



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

Week Commencing 7th April, 1973

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MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A NATIONAL FLAG FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Women Sinn Fein members in many parts of the Six Counties are busy making-up flags to ensure that there will be a good display from Republican homes on Easter Sunday.

The McDermott Cumann, at Andersonstown, Belfast, have received favourable comment from local people for the fine flags they have produced which are on sale at £1.25 each.

30,000 copies of the 1916 Proclamation, suitable for framing, are being distributed by Sinn Fein members to households in Republican districts in Belfast.

Sinn Fein cumann in Ireland and Britain can order supplies of the Proclamation at very keen rates from us as we have placed a large bulk order with our printers.

The rates are as follows: Size: 20" x 13", £15.00 per 1,000. Size 9" x 13 1/2" £8.50 per 1,000. Orders should be placed as soon as possible to ensure delivery for Easter. Write to 182 Brompton Park, Belfast 14.

CALL FROM LONG KESH HELL HOLE

THE MEN INCARCERATED in the British Concentration Camp at Long Kesh, have called on Sinn Fein and other organisations to co-operate with them in drawing public attention at home and abroad to the brutal conditions they have to endure in the Long Kesh hell-hole.

It is likely that the men in Long Kesh will not be able to read these lines as Commandant Truesdale, has banned entry of Republican News to the Camp.

What is really happening in Long Kesh? The staff of this paper wish to co-operate with the men there in exposing their cruel living conditions.

We would ask the relatives of the men to send letters and reports to us about any complaints that their menfolk make to them during visits so that we can publish them in this paper.

We must remember also h

We must remember also the women and girls held in Armagh Prison. We repeat. We are willing to co-operate in every way possible in helping to expose bad treatment or in a campaign to secure the release of our fellow-countrymen and women. We need co-operation from our readers as our editorial staff is very small and we are handicapped by lack of funds.

Don't sit and curse the darkness . . . light candles! If the commercial news media will not print your stories . . . we will!! But you must send them to us. Help us to help the men and women behind the wire.

A LOCAL MAN was stopped on Sunday, 18th March, at a British Army Checkpoint on the Lower Fathom Road near the Border.

His car was searched and his girl friend was told by the soldiers that she was to be searched as well. When the local man protested at this indignity to the girl, he was knocked to the ground and kicked.

A B.A. helicopter landed outside Killeen Chapel on St. Patrick's Day. British soldiers then searched people coming out of Mass. These news items have reached us from the O'Reilly S.F. Cumann, at Killeavy, who say that incidents such as these are regular occurrences in the district.

DERRY WOMAN ACCUSES R.U.C. SPECIAL BRANCH

There is concern in Derry about the mistreatment of Mr. Joseph Doherty (32) of 464 Carnhill Estate, who was arrested by B.O.F. (British Occupation Forces) about 2.30 a.m. on Friday, 23rd March.

"This is the second time he has been arrested," said his wife, Mrs. Margaret Doherty. She said he was arrested at the same time the week before. On both occasions, he was arrested under the Special Powers Act.

Mrs. Doherty said: "My husband has never been involved in anything. He was never lifted or our house searched until he was shot in the knee by two masked men about four weeks ago."

She said that when she went to visit him with her husband's sister and his brother-in-law, they noticed that he was cut.

"He had a large lump on his forehead and he told me that he had been kicked so often that he fainted and that he felt hands smacking him on the face to bring him around."

Mr. Doherty was removed to Long Kesh Concentration Camp on Sunday, 25th March.

BRITISH MILITARY COMMANDER WRITES TO BELFAST WOMAN

The following letter was received recently by a Belfast mother who lives in a Republican district: Dear Mrs-----, We are informing you for your own benefit that your daughter will only come to harm if she is not kept under control. It is known to myself and my soldiers that she is a member of an illegal organisation. She is rather helpful when she is taken into custody and we would not like any harm to come to her by her so-called comrades.

For and on behalf of Lt.-Col. Anderson, Her Majesty's Forces.

(It would be interesting to know how many parents received letters of this nature from the B.O.F. -Ed.).

Release my daddy

CALL MAKES GARDA OFFICER SEE RED

A strange scene was witnessed by thousands of sight-seers at the St. Patrick's Day march as it passed along O'Connell Street, Dublin, last month.

Some public spirited citizens in Newry, thought the parade presented an opportunity to draw public attention to the plight of the men held in Long Kesh and the Curragh Concentration Camps.

The Wolfe Tone Band from Newry played in the parade and when some children from the northern town appeared carrying placards reading "Release My Daddy," "I

Want My Daddy Home," a high ranking Garda Officer, his face red with rage, shouted, much to the surprise of the bystanders . . . "Get those Fenian bastards out off there."

He may have succeeded in his aim or else started a serious riot had he not been told that a number of foreign TV and Press men were taking a keen interest in his unruly behaviour.

We are sure that many of this man's colleagues in the Guards were as disgusted at his conduct as were the crowds who stood aghast.



Commemoration Parade at Derry, in honour of Colm Keenan and Eugene McGillen, who were shot dead whilst unarmed.

GOSPEL OF BIGOTRY

Dail Ceanntair Atha Cliath (Dublin Executive) 27th March, 1973.

During the past three years the Public have had to impotently endure the experience of hearing and seeing long hours of Radio and T.V. time (provided at the expense of License holders) placed at the disposal of purveyors of lies, injustice and sectarianism from which to disseminate their Gospel of bigotry and repression, while brave and honourable Irishmen and Irishwomen are kept silently locked away in jails and detention camps. Again, leading up to the recent General Election we were nauseated by torrents of one sided political propaganda.

The Personal Essay on the Six Counties read by Mr. Liam Hourigan on Monday evening, March 19th last must surely rate high among the travesties of the principle of balanced reporting by Radio Telefís Éireann. The issue involved here is of the greatest importance. In its role, Telefís Éireann is entitled - indeed morally obliged - to give viewers and listeners an objective account of events. When R.T.E. is producing a discussion or commentary on any current subject, it is bound in justice to ensure that contributions to the programme constitute a fair and balance assessment of the subject being dealt with; and this can be achieved only by giving equal prominence to opposing opinions. It was therefore improper that any employee of R.T.E. should be given license to arrogate to himself any period of transmission time for a harangue of biased, shallow and erroneous views of his own.

