



REPUBLICAN NEWS

BELFAST'S WEEKLY REPUBLICAN PAPER

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BILLY McKEE

(4 weeks without food)

Five more Republican prisoners in Belfast prison joined the hunger strike last Monday as Proinsias MacAirt, Acting O/C. in the prison warned that they and their comrades already on strike would fast on to death if their demands for political status was not granted.

The five are:- Brian McCann (Portadoan), Liam O'Neill (Martinstown, Co. Antrim), D. Power, Hugh McComb, and D. Donaldson, (Belfast).

This brought the total number of hunger strikers in the prison to 20. As REPUBLICAN NEWS goes to press, the position is that five men, including Billy McKee have been without food for four weeks; five for three weeks, five for two weeks and five for one week.

Some of the men are very weak and confined to bed. It is expected that the prison authorities will be forced to move them to hospital very soon unless the British Government agrees to grant their legitimate claim for political status. British government ministers are not now in a position to say that this is a matter for Stormont.

Reports are coming to us from all over Ireland and overseas of token 24-hour and 48-hour fasts, public meetings and vigils in support of the gallant men in Belfast prison. These have been held in London, Dublin, Derry, New York, Portadown, Armagh Lurgan, Newry and in several districts in Belfast. The Rosary has been publicly recited in many places and prayers were said in many Catholic churches in Belfast last Sunday.

AMNESTY IS THE ONLY SOLUTION

Father Denis Faul, made a plea at the Irish Club in London last Sunday, for an amnesty for all imprisoned as a result of the troubles over the past seven years. He thought this was necessary to restore the sense of equity and fair play in the community. He added that, "freedom for the prisoners would remove a load from the minds of their comrades and neighbours who feel obligated towards them. An amnesty would instill the right spirit of charity in the community.

Father Faul's calculation that internment and the imprisonment of political prisoners during 1971-72 cost almost £5,000,000. should surely spur on decent-minded people to bring this cruel repression to a speedy end.

Falls Road Library Taken Over

Members and supporters of Sinn Fein took possession of Falls Road public library on Friday, 2nd June as a demonstration of solidarity with the Republican prisoners in Belfast prison. Over 150 people were involved in the "sit in" which started at 5 p.m. and ended at midnight when the demonstrators were advised to leave for security reasons by a unit of the Irish Republican Army.

The national flag was hoisted on the library flagstaff almost immediately after the occupation began. This was greeted with loud cheers by spectators outside the building. Old residents in the Lower Falls area claimed that this was the first time they had seen the tricolour on a public building in Belfast.

The demonstrators held a meeting during the "sit in" to discuss proposals for further direct action in support of the hunger strikers. A press conference was also conducted by officers of the Belfast Comhairle Ceannair with press men who had been allowed into the library.

Great care was taken by the organisers to prevent damage to the books and fittings as it is realised that many of the local staff sincerely try to provide service to the people in the area. The demonstrators tidied and swept the building before they left. Members of the library staff who stayed in during the protest expressed their appreciation for the care taken to avoid damage or injury.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

It was decided at an emergency meeting of Long Kesh Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin to mobilise the support of the internees in the concentration camp in solidarity with the hunger strikers in Belfast prison.

As a result, the following forty internees commenced a hunger strike at midnight on Friday, 2nd June, 1972.

Cage Two — E. McErlane, Co. Derry; M. Mooney, Ballymurphy; S. Murphy, Andersonstown; F. Gillen, Lower Falls; S. Boyle, Andersonstown.

Cage Three — J. Edwards, Andersonstown; E. Meehan, Kashmir; R. Quinn, New Lodge Road; J. Begley, Lower Falls; P. McCullough, Lower Falls.

Cage Four — J. O'Rawe, Andersonstown; F. Scappateel, Markets; P. Mailey, Ardoyne; D. McGettigan, Ballymurphy; J. Burns, St. James's.

Cage Five — M. Donnelly, Derry City; J. Davey, Co. Derry; P. Burns, Unity; D. Barr, Fermanagh; A. McAlinden, South Armagh.

