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**London/
Dublin
summit**

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Thatcher's law



IN contrast to Garret FitzGerald's craven capitulation to Margaret Thatcher in London, women in Belfast's Divis Flats last weekend showed the true spirit of defiant Irish nationalism in the face of 200 British soldiers and RUC men carrying out a mass raid of their homes in accordance with Thatcher's law in Ireland.

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FOUR**



● The latest victim of loyalist sectarian murder, Sinn Fein member Paddy Brady (inset), was gunned down in Belfast on Friday — see page 5.



AN INTERVIEW WITH GERRY ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN

The summit's depths

IN an interview with Kevin Burke of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, on Wednesday this week, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams MP gave an initial response to the London/Dublin summit, commenting on the position of the Irish establishment parties in the immediate aftermath and their likely longer-term attitudes. He emphasised that Sinn Fein's consistent analysis of the Forum process has been vindicated, and expanded on what should be the way forward now for Ireland's national interests.

Q. What was your immediate impression of the summit talks?

A. The summit was projected by the Dublin government as a meeting at which the British response to the Dublin Forum would become known. And that response had been hyped-up in the preceding months by Peter Barry, Dick Spring and Garret FitzGerald himself as a potentially positive response.

When we consider the build-up to the Forum itself, the time that was spent on it, the money it cost and particularly its pomp and formality, and if we accept that the Forum report outlined the thinking of the Coalition, Fianna Fail and the SDLP, and if we then consider Thatcher's 'out, out, out' rejection of it, it was clearly an arrogant and insulting response to those people and a humiliation for them.

Hurd's statement today is further proof of British contempt for Dublin and its Northern representatives, the SDLP. Unfortunately for the Irish people, the political leaders of the Irish establishment parties tend to behave like stage Irishmen.

What's the point of Dick Spring or Garret FitzGerald making protestations now about Thatcher's press conference or Hurd's remarks?

People want and deserve real leadership, not the spectacle created by the rise, with all the attendant pomp, of the Dublin Forum and the subsequent ignominious fall of that body's report before the international media.

It has all the elements of a farce, with FitzGerald the bumbler being skillfully trampled upon by Thatcher.

I think that it was Danny Morrison who said some time ago that, amongst the many dangers of the Dublin Forum, it would raise nationalist expectations and that when the British knocked the Forum down that those nationalists who had expectations would suffer humiliation.

That is what has happened. It can now be said very clearly that the Forum report is dead and buried.

Q. The Fianna Fail response has entailed even more verbal republicanism than usual. How do you see their position now?

A. Well, Fianna Fail have been engaging in verbalised nationalism throughout the Dublin Forum and since the publication of the report and, of course, now more than ever, to take advantage of FitzGerald's public humiliation by Thatcher.

Fianna Fail must sit down and review entirely their position.

ion. They are being dishonest if they don't do this - I think they are going to be dishonest.

I think the whole role of Sinn Fein in all of this and Fianna Fail's present response must be clearly understood. When we were excluded from the Forum, that meant that 102,000 nationalist, republican voters in the six counties were disenfranchised. Thatcher is denying that these people are alienated from the state when it is quite obvious that they have no political credence in the state at all and see it as an illegitimate state.

In spite of his verbalising, Charles Haughey is, in fact, helping that. Firstly, by his acceptance of and agreement to, our exclusion, and, secondly, by his continued support for Section 31 which means, for example, that every view, in this major crisis, is heard by RTE viewers and listeners except the Sinn Fein view.

Q. How does all of this affect John Hume and the SDLP?

A. Much of what I have said about Fianna Fail also applies to the SDLP, but with the possible exception of Fianna Fail, none of the parties to the Forum report, even now, seem to realise that it is dead and buried.

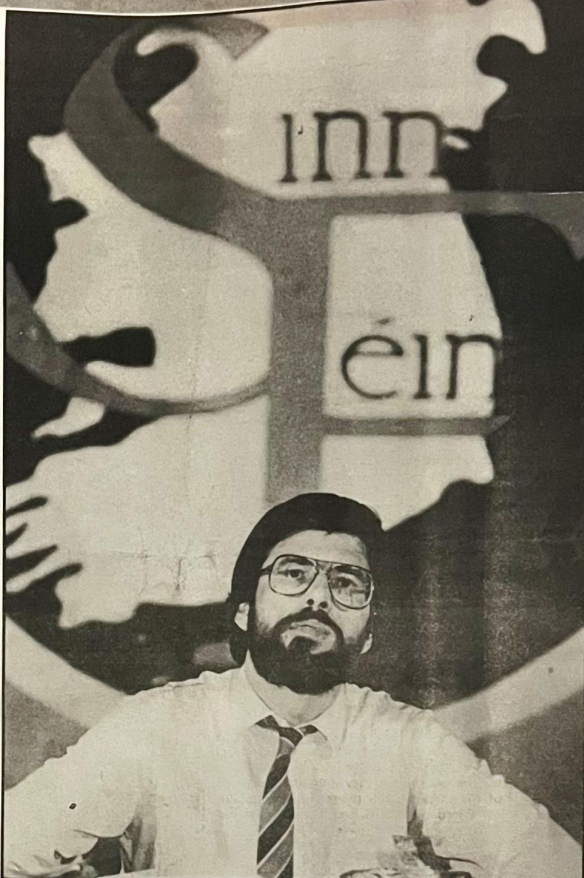
John Hume, on television the other night, actually said that the British had discovered a hitherto unheard-of 'fourth option' in the Forum report. I think he was quick to begin to boost whatever cosmetic gesture comes out of the next summit meeting and it is pertinent that the timing of that summit is in the run-up to the local government elections in the six counties.

Thatcher's response to the Forum will certainly have affected SDLP morale however. But Ireland being as it is - I suppose it would be the same in any country - John Hume will get some sympathy for the way he was dealt with by Margaret Thatcher. I think that's unwarranted sympathy - he deserved to be dealt with that way by Thatcher as he is supposed to be a shrewd astute politician.

He walked himself into a situation which we warned him against. I think he has to review his whole attitude, his party has to review its whole attitude. But there is no indication that they are going to do so.

Q. Where does the Coalition go from here?

A. Garret FitzGerald has left the British government in the very strong position that it is now in because he



had made the cause of Irish nationalism, as he perceives it, dependent upon British goodwill. It is quite obvious now that British goodwill is not forthcoming.

What will FitzGerald talk about at the next summit, since he clearly won't be talking about the options contained in the Forum report? It is obvious they will talk about further repression. If they do talk about some change in relation to the status of nationalist aspirations how can FitzGerald do so, and claim a mandate, without suffering further humiliation?

We may have reached a high point of Coalition unpopularity in the accumulation of its disastrous, anti-working-class policies, its whole anti-democratic attitude towards Sinn Fein, and more importantly, towards that section of the electorate which voted for us, on whose behalf it claimed a hyped-up position of guarantor, and all of this topped off by what was a bumbling performance when FitzGerald, representing the Dublin government, was humiliated by Thatcher.

I think you might get in spired press leaks over the next few weeks of the Coalition version of what happened in the summit talks in an attempt to boost themselves as champions of Irish nationalism.

We are also likely to see their version of the 'green card' in the continuation of the type of statements we have to listen to from people like Peter Barry.

Q. What is the significance, in your view, of the proposed summit meeting in the early months of next year?

A. The fact that there is another meeting so quickly is, I think, just so that the Thatcher government can keep an eye on its junior partner in Dublin. When Thatcher ignored them for a period they went off by themselves and brought in this Forum business.

I think also that it is related to the local government elections, because, while Margaret Thatcher is not prepared to visibly prop up the SDLP on its terms, she is shrewd enough, and has enough advisers around her, to see the necessity to prop up the SDLP on her terms, which could mean cosmetic changes in the status of nationalists living in the six counties.

Q. Is there any indication that Thatcher is preparing, as some people are saying,

to take Ireland seriously, once the miners' strike is over?

A. I would say, as others have, that the attempted execution of the British cabinet by the IRA has helped to apply Thatcher's mind to the question of Ireland, and at least to give it a greater priority than it had before.

I don't think that the miners' strike being over would make her pay any more attention to Ireland. She does not really want to take Ireland seriously and the proof of that was seen in her treatment of FitzGerald.

Q. Can Sinn Fein now say 'we told you so'?

A. I think Sinn Fein can say 'we told you so', but I don't think we should be going about this in any triumphalist fashion.

When the Forum was initially mooted, Sinn Fein, which was debared from its deliberations, predicted, and gave many reasons to support its view, that such a Forum could not, in fact, point the way forward for Irish nationalists.

We weren't surprised at the rejection of the Forum report. In fact on the eve of the summit I issued a statement saying that Thatcher would simply use such a summit to boost further the collabora-

tion and joint repression which has become part of life in Ireland.

What we should be doing is trying to point out, not the parties involved, but to their supporters, the reason why our analysis is so different.

Q. What then is the way forward for Irish nationalists?

A. One must take a dogmatic and principled attitude towards the British connection and towards partition. There can be no such thing as an Irish nationalist accepting the loyalist veto and partition. You cannot claim to be an Irish nationalist if you consent to an internal six-county settlement and if you are willing to negotiate the state of Irish society with a foreign government.

Those are the basic principles. Irish nationalists, regardless of their party political attitudes, must pressurise the British government and push forward in a unified approach to remove partition, to remove the loyalist veto, and, in the absence of British interference, to build a democratic Irish society.

Sinn Fein, far from being excluded, should have the same rights to put across our view, and we do represent a very sizeable section of nationalist opinion in the six counties. Had we had our say in the Forum, and had we been listened to, I think there would have been a much different outcome today.

We would not have agreed to go to the British government with a report which was a dilly-mixture of various options and we certainly would not be trying to negotiate with a government which showed no willingness to talk to us.

For decades, the revisionism and pro-British ethos of the Dublin establishment has diluted Irish national pride. Thatcher showed how little respect the London government has for Dublin. They have no reason to respect a partitionist government which has been consistently subservient to British interests and reluctant to press with vigour the Irish case for self-determination.

What is required now is the restoration of national pride. This cannot be done by meaningless nationalist rhetoric. It needs firm action, a unified approach and a steadfast maintenance of principles.

This could be done, for example, by stopping extradition and cross-border collaboration. Charles Haughey made some progressive noises on extradition last week.

If he is serious, and despite his own dismal record in regard, among other things, to the imprisonment of Gerry Tuite and the Belfast prison escapes, let Fianna Fail use its considerable influence to have extradition stopped.

Rhetoric on this issue, while Evelyn Glenohmes is hunted at Britain's best in Ireland, is meaningless. Similarly, on the question of border security. Let the British government pay for the maintenance of its border. Why should Irish tax-payers bear a greater cost than their British counterparts for a border none of us wants?

A change of attitude on issues like this would prove that Irish nationalists have at last learnt something about how to handle the British government.

A failure to act in this manner will show once again why Britain feels free to behave in the way it does.

Forum rejected at London/Dublin summit

HUMILIATION

BY HILDA McTHOMAS

AFTER MONTHS of hype and speculations — the anticlimax. Worse — the debacle. For there is no other description for the London/Dublin summit which took place in Chequers, near London, on Sunday and Monday, November 18th and 19th.

Dublin was the venue originally planned but, since Brighton, Mrs Thatcher has been a little bit shaky about getting too close to the Irish, so England it had to be. FitzGerald obliged, naturally.

The 600-word communique issued on Monday evening after the summit said it all — there was nothing to say. Thatcher and FitzGerald had agreed, it said, to "reject violence" and "those who adopt or support such methods", to maintain and increase co-operation "in matters of security". Both leaders had also agreed that the nationalist and unionist identities "should be recognised" and that efforts should be made to restore confidence in the "process of government in Northern Ireland".