This travesty of the functions of R.T.E. should never again be permitted.

Sinn Féin challenges R.T.E. to allow an equal period of time, at the same peak viewing time and with an equal amount of prior publicity to a representative of Sinn Féin so that he may refute the begged questions and false accusations used by Mr. Hourigan in his Essay. A refusal of this reasonable demand will simply prove that R.T.E. is blatantly partisan in this matter.

It is grossly unfair to give privilege to anyone to misrepresent men and women who, being unjustly held behind prison bars, are not allowed to vindicate their honour.

republican press fund

We acknowledge with thanks the following donations:-

R. Duffy, London £8.80; Mrs. Garry, London £3.00; Mrs. C. Spears, London £5.00; K. McAteer, Belfast £1.00.

The Fund now stands at £25.80.

We would like to be able to put a full-time representative on the road to canvass newsagents throughout Ireland for orders. We are unable to do this at present for lack of finance.

We urge our distributors to pay promptly so that we can pay our way. It was decided at a recent meeting of Republican News staff that supplies would be stopped to distributors who are two weeks or more in arrears with payments.

Most of our distributors give us wonderful co-operation. We take this opportunity to thank them, also our sellers and readers for their generous support.

Progress report on visits

Campaign re improved conditions in Curragh Glasshouse to-day enters its fourth week with complete solidarity by all forty Republican prisoners here.

Developments to date:

1. During first week of campaign the stained and dirty mattresses were replaced by new ones. New pillows were also supplied.
2. During last (third) week all blankets were taken out of cells by prisoners and deposited in a heap outside the Governor's office. Many of the men were by this time suffering from an itch and skin rash due to these dirty blankets which had been condemned by various prison doctors on a number of occasions, the first being six months ago. All prisoners slept without bedding (blankets) that night. Next evening new blankets were issued.
3. No progress has been made regarding the hobby-work. Leather work is still not allowed in here - the only prison in Ireland where this obtains. The question of the visiting conditions which are completely unacceptable is still outstanding also. The situation on visits up to the commencement of the strike led to much interference on visits with consequent distress to prisoners and their relatives, especially with regard to wives and families.
4. Psychological pressure continues with so many men in a small space and fresh air time severely restricted.

GENERAL. The spirit among the prisoners in this campaign is the highest and they are determined to continue with it until their very reasonable demands are met. Relatives and friends of the prisoners will understand that the prisoners are cutting themselves off from them by refusing to take visits or write letters in order to improve the conditions that have led to so many of the prisoners' visitors being degraded on their coming here in the past. Previously this situation led to conflict on visits with the military guards, as a result of which remission of sentence was lost and even visitors themselves were assaulted.

Apart from the skin conditions of many of the prisoners which is being treated, the men are all in good spirits and send greetings to their friends and relations and their comrades-in-arms.

Signed: Dan Hoban (Mayo) O.C.

Martin McGuinness (Derry) Adjutant.

SINN FEIN, 2A Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8.

March 26th, 1973.

AS EXPECTED

"The announcement by Mr. William Whitelaw that Sinn Féin is to remain a proscribed organisation will come as no surprise. The ban in fact recognises and admits that Sinn Féin is the one organisation which is politically feared and therefore must continue to be denied the right to make its voice heard," said Belfast Republican Press Centre in a statement issued last Monday.

"We refute Mr. Whitelaw's right to declare Sinn Féin an illegal organisation and we assert that it is he who is acting in an illegal manner as the spokesman for the unlawful occupiers of our country," the statement continued.

"Throughout its existence Sinn Féin has steadfastly maintained its stand as the only 32-County political organisation.

"We wish to make it clear beyond all doubt that we will continue to operate as hitherto and that we will not assist Mr. Whitelaw in giving substance to his fleeting shadows by going underground."

THE 26-COUNTY GOVERNMENT COALITION PROTESTED STRONGLY
AGAINST PARTITION IN 1949 AND ORGANISED A MASS MEETING IN DUBLIN

What is the Present Attitude?

Singly and in tens they came, in scores and hundreds, then in thousands and in tens of thousands. The Fianna were there, Cumann na mBan and to the sound of pipe and drum the IRA veterans marched again. From city and country came the plain people of Ireland—from North and South, east and west, from all of the 26-Counties and from the sundered N.E. Counties, to the feet of Parnell in Dublin. The Chief looking down on that great assemblage thronging O'Connell Street and over-flowing into and filling all the side roads must surely have known great joy. Here were the fighting men and women and the men of politics united under one banner to declare their faith and allegiance to freedom and unity under the flag of the Republic. Such a meeting well organised and disciplined, tense with emotion, with joy and hope in every breast, had not been seen in a hundred years.

Already Costello, the Coalition leader had declared: "We could and would hit Britain in her prestige, pride and pocket by every effort, and further . . . in reply to 'Not an Inch' the Irish people thunder 'Every Inch!'" And prior to this mass meeting in O'Connell Street, the following resolution was passed unanimously by the assembled Deputies in Leinster House: "... protesting against the Westminster Bill seeking to perpetuate the Partition of Ireland, reiterating the Nation's claim to the whole of the national territory, calling upon the British Government and people to end their occupation of our Six N.E. Counties and pledging our peoples determination to continue the struggle for the Independence of the whole Nation."

Let us recall a few of the words used by the political leaders at that mass meeting in Dublin in May, 1949. Costello dealing with 'this so-called two Nation theory' "I have every reason to believe there are liberal-minded people in England and decent people in 'Northern Ireland' who are fooled by that false propaganda and false arguments that this ancient Nation consists of two Nations. We repudiate such a claim. All through its long and chequered history, whatever persecutions and trials our country went through this island was ever one and always will be ever one!"