Cage Seven — L. McCay, Ardoyne; M. Johnston, Unity; G. McGreevy, Andersonstown; S. Hughes, Lurgan; J. Deery, Kashmir.

Cage Eight — S. McKenna, Newry; N. McCloskey, Co. Derry; J. P. Rafferty, Co. Derry; F. Pyper, Turf Lodge; B. McGivern, Ballymurphy.

Cage Nine — E. Howell, Beechmount; J. Carlin, Derry City; B. Morgan, Andersonstown; G. Adams, Jnr., Ballymurphy; L. Hannaway, Kashmir.

Cage Ten — P. McCotter, Kashmir; H. Burns, St. James's; G. Graham, Ardoyne; M. Maguire, Ballymurphy; J. Hinks, Andersonstown.

This means that at the time of writing (5/6/72) over sixty Irishmen and women are on hunger strike in Belfast, Armagh and Long Kesh. It is vital that the hunger strike be brought to a successful conclusion as quickly as possible as it is understood that more internees may be joining the strike and many more lives are in danger. We believe it is very important that while the strike continues that doctors be permitted to visit both prisons and the concentration camp daily, to conduct medical checks on the hunger strikers.

A well known Belfast surgeon who was concerned about the hunger strikers' medical condition applied to the Ministry of

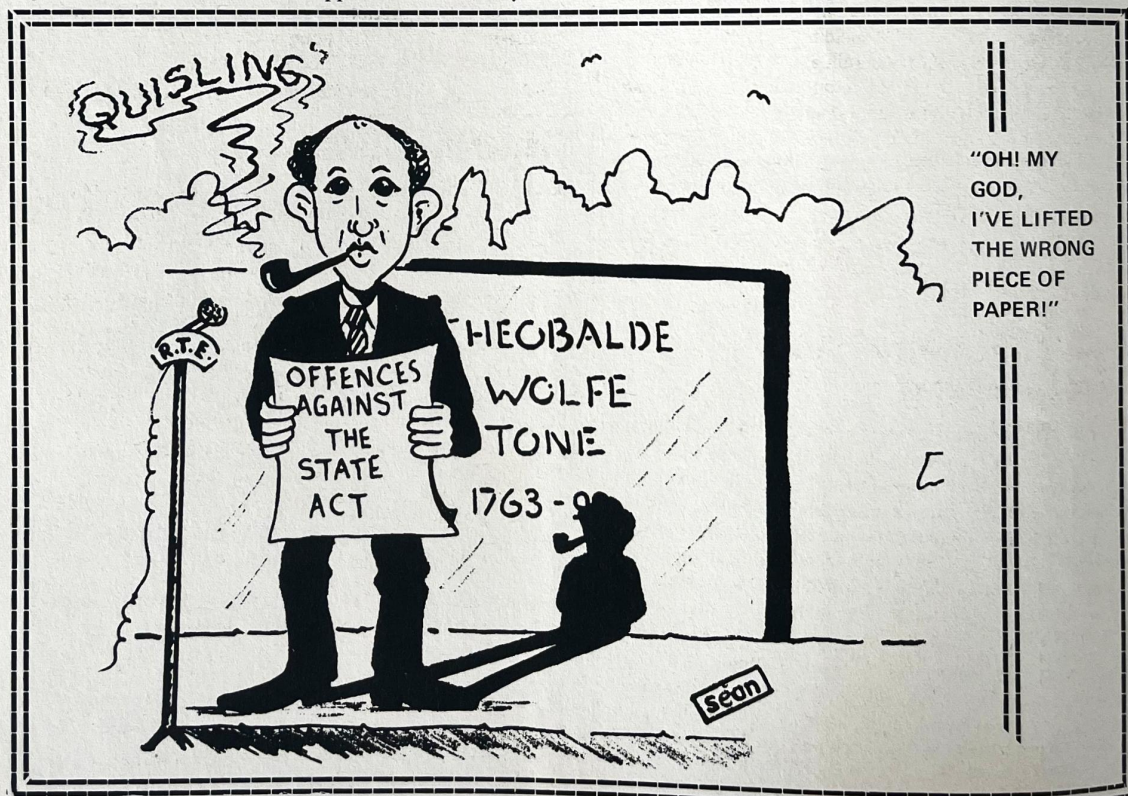
INTERNEES JOIN HUNGER STRIKE

Home Affairs, (still functioning in spite of Whitelaw) to visit the men. He was refused permission on the grounds that the Republican prisoners on hunger strike are refusing visits. This was a blatant distortion of the truth as the men have nothing to lose by independent medical checks. The faceless men at Stormont should beware the wrath of a victorious risen people. These faceless men may yet stand at the bar of justice.