COLLABORATION

Clearly, the harassment of nationalists and republicans will be stepped up, cross-border collaboration will be increased, the unionist veto will be upheld and, to add insult to injury, a few cosmetic reforms will be brought in to put a new coat of paint on the decaying edifice of the six-county statelet, as it were. All those pleas by Peter Barry, Hume and FitzGerald in the past few months had obviously fallen on deaf ears. Appearances would be kept however, further talks were announced for the New Year. The show will go on.

But, while the communique said nothing new, the two prime ministers in their respective press conferences, made some revealing admissions. Thatcher, flanked by what looked like a cardboard cut-out of present Northern direct-ruler Douglas Hurd, lashed out at the Forum report with unprecedented virulence. A united Ireland was "out", she said, a confederation of two states, "that was out" too, as for joint authority, "out" as well — that was a "derogation of our sovereignty" is how she dismissed the third option, on which the Free State government and Hume had pinned so much hope.

ALIENATION

As for "Northern nationalist alienation", "one could not find it", she said. "This word 'alienation' which has 'crept into the vocabulary' was not a 'good one', she added. It was now "up to the Northern Ireland parties" to agree. At that point the Hurd humbug was nudged to say that he would "hold talks with the parties in Northern Ireland". In other words, yet another 'internal settlement' was being plumped for.

FitzGerald mumbled his way through his press conference, covering his embarrassment under his poor speech delivery. Pressed about Thatcher's blunt dismissal of all three Forum options, FitzGerald hesitated some long seconds before repeating some meaningless phrase he had used in his introduction, "a discussion ranging right through and beyond the Forum report". He also attempted to hide Thatcher's denial of 'nationalist alienation'. Her reference to the need for an "acceptable system of security" apparently revealed that she thought that there was a "problem".

EMBARRASSED

Thatcher's predictable and blunt words, and FitzGerald's embarrassed pauses, opened the floodgates to a torrent of words and



● HURD, FITZGERALD, THATCHER & SPRING

reactions, in Ireland at least. The most-awaited reaction was possibly that of John Hume, for whose survival, after all, the Forum had been set up. Hume hastily wiped the egg off his face and described the summit as a "holding operation". The section of the communique on the recognition of two identities was presented by Hume as a breakthrough and an endorsement of the spirit of the Forum report.

But the SDLP leader could not conceal his discomfort for very long at the demise of his party's major plank. In Westminster on Tuesday he criticised Thatcher for her press conference remarks which had caused "deep and justifiable anger and offence in Ireland". Calling the SDLP the "republican party", Thatcher wittingly replied that she had hoped for "more co-operation" but Hume's words did not "give her much hope".

SPLIT

On Monday night SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon, while admitting his disappointment, remained very cautious in his criticism, undoubtedly conscious of the very serious potential for an SDLP split constituted by Thatcher's rejection of the Forum report. Meanwhile, unionist reaction was one of delight and relief.

DUP leader Ian Paisley welcomed Thatcher's three 'no's to the Forum proposals. Frank Millar for the OUP condemned the summit for reconvening in a few months' time, while DUP chief 'hip Jim Allister regretted that the two governments had not agreed on a "proper form of extradition". All unionist parties, including Alliance, called on the SDLP to follow Thatcher's advice and go for an internal settlement. Come back to Stormont, was the unionist cry to the dejected SDLP.

Going back to Stormont could, as Hume knows, tear the SDLP asunder, pressed as they would be to justify to their voters the dismal failure of the Forum venture. FitzGerald too seemed aware of the crisis looming within the SDLP.

He refused to be drawn at his press conference by a suggestion that he should convince the SDLP to take their seats in Stormont.

HAUGHEY

In the Free State, Haughey had been



● HUME ● HAUGHEY

sharpening his knives in the run up to the summit, with gloomy forecasts of a 'negative' outcome to the talks. Once the summit was over Haughey let rip, the unionist veto had been "extended" by Thatcher, the situation was now "further back than at any time in recent years". In Leinster House on Tuesday, Haughey launched into a vitriolic attack of FitzGerald, whom he accused of "abject capitulation" to the Brits, "craven desertion of the principles of the Forum report" and general "incompetence", "misjudgement" and "ineffectiveness". The summit was a "defeat for Irish nationalism of historic dimension", a "black spot in Anglo-Irish relations".

Media reactions followed closely those of party leaders: before the summit, the Irish Press had given 'nationalist alienation' as the 'bottom line' for the Free State government. This bottom line having been trampled on by Thatcher, the Irish Press editorial on Tuesday, November 20th, was scathing. "Back to square minus one", "constitutional nationalism fell flat on its face in the wake of one of the most unnecessary and unfruitful summits ever staged". Blaming Brighton on Thatcher's policies, the Irish Press warned of probable demise for the SDLP in the face of Sinn Féin.

POLL

The pro-Fine Gael Irish Independent took a much different line. FitzGerald could "come back with the knowledge that the North had been moved much higher on

Mrs Thatcher's personal list of priorities than it had ever been". Dublin and London now understood one another "better than at any time in the past", the Irish Independent waffled.

On Thursday, November 15th, the Irish Independent had devoted a special supplement to the summit, in which it published the findings of an opinion poll which quite conveniently fell in with FitzGerald's argument. According to the Irish Independent poll, while 71% of the people were against the dropping of Articles 2 and 3 from the Free State constitution, 43% were in favour of their amendment to a "desire for Irish unity, eventually".

RIFT

The Irish Times editorial expressed deep disappointment at the lack of political progress, and "sympathy and even pity" for FitzGerald.

In the North, the Irish News took the FitzGerald line — as has become customary — and praised the communique for offering "opportunities for real progress".

Rarely had leading articles in the Irish establishment press been so diametrically opposed, as if they were covering a different event. This serious rift prefigures the major tensions which will tear through the Irish establishment in the aftermath of the Chequers debacle.

In the North, the unionist Belfast Newsletter stressed Thatcher's firm support for the union, the Belfast Telegraph sharply described the communique as "little more than a restatement of the old 'acceptable and guaranteed role' for nationalists that was put forward a decade ago".

Both unionist newspapers called on the SDLP to take their Stormont seats.

YAWNS

The turmoil caused by the Chequers summit in Irish political circles was in total contrast to the few polite yawns on the British side. A few Labour MPs spoke of "opportunities missed", the Guardian stupidly welcomed a "summit that tackled the issues", other newspapers rejoiced in the promised stepping up of anti-republican repression. Meanwhile, British government sources were quoted in Wednesday's Irish Times as describing the summit as a "defeat for FitzGerald", because of Thatcher's refusal to grant Dublin anything more than a "consultative role".

On Wednesday, however, the pot began to boil over. At his parliamentary party's meeting, FitzGerald met the full wrath of his back-benchers at his public humiliation. In his defence he was forced to claim that Thatcher had been "gratuitously offensive" at her post-summit press conference.

He illogically claimed that it would have been easy for him to reply in kind but he had refrained from doing so "in the long-term interests of the country".

Peter Barry told the meeting that Mrs Thatcher had "behaved disgracefully".

The Labour parliamentary party meeting on the same day was described as "one of the angriest for years".

Earlier in the day, at a news conference in the North, Douglas Hurd broke the supposed secrecy of the summit to reveal that the Dublin government had been told in plain words that there could not be joint authority over the North and there was no executive role for the Dublin government in Northern affairs.

This further humiliation prompted a rebuttal from Dick Spring on behalf of the Coalition in which he claimed, incredibly by this stage, that all contacts by Dublin with London was "founded firmly on the Forum report".

AT LEAST 200 British soldiers and RUC carried out massive random raiding in West Belfast's Divis Flats complex on Friday afternoon last, November 16th. For over five hours the Cullingtree block, its grim walkways as usual crowded with young children, was saturated by heavily-armed crown forces.

At least 20 armoured land-rovers and Saracens ringed the area. Women and young girls entering the block were insolently ordered to open their coats for inspection by British soldiers. At least 24 flats were raided. Several of these which were bricked up were thoroughly vandalised by the raiders.

Among those whose homes were raided were an 88-year-old widow and several women with young babies. Other residents arrived home to find their front doors lying open, items smashed and clothes and personal belongings scattered over floors.

Journalists were kept well away by the RUC and a UTV camera crew which managed to reach Cullingtree was prevented from filming.

SHOT

The mass raids took place only hours after West Belfast man Paddy Brady was shot dead by a loyalist murder gang, though predictably the loyalist Village area close to the milk depot where Brady was assassinated was neither sealed off nor searched afterwards, a fact not lost on Divis residents.

In a characteristic outpouring of nationalist anger and resistance, during Friday afternoon women and girls lining the balconies of Divis energetically until their arms ached - banged pots and pans within point-blank range of Brit and RUC ears, determined that the occupation forces would also suffer that afternoon - even if only from sore heads.

Sarah McMahon, an 88-year-old widow who suffers from arthritis and a catarrh, was illegally confined in the kitchen of her Cullingtree Row flat for an hour while Brits and RUC rummaged through her cupboards, clean linen and clothes in other rooms.

Mrs McMahon, whose home has never before been raided, admits she became extremely distressed.

"It was working on my nerves all evening. I felt very cold afterwards, very, very upset."

OVERRUN

Fifty-seven-year-old Margaret Earley, of Cullingtree Walk, had spent a frustrating morning at the 'Broo', because her supplementary benefit had failed to arrive by post. When she arrived home, she found her front door forced open and her home overrun by British soldiers and RUC men, who refused to allow her into her own kitchen to get tablets she takes for epileptic fits and a heart condition. When she attempted to pick up the bottle of tablets, an RUC man knocked them at her face. Subsequently Margaret Earley took a nervous attack and a doctor had to be called to her by a neighbour.

Throughout the raids, Sinn Fein workers toured the balconies, advising residents of their rights and offering practical help.

Margaret Torney, aged 27, was alone in her flat with her eight-month-old baby son when, shortly after noon, a large force

THATCHER'S LAW



• Divis women gave the crown forces a noisy reception



• Gerard Prendergast holds the smashed TV set amidst the wreckage of his home

of Brits and RUC rushed inside, pushing her back as she demanded to see a search warrant.

Margaret, close to hysteria with previous distressing raids on her home fresh in her mind and surrounded by RUC men, called to Sinn Fein's Sean McKnight, a Belfast city councillor or for the area, who was on the balcony, asking him to remain with her during the search.

PUNCHED

However, on the orders of a senior RUC man, McKnight was forcibly ejected from the doorway, being punched on the head. Divis Residents Association rep-

resentative Fra McCann was grabbed by the throat and flung against a wall by an RUC man.

Margaret Torney was held under illegal arrest in her home for some three hours, being eventually joined by her mother. Margaret recalls:

"The Brits were having a laugh, really cheeky. They thought it was a great idea coming and turning somebody's house upside down. They said they were looking for guns but they were reading through personal letters and debt books."

Margaret, whose husband Hugh Torney is detained in Crumlin Road Jail on the word



• Sean McKnight confronts the Brits and RUC

of RUC-bribed perjurer Harry Kirkpatrick, remembers:

"My other wee girl, Andrea, she's five, came in from school. She was in hysterics when she saw them. She's been attending the doctor since they wrecked the house in June, she's been wetting the bed."

"An RUC man told me that they're trying to get to Hugh through me and the children. She's terrified, she has this fear that they're going to take me away too, and that she'll be on her own."

SMASHED

That evening, Cullingtree Row resident Gerard Prendergast arrived home to find his front door had been smashed open and clothes strewn everywhere. Crown forces had smashed the back of a portable TV set, kicked a hole in the bathtub, which is now unusable, ripped holes in mattresses and the settee, and smashed the heating system and panelling.

Left without heating, he had to stay with a sister over the weekend.

Late on Friday afternoon, as the crown forces withdrew from Divis, the RUC publicly claimed that two shotguns had been found in an unoccupied flat, an assertion dismissed by many residents as a transparent PR attempt to provide a pretext for the afternoon's harassment.