De Valera also spoke: "The Irish people will not cease to hold Britain responsible. Britain has created this position (Partition). Britain has maintained this position. Today she is seeking to consolidate it. That design must be opposed by the Irish race by every means that is effective and just."

Later in that same year of '49, the Labour Leader, Mr. Norton spoke on the same subject at the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg: "Today Great Britain functions in that area as an occupying power and as one of the oldest distinctive Nations in Europe we are denied the right of self-determination. I deny Britain's moral or legal right to the ownership or control of a single inch of Irish territory. Liberty shrieks in Ireland so long as a British occupying force is there."

WILL THE COALITION OF 1973 measure up to the sentiments of their predecessors of '49? Will they proceed to action and hit Britain in her prestige, pride and pocket? Will they remove the restrictions on publishing and broadcasting and allow us to hear and see the truth about the violence and terror and repression exercised by the British Army in the Six Counties? Will they mobilise public opinion behind them in a strong united effort to force the British to abandon their occupation of part of our country? It is this occupation with all its evil effects which is the root cause of the violence which is afflicting so many and which all wish to see ended.

The Coalition of '49 recognised this, what action will be taken by the new Coalition to expel the British power and restore unity and independence to our Country?

east tyrone

A new Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceanntair for the East Tyrone area, was formed at a meeting held in Moortown.

The election of the C.C. Officer Board was as follows: Chairman, J. McGivern, Dungannon; Vice-chairman, Martin Devlin, Coalisland; treasurer, Martin Scullion, Ardboe; secretary, May Devlin, Ballymaguigan.

When we heard about this meeting, we wondered if the 'Devlin from Ardboe' was at it! We trust he hasn't forgotten his Gaelic lessons.

Sales of "Republican News" in the Coalisland area are increasing by leaps and bounds. The local Cumann must have some powerful sellers. Dessie, don't tell us, "It is all in the mind." We know it is a fact!

Clares Protest Parade

A Chara,

Some people have been trying to say that our Cumann placed a picket on the Kincora Dance Hall on Friday night 9th February last in the hope that our Cumann would never get this Hall for a night in the Summer months in aid of Cumann Funds.

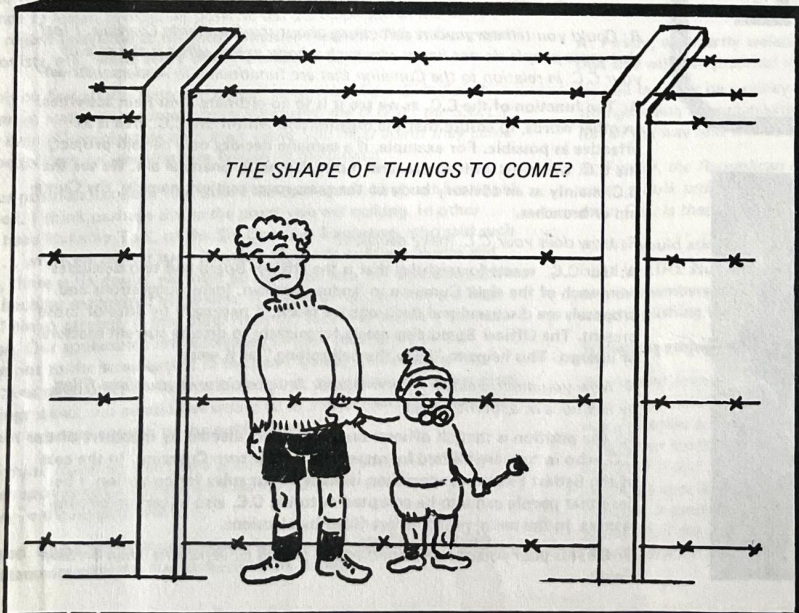
A peaceful protest parade by the members of the Sinn Fein Sean Sabhat Kevin Street, Lisdoonvarna took place in the village on Friday night the 9th February in protest against the sentence of 18 months imposed on 17 year old Joachim McInerney an active member of their Cumann for serving his Country according to his right as his ancestors had done before him in 1831.

All members carried placards with such slogans as, Ireland unfree will never be at peace; Ireland a Republic 1916; Long live the Irish Republic; Ireland unfree will never be at Peace, 1831 - 1973.

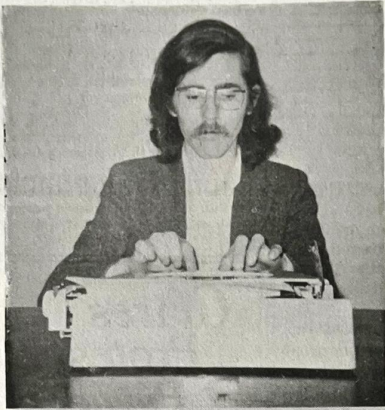
(It was on Easter Monday 1831 that 6 police were killed in Toovahera and five of the McInerney family took part in the battle). The Cumann met at the Square and marched through all the public streets and back to the Square. The parade was led by the Cumann Vice Chairman Martin Whyte, and Sean Miniter, Chairman of the Kevin Barry Cumann, Fanore, Ballyvaughan, as the Sean Sabhat Chairman Cumann, Gus O'Loughlin of Tullagh, Killynora could not attend as he had only just left hospital the evening before.

The point we want cleared up is that it was a Protest Parade, AND NOT A PICKET.

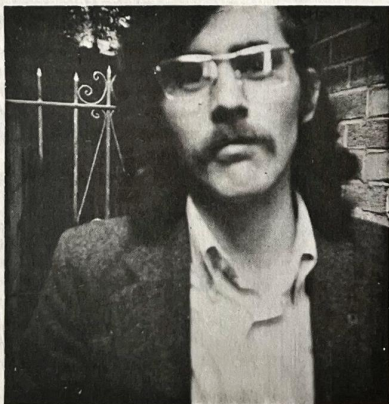
Maircin De Fraoche,
Act. Cumann Secretary.



exclusive interview in



FACE TO FACE



Reporter: What is your position in Sinn Fein?