SOLIDARITY

Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin have decided to give priority to a campaign of direct action in solidarity with over sixty Republicans now on hunger strike.

The Comhairle Ceantair have set up a Hunger Strike solidarity Committee which has been meeting on a daily basis. All members of Sinn Féin in the Belfast area have been ordered to throw their full weight into the campaign. Forms have been printed and distributed throughout the city which will enable the public to demonstrate their support for the demands of political status made by the Republican prisoners in Belfast prison. Many people signed the forms at meetings held in Seaforde St. and St. James' Road last Sunday. The Officer Board of the Comhairle Ceantair are confident of a massive response from the nationally-minded people in the City.



DIALANN DEACAIR

SIOCHHAN GO RAIBH ANN

Ta an feachtas sinilchain ar shon na siochana faoi lan tseol anois agus dar le lucht a stiurtha go bhfuil se soileir go bhfuil an pobal ar shon ma siochana go hiomlan, beagnach. Nil me ag ra gur gadh doibh an saothar sin a chur orthu fein le rud comh so fheicthe a fhail amach. Ni bhionn i gcoinne na siochana ach amadan agus ni amadain iad an pobal mor. Mar sin an rud a ba mho achir ionadh orm, ni he an meid siniuchain a fuair siad ach an meid nar shinigh ar chor ar bith. Deich parioisti a rinneadh go dti seo imbeal feirste agus is iad na parioisti is mo lion daoine iad. Deanaim amach go bhfuil fa thuairm 120,000 caitliceach sna parioisti sin (de reir figiuri na heaglaise fein) agus go bhfuil dha dtrian acu sin os cionn se bliana deag d'aois. Chonnaic me fein oganaigh faoi she bliana deag ag sinu ach ma ghlacann muid, fein, leis an teora aoise de 16 bhi 80,000 idtideal a shiniu ach ni bhfuair lucht an fheachtais ach 40,000 siniuchan ar fad. Ni thiofcadh a ra nach rabh fail acu a sinu a chur mar bhi an leabhar faoi do ghaothsa achon uair a dteachnaigh tu de dheiridh do theach a phobal.

"Vote early and often" an manadh a bhi ag lucht cruinnithe na mainmneacha is cosuil mar chonnaic me daoine ag cur a nainm ar an liosta tri seachtain indiaidh a cheile sa teach a phobail a dteim fein air. Dearfainn fein nach abhar maoite ar bith e 40,000 ainm ina leitheid de chas agus go mba mor a b'fhu doibh iad fein a chosaint nuair a dubhairt siad gur shinigh 90% e agus iad o dhoras go doras. Ar an abhar sin thig linn misneach a bheith againn go foill go bhficheann an cuid is mo de'n phobal go mba amaideach an maise do dhuine ar bith "siochan" a eilimh agus an eagcoir agus an leatrom ann ar fad. Ta an dobal ibhfathacha le siochan ach nil siad ag iarraidh a bheith diolta faoi na luach.