Local people pointed out that about an hour earlier, Brits in

Divis proclaimed they had found 'a bomb'. No fewer than five bomb-squad Saracens were ostentatiously rushed to the scene, but no more was heard of that 'find'.

CONDEMNED

The raids were strongly criticised by the Divis Residents Association, which described them as "an exercise in harassment of local tenants", and condemned the crown forces' apparent use of Divis as a training ground for future raids.

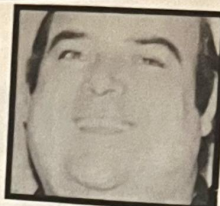
After the raids were well over, SDLP Councillor Brian Feeney ludicrously condemned them as "a return to the bad old days of the '70s", thus demonstrating his ignorance of the everyday realities of life for most Northern nationalists. Sinn Fein's Sean McKnight subsequently observed:

"If Feeney was really concerned about the raids, he should have been there helping the people. Why didn't he visit Divis himself to see the RUC and British army terrorising pensioners, women and children?"

"Where were his party colleague, Joe Hendron, and the Alliance Party's Will Glendinning, who both claim to represent the people of West Belfast?"

"Sinn Fein, instead of commenting from afar, will continue to stand side by side with the nationalist people in their struggle against British-orchestrated oppression."

BELFAST SINN FEIN MEMBER ASSASSINATED A SAD LOSS



BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A WEST BELFAST Sinn Féin member and well-respected community worker was shot dead at point-blank range by loyalist assassins last Friday morning, November 16th, as he arrived to begin his day's work.

As part of his daily routine for the past ten-and-a-half years, 35-year-old Paddy Brady, a milkman from the St James's area, drove the short distance from his home to Kennedy's Dairy on the Boucher Road, close to the loyalist Village district. With him was his 14-year-old helper, Paul Hughes.

The pair arrived outside the dairy between 6.30-6.35am and, as Brady parked his white Volvo car, another vehicle, believed to be a brown-coloured Cortina, drew parallel with him.

As he was locking the passenger door several shots rang out and, within seconds, Brady lay dead on the roadside in a pool of blood, having been hit in the head. His assassins sped off and disappeared into the early morning darkness.

Paddy Brady's tragic death is the second assassination within two weeks, with black taxi-driver Harry Muldoon being brutally gunned down in his North Belfast home on October 31st. While Mr Muldoon had evidently been singled out by a loyalist squad, no group has as yet claimed responsibility for his death. However, within hours of Paddy Brady's murder, the UFF — Ulster Freedom Fighters — telephoned Downtown Radio admitting their involvement.

SIMILARITY

Judging by the similarity of both murders it would appear that they were related and were perhaps perpetrated by the same individuals. The UFF claimed that Brady was an "intelligence officer"



in the IRA "posing as a Sinn Féin member", a claim which has been strongly denied by his family and friends.

Typically, the RUC, who declared they are keeping an "open mind" on his murder despite these obvious sectarian connotations, participated in a massive joint Brit/RUC exercise in harassing members of the nationalist Divis Flats area by carrying out an intensive seal-and-search operation, only hours after Paddy Brady's murder.

A member of the local St James's Martyrs cumann for the past several years and an active community worker for over 15 years, Paddy Brady was well-

loved and respected by all. He was closely involved with the running of the St James's Crescent Community Centre, organised street festivals and provided facilities for young and old.

Indeed, three days prior to his murder, on Tuesday, November 13th, he had played the role of Santa Claus in his firm's pre-Christmas children's party held in the Lansdowne Court Hotel. According to his wife Mary:

"He was a member of Sinn Féin, a democratic right for someone living in West Belfast... and his overriding concern was to work for peace and to get children to mix with people of other religions in the community."

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams echoed these sentiments and in expressing sympathy to Mary Brady and her daughters Patricia (13) and Frances (11) he said that Paddy would be a "sad loss to Sinn Féin and to all who knew him".

Adams also slammed the callous decision of the Brit home secretary in denying compassionate parole to Martin Brady, his brother, to attend the funeral despite the fact that he has served more than 11 years in English jails. Adams protested:

"This vindictive decision has obviously been taken for political reasons and is designed to cause the maximum hardship to both

the prisoner and his family."

At his funeral ceremony in St John's Church on Monday, the people of St James's and hundreds of friends and associates paid their final last respects to Paddy Brady, before his burial in Milltown Cemetery.

Speaking at the service, the Bishop of Down and Connor, Cahal Daly, while condemning his murder on the one hand, totally ignored the inherent sectarianism on which the six-county state is founded and failed to identify that Britain's continuing occupation only serves to exploit the situation, thus guaranteeing similar tragedies being inflicted on the nationalist community.

Divis scare

A 22-YEAR-OLD MAN from Divis Flats in West Belfast had a hair-raising experience with a loyalist gang in the early hours of Tuesday, November 20th, as he was making his way home.

Thomas McCabe, a painter and decorator by trade, had just left home his girlfriend at approximately 12.45am and was walking down a deserted Albert Street when a car suspiciously pulled up alongside him.

McCabe recalls: "When I saw the car pulling in behind me I turned into the flats at St Jude's stairway. One of them, a blond-haired guy, got out of the car carrying something and shouted at me 'Hey boy, come here'. I looked around and in a split second bolted up the stairs."

PURSUIT

According to Thomas McCabe, at least two or three other men disembarked from the car and joined the other in pursuit up the stairs. He continued:

"They shouted up after me

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

'Stop you Fenian bastard' and when I got so far up the stairs I stopped and looked out but the car was just pulling away."

McCabe, who has no doubt in his mind that he was the intended target of a loyalist assassination squad, was understandably shaken by the incident but unharmed.

Nationalists should note, however, that his frightening experience is only one in an alarming series of sectarian attacks which, within a space of weeks, has so far resulted in the death of two people — black taxi-driver Harry Muldoon and community worker Paddy Brady — and left at least one other nationalist hospitalised following a vicious beating on the Falls Road on Saturday, November 10th.



● The scene of an attempted assassination in Divis Flats, Belfast

March for work

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

HUNDREDS of Irish Shipping workers and supporters marched through Dublin on Tuesday, November 20th, to protest at the liquidation of Irish Shipping. Some of the seamen had been with Irish Shipping for nearly 50 years. Already 49 clerical staff have been dismissed.

...

The American-owned electronics company ECCO has announced another 188 redundancies at its Dundalk factory.

At the Monday meeting of Dundalk UDC this week, Sinn Féin Councillor Fra Browne said "this further loss of jobs is leaving Louth an industrial wasteland" and he challenged local TDs to state publicly what, if anything, they had done to help the situation.

...

Another American company, Koss (Ireland) Ltd, Bray, County Wicklow, is to close on December 21st. Forty-three jobs will be lost at the factory, which manufactured stereo equipment.

...

Twenty bacon industry workers at the Letterkenny Bacon Factory, County Donegal, have been made redundant, and further job losses are expected.

...

The 100-year-old Waterford timber firm, Graves and Company Ltd, have announced 23 redundancies.

...

Coalition cut-backs in the health service could soon lead to the loss of at least 1,000 jobs. The various health boards are seriously worried about the resultant reduction in services to patients.

There is no provision for pay rises in the public sector, according to the 1985 Book of Estimates released on Thursday, November 15th. Social welfare payments will not increase to keep pace with inflation.

...

The Irish National Teachers Organisation has warned that industrial action will be taken over teachers' pay. John Joe Connolly, president of INTO, said that



the pay proposals for the public sector were not acceptable.

...

The Labour Court has recommended an 8% pay rise for key workers in the oil industry.

...

Two thousand workers in the Irish Sugar Company and Erin Foods have reached an agreement with management on a pay rise which is in excess of the Free State government's guidelines.

...

Denny's bacon-processing plants in Tralee, Cork and Sligo are still on strike after six weeks over pay increases in the 24th pay-round.

...

Also in Tralee, workers at the Lee Strand Creamery have been on strike for three weeks in a dispute over a 16% wage claim.

...

The strike at Bord na Mona in resistance to lay-offs and the abandonment of a new briquette factory by over 400 workers is continuing.

...

The Santry, Dublin, ice cream firm, Palm Grove, is still being picketed by workers on strike over the company's



attempt to introduce selective redundancies.

...

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, who was awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his anti-apartheid activities, has invited an Irish delegation to talks in London when he visits there early next month.

The delegation will consist of two

members of the Dunnes Stores strikers - who have now been picketing Dublin's Henry Street store for over four months in protest at the sale of South African goods - together with a representative of their union (IDATU) and a member of Action From Ireland (AFRI).

Mass pickets are continuing at the Henry Street store every Saturday from 2pm to 6pm. Messages of support/donations should be sent to the strikers' union at 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.

OMAGH DISCRIMINATION

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

SINN FEIN elected representative for Mid-Ulster Danny Morrison has called on a senior official of the Western Health Board in Omagh to publicly apologise or resign following what Morrison described as "blatantly sectarian" alterations to confidential information supplied by local medical staff.

Earlier this month, Morrison made public several complaints he had received from nursing staff who had filled in supposedly confidential record sheets of personal details for the Western Health Board's new computer in Derry.

When the print-outs were returned, it was discovered that those who had described their nationality as 'Irish' or 'Northern Irish' were recorded as being British.

In initially revealing this "gross political interference", Morrison pointed out the possibility that details of medical qualifications could also be altered, which could be detrimental to workers' job prospects.

The complaints by medical

staff have also been taken up by the union NIPSA.

Last week, after Morrison challenged the Western Health Board to name the person responsible, the Board's group administrator in Omagh, James Henderson, admitted that he had made the changes.

Henderson stated that he had looked up the Oxford English Dictionary's definition of nationality as determined by the parents' nationality or 'the place of one's birth' and he categorised all staff born in the North as British.

INSULTING

Henderson's explanation was dismissed as "blatantly insulting" by Danny Morrison, who, in a

statement this week, pointed out:

"Mr Henderson has been around long enough to know and appreciate that the nationalist people of the North resent such a claim and indeed a war is waging over the right of the Irish people as a nation to determine their own future. If Mr Henderson had looked at an atlas he would see that Omagh is in Ireland not in Britain.

"I find it even more insulting that, whilst the Western Health Board has undertaken to rectify the errors, Mr Henderson is refusing to accept that any errors exist."

Pointing out the impossibility of nationalists having faith in senior management who attempt to foist their unionist politics onto their staff, Morrison concluded:

"I am calling upon Mr Henderson to publicly apologise to nationalist members



of the medical staff in Omagh feels so strongly about asserting his Britishness."

WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS...

IRA AMBUSHES

TWO MEMBERS of the crown forces were injured in two separate ambushes by IRA Volunteers, while others narrowly escaped injury or death in a third attack, in Derry, last weekend.

The Derry ambush occurred on Sunday night, November 18th, when five armed Volunteers commandeered a house on the Creggan Road overlooking Rosemount RUC Barracks. At about 10pm, an hour after moving into position, the Volunteers, using high-velocity rifles, opened fire on a British army mobile patrol as it entered the barracks. About 60 shots in all were fired at the Brits who wildly returned fire, hitting several houses.

One hit was claimed by the Volunteers, all of whom returned safely to base. In a subsequent statement, the IRA said that every precaution was successfully

taken to avoid any danger to civilians.

NEWRY

On Monday morning, November 19th, IRA Volunteers in South Down ambushed an RUC man in Newry as he opened gates at the Caulfield Place side of Newry Barracks.

IRA Volunteers had been carefully monitoring the routine followed by the local RUC, who regularly opened the gates each Monday morning around the same time.

The Volunteers, using high-velocity rifles, opened fire, seriously wounding the RUC man and

hitting him in the head, neck and hand.

ARMAGH

A few hours later, around 4.20pm, the 2nd Battalion, Armagh Brigade, ambushed a UDR soldier as he drove along the Armagh-Caledon Road.