A: I am Organiser for the Andersonstown Comhairle Ceantair, and I am also a member of the Belfast Executive.

R: What does your position entail regarding work and responsibility?

A: In my capacity as Organiser, my work entails firstly, that the existing Cumainn function properly. I am expected to make new contacts, to set-up new Cumainn, in other words, to make sure that the organisation expands. In general, I am expected to help achieve a better co-ordination among the Cumainn in the Andersonstown area.

R: Is your position a full-time one?

A: Yes. As you are aware, there are three Comhairle Ceantair in Belfast at present; Andersonstown, Central and North East. Each of these have a full-time organiser.

R: I would like to congratulate your C.C. on this fine Office. Why has it been opened?

A: Well as you know, the office is situated on Andersonstown Rd., near Kennedy Way. You are also aware that a Sinn Fein office was opened recently in Brompton Park, Ardoyne, and that this is managed by the local Sean McCaughey/Jim Saunders Cumann. We are opening this office because we believe it is a necessary link in our organisational chain. We believe that like other political bodies, we cannot operate effectively without proper offices. We need a base from which we can conduct our political activities. We hope that we can provide an Advice Centre here for local people. We wish to be of service to the people of this area. To do this, we need to be able to communicate with them. We also hope that our office can act as a vent for the people's feelings. If they have any complaints about British Army harassment, etc., then they can come here and we will file such complaints and endeavour to have them rectified.

Over the past three or four years, we feel that the people in this area had no formal contact with Sinn Fein. This meant that if some members of the Republican Movement did something with which ordinary people disagreed or felt strongly about, no machinery existed by which they could make known their feelings. We shall, therefore, try and act as a mediator in relation to future Republican activities.

R: Could you tell our readers something about the Comhairle Ceantair. I feel that some people do not know why such a body exists. What is the role of your C.C. in relation to the Cumainn that are functioning in Andersonstown?

A: The function of the C.C. as we see it is to co-ordinate Sinn Fein activities. In other words, to ensure that the organisation within the C.C. area is as effective as possible. For example, if a cumann decides on a certain project, the C.C. will assist with advice, and if possible, with financial aid. We see the C.C. mainly as an advisory body to the grass-roots section, namely, the Cumainn or branches.

R: How does your C.C. make decision?

A: Our C.C. meets fortnightly; that is the Officer Board and two delegates from each of the eight Cumainn in Andersonstown. Ideas, suggestions and proposals are discussed and decisions are made, if necessary by vote of those present. The Officer Board also meets fortnightly to discuss current matters of interest. This helps to "keep the ball rolling," as it were.

R: Now you mentioned an Officer Board. Are positions in your area filled by elections or appointments?

A: The position is that all officers on our C.C. are elected by members of the C.C. who in turn are elected by members of their own Cumainn. In the case of the Belfast Executive, provision is made in our rules for co-option. I believe that people can also be co-opted onto the C.C. also in certain circumstances. In the main, positions are filled by elections.

R: What is your personal re-action to the British Government's ban on Sinn Fein?

new sinn fein office

Our reporter went to the new Sinn Fein Office on the Andersonstown Road, Belfast, last Tuesday, to interview *Antoine O'Braonain*, a well-known Sinn Fein activist in the Belfast area. We are pleased to publish the interview and hope that this shall be the forerunner of many more with other Sinn Fein spokesmen. *Pictured on left: Mr. Antoine O'Braonain.*

R: What kind of activities are the Sinn Fein cumainn in Andersonstown involved in now?

A: Their activities range over a wide field. For instance, our cumann in Turf Lodge manage an Eire Nua Co-op. This has been operating very successfully this past six months. The cumann in the Gransha district are agitating for proper street lighting. They are also concerned about street cleaning and recently exposed the fact that one street had not been swept for seven years. The cumainn run social functions, for example to help the relatives of victims of sectarian murders. The cumann in Ladybrook are concerned about getting doctors to come out on emergency calls. In Lenadon, our cumann is co-operating with other local groups in setting up community services. In Twinbrook, our members are investigating housing complaints and defects in the local bus service. The people there are concerned about buses going via Blacks Road, after dark in view of the spate of sectarian murders. Although our cumainn are involved in a wide sphere of social-community activities, we are not getting proper recognition in the press.

R: Why does your C.C. not hold public meetings in your area under the Sinn Fein banner if it is your intention to function openly?

A: One reason for this is the recent spate of sectarian murders. We would not want to expose our supporters to this risk. It is dangerous in certain circumstances, to bring crowds out onto the streets. Public meetings could also at this time give the British Army an excuse to harass people. We believe also that the situation is forever changing. At one time, the usual form of Sinn Fein agitation was a public protest meeting. Now, we think, tactical changes should be used. I think that public meetings are not always the most effective way of getting our point of view across. I am certain that other avenues of action can and must be found.

R: It was decided recently at a Sinn Fein convention in Monaghan, that the decision taken at last year's Ard Fheis to form an Ulster Council within your organisation be implemented. What effect, if any, will this have on the future development of Sinn Fein in the province?

A: Firstly, we heartily welcome the formation of such a council. We feel that this will give practical autonomy to Sinn Fein here. The Ulster Executive will in effect be a policy-making body. It can also play a vital part in strengthening the organisation in this part of Ireland. We welcome this decision all the way and will co-operate fully with it.

R: Finally, the Republican News staff were delighted this week to receive an order, a bulk order I should say, for 2,000 copies per week, from Andersonstown C.C. Is there any message that you would like to send to our readers?

A: We would ask your readers to examine again the Sinn Fein policies as outlined in EIRE Nua and in our other publications. We invite those readers who are not members to join Sinn Fein now. We would ask them to keep spreading and pushing the message of Irish Republicanism.

Is there anything more you wish to add?