BIG TOM AND THE HEADLINERS

Nach mor an run a bhi ann cerby iad lucht riartha an fheachtais siniuchain seo. Ni bhfuair muid gaoth an fhocail fein go dti la an phreas agallainh agus b'shin romhainn iad "uncle Tom Cobbley an' all" Ina bpearsa mar a deaffa. Agus me ar mo bhealach isteach ar an aifreann cupla seachtain o shoin ce tcim romhain ach sagart na paroiste, aoibh an ghair air, agus e ina sheasamh inaice le tabla beag a raibh leabhar na siniuchan air (ineadain an dli canona?). Shin se an peann ionns orm ach thug mesuil ghruama air agus d'fhiafair do ce a bhi imbun an fheachtais. "O, pobal iarthar Bheal Feirste" Deirse "bhal ni hiad" a deirim fein" is as iarthar bheal feirste me fein, i gcead do do chota, agus nil mise ina bhun na nior chireadh imo chead e ach oiread". "Ni he ata me a maoieamh ach na sagairt as an t easbog Sciord me thart leis isteach sa tsuiiochan gan focal eile a ra agus e ag lasadh go bun na gcluas, ach ce acu le fearg na le h-aithmhealtas ni bheidh a fhios agam go deo, is doiche.

Thainig an la mor agus cerby iad na fir runda ach Tom Conaty agus an tath Murphy. Go direach nuair a shil muid deireadh a bheith cailte agus muid ar an bhlar fholamh "gan caraid gan comhpanach fe dhion mo thise" isteach leo sa bhearna baol, Tom agus dat, le muid a chur ar bhealach ar leasa. Is feidir a ra faoi'n athair Murphy go dtuigeann se ca bhfuil ar leas. Comh fada siar le 1969 nuair a chuaidh se igomhar le arm shasana leis na barracaidi a bhaint anuas is a deanamh ar leasa a bhi se. Nuair a chuaidh se ineadain toil daonfhilathach an pobail an trath ceanna ag ra gur glacadh le run daon guth go dtiocfadh na barracaidi anuas an la dar gceann (dearg breag a bhi ann) ag deanamh ar leasa a bhi se. Nuair a, thaisteal ar iochtar bhothair na Bhfal O shraid go sraid a chur daoine a throid le cheile ag baint leasa as a bhona bhan.

"You'll listen to your priest won't you." Ag smhoineamh orain a bhi se. Nuair a dubhairt se ag cruinniui poibli i scoil maomh comhghaill gur cuma na "Cumhachta Speisealta" ann no as mar nar bhain siad ach le poblachtoirt ar scor ar bith. Is ag deanamh ar leasa a bhi se. Gan amhras caide a dheanfaimis gan e? Agus maidir lena chomradai "Tom" is fad indiaidh sin a thainig se isteach sa sceal. "Mother Ireland's rearing them yet" mar dubhairt a tea a dubhairt.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Redcliffe Gardens, South Kensington, LONDON.

Dear Sir, — I am a constant reader of the Republican News and a keen supporter. We are having difficult in regards getting notices of our dances and socials printed here in London. I have suggested to some of the members to send all advertisements of socials and dances in London and elsewhere in Britain to your paper and have them printed. That would be our way of getting through to our supporters. I would be delighted if you can publish this letter in your next issue so we may get this suggestion over to our Dance and Social Organisers.

I remain, yours sincerely,
JAMES H. de VERE

(Terence McSweeney, Cumann Sinn Fein)

THANK YOU

The Belfast Republican Press Centre was re-organised recently to meet the fresh onslaught of British black propaganda. The British Government in recent weeks, faced with the courage and determination of a risen people, are pouring in large sums of money into their publicity machine in order to confuse our people and to discredit the Republican Movement. The REPUBLICAN NEWS now in existence for two years, is sold all over Ireland and in many places overseas. This has been achieved by a hard-working band of dedicated workers in the face of internment, widespread arrests, phone tapping, letter censorship, house raids, British Army, U.D.R. and R.U.C. road blocks. Our writers, distributors and sellers faced various risks and dangers to produce and bring to you this voice of Irish Republicanism. This was done in spite of Stormont's Special Powers Acts.

Our team had a particularly difficult period since internment commenced in August 1971. The Republican Movement therefore wishes to express thanks and appreciation for a job well done. The Republican News could not have survived without the co-operation of our printers and readers. To you also we say, thank you. With your continued support we will always strive to organise, educate and agitate in the cause of Irish national freedom as an authentic Irish Republican organ.

TRUE REPUBLICANISM

DAMN YOUR CONCESSIONS ENGLAND!