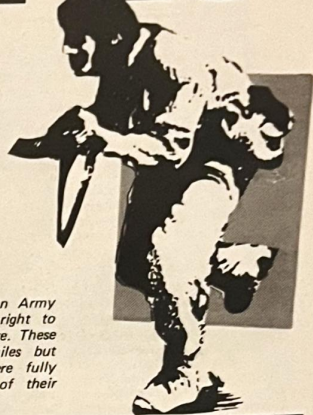
The soldier was slightly injured when a bomb, carefully placed at the side of the road, was detonated as he drove past.

In claiming responsibility for this ambush, the IRA identified the soldier as Dessie Millar, "a member of the UDR patrol responsible for the shooting of Martin Malone in Armagh, in July 1983".

On Tuesday night, November 20th, IRA Volunteers in Derry carried out punishment shootings on four men. In a statement

later, Derry Brigade said:

"The Irish Republican Army never relinquished the right to take action of this nature. These people were not juveniles but mature adults who were fully aware of the nature of their activities."



Abuse and harassment

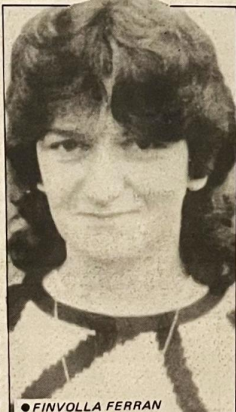
BY ROBERT CARLIN

A 22-YEAR-OLD Dungannon woman, Finvolla Ferran, has been subjected to a campaign of abuse and harassment by the British army and the UDR over the last few days.

On Friday last, November 16th, she was stopped by the Fusiliers on the Ballygawley Road at about 12.50pm. The Brits called the RUC who conducted a search of the car.

Two hours later, at about 2.30pm, the UDR stopped her car in Scotch Street and amidst much shouting and jeering they called a group of five loyalist youths over who recognised Finvolla Ferran and her passenger. The youths called the women "Fenian bastards" and followed them about the town for some time.

Later that day the same UDR patrol stopped her car on the Oaks Road. She was accompanied this time by her mother and her brother who is blind. The car was searched thoroughly and the three occupants were made to stand on the roadside for over an hour. The RUC then arrived and Finvolla Ferran was searched by an RUC woman.



● FINVOLLA FERRAN

been lodged by Finvolla Ferran against this harassment.

SICK

Before allowing her to proceed, the UDR soldiers asked her whether she was sick of it yet and assured her that there was more to come.

True to their word, a UDR patrol stopped her again on the Ballygawley Road on Monday. She was taken out of the car and another search conducted. And on Wednesday morning the same patrol which had accosted her on Friday ran after her in Scotch Street, calling her name. When they reached her they ridiculously demanded her name and then brought her back to the car, which they searched.

An official complaint has now

CLOCHER

Meanwhile, during a raid on the Holland family home at Ballyscally, Clogher, the RUC threatened the lives of two men, Michael and Sean Holland, and threatened to arrest their mother and sister.

The raid began at 8.50am on Saturday, when the RUC forced their way inside the house and searched each member of the family of four. They read personal mail and wrote down the names and addresses of the senders. They also used abusive language and lay on the beds reading magazines. The family said there was a strong smell of alcohol on the breaths of the RUC men but when any

objections were made they were threatened with arrest.

A number of RUC men pushed Sean Holland on to a settee and assaulted him and when Michael Holland insisted on feeding the cattle and left the house, an Alsatian was unleashed and recalled only when it jumped on him.

The Hollands have said that every time they go out in the car since the raid they are followed by the RUC, stopped and searched.

Owen Carron, Sinn Fein elected representative for Fermanagh/South Tyrone, said in a statement:

"This type of harassment has become a daily routine for the nationalist people here since Ken Maginnis called for tighter security. What he really meant of course was for these people to tramp harder on nationalists."

RUC blackmail exposed

BY JANE PLUNKETT

YET another case of RUC intimidation and blackmail has come to light, this time in the Castlewellan area of County Down.

Anthony Ladd, now aged 32, who was arrested from his Castlewellan home in early 1980, has now revealed that during three days of interrogation in Gough Barracks, Armagh, he was told by RUC Special Branch men that unless he agreed to work for them, he would be "put behind bars for a good number of years" on trumped-up charges. The RUC men told Ladd they wanted him to collect information around the Castlewellan/Newcastle area.

Terrified, Ladd agreed to their demands, and was then given a telephone number, Newcastle 23250, and the names of two contacts, 'Davy Lee' and 'Billy Brown'.

Over several months, Ladd met his RUC "handlers" on a regular basis. Though he told them repeatedly he was not a member of the Republican Movement and could tell them nothing, they continued to pressurise him for information. According to Ladd:

"I told them false things, invented

stories, anything to get them off my back." For this he was paid sums ranging from £10 to £20.

INTIMIDATION

After several months, Ladd, who is English and has two brothers in the British army, attempted to escape the RUC's trap by moving home to Shropshire. However, his RUC handlers pursued him over there and ordered him to meet them. Ladd made it clear that he wished to end his 'work' with them but they continued their intimidation. He recalls:

"They said I had to come back or they would put me away. I returned soon after, around Easter 1981."

Soon afterwards, the meetings resumed, at intervals of two or three weeks. Then during 1983, Ladd was again detained for several days in Gough Barracks, where the two Special Branch men instructed him to say nothing to RUC detectives about their relationship.

After this, Ladd began drinking heavily until finally, on the verge of a physical and mental breakdown, he took the correct course of contacting Sinn Fein and telling his story.

Snub for Coalition ban

THE Coalition government's boycott of Sinn Fein elected representatives suffered a major reverse in Dundalk, County Louth, last week when the local Urban District Council (UDC) told Coalition Environment Minister Liam Kavanagh that if he wanted to meet them he would also have to meet Sinn Fein Councillor Fra Browne.

Prior to Kavanagh's arrival in their town, on Friday last, November 16th, Dundalk UDC voted that he would only be allowed access to the Town Hall if he agreed to meet all democratically-elected councillors.

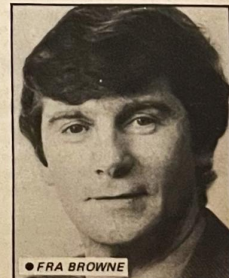
Arriving in Dundalk, Kavanagh was spared a head-on confrontation with the council when he was ushered away by local colleagues in the Free State Labour Party, including Leinster House deputy Michael Bell.

Later, in a trade union hall

in Dundalk, an angry Kavanagh held what local republicans described as a "face-saving" impromptu meeting of Labour Party members in the area.

And in a statement, Dundalk Sinn Fein said:

"The Dundalk UDC stand against the Coalition's ban on meeting Sinn Fein elected representatives was a clear and decisive victory for local democracy against the Fine Gael/Labour attempt to side-step the wishes of the overwhelming mass of the Dundalk



● FRA BROWNE

electorate, many of whom voted to put Fra Browne at the top of the poll in the last local election."



outside Leinster House, Dublin

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SEAN MULLIGAN was released from Portlaoise Prison on Friday, November 16th, after serving eight years imprisonment. In this interview with *AP/RN*, he talks about the growing frustration among the prisoners at the inhuman visiting conditions and the brutal treatment of prisoners, particularly during strip-searches.

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

Tension is naturally growing in the prison, because the authorities have made no real move on the three main grievances, the visiting conditions, the strip-searching, and the beatings that go along with it. There is also resentment and anger about the use of solitary confinement for anything that a Screw decides is an infringement of rules. We don't accept that strip-searching is necessary for security reasons.

We were subjected to 2,000 strip-searches over the last two years. Nothing that could be described as a security risk was ever found, so obviously strip-searching is done for other reasons. It is done to humiliate you and break your morale under the pretext of security.

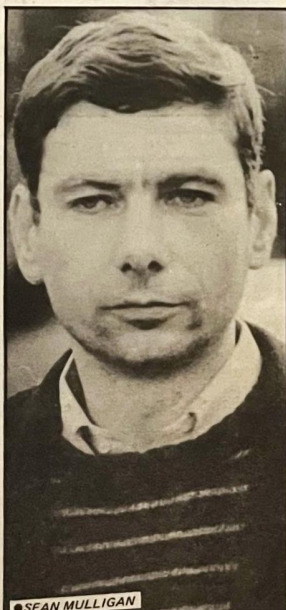
Security is used as the excuse for an inhuman regime in the prison. Men going to court or to hospital are strip-searched going out and coming back even though they have never been out of the sight of the Screws or gardai. I had to go to hospital once for an X-ray, and I was handcuffed to a Screw even while they took the X-ray.

Other men have had similar experiences, yet we were strip-searched going back into the jail. It's not done for the reason they say, it is done to degrade, to destroy your confidence and self-image.

SOLIDARITY

It is the same as the strip-searching of the women prisoners in Armagh. We are in total solidarity with the women there, and having been strip-searched ourselves we understand the effect it has, and how much

Interview with a recently-released prisoner



SEAN MULLIGAN

worse it must be for women to be subjected to this sordid practice.

Like the women prisoners, the men in Portlaoise are clear about why it is done. It

is a political weapon used to try and break political prisoners. But because as republican prisoners we have a solidarity and strength, and a political awareness of why we are in prison, most of us have been able to withstand the mental and physical torture that is a deliberate part of the prison system.

The visiting conditions are part of that torture, and it has the added value, to them, that it puts a terrific psychological strain on the prisoners' relatives, particularly wives and children, and that of course hurts the prisoner and makes it almost impossible to maintain any sort of relationship.

All human needs and rights are ignored. It is as if they do not see us or our families as human at all, and it is all done in the name of security.

Punishment in the form of solitary confinement, loss of remission etc, is handed out regularly. It usually arises out of strip-searching. The Screws will order a man to strip, the prisoner will refuse as a matter of principle, you have your dignity. The Screws then forcibly pull the prisoner's clothes off, and then charge him with assault.

PUNISHED

Every time a prisoner is charged and is brought before the governor, he is punished with solitary confinement and loss of remission, no matter how trivial the charge is. The usual term of solitary confinement is two months.

One of the main concerns of the prisoners now is the deteriorating health of Mick Kinsella. I saw him on Thursday last, he is not even recognisable as the person who came into Portlaoise in 1973. He has severe psychological problems, he should not be in jail, he needs proper treatment.

The only reason Mick is kept in prison is as an example to other prisoners of just how they can break a man. The other prisoners are aware of that. There is absolutely no justification for keeping a man in his medical condition in prison. Most of the time he does not even know where he is.

He can't look after himself. We helped as much as we could, as much as he would let us, to keep him and his cell clean, for instance. But he never talks to anybody. Most days he does not come out of the cell. He doesn't eat, or read, or do anything, just lies there. Sometimes he wanders about talking to himself and laughing, like a zombie.

His condition could, in part, be due to the drugs he is being given, there are times when he is heavily drugged, but he is clearly seriously mentally ill. It is ironic that Noonan released Nicky Kelly on so-called humanitarian grounds when Mick Kinsella is still in Portlaoise.

EMERGENCIES

Medical care is poor, a doctor comes in once a day but there is little provision for emergencies. I've known men who were injured, maybe with broken bones, waiting hours for a doctor, and then of course, if they had to be taken to hospital, security was used as an excuse for long delays in getting out of the prison.

Educational facilities are also bad, though recently a few teachers have been allowed in, but all the petty restrictions that are enforced before a prisoner is allowed to go to a class makes it virtually useless. A lot of the men study on their own and have passed exams by correspondence when it is allowed.

Some of them have been waiting for more than two years for an answer to requests to do courses. It is a way of putting prisoners off doing anything worthwhile. The prison authorities hope you will just give up.

In spite of the frustration and the harassment, morale is good. The majority of prisoners hold up to it all, and though it does not lessen the anger they feel, they are not broken by the regime.