R: Yes and to push the sales of Republican News. This is a most necessary part of our political campaign. We are not working to full power in getting our viewpoint across. We depend a lot on a paper such as yours. Not only should our supporters read or sell the Republican News, but they should also post it and other Republican literature to their friends abroad. This is of great importance in places like America, where the British propaganda machine is spending large sums of money and manpower to distort the true situation in the Six Counties. We are finding it difficult under the Nixon Administration in getting our message across.

A: The position about the ban which is shortly to be re-imposed, I understand in the middle of next week, is that we in Sinn Fein, do not recognise the right of the British Government, or any foreign government, to impose bans or to lift bans. We hold that this ban imposes no moral sway over us. Our position is that irrespective of whether the ban stays or goes, that we will continue to operate as we have been doing, right out in the open.

R: So you will continue to operate in Andersonstown quite openly, irrespective of the British ban?

A: We will continue to operate openly in all areas. Indeed, we have plans made to escalate our political activities. We will place our policies based on EIRE NUA before the people; we shall explain the concept of DAIL ULADH and canvass support for this. We have been doing this but we intend to increase this type of political action.

R: What machinery exists in Andersonstown for training your members in subjects such as — public speaking, propaganda, canvassing, cumann organisation, chairmanship, political education, etc?

A: It is interesting that you should mention public speaking as we just finalised plans last night at our C.C. meeting to set-up regular public speaking classes. This was done within the organisation about one year ago but it lapsed. Although we have a fair number of competent public speakers, the numbers have not increased recently. Some of our members have been attending public speaking courses conducted by other bodies. We are setting up shortly educational classes for our members on other subjects. Our new offices will be of value in this regard. We also publish fortnightly, an educational bulletin for internal circulation. This deals with local issues and current affairs.

R: Are you satisfied with the coverage given to your organisation at present by the local news media?

A: No, we are not at all satisfied. Indeed we are very dissatisfied. We are particularly annoyed with the Belfast daily, the "Irish News." If we cannot put our viewpoint to the people, then we will have little hope of making impact as a viable political organisation. We view our lack of fair coverage in the local Press merely as a follow-up on the ban imposed on Sinn Fein by the British. Whitelaw has banned Sinn Fein and it seems that most newspapers will take their lead from him.

R: What is the attitude of Sinn Fein members in your area to your spokesmen appearing on television and on radio programmes?

A: We will encourage this and indeed would like this to develop. We informed the local T.V. and radio stations recently that we have a panel of spokesmen available to discuss any subject. Of course, Mrs. Maire Drumm, our Acting-President, appeared lately on an Ulster Television programme. There should have been a follow-up programme to this which for some reason did not happen. It seems that the British at a high level are using their power and influence to lessen as much as possible our participation in the news media. We regard television as the most effective medium. This is flung open to the Unionists, etc., while every effort is made to bar us.

R: How do you feel about "flesh and blood" statements from Sinn Fein? What I mean is, statements coming from Vanguard, the U.D.A., the S.D.L.P. and others even if you disagree with their views, you must admit they come from real people whose identities are known to the public.

A: Yes. Our position has been that Sinn Fein spokesmen have not been readily identified. I think perhaps this is the point you are making. In other words, we have Malachy Toal, of the Six Counties Executive, who said such and such... while we do not have Brendan McGrath or Marie Moore and so on. Yes, there is no doubt, we must go right out into the open. Our spokesmen must become recognised as persons. It seems to me that this is a fault with Sinn Fein at present. It may stem from the fact that we are a banned organisation. Our spokesmen are recognised in their local areas to the people, but not to the same extent in the news media. This is one of the things we must overcome. If we should decide at some time to contest elections, as things stand, our candidates would be at a disadvantage as most of them are not exposed enough to the public gaze.

R: So you think therefore that there is no objection in policy or in principle to Sinn Fein spokesmen making their identity better known to the public by exposure in the news media?

A: No indeed. Some of our Press Officers have been doing this. I always sign my statements with the Gaelic form of my name.

The British Government's White Paper called "Northern Ireland Constitutional Proposals" was published on March 20, 1973. In Section 10 of the Introduction it is stated that in the "Border Poll" held on March 8th in the Six Counties 591,820 electors voted in favour of remaining in the United Kingdom, while only 6,463 electors voted to be joined with the 26-County state - Section 11 states: "A majority of the people in Northern Ireland have voted in favour of the present status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom". It is on this basis therefore that all the proposals in the White Paper are put forward.

BRITISH WANT IRISH BRIDGEHEAD

The Six County state was created by the Westminster Parliament under the Government of Ireland Act of 1920. This was contrary to the wishes of the vast majority of the Irish people as democratically expressed in the General Election of 1918. The British objective was to hold a bridgehead in Ireland in an area in the North East corner where there was a local pro-British majority. To achieve this, an artificial boundary was drawn which divided the historic province of Ulster and the historic Irish nation in a manner which created an artificial state with an artificial and permanent Unionist majority. The population of all Ireland is now 4,500,000. In the "Border Poll" held in the occupied area on March 8th only 57% of the electorate of that area voted to remain in the United Kingdom; 42% abstained altogether and boycotted the poll in protest against this contrived "majority". These points have all been deliberately ignored by the authors of the White Paper.

ENGLAND NOT HONEST REFEREE

We have mentioned these facts because they are central to the whole problem that has caused so much misery and suffering for 50 years, and especially in the last four years. Sinn Fein does not believe that the White Paper proposals represent a genuine or realistic basis for solving the problem, or even helping to solve it. They are based on the giant gerrymander of 1920-21 and the dismemberment of the Irish nation in British imperialist - interests. The whole series of proposals for a new assembly with emphasis on "power-sharing" and "balanced committees" are artificial attempts to make an artificial state work. The promised "Irish Dimension" has receded and the proposed conference to which the Dublin administration is to be invited is merely a re-run of the abortive Darlington Conference of last year.

Having been responsible for the deaths of over 450 Irish people since 1969, having inflicted torture on prisoners, having interned over 1,000 men and women, England cannot possibly be regarded now as an honest referee. The vague Council of Ireland is merely a sop repetition of Article 12 of the Treaty of 1921 which implemented the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act of 1920.

