Armagh. In Kerry and Lucan Spa. Her last public performance was at the Cumann Cabhrach dinner in Dublin in 1978. The songs she has given us will never die.

How would Kathleen like to be

remembered? "I am a Republican first and a singer second".

That is how I will always remember her. As a friend, a comrade and as a Republican who gave her wonderful talents unselfishly to the Republican cause.

To Harry, Aine and Maire, go our genuine and sincere sympathy. Your grief is our grief. For the Republican Movement, for the National Graves, the J.R.P.W.C., for the P.O.W.'s and for myself and my wife, our memories of Kathleen will always live. Go nDeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a h-anam dilis.

"My four green fields will bloom once again" said she. Beidh an bus again in Chaitlin. Beidh muid saor.



Funeral procession on the Glen Road, Belfast.

Death of KATHLEEN THOMPSON

Last Friday after a long illness Kathleen Thompson died in Belfast. Kathleen immortalised in song the Republican stirrings of the resisting people, their tragedies and suffering.

After Requiem Mass in St. Theresa's Chapel, Andersonstown, last Monday her coffin was draped in the tricolour and the flag of Cumann na mBan in honour of the service she had given. Hundreds of people attended the funeral procession to Milltown cemetery. Two pipes walked in front of the hearse, stopping opposite Kathleen's home to play "A Nation Once Again".



Gerry Adams (left) Vice-President of Sinn Féin delivering graveside oration with Jimmy Drumm (right) who officiated at the ceremony.

In Milltown the last post was played, and prayers offered for the repose of our friend and comrade. Wreaths were laid on behalf of GHQ, Belfast Brigade and Derry Brigade Oglagh na hEireann, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna agus Na Gaili, and others from Sinn Féin cumann and the Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Committee. Gerry Adams, vice-president of Sinn Féin, and a close personal friend of Kathleen, said a few words on behalf of the Movement. From the Movement generally and from the Prisoners of War, and from the Blanket-Men in H-Block he extended condolences to her husband Harry, and her two children Maura and Aine.

IN MEMORIAM

BAILEY, Sean ('Stu') (3rd Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Vol. Sean (Stu) Bailey, "A" Coy, 2nd Batt. Belfast Brigade Oglagh na hEireann (killed on active service February 13, 1978).

"Let our memorial to our fallen comrade be the continuation of the struggle for which he gave his life: until we are victorious". Always remembered and never forgotten by his friends Noel O'Hara (Cage 11 Long Kesh) wife Marie and family.

BAILEY, Sean (3rd Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of our dear friend and comrade Stu Bailey. Always remembered by Phyllis, Eddie and family.

SAUNDERS, James (8th Anniversary)

Vol. James Saunders, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Shot by U.V.F. while on active service duty: 7.2.71. R.I.P. Mary Queen of Ireland Pray for him. Sadly missed by his comrades, the Brigade staff and friends in the Republican Movement.

SMYTH-SCOTT, (1st Anniversary)

With fond and loving memories of Mary Smyth and Michael Scott murdered by loyalist thugs, 12th February, 1978. Late of 43, Oldpark Avenue (the 'Bone'). From Officers and members, Brian Smyth Sinn Féin Cumann, Craigavon, New City.