We were very heartened by the campaign started by the relatives, not just because of the changes it will bring for the prisoners but because it shows our families and friends are not broken either and that they support us.



● Christy Burke making a point at the CPAD conference

Anti-drugs conference

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

JOHN HUMPHRIES, chairperson of the central committee of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs Campaign gave the opening address at their all-day conference in Liberty Hall, Dublin, last Saturday, November 17th.

He gave an account of the setting up of the campaign, and how it had developed. Pointing to the success of the campaign so far, he said that they had exposed the pushers, and helped addicts to seek treatment. Because of the campaign, it was no longer trendy to shoot dope, and the number of new addicts had decreased appreciably.

Seamus Redmond of the MPGWU, the dockers' union, urged trade unionists to join the new group set up by the unions to combat drug abuse and praised the work of the CPAD.

Discussion followed on the effects drug addiction had on the family and Mick Rafferty of the central committee spoke on help for addicts and the

need for treatment centres.

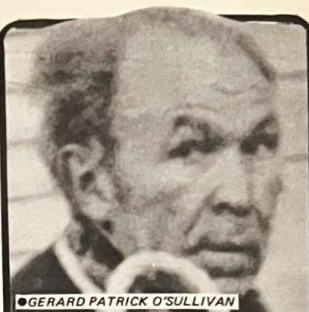
The most lively discussion was during the debate on the media. Eddie Greene, in an introductory speech, said that certain sections of the media had been hostile to the aims of the CPAD from the start, and had deliberately sensationalised their campaign. The *Today Tonight* programmes on the heroin problem in Dublin came in for severe criticism from members of the audience.

Fr Smith, a priest from an Inner City parish, said that Brendan O'Brien, the presenter of the programmes, had been particularly hostile to him because he had praised the work

of Christy Burke, as Burke was a member of Sinn Féin. "Without Christy Burke," said Fr Smith, "the drug problem in the inner city would have been much worse."

Speaking from the floor, Noel Sillery from Dolphin House in Dublin said that the reason the authorities so feared the CPAD was that for the first time communities were tackling issues themselves, and being effective in solving their own problem.

If they could do that in regard to drug abuse and drug pushers then they could do the same about other issues, and that worried the government.



● GERARD PATRICK O'SULLIVAN

RATHMINES EVICTION

BY JACK MADDEN

LEGAL ACTION is being taken by two sisters, Geraldine and Patricia Garvey, who have been intimidated and threatened into leaving their flat in Rathmines, Dublin, by a landlord who refuses to recognise that tenants have any rights.

Trouble began for the Garvey sisters when their landlord, Gerard Patrick O'Sullivan, gave them a notice to quit their flat. No reason was given other than that the flat had been let to two other people.

Acting on advice from Sinn Féin community worker, Christy Burke, the Garveys ignored the notice. And, as reported in *AP/RN* on November 8th, O'Sullivan was approached by Burke who informed him that he was acting illegally in trying to evict the sisters.

On the following Sunday, November 11th, O'Sullivan arrived at the flat and proceeded to remove the windows and even doors which he took off the hinges.

Still the sisters refused to move, but on Friday, November 16th, a man pretending to be an ESB official arrived to disconnect the electricity supply to the flat. When Christy Burke checked with the ESB he found that none of their workers was involved.

FORCED

Convinced that O'Sullivan was behind the disconnection, which left them without light and heating, the Garveys were forced to leave the flat. The caretaker of the building allowed them to use another flat temporarily but because of renewed threats from O'Sullivan, they have finally decided to move flat.

According to Christy Burke: "This man, who owns property in Carlow as well as in Dublin, made it impossible for these women to live in their flat."

"By threatening them with his own heavy gang and depriving them of lighting and heating at this time of the year, he has forced them to move. But the case has now gone to a solicitor so it isn't over yet."

Water bills burnt

THE WATER RATES charges imposed by local authorities in the twenty-six counties became a burning issue again last Saturday, November 17th, when residents of Dublin West's Islandbridge area ceremoniously destroyed their bills.

Sinn Féin activists from the local Lower Ballyfermot/Islandbridge cumann reported almost 100% support for the protest.

Jimmy Delaney, Sinn Féin's full-time community officer for the area, told *AP/RN* that there was only one problem in organising the protest: practically everyone had thrown their bills out as soon as they'd come through the door. He continued:

"The support for Sinn Féin's initiative was fantastic. We even had people apologising for throwing their bills out or losing them

because they would rather see them burnt as a community protest."

"The Sarah Place and Islandbridge Court flats complex is only a small, isolated area and the establishment parties don't bother giving it any real attention except at election time."

"Sinn Féin doesn't care how small the community is. The solidarity shown on Saturday was great and we'll continue to help the people of Islandbridge defend themselves against the attacks by the Fine Gael/Labour government on their living standards."



● Islandbridge residents with local Sinn Féin community officer, Jim Delaney (right), burn their bills

HOMELESS IN SLIGO

BY JACK MADDEN

THE WORSENING housing shortage in Sligo town has forced one young married couple to endure living in a tent since last May.

James and Angelina Farrell were living in a £25-a-week flat earlier this year but because it was unfit for human habitation, and because it was deemed a fire hazard by Sligo County Council, they moved out.

Although temporary accommodation was found for the couple by Sligo Sinn Féin, they were eventually left homeless again and, rather than split up by living in separate homes for the homeless, they pitched a tent in the back garden of Angelina's parents' house.

That was last May and they are still there, cooking and clean-

ing in the Lynotts' house, but forced to sleep in the tent because the Lynotts are already living in overcrowded conditions, with ten children at home.

While the tent wasn't too bad during the summer months, it has become almost unbearable with the recent cold and wet weather. But even though they have regularly and repeatedly approached the corporation, nothing has been done for them.

ALLOCATION

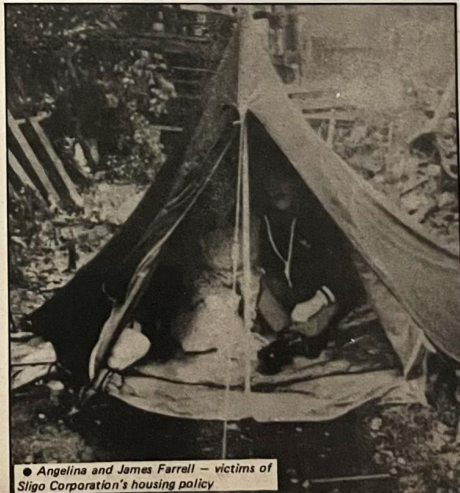
Now Sligo Corporation's housing officer, John O'Dwyer, has said that there will be an

allocation of houses in Sligo in the coming weeks, and this will allow a vacancy in maisonettes owned by the corporation. The Farrells are being considered for one such maisonette.

But in a scathing attack on the lack of urgency shown by the local authorities to house people in the area, Sligo Sinn Féin said:

"It is disgraceful that people are forced to live in such conditions when the town and county are littered with vacant IDA factories which are better built than many of the homes in Sligo."

"Just a small portion of the tax-payers' money spent in building these factories would have built the 500 houses so urgently needed in Sligo."



● Angelina and James Farrell — victims of Sligo Corporation's housing policy

Peace and people

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

ABOUT 70 people attended a meeting in Conway Mill, Belfast, on November 14th, on the theme of international peace.

The platform party consisted of West Belfast priest Fr Des Wilson, Mitchell McLaughlin of Derry Sinn Féin, Fr Hermon Verbaek (a Dutch MEP), Fr Daniel Berrigan (American Peace Movement) and Fr Joe McVeigh (a civil liberties campaigner).

Fr Verbaek said that the day following his election to the European parliament last June, he received a letter from his bishop telling him to choose between being an elected representative or a priest. Fr Verbaek was critical of the attitude of Catholic hierarchies and of the papacy which, he had discovered during the course of research, bore no relationship to the early organisation of Christianity. He called for some form of democracy to be introduced into the Catholic Church to allow priests a say in the hierarchy.

The Dutch priest condemned the US government for its attempts to overthrow the democratically-constituted peoples government of Nicaragua, which he visited last week. He condemned the philosophy of



● MITCHELL McLAUGHLIN, FR HERMON VERBAEK & FR DANIEL BERRIGAN

'might is right', the free enterprise system of capitalism and said that a new definition of violence and war must include the factor of capitalism.

DEVALUED

During the course of Fr Daniel Berrigan's address, he attacked the 'peacemakers' who made no criticism or mention of the political systems responsible for people turning to force and he said they

had misused and devalued the word 'peace'. "Peace is a terribly polluted word... good words have been seized upon by wrong-headed people and those who dispose of bodies."

He stated his conviction that the words 'peace' and 'justice' could be renewed by living example and experience. He said that peacemakers belonged where the wars are and that peace without justice was impossible.

Later there was a question-and-answer session and Fr Hermon Verbaek was asked if Catholic hierarchies in nations that are at war cannot agree on a set of rules to define the times when it is morally correct to use force, should they not remain non-aligned?

In his reply, Fr Verbaek was critical of the imperialist history and roots of the church in Europe which used missionary work to propagate European values and subjugate native cultures. He said that hierarchies tended to be "part of the imperialist wing of the church. Don't ask the hierarchy and never obey the hierarchies because the hierarchy is the same as standing above poor, little people. The only way to follow Jesus is to say 'I never follow any power above me, I only stand with the poor, oppressed people'. It is the poor of this world who are infallible."

One non-Catholic member of the audience, frustrated by all the criticisms of the papacy and the church asked 'Why, then, are you all still in it?'

The Dutch priest immediately replied that he remained a Catholic and would stay in the church to fight against what he considered to be its bad trends.

"I'm staying in the Roman Catholic Church to build up an opposition, for the same reason I'm living in a capitalist society to build up opposition to it."

The evening closed with warm applause for the clerics who had spoken some unorthodox views and shown a side to Catholic philosophy which is in solidarity with the common people and is rarely heard.

LE DÓNAL Ó NEILL

SINN FÉIN PRESIDENT Gerry Adams has told representatives of six language groupings in Belfast that they would receive the support of all nationalists if they tried to set up an Irish language secondary school in the city.

The West Belfast MP was speaking after presenting each of the groups with a cheque on behalf of the West Belfast committee of Glór na nGael. For two years running, West Belfast has carried off an important award in the national Glór na nGael competition designed to find the area which does the most to promote the Irish language.

The language groups who took part in the annual Glór na nGael presentation were the Ardoyne Irish language Nursery School, Twinbrook Nursery School, the daily Irish newspaper, *LÁ*, Roinn Chultúir Shinn Féin, Scoil Ghaelach Bhéal Feirste and Conradh na Gaeilge.

Adams gave a short speech in Irish in which he said:

"Is mór an onóir domh an bronnadh seo a dhéanamh anocht thar cheann Choiste Glór na nGael in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste. Tá áthas orm seans a tháil le comhghairdeachais a dhul leis na grúpaí sin atá chun

Support for Irish secondary school

tosáigh in obair na Gaeilge sa chathair seo.

"Go raibh rath agus bláth ar Naíscóil Chill Uaighe, Naíscóil Ard Eoin, Scoil Ghaelach Bhéal Feirste, *LÁ*, Conradh na Gaeilge agus Roinn Chultúir Shinn Féin.

"Tá náisiúntóirí Bhéal Feirste iontach bródúil as an obair atá déanta ag na grúpaí seo. Spreagann a gcuid oibre gach duine againn leis an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim agus le cuidiú le obair na teanga. Táimid uilig buíoch dona Gaeilgeoirí sin a d'oibrigh ar feadh na mblianta."

MEÁNSCOIL

"Anois tá 63 rang Gaeilge i mBéal Feirste. Níos tábhachtaí arís ba mhaith leis na daoine seo atá ag foghlaim nó ag cur suime sa teanga go mbeadh Gaeilge

ag a gcuid páistí. Mar thoradh air seo thosaigh dhá naíscóil nua i mBéal Feirste i mblianta.