PUPPET ASSEMBLY

The new Stormont Assembly which is proposed would have little real power. The Secretary of State, Mr. William Whitelaw, would be a virtual dictator, operating by orders-in-council from Westminster. We are glad to see that a large section of the Loyalist people recognise that what is proposed is a meaningless assembly. We express the hope that they will look again at Sinn Fein's proposals for a new structure of government in all Ireland and particularly at our proposals for a New Ulster Parliament of Nine Counties (Dail Uladh) where the Unionist-oriented people would have a working majority and where the people of Ulster would have a considerable degree of autonomy, giving them real power over their own affairs. We are heartened by the interest already shown by some Unionist spokesmen in our proposals. We are prepared to meet them at any time for open-ended discussions on how best the interests of the Ulster people can be served.

FARCE OF SPECIAL POWERS "REPEAL"

It is too much to expect that the White Paper proposals will be accepted while 650 people are interned and while the harassment and sectarian killings continue. The repeal of the Special Powers Act is a farce when it is to be replaced by new legislation based on the Diplock proposals which will introduce non-jury courts (such as operate in Dublin under the Offences Against the State Act) and merely change "internment" to "Detention", complete with star chamber tribunals and witnesses behind curtains. Just whom does Mr. Heath think he is fooling?

PEACE MUST BE BASED ON JUSTICE

Sinn Féin and the Irish people ardently desire peace. Peace must

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER BRITISH MUST ANNOUNCE DATE FOR WITHDRAWAL

be based on justice: it cannot be based on injustice. The great injustice inflicted on the Irish nation in 1920-21 has still to be removed. Everybody longs for an end to violence. But the very creation and existence of the Six-County state represent violence, a grievous violence done to the Irish people. It has not been possible to maintain that state for 50 years except by violence, as exemplified by Special Powers and internment in every decade.

BRITISH PROPOSALS POSTPONES TRUE PEACE

The White Paper is based on the original violence of the 1920 Government of Ireland Act, reinforced by the 1949 Ireland Act. That being the case, it reinforces injustice and violence, leads to counter-violence and postpones the day of true and lasting peace.

LATEST BRITISH INTERFERENCE WILL FAIL

The reasonable demands of the Civil Rights Movement in 1968 were opposed and violence ensued. The Downing Street Declaration of 1969 failed because it was "too little and too late". The suspension of Stormont in 1972 failed for the same reason. This attempt will also fail because it also is "too little and too late". Because the White Paper fails to tackle the main issue it will fail to deliver justice and peace.

WE WILL CONTROL OUR OWN AFFAIRS

The only White Paper which will guarantee a permanent peace is one in which the British Government relinquishes its interest in exercising sovereignty over any part of Ireland; declares its recognition of the right of the people of the whole island of Ireland to control their own affairs; and announces a date for disengagement and withdrawal. It is not without significance that on the day the White Paper was published the representatives of the South Vietnamese Government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (Vietcong) held their first meeting in Paris. This was made possible because the United States Government recognised the right of the people of Vietnam to decide their own affairs and withdrew her forces from that unfortunate country whose people have endured so much.

We ask all the Irish people to demand that the British Government do likewise and make permanent peace possible in Ireland.

£2

For the best letter published!

All correspondence, letters, photographs, poems, etc., should be addressed to 182 Brompton Park, Belfast BT14 7LE

Each week

REPUBLICAN PUBLICITY WORKERS MUST DO WHAT IS REQUIRED OF THEM

A Chara,

Since the publication of the *British White Paper*, and the correct rejection of it by the Republican Movement, pressure has been mounting for the I.R.A. to call a truce, instigated, as always, by alienated politicians and historically discredited spokesmen of the various Churches. They seem to want the I.R.A. to stop their campaign, for the solid achievement of taking part in the elections for the new Six County Assembly. It is worse than a poor deal.

Admittedly, the Assembly will be something of a conference table. But successful talk on the issue of the right of the people to self determination will only be the secondary aim of that institution. The primary one will be to make British Imperialist control of this island more effective and give it an added veneer of respectability and democracy.

We must also realistically ask ourselves: will a Republican attendance at that Assembly do any good? The arguments of the Movement would be put more forcefully, but that does not mean that they will be executed, which they must be, since they form the only sincere basis for democracy in Ireland. The lesson taught by James Connolly and other revolutionary patriots must be learned — that to fight with only reasonable rhetoric those who have surrendered reason to achieve the basis of their political philosophy is futile. Faulkner and his "opponents" are not stupid men. They know full well the rotten basis of the "State" they nurture, and maintain it, not through conviction, but greed for power and money. That must be borne in mind in any political tactic pursued.

It would be a mistake to deride the possibility of gaining seats at the Assembly, but such a possibility must be undertaken with wide open eyes. And the knowledge has to be fully appreciated that if we swallow Whitelaw's bait, and reject the possibility of future violence, our cause is lost. Willy Whitewash could go home in triumph. We have progressed only slightly since 1969, and have not yet reached the state where we can with impunity run down the Irish Republican Army, knowing that there are other channels open to us, whereby we can succeed in the establishment of a true Irish democracy.

The analysis of the statement by the I.R.A. on the possibility of a truce was indicative of what has gone before. Yet again there was a split in the Provisional I.R.A.!

Such learned implications must be treated with the maximum of scepticism. At one time it was suggested that the Provos were Fascists, while the next day it was hinted that they were out and out Communists. Before a statement on the *White Paper* was issued, it was said that the I.R.A. were fully united over their proposed attitude, while immediately after it that there was a major split between the Belfast Brigade and the Dublin leadership. The Belfast Brigade was once cast in the role of being pressurised into continuing the campaign by Dublin, but those roles have now been reversed. What anecdotes will Fleet Street dream up next, in their failing attempts to discredit the I.R.A.?