*Damn your concessions England,
Our eyes have seen the Dawn,
Our hopes are set not on English smiles,
But on Irish brain and brawn,
On her who stands unconquered
Without your Empire still,
And sings defiant fighting songs
By every stream and hill*

*Damn your concessions England,
We know your wiles too well,
Your smiles are for the traitor brood
Who've sacred things to sell;
You come to us in a friendly guise,
But on your outstretched hands
Are stains of blood - the gifts you bring
From homes in many lands.*

*We own them not, the slaves who crawl
Before your English queen,
Then wheel around, with brazen face,
and wave the flag of Green.
We turn to braver, truer hearts -
The rebel hearts you hate -
Who know the friendly smile you wear,
Behind your prison gate.*

*We've faith in Irish manhood still,
In Irish Wisdom too,
Though knaves and dastards toast your queen,
And bend the knee to you,
Young hearts and old are throbbing now
As in the days gone by,
With love for Ireland's holy cause,
The cause that shall not die.*

*We know your smile, we know your frown,
We know your wiles full well,
They all reflect the cursed craft
That comes to you from hell.
We ask no gift, not beggar dole
That comes from blood stained hand
Damn your concessions, great and small,
We want our Irish land.*

DIFFICULTY

DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING YOUR REPUBLICAN NEWS?

Then Contact: Mr. T. Lyons, 54 Edenmore Ave., Raheny, Dublin - All letters, articles, enquiries, photographs, etc., may also be sent to this address. Sub. Rates: 1 yr. , p.p., £3.50p and six months p.p., £1.75p.

Did the Republican movement split on fundamentals? In this time of confused thinking of what constitutes an Irish Republican it is necessary to examine the historical background of Irish Republicanism. The Standard Dictionary defines a Republican as one who believes in a Republican form of government of state, but does this answer the question posed above. We think the more correct definition is that Irish Republicanism is the symbol of Nationalism. Wolfe Tone was the first Irishman to give expression and meaningful reality, when he declared that an Independent Irish Republic was the National Objective. A Parliament was functioning in Ireland at that time known as Grattan's Parliament, and it is reasonable to assume that Tone and his associates when discussing ways and means by which they hoped would achieve their objectives, discussed parliamentary action, but it is clear from their actions in 1798 that they rejected constitutional means and decided that force would be resorted to and so they drilled and armed, and so was set the pattern for Irish Republicans. A democratic Independent Republic and the means of achieving such - physical force.

This pattern became the faith and dogman of Emmet, Thomas Russel, Jimmy Hope of 1803 accepted by the Young Irelanders in 1948. The Fenians of 1867 and the Invincibles. The Irish Republican Brotherhood. The Irish volunteers of 1913, the Irish Republican Army of 1916-1923 and subsequent periods 1940-1956, and the present time 1969-1972. Men and groups during these periods became discouraged and sought easier and what they thought were quicker means, as witness Dan O'Connell and the Repeal Movement of the early 18 hundreds, which was repudiated by Davis, Mitchell, Lalor etc. The Irish Parliamentary Party which was repudiated by the Irish People in 1918, and is but a memory. Michael Collins and his stepping-stone policy and Eamonn De Valera whose excuse for going into Leinster House was to break the Treaty from within. We in the Republican Movement know how well he succeeded. The Collins Free Staters murdered 77 Republicans in the period 1922-1923. DeValera and Fiann Fail also murdered Irish Republicans in 1940 period. So much for the Free Staters of that time. Then we had the departure of Sean McBride and his Clann Na Phoblacta, seeking a short cut in the manner of a Micky Collins or a DeValera. Did these men arrive at their goal, through their short cuts?