"Tá a lán fadhbanna ag na naíscóileanna seo agus ag naíscóil Bhéal Feirste agus naíscóil Mhic Airt sa Trá Ghearr. Tá níos mó ná 300 páistí ag scoileanna Gaeilge sa chathair seo faoi láthair. Caithfidh a lán oibre a dhéanamh le bheith cinnte nach gcaillfidh muid na naíscóileanna nua. Chuir sin caithfidh gach náisiúntóir agus gach poblachtóir cuidiú a thabhairt dona scéimeanna seo.

"Ansin nuair atá siad láidir caithfidh na Gaeilgeoirí meánscóil a bhunú. Tá gach duine againn ag brath cuid mhór ar an Scoil Ghaelach leis an céim stairiúil sin a ghlacadh. Ach tuigean muid go mbeidh



● Gearóid Mac Á. Páinín ag cronnadh seiceanna thar cheann coiste Iarthar Bhéal Feirste de Glór na nGael

tacaíocht de dhíth ó gach náisiúntóir - cuma cén pholaiteoir atá acu - le meánscóil a bhunú."

TÚS MAITH

"Tá a lán oibre le déanamh go fóill sula mbeidh cultúr Gaeilge againn in áit an chultúir Coca-Cola atá brúite anuas orainn. Ach tá tús déanta ag an sé grúpa atá anseo anocht agus ag grúpaí eile Gaeilge, mar shampla, Cumann Chluain Ard.

"Tréaslaím le Coiste Glór na nGael. Tá súil againn san am atá romhainn go bhfeicimid Trófaí Glór na nGael - don bhaile is fearr a chuireann an Ghaeilge chun cinn - ag teacht go Béal Feirste."

Michael McVerry

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE DEATH, eleven years ago, of IRA Volunteer Michael McVerry, the first South Armagh Volunteer killed during the present phase of the liberation struggle, was commemorated on Sunday by a customarily large crowd gathered in McVerry's native Cullyhanna.

Michael McVerry, as usual leading from the front, was shot dead by crown forces on November 15th 1973, during an IRA attack on Keady Barracks.

His commemoration on Sunday morning was attended by around 200 people, including sizeable contingents from Dun Laoghaire and Dublin Sinn Féin.

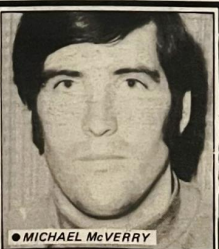
Led by a colour party of women republicans, the crowd, which included the local St Patrick's Youth Band, marched the short distance from Cullyhanna Square to St Patrick's Chapel, where Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllis-

ter chaired the graveside commemoration. In the skies around the tiny village, British army helicopters as usual surveyed the proceedings.

TRIBUTE

The oration was delivered by well-known Kerry footballer Joe Keohane, who in the course of his speech paid tribute to Michael McVerry's keen interest in Irish games and culture.

"The GAA has the same ideal as the Republican Movement - total liberation for our country," Keohane added, and in conclusion appealed to every-



● MICHAEL McVERRY

one present to do their utmost to further the ideals for which the Volunteer gave his life.

After the commemoration, the Dublin area Sinn Féin members met local people in the community centre to gain at first hand an insight into the day-to-day realities of life under British military occupation.

During their discussions, a representative of the Clarke/McVerry cumann, on behalf of Dun Laoghaire republicans, presented local people with a painting of Padraig Pearse dedicated to the people of County Armagh.

Kilkenny ceremony

THE ANNUAL Manchester Martyrs commemoration took place in the South Kilkenny village of Hugginstown on Friday night last. This event has been held in the area since the executions in 1867.

A republican colour party led the parade, followed by 30 local children, bearing flaming torches, and the St Stephen's Pipe Band.

The chairperson, Jackie Phelan, outlined the historical background. After a decade of the Rosary, the oration was delivered by Richard Behal, in the course of which he said:

"Your forefathers have, down the years, honoured the memory of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien because they clearly understood their reasons, bravery and sacrifice in bringing the war of national liberation to the centre itself of British imperialism.

"The example of the Fenians was followed by many Irish patriots, including the IRA, who did extensive damage in England during the Black and Tan War and since. In the present day, heroic Irishmen and women are emulating the deeds of the Manchester Martyrs.

"It is important that ceremonies like these are held because they cut through the treachery and censorship of the partitionist establishment and demonstrate that the ideal and cause is the same today as it was on that dreadful November day 117 years ago."

Extradition

A Chara,
The Dundalk Anti-Extradition Committee totally condemns the endeavours of the *Sunday Times* newspaper, in conjunction with Scotland Yard, to induce or force the gardai to extradite Evelyn Glegholmes to England.

This trial and conviction by the British press of Irish citizens, is the British media at its dirtiest and lowest. For the gardai to take action at the behest of this Fleet Street hysteria, is to set themselves up as willing tools of the grave injustice against the Irish people it represents.

We would therefore call on people to speak out now and bring to an end once and for all the weapon of extradition being used to facilitate British political and military meddling in Ireland.

**Malachy Foots,
PRO, Dundalk Anti-Extradition Committee.**

On American myths and reality

A Chara,
I should like to take issue with some aspects of the editorial 'Opinion' column in the November 8th issue of *AP/RN*, *Wild West* chauvinism, which I find somewhat alarming. To my surprise, since the 'Opinion' column is, almost invariably, a touchstone of the soundest republican thinking.

The central argument of the piece referred to was that the 'rightward lurch' that had propelled Reagan into the White House for a second term made the danger of nuclear war that much greater. That had been made possible because of the national chauvinism generated by Reagan in recent months. This is obviously true, but in illustrating this argument the column went on:

"Playing on people's genuine need to have their pride in country restored, Reagan launched a campaign to persuade the American public that they are the best people in the world and that their country is the greatest in the world..."

"There is nothing wrong in national pride and Americans have achievements to be proud of. Nor is there any real harm in myths of traditional Americanism - blueberry pie, log cabins and pioneers - but when the 'American dream' is believed as reality, then it is time to start worrying."

Surely there is a fundamental difference between our belief in the legitimacy of national pride among a people suffering from national oppression (as in Ireland, or Palestine, or Nicaragua) and national pride - which can only ever be described as chauvinism - among a people who not only do not suffer national oppression, but who have historically imposed it on other nations.

To bring the contradiction closer to home, it is *British* 'national pride' that makes the job of educating the British people about the reality of the war here, and so facing up to their responsibilities, that much more difficult. In such a context, national pride can, surely, never be viewed (particularly by republicans) as a 'genuine need'.

When the Brits withdraw, and national democracy is restored in Ireland, we too

mála poist

CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISM

A Chara,

In his presidential address to this year's Ard-Fheis, Gerry Adams touched upon the concept of constitutional nationalism. This is a subject worth some consideration, particularly with regard to its value for nationalists in the six counties.

The SDLP are pleased to term themselves constitutional nationalists. Since they organise solely and exclusively within the six counties, the constitution to which they tirelessly pledge adherence is, presumably, British.

It cannot be denied that this constitution was imposed on Ireland by force. Partition was carried out under threat of 'terrible and immediate war'. Furthermore it was carried out in direct defiance of the wishes of the Irish people as democratically expressed in the general election of 1918.

The SDLP, therefore, accept and even defend a framework which was imposed upon Ireland for the sole purpose of denying this country its national rights. This is indeed a strange position for nationalists to place themselves in.

ionals to place themselves in.

The SDLP, however, go even further than this. They are not content with merely accepting that loyalists should have an exclusive right to determine Ireland's future, but have now enshrined this 'right' in the collaborationist document produced by the New Ireland Forum.

Having placed Ireland's future in the hands of the British/loyalist axis, the SDLP are hardly in a position to object when that axis rejects the report of the Forum and insists that partition, with all its attendant ills, must continue.

John Hume may well be prepared to let Britain define the parameters of Irish nationalism, but it is doubtful if rank-and-file SDLP sup-



porters will be so inclined. No genuine nationalist could follow the path of Gerry Fitt.

Next year's local elections should provide an interesting test of just how far SDLP John Hume dilute the national

ist position.

That dilution is obviously a major factor in Britain's decision to increase its murderous repression in the North. Present SDLP policy in effect lengthens the war and increases nationalist suffering. Pol O Lochlainn.

in any understanding of the American psyche - wrote:

"To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your own private heart, is true for all men - that is genius."

The poet Walt Whitman, writing later in the same century and in the same vein of individualism, wrote:

"I know perfectly well my own egotism,
Know my omnivorous lines
and must not invite any less,
And would fetch you wherever you are flush with myself."

That claim for the supremacy of the individual is central to American literature and art, and no less so to American political life where it is translated into a form of political evangelism that runs throughout society and, in its highest expression, results in the exporting of the American 'way of life' to other peoples, usually at the point of a gun.

You just can't separate 'myths' from 'reality' in the way the 'Opinion' column tries to. The movie cowboy who causes the incidental destruction of an innocent town-filling his own personal revenge against an outlaw gang - the 'Sam Peckinpah mentality' of films like *Straw Dogs* - is the American president who lays waste to Vietnam to satisfy an arid notion of democracy.

The 'American dream' has always been, and I think it is politically important to realise that, rather than personifying the danger with Reagan, there are a great many more cowboys where he came from. Emerson's appeal to his fellow Americans in the 19th century was no less chauvinistic than it is now, nor admittedly - in the nuclear age - it has become more dangerous:

"And we are now men,
and must accept in the highest mind the same transcendent destiny; and not pinched in a corner, nor cowardly fleeing before a revolution, but resolute and benefactors, deeming aspirants to be noble class, plastic under the Al-

mighty effort, let us advance and advance on Chaos and the Dark."

Sean Delaney,
Belfast.

P.S. Unlike log cabins and pioneers, I have no reservations about blueberry pie, although I think I prefer Gretta Reel's applecake.



Montrose mandarins

A Chara,
John Joe King was less than fair with his comments on Tom McSweeney and the coverage of the grain silo explosion (*AP/RN*, November 1st).

On this occasion it would appear that John has not seen the wood for the trees.

As a Munster man from the traditional area of Sliabh Luachra, I share many of his feelings with regard to the Palace of Cultural Genocide. I fully support 'putting in the boot' to that body as a whole for reasons all too familiar to anyone not living within a ten-mile radius of Montrose.

However, we must be very careful indeed to differentiate between those who support RTE's policy of censorship etc, and the genuine people who do their best inside a rotten system.

RTE Cork and Cork Local Radio, in particular, have gone a long way in providing a worthwhile local service on a shoestring budget. Despite

this latter fact they have covered wide-ranging social, political and cultural issues effectively.

Indeed it is probably because of the dedication and professionalism of all from Marie Ni Mhurchu down, that the station is hamstrung by the 'Montrose mandarins'.

Fearless Fred may like bouncing around Ethiopia in a glare of publicity but he would be guaranteed bouncing of a different sort if Cork had the opportunity and finance to become a fully effective regional station. Such would be the level of professionalism in contrast with Dublin's 'national' effort.

So John, continue the good work but please make it clear that our criticisms do not include the many people inside RTE that share our concern on a wide range of social, economic, political and cultural issues.

As for Tom McSweeney, you may take my word that the gentleman concerned has not the slightest aversion to getting his ass wet or his fingers burnt when professionally necessary to do so.

Donal O Siadhacain,
Baile na mBocht,
Corcaigh.

Marathon

Dear Editor,
The Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Committee wish to congratulate Gerry Small on his achievement in the Dublin Marathon and to thank him and his sponsors for their generous response and efforts.

All our POWs, especially those in Armagh and Portlaoise, will be delighted that he proudly wore the following messages on his vest: 'Stop Strip-Searches' and 'Support Our Prisoners'.