A disturbing aspect of the aftermath of the *White Paper* has been that the Republican Movement seems content to let pro-*White Paper* politicians monopolise the Press, with their euphoric appeals to give it a chance. **THAT CANNOT CONTINUE.** The cancer of misconception must be destroyed before it gets too great a hold. The "*Republican News*" has a major part to play in propagating the correct approach to the British Government's proposals, proposals which only opportunists or the many who lack the courage of their convictions could accept.

The next few months will see the battle for the minds of the people intensified, and the publicity workers of the Movement must — and will — live up to what is required of them, in this, the supreme climax of the long struggle for Irish Freedom.

Is mise le meas,
PROVO SUPPORTER,
Strabane.

Dear Sir,

Re. Parachute Regiment in Ardoyne, Belfast.

For as long as the British troops have been in this part of Ireland, the residents of Republican areas have been subject to various forms of harassment and repression from the British forces, in main from regiments such as the Parachute Regiment.

Recently this regiment in Ardoyne have waged a war of unprovoked attacks on men, women and children of the area.

These tactics by the "Paras", we have come to expect as natural, as

we have always been told that they are a "crack" regiment, but what is unnatural and unusual by this regiment, if as we had believed are such a crack regiment is the fact that, on recent raids by them into Ardoyne they were seen to be guarded by other British regiments.

Therefore as I see it, the Parachute Regiment by their actions have cracked their own image of being a crack regiment. If they, the "Paras" are intent on being such a crack regiment, why then the protection by less famed regiments? By their own actions, the Parachute Regiment, have proven they have earned the title of crack regiment at the expense of other regiments, and therefore would appear to be on a par with these regiments, if not indeed on a lesser standing.

Yours Etc.,

INTERESTED RESIDENT,
Belfast 14.

Belfast Republican Press Centre,
182 Brompton Park,
Belfast, 14.

29th March, 1973.

PRESS STATEMENT

Mrs. Mary McGuigan, Chairman of Belfast North East Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair, was arrested from her home by British Occupation Forces, this morning at 4 a.m. The raiding party returned to her home shortly after with a warrant for the arrest of her son, Gerard, who is detained in the British Concentration Camp at Long Kesh. Mrs. McGuigan's daughter and a daughter-in-law, were also arrested during the week. Her daughter was released yesterday.

We have been informed that British soldiers entered the home of Mrs. M. Kerr, at 56 Balkan St., Belfast, at 9.20 p.m. on Tuesday 27th March. After two soldiers had entered the house, they locked the door.

Mrs. Kerr and her friend Mrs. R. McCaughey, who also lives in the house, were sitting on the settee watching television. One soldier went upstairs where four young children were sleeping. Three other children were downstairs at the time viewing television. Two of these are nieces of Mrs. Kerr.

One soldier approached Mrs. Kerr, pinned her down on the settee and tried to sexually assault her. By this time, all the children were awake and screaming. The language used by the soldiers was revolting in spite of the children's presence.

Mrs. Kerr said later that the soldier had felt all over her body. She was quite certain that he had tried to rape her. In her opinion, the only thing that stopped him was the fact that the children upstairs came down screaming and crying.

During this time, the other soldier approached Mrs. McCaughey. When she tried to avoid him, he put a gun to her head and threatened to blow it off. She moved to the staircase, he followed her and sexually assaulted her. Mrs. McCaughey claimed that this soldier was married as he was wearing a broad wedding ring.

When the soldiers were leaving, they told the terrified women that they would be back, and it would not be like what happened on the Antrim Road.

Mrs. Kerr said that she has a nervous condition and her doctor has prescribed nerve tablets.

The Regiment concerned was the Lancshires.

Paddy Ryan, PRESS OFFICER

O'Reilly Cumann Sinn Fein
Upper Killeavy.

A cara,

At a recent meeting of the above newly-formed Cumann a vote of sympathy was passed on the death of Mrs. Maureen Finn of Dundalk. Mrs. Finn was an active member of the "Goss and Gaughran Cumann Sinn Fein". Dundalk. The Cumann members offer their sincere condolences.

The £2 prize for the best letter this week has been awarded to 'Provo Supporter', Strabane, if he/she sends us their name and address the prize will be forwarded!

BELFAST NORTH-EAST COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR SINN FEIN

STATEMENT Re. Ban on Sinn Fein.

We see the banning of our organisation by Westminster as a deliberate attempt by them to impose a military solution rather than a political one on the Irish people. By so doing England even before the ban was announced on Monday, seem to have given the go ahead to British troops to mount a greater onslaught of harassment on the nationally minded people; this is borne out by the wave of "institutional" violence directed at the minority populous in Belfast and Newry recently.

To Mr. Whitelaw and to Westminster we would state, that the ban on Sinn Fein will and can only strengthen our resolve to strive and work harder to achieve a solution based on the Fire Nua policy, which we see as the only realistic policy to further the well-being of the people of all Ireland.

Signed: Malachy Foots (P.R.O.)



Well, well, what next? Just imagine boasting that one of the great local business successes has been the locally owned Security Centres (U.K.) Ltd. with Headquarters in Gt. Victoria St., Belfast. Has been so successful in the security racket that with its excessive profits it has now taken over another security business in England!

The columns of the business supplements issued by both the Newsletter and the Telegraph are very bare this month, so they both have to boast of something even if it is a security organisation.

Can I put a finger on some other industrial "success" stories to show how "healthy" the economy really is.

Eight months ago the International Computer Co. with a factory at Castlereagh and employing 1,600 workers, told the government it was closing up shop, as it had no work for the Belfast factory. David Howell the Minister of State hurriedly bought a 37 per cent share in the industry and pumped much more in the form of liquid assets to keep the gates open and pay the wages. He then got in touch with other engineering companies and requested work of any sort and at any price to keep the 1,600 workers employed at doing something, so we had the unusual sight of Mackies, Harland's and Shorts sending up machine parts, drawings and bits and pieces to the Castlereagh factory, nobody interest-

ed in what the finished article would cost — David Howell promised to pay — then no more work, the above companies couldn't send any more work out of their own factories they had to keep their own workers employed.