It is a matter of regret that *AP/RN* didn't report this effort, that was witnessed by thousands of people, to stir consciences and maybe help our POWs to stop this degrading practice.

IRPW Committee,
Belfast.

Imeacht

JOHN JAMES KELLY

COMMEMORATION

After 11am Mass
Sunday 25th November
Dooneysloop Cemetery

CASTLEFINN
County Donegal

DANCE

Every Friday night

Bellevue Inn

CASTLEFINN

County Donegal

In aid of Portlaoise

Transport Committee

PROTEST MEETING

5.30 to 6.30pm

Wednesday 28th November

Department of Justice

Stephen's Green

DUBLIN

Organised by the Campaign

Against the Criminal Justice Bill

PU CMEETING

ON PAID-PERJURY

8pm Thursday 29th November

Connolly Hall

Lapps Quay

CORK

Main Speaker: Fr Des Wilson

Organised by the Cork

Stand-up-to-Britain committee

ANNUAL IRISH NIGHT

AND FILM

(On Arragh strip-searches)

8pm Friday 30th November

Film commences 9.30pm

Oak Rill

CASTLEWELLAN

County Donegal

Organised by Peter McNulty

Sinn Féin cumann

BENEFIT NIGHT

Featuring various artists

Music by Tavern Sound

7.30pm Friday 30th November

Bridget Burke's

TALLAGHT

County Dublin

Taille E2

MINI-CHRISTMAS FAIR

11am to 6pm

Saturday 1st December

Community Centre

BALLYFERMOT

Dublin

Taille 10p

(Donations gratefully received

at 44 Parnell Square

or 5 Blessington Street, Dublin)

Organised by Cumann Cabhrach

Dublin Committee

FUNCTION

Sunday 2nd December

Creevelea Hall

DRUMKEERAN

County Leitrim

Prominent speaker

Organised by Sinn Féin

BALLAD SESSION

Music by Village Folk

Friday 7th December

Greyhound Hall

DULEEK

County Meath

Taille £1.50

Organised by Sinn Féin



Armagh video

STRIP-SEARCHING: Security or subjugation?, a video on the strip-searching of women prisoners in Armagh jail, is available for hire.

Suitable for the VHS recorder, the video can be hired from Derry Film and Video Collective, 36 William Street, Derry; phone Derry 260168 or 260326.

Hire charges are £15 stg or Ir£18, with an additional £2 for post and packaging.

Reviews

Book

Targeting Haughey

BY DANNY MORRISON

IT IS PERHAPS a comment itself on the state of nationalism in the twenty-six counties that a genuine convert to that cause, such as John Feehan, could see in Charles Haughey the embodiment of patriotism and place him on a par with Charles Stewart Parnell, Roger Casement and Michael Collins.

Feehan, the founder of Mercier Press (which has been consistent in the publishing world in printing republican/nationalist histories), has been instrumental in recent years in the publication of a steady stream of titles relating to contemporary nationalist politics, not least of which has been the Bobby Sands books.

In *Operation Brogue* he studies the media and political campaign of vilification and slander against the Fianna Fail leader and asserts that it has been directed by British Intelligence.

Whilst, undoubtedly, the British government prefer an open sycophant and trusted servant such as FitzGerald to the more volatile Haughey as Free State premier, and whilst the British must have their agents in influential positions, the unfortunate weakness of Feehan's case is the inability

to substantiate way beyond intuitive certainty that such an officially-sanctioned campaign has been organised and financed.

Whilst cautioning against paranoia, Feehan gives a comprehensive account of a pattern of attacks on Haughey and convincingly demonstrates the double standards of treatment meted out to him in comparison to those seen as pro-British (Fianna Failers and that nice fellow FitzGerald, 'the darling of Fleet Street').

The objective of *Operation Brogue*, he says, was "to work towards getting a government into power, either Fine Gael or Fianna Fail, that would co-operate with British military war aims".

TREACHERY

Haughey, he says, was seen as too principled and too 'republican'. However, whilst

quoting the extradition of Dominic McGlinchey and Seamus Shannon to the RUC this year as an example of increasing Fine Gael treachery, Feehan has forgotten that during Haughey's term of office the Crumlin Road escapes were sentenced, as was Gerry Tuite for escaping from a jail in Britain!

Moreover, Haughey did nothing for the hunger-strikers and, indeed, was responsible for raising false hopes within the Sands family shortly before Bobby's death.

So, while recognising that, in relative terms, the British see Haughey as potentially dangerous (and unfaithful during the Falklands/Malvinas War) and that to Fianna Fail and some sections of the public he has a certain charisma, for republicans his patriotic credentials are totally unconvincing.

Indeed, if he is viewed as the finest leadership product of generations of constitutional nationalism within the Free State then the stultifying effects of partition become startlingly clear.

Feehan's analysis of the reasons for the continued Brit-

ish presence in the North is the republican one of strategic control, with obligation to the loyalists being bottom of the list.

Partition, although John Feehan does not examine this, has also dictated the political complexion of the Free State and has severely handicapped the thinking of genuine nationalists (as distinct from republicans), many of whom are unable to think beyond that ethos.

SHADOW

Fianna Fail, because of its pre-1926 roots, is the only constitutional party with potential for thinking beyond the border but, to republicans, Haughey is a poor shadow of Moses. Nevertheless, because of his reputation there does appear to be an attempt to topple him.

Feehan deals at length with the tactics used, the planting of stories, the creation of a climate of opinion, the campaign of vilification mounted by the British press, and how FitzGerald fits the bill for the British secretary of state for the South.

Operation Brogue, which is a rebuttal to *The Boss*, will help open the eyes of many readers to the historical revisionism presently underway in the Free State and to the ongoing, costly collaboration

which hasn't even resulted in minor political concessions.

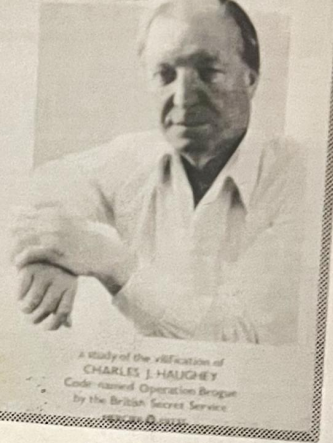
Whether it will open C.J.'s eyes is questionable. He has never demonstrated the vision or moral fibre to tackle and confront Britain's daily humiliation of the Irish people. He is a survivor, but by the time

he has been uncloaked as another disappointment, most of the Fianna Fail faithful will have another figure on the pedestal.

● *Operation Brogue* by John M. Feehan is published by Mercier Press, Cork, price £4.50.

Operation Brogue

John M. Feehan



A study of the vilification of CHARLES J. HAUGHEY Code-named Operation Brogue by the British Secret Service

What's it all about?

BY JOHN JOE KING

IF THE teams themselves continue not to take the National Leagues seriously, then why on earth should I?

Kildare are still on top of the National Football League — and fair play to them anyway. Let's hope they don't succumb to a state of shock.

Kerry, going down against Armagh after last week's Kildare humiliation, look in danger of slipping out of Division One — and it serves them right. They are now reported to be desperate to persuade (I) some of their top players to condescend to play for them in an emergency rescue bid.

Meanwhile, Mayo see off the Dubs in Division Two.

Then in hurling, Offaly wipe out Cork by 3-21 to 0-11; sweet revenge for the All-Ireland final perhaps. But certainly not against Cork's All-Ireland team, nine of whom had previous engagements and didn't make the trip.

The fans too are, quite rightly, voting with their feet and, like the players, find-

ing things to do with their feet.

What's it all about?

Let's face it, amateur players are entitled to a break from the game. The supporters, on the other hand, are entitled to value for money.

The only answer is to scrap the National Leagues and the winter games. Begin an open competition in the spring, follow it with the All-Ireland games and let the tours and busmen's holidays in New York occupy the winter months for those who wish.

Time the GAA bosses woke up.

LIMERICK

Being in Limerick last weekend — the only Irish city where rugby is respectable and, indeed, almost considered the national sport — it was inevitable that I should find myself at Thomond Park

Sport

in fog and mist conditions. (Unfortunately not cockney rhyming slang, but the weather.)

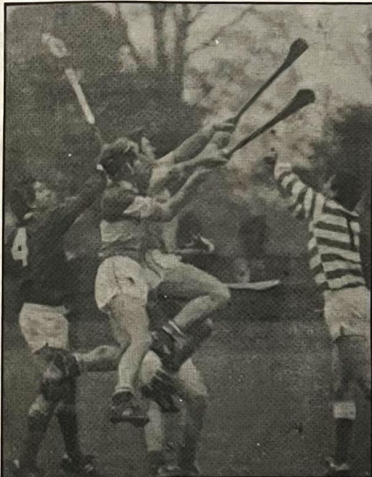
The ground was full to capacity but half of the play was invisible and much more of the rest was guess-work.

As one annoyed spectator behind me remarked: "I can't see what the fog is going on."

At least I think that's what he said.

I saw enough, anyway, to reassure myself that the Ireland selectors are a bunch of pompous, brainless buffoons in their refusal to pick Tony Ward. Last Saturday he kicked three penalties from three attempts and took a total of 11 points.

Moreover, he got his backline moving several times in a manner which his detractors claim he is incapable of doing. It was down to the Munster



● Offaly's Padraig Horan scores a goal against Cork

forwards that their backs were not moving the ball more often. Australia's 12-point win was very much due to Munster's lack of forward power

and we could all have 'mist' the second-half without much loss.

GAEILIC

To restore the cultural

equilibrium, Limerick's Gaelic Grounds was Sunday afternoon's venue, to join a rather smaller crowd for the Limerick versus Tipperary Division One hurling tussle.

The weather was clearer if not warmer, but the title-holders gave little to cheer about apart from a short spell at the start of the second-half, holding on to the lead to come out two points ahead.

Tipperary, for their part, made a fight of it after a goal which followed Limerick's purple patch, but for all their attacking their finishing was terrible.

Limerick, too, missed more than enough chances but just about deserved to win. It was by no means the dazzling match that had been predicted.

DOUBLE

Originally, I had planned to travel to Galway for the double billing against the Kilkeny hurlers and the Down footballers.

I was regretting that I hadn't, until I heard reports that the former game was a similar tale of missed opportunities and the latter game would have been better played under cover of darkness.

What, I repeat, is it all about?

An Phoblacht/Republican News

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IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING POLITICAL WEEKLY

Reviews

Brass necks

BY JOHN JOE KING

BRASS TACKS on BBC2 on Wednesday of last week set up a mini-enquiry into the sinking of the *Belgrano* to see if there was a case for a public enquiry.

Labour MP Tam Dalyell presented evidence for an enquiry. Tory MP Michael Mates took the other side.

It turned out to be a rather silly, inconclusive programme with Mates, in particular, showing himself to be hopelessly inept with little grasp of those facts which have already been admitted.

It seems obvious to anyone that Thatcher murdered hundreds of young Argentinian sailors for the simple reason that she needed to win the election. It also seems obvious, from her 'rejoice, obvious' message, that she achieved considerable heights of personal pleasure in doing so.

It also seems obvious that a very large section of the British people don't give a damn about the legitimacy of the act but see the killing of foreigners in the same kind of terms as winning a World Cup football match.

I don't think any of that comes as a surprise to us in Ireland.

Last week I praised RTE's *Women's Programme* for a relevant and well-presented piece on the Greenham women.

This week they swung the pendulum totally the other way.

O'More's Almanac

Spit in your eye

BY RORY O'MORE

NO DOUBT The Smiths captured wider Irish attention than usual, earlier this month, when their leader, Morrissey, proclaimed to the readers of *Melody Maker*, and, inevitably, the millions of *Sun*, *Mirror* and *Star* readers:

"The sorrow of the Brighton bombing is that she (Thatcher) escaped unscathed. The sorrow is that she's still alive. I think that for once the IRA were accurate in selecting their targets."

These sentiments, so honestly expressed, would be somewhat dangerous at any time, but, coming before a tour of Ireland which includes both Coleraine University and the Ulster Hall in Belfast, they might be judged somewhat more than foolhardy.

No doubt recognising this, The Smiths' manager put forward something of a retraction.

As I write I do not know if there will be any repercussions, as you read you will know. Let's hope that the tour that started so well in Dublin's SFX on Monday and Tuesday last week has finished just as well in Belfast on Thursday this week.

The Smiths, for those of you who have read this far in search of information rather than out of deep concern, are a rock-group-with-a-difference from Manchester.

In their case it is just possible that the 'with-a-difference' is a different 'with-a-difference' than other 'rock-groups-with-a-difference'.

Their names are Morrissey (who used to be Steven Patrick Morrissey), Johnny Marr, Andy Rourke and Mike Joyce. And with names like that who could doubt their

antecedents?

In brief, they are a group who have, so far, apparently, successfully stuck to their own principles of anti-establishment rock, whether that establishment is political or the rock industry. It has cost them some commercial success but certainly not lost them the dedication of their followers on either side of the water.

Morrissey himself is perceived as some kind of guru of the disillusioned, dispossessed and 'disgusted' youth of today.

Their latest album, *Hatful of Hollow*, has just entered the Irish charts — not unexpectedly, in the run-up to and currency of their nine concerts at eight Irish venues.

For some time I have been in two minds whether The Smiths are very good or just very bad.

Take some of the lines:

"England owes me a living Ask me why and I'll spit in your eye," or perhaps:

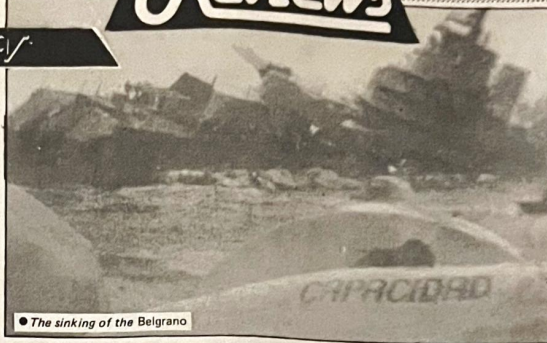
"Does the body rule the mind

Or the mind rule the body? I don't know."

or there again:

"Why do I smile at people who I'd much rather kick in the eye?

And titles of tracks, such as: "What difference does it make?" or "How soon is now?"



● The sinking of the *Belgrano*

if it was moved from television to radio. Certainly, this year's contest, last Thursday on ITV, was incredibly boring, even for a dedicated television reviewer like me.

Proving that you can walk down a stage in high-heels whilst grinning like a Cheshire cat, followed by one sentence to the interviewer so that personality, charm and intelligence can be assessed by the judges, is rather dated.

And doing it whilst wearing a bathing suit fails to make the impact it once did.

I could claim that this is because of our sounder understanding of the convincing arguments of feminism against sexual exploitation, but I fear it has more to do with the fact that you can see much more of a titillating nature in one episode of *Dallas* or *Dynasty*.

Fortunately, the wife arrived home early on Thursday evening from her macrobiotic cooking for anti-nuclear women's consciousness class, so I quickly switched over to Channel 4 in time to catch Neil Jordan's *Angel* — a film based on a killing by loyalists which spurs a saxophonist to take bloody revenge. Interesting and brilliantly directed, I thought. Excellent performances from Stephen Rea and Honor Hefferan.

Probably some republicans might take issue with some of Jordan's assumptions, but don't be too hasty.

Would somebody not tell RTE's Derek Davis that his girth has long since stopped being a source of interest or humour to the watching public.

Of course the very title of his Friday night show *Davis at Large* is based on this far from unusual physical condition.

The show was much hyped-up in advance but has failed to take off, mainly, it appears, because Davis is very badly served by the programme's producers who dredge up idiotic ideas for the show, none of which have yet succeeded.

Davis himself does his best, but where on earth does he get his audiences from? Some of his humour isn't bad at all, but not a murmur from the audience who appear to have been hijacked on their way to an undertakers convention.

Or could it be that they are sulking because they applied too late for the *Late Late Show* and were left with a choice between this or *Murphy's Micro Quiz-M?*

Perhaps if Davis poured some of the drink which he stands guarding all night down their throats it might pay dividends. Or maybe he should wear a bathing suit.



● The Smiths — a rock group with a difference

It all adds up to no answers being offered, but the amazing thing is Morrissey actually imparts a logic to the whole philosophy.

Sadly, I missed the concerts, but having listened to this album several times I have found it increasingly fascinating. I am inclined to believe that The Smiths are, after all, very good indeed.

Listen to the album and see if you don't agree.

I was wondering why the Simon Community's conference on poverty was held in Jury's Hotel. Someone at the National Stadium last Wednesday, at the concert in aid of Simon, explained that it was quite simply the only venue where the people with the money would rather go to listen to Simon's arguments.

I suppose there is some logic in that but the doubts continue to niggle.

Not to pursue that any further, there was certainly no poverty of talented artists willing to contribute their skills free of charge for charity. Liam O'Flynn on uilleann

pipes, Barry Moore's musical soviet, interestingly named Red Square, Maura O'Connell and Charlie McGottigan in fine voice, the Chieftains and several others too numerous to mention, closing with Freddie White.

You couldn't go wrong.

Incidentally, Freddie White has just begun a tour which takes him to Monaghan, Portlaoise, Ballyshannon, Letterkenny, Galway, Nenagh, Ennis, Clonmel, Kilarney, and eventually, Dublin, between now and

early in the New Year.

Freddie White has got to be one of the most relevant singer/songwriters around at present. If you want songs with a message and no messing, don't miss out.

By the way, the current edition of Ireland's much-more-than-a-music-paper *Hot Press* carries an excellent article on the paid-perjurers.

It also has a lengthy, but interesting, piece in which Michael D. Higgins discovers the efficacy of the Armalite and the ballot paper — in Nicaragua.



On sale now

THE following items are available from Republican Publications.

1985 Republican Diary. Bound in an attractive dark-green durable plastic cover, the diary contains features on Irish history and various aspects of the republican freedom struggle. Price £1.75 each.

1985 Republican Resistance Calendar. This colourful and excellently-produced calendar is priced £1.50 or £1.20 (please add postage). Christmas Cards. A set of three illustrated Christmas cards, the work of Portlaoise POW Francis 'Lucas' Quigley, depicting crown forces harassment in Christmas settings. Price 15p each card with special rates for bulk orders.



Fianna Christmas cards

FIANNA EIREANN Christmas cards are now available in three designs, 15p each, 10 for £1.40, postage extra. If interested, please contact Sally Walsh, Lurgis, Patrickswell, County Limerick.

Sinn Fein AGMs

AT the AGMs of the following branches of Sinn Fein, new officers boards were elected.

Cork comhairle ceantair: Chair: Don O'Leary; vice-chair: Tony O'Leary; organiser: Anthony Barry; PRO: Alfie McEvoy; secretary: Freddie O'Docherty; treasurer: Michael Brennan; women's affairs: Carmel O'Leary; trade unions: Val Hackett; education: Don O'Leary.

Countess Markievicz cumann, Cork city: Chair: Don O'Leary; vice-chair: Tommy Flynn; secretary: Freddie O'Docherty; PRO: Alfie McEvoy; organiser & treasurer: Frank Allen; trade unions: Jimmy Cullinane.

Kieran Docherty cumann, Cork city: Chair: Val Hackett; vice-chair: John Maher; secretary: Seamus Breannacht; All the other officers were re-elected.

Seamus Harvey cumann, Ballybofey/Stranorlar: Chair: Peter Anderson; vice-chair: Ted McGarrigle; secretary: Michael Quinn; joint treasurers: Paul Anderson & Tom Kelly; PRO & education: Fergal McGil; P.D.F. Dominic McCafferty.

O'Hanlon/McMahon cumann, Monaghan town: Chair: Brendan McKenna; vice-chair: Patrick McCourt; secretary: Pat Arthurs; joint treasurers: Kieran Starrs & Brian Loughran; PRO & education: Fiontan O'Connell.

Time to think

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

THREE months after Seamus Shannon was handed across the border into the hands of the RUC, the Free State Supreme Court has given its reasons for dismissing his appeal against extradition, which he had brought on the grounds that he could not get a fair trial in a Northern court.

Whilst most of us, when making a decision, have reasons for doing so which are usually clear to us beforehand, the court, last July, announced its decision but said it would give reasons later. It has taken this long to come up with them.

In the course of expounding these reasons, last Friday, Mr Justice Henchy, apparently unaware of, or just ignoring, the RUC men and UDR and British soldiers who have walked away from murder charges, not to mention the lighter sentencing of loyalists, assured Seamus Shannon, at a distance, that:

"There is no evidence that any person charged with a criminal offence has been prejudiced in his trial by reason of public disorder, sectarian conflict or other factional aspects of the society in Northern Ireland."

★★★★

Peter Barry, Charles Haughey, Dublin's Mayor Michael O'Halloran and other Free State politicians were all very pleased with a meeting they had last Wednesday with a group of Irish-Americans headed by Massachusetts Congressman

Jim Shannon.

All the more so because Shannon had earlier visited the North where he had refused to meet Sinn Féin, in spite of his little group's supposed aim of "educating the US public about the political realities in Ireland, North and South".

But one of the political realities in Massachusetts which was not mentioned during the visit was the fact that Shannon, who has been a target of Noraid anger because of his anti-Irish republican stance, failed to secure the Democratic nomination in Massachusetts for the Senate, and as soon as the new Congress is sworn in will cease to hold political office.

★★★★

Whilst the Free State was without a leader on Monday, November 19th, because of the unconstitutional simultaneous absence of premier FitzGerald and deputy-premier Spring, RTE got very bold indeed.

Whilst the two were being lectured by Thatcher, RTE Radio 1's *November Diary* was down in Wexford and provided us with a rendering, from a local man, of the republican ballad *Over The Wall* which celebrates the escape of IRA men from Crumlin Road Jail in the early Seventies.

To make matters worse, whilst waiting for FitzGerald's delayed press conference that evening, RTE chose to play solemn music — a custom usually reserved for the death of a head of state, but presumably, on this occasion, marking the death of the Forum.

★★★★

A sequel to the Castlederg 'riot' earlier this year when a loyalist mob attacked a nationalist estate.

Altogether 14 people had been charged with riotous behaviour, seven loyalists and seven nationalists, including one youth, Thomas Collins, who was hit by a plastic bullet during the attack.



● No further comment necessary!

In Castlederg court, on Wednesday this week, all the nationalists, bar one,

were found not guilty, while most of the loyalists were found guilty.

These included Samuel Gilchrist of Breezemount Park, Castlederg, who is a member of the Royal Irish Rangers based in Ballymena. The bold Sammy was convicted of riotous behaviour and, wait for it, indecent exposure.

It seems that in the heat of battle, Sammy dropped his trousers and underpants and revealed all to the RUC.

A serving member of the UDR named Friel, who came from Sion Mills to join in the battle, was also convicted, as was David Johnstone, who resigned from the UDR when charged.

All were sentenced to six months imprisonment — suspended, of course.

★★★★

Albert Spraula, a UDR soldier from St Lucia Barracks, Omagh, will find it difficult getting to work for the next year.

It seems that Spraula took a taste too much drink recently and was caught on the Strabane Road, Castlederg. In court he was banned from driving for a year and fined £100.

He achieved a reading of 308 milligrams of alcohol.

★★★★

While it is traditional for the Union Jack to be flown at half-mast in British and RUC bases on Poppy Day, the RUC in Carrickmore merely lowered it a couple of inches from the top of the flagpole.

It appears that they discovered that if the flag went down to half-mast it wouldn't be seen from outside. And the crisis of confidence that might cause in the loyal locals was unthinkable.