You won't believe this, but Davy gave instructions to the management at Castlereagh to buy a few lorry loads of wood and keep the workers busy by making toys — not for sale — no you can't upset the market — but to give the toys free to charitable organisations. That's what you must do to keep the good loyalist workers employed — talk about people digging holes and then filling them up again.

But it couldn't last and it didn't, Davy Howell went on the hunt for a buyer of the New Company — International Engineering Co. and they succeeded in coaxing an American firm to invest enough to own 15 per cent, that firm is the Decision Data Computer Corporation.

Now, if all they were doing was making toys to fill in their time, it wouldn't be too bad — but any information is that also being made in the factory — unofficially of course were guns complete and all parts being made on the premises. I have already seen two engineering drawings complete in all details, measurements and dimensions for the making of all the bits and pieces, the same

weapon which is now being made in most engineering works by members of the L.A.W.

According to the report in the Irish Times 31/3/73 — the police have raided the I.E.L. works because they were suspicious — but all they found was that a shebeen had been carried on in the factory — they claimed the stock and sold it for charity.

Last year a London business man bought a clothing factory situated in the Ardoyne district, the Beltex, from the Etam ladies wear group for approximately £50,000, things haven't gone too well for business, so with all the millions that Davy Howell seems to have to throw around helping ailing industries, the owners of Beltex applied for financial help, in order to keep going and to save the jobs of 240 people in the area which badly needs those jobs.

It seems our Davy is haggling, and while he is doing so — the firm also applied to the British Government for a regional grant to open a factory in Ayrshire, Scotland. What do you know but Whitehall so happy in getting new industries in such places like Scotland were only too willing and has given them a grant.

It seems Davy Howell thinks it is not necessary to worry too much about the local Beltex factory closing down as he believes that the 240 workers in the

factory can get jobs in other textile factories in West Belfast. What a difference in approach between what has happened in the I.E.L. factory in Castlereagh and a small factory in the Ardoyne.

For many years now the propaganda of the unionists was that the shipyard and Gallahers were so important to the economy of the six counties and their trade and influence was something that the unionists could so rightly boast that the link with Britain was their life-line. Well we know who owns the shipyard these days — and now we are beginning to find out who really owns Gallahers.

Gallahers has so diversified its trading that it now has a finger in almost everything you could mention, so that tobacco and cigarette manufacturing is only one of their many interests. This £138 million combine is now owned — or the biggest shareowner — by the American Brands Tobacco Co. who have a 67 per cent interest in it — but they have suddenly found a flaw in the income tax laws in America, which means that if they own 80 per cent of a foreign company they can get a tax rebate — so now there is a fight on with the 17 man board who run Gallahers in that American Brands want to own another 13 per cent and are willing to pay 215p a share. What was that slogan we hear so often — "Keep Ulster British" well something like that.

TRADE UNIONS

Congratulations to the Confed Trade Unions on the new agreement they have signed with the Harland and Wolf management on wages and security of employment.

The agreement is to the effect that all employees are guaranteed employment for the next five years. That wages will rise as follows. An immediate increase of £2 on the 1st April, making a rate of £31 for skilled workers, then on October a further rate of £3.50, bringing the rate to £34.58 for 40 hours. In April 1974 the rate will rise to £37. This agreement will last till October 1974, but a new agreement will be negotiated from July 1974.

This agreement would have been of more interest to the workers in West Belfast if in the agreement the trade unions would have stated that they will fight for a better spread of jobs to those who hold a trade union card no matter if they are Catholic or Protestant. Isn't it about time the hypocrisy of the unions and the management be confronted and made to face up to their responsibility — what about that organisation which filled the headlines a few weeks ago? C.U.R.E.!

OPPORTUNISM

The arrogance of certain members of the N.I.L.P. putting themselves forward as leaders of the people but yet have never attempted to lead, other than demand votes at elections, has been rightly stamped on very quickly by Billy Bleasie when he heard of the call by Jack Sharkey the so-called industrial spokesman for the N.I.L.P. who in a press statement declared he intended to organise pressure groups inside all factories where he has Labour Party members to fight against those who act against the interests of the Labour Party and what it stands for and to give assistance to the trade union movement inside the factory.

This is a laugh when once you know this individual who working in the Aircraft Factory at Queen's Island as a maintenance chargehand has never taken part in any activity of the trade union movement inside the factory. The last activity this character was involved in was the 1970 general election when he opposed Mills in North Belfast. So me thinks the boy is once again getting ready for the next election for the new assembly. Just another opportunist.

ORANGE CROSS!

Excerpt from a letter from Long Kesh printed in the "Orange Cross" No. 24.

Sir, We the loyalist detainees in Cage 11, Long Kesh Concentration Camp, would like it made known that we have been refusing all food supplied by the camp authorities for the past nine days. Whilst we refuse to speak to Republicans and are totally objective to their principles, we can assure the loyalist population that the grievances put forward by the Republicans concerning camp conditions are perfectly true, as in fact, we are now experiencing first hand treatment meted out to these men and would call for all steps to be taken to abolish this despicable piece of legislation.

ORANGE CROSSROADS

With the formation of the Vanguard Progressive Party, which by the way will of course be known as the Protestant Party, the Orange Order will now have to make up its mind whether they will keep their link with the Unionist Party.

You see over the years Orangemen have joined other unionist parties, such as the D.U.P. the N.I.L.P. — surprising isn't it that good so-called socialists who are forever screaming their little heads off how non-sectarian the N.I.L.P. is could still belong to the Orange Order and walk the Twelfth! Then we have the Liberal Party small as it is, has a few of them. But the surprise to most members inside the Alliance Party is the number of members who still keep up their membership of the Orange Order. Now the Party of Bill Craig will be swamped by ex-official party members who are also leading lights in the Orange, so this will give Martin Smyth, Chief Orangeman, and also leading lights in both the Unionist Council and the Vanguard Movement, an opportunity to say the Orange Council to either keep backing the Unionist Official Party or break, go neutral and let their individual members join the political party of their own choice. It will be interesting to watch the events in the next few weeks.