The answer is to be found in the suffering and daily oppression of Irish People in these 6 North Eastern Counties of Ireland in the last 50 years. And in the period 1969-1970 we had men who had become tired and discouraged in the struggle to bring about the freedom that Tone had formulated and which every Irish Republican had struggled and died for from 1798 until the present day. This latest group have, like Collins, DeValera McBride accepted Leinster House, Stormont and even Westminster. They have accepted the partition of their country and want a Bill of Rights which will guarantee them and the Irish people of the 6 counties equal British Citizenship. We see them today adding their voices to every reactionary group in Ireland, in calling for a cessation, at British terms, to the struggle which is being fought for the realisation of what was the declared aim of Tone, and of every Irish Republican in every generation. That is to break the connection with England, the never failing source of all our political and economic ills. This then is the answer to what is an Irish Republican. If the people who in the last decade who have abandoned Tone's dictum and methods in seeking a short cut, describe themselves as Republicans, then so can the Ernie Blythe's, DeValera's, McBrides, P. Devlin's etc. FOR WHAT? THE DIFFERENCE.

LIAM MAC'S PAGE OF News & VIEWS

THE SHORT STRAND

While all the rest of the cowboys and indians are yelling their heads off with advice to Whitelaw and his security forces on how to smash the resistance areas of the Creggan and Bogside, the chief of the tribe, Ian Paisley, has come out openly in the latest issue of his PROTESTANT TELEGRAPH with 9 reasons why the Short Strand must be invaded and this concludes with the advice on how best to do it (SEE PROTESTANT TELEGRAPH 3/6/72). Of course one can understand why Paisley is angry, he goaded his gangsters to attack this area in 1970, and got his fingers burnt and since then many other attempts have failed, but it is good for him to remind the people of the Short Strand area that his hatred for them is still alive.....Peace at any price supporters should take note.....

COURTAULDS

The recent strike by members of the LAW at the Courtaulds, Carnmoney factory over the alleged remarks of two Catholic workers about the sectarian posters and slogans inside the factory showed up the LAW, leadership for what it really is - a lot of gombeen men who when the crunch comes, as in this instance, because they have screamed sectarian hate yet don't know how to control their mobs when they carry through their teaching to its logical conclusion.

The workers at this factory having started a campaign to clear out all the Catholic workers found that their masters were embarrassed at their action and were pleaded with to get back to work, this they did but very angry at not getting any support. Official trade union movement should take control of this very bad situation and not allow management to negotiate with anyone outside the trade union movement. Let us see some action from Bleasdale and Harkin and especially Norman Kennedy the new chairman of the ICTU and member of the Whitelaw Commission

PEACE HIS WAY

John Bull Cruise O'Brien must have been greatly shocked when, after his success with the leadership of the SDLP in convincing them that it was time to co-operate with the establishment of the 6 counties once again, that when he instructed the Irish Labour Party councillors in Newry and Warrenpoint to call off their boycott of the local councils, they refused. "The reaction of the local branches whose members were in control of Newry and Warrenpoint Councils, was swift and uncompromising, they issued a statement that they would not return to the Councils until their original demands were met, and exception was taken on O'Brien setting himself up as the 'sile arbiter: on such a serious matter. Not only did they refuse, but they were ably supported by Tom Markey another councillor and a member of the NILP who declared that until the people gave him a mandate to go back he was with the other councillors. One laughable thing about all this was that "neither the general secretary of the Irish Labour Party in Dublin or O'Brien were aware that both councils had been abolished (SEE ARMAGH-DOWN OBSERVER 3rd June 1972).

PEACE OUR WAY

"Of course everyone wants peace. But peace to the middle-classes, and the businessmen, means the end of shooting etc. : to the internees and prisoners families, peace means the release of their men. There is no peace in these homes while British or Irish jails hold their men, charged or uncharged. The workers reluctance to agree to middle-class peace is based on the fact that the violence of unemployed and slums drew no horror-struck exclamations from these gentlemen, internees and political prisoners would be treated in the same callous manner-in 'normal' times. The initiative for peace lies with the Westminster Tories. The chorus for peace should be directed at them, it would certainly receive less, much less, publicity if it were." (LETTER IN FORTNIGHT MAGAZINE 25/5/72)

DESPITE persistent rumours abroad Belfast is not completely demolished. There is still quite a lot of the old place left (Ken Nixon, Newsletter 31/5/72)

COMPETITION

When Harold Wilson made his now 'famous' 15 point programme to settle the Irish question, the outcry from the NILP was led by a George Chambers from the Woodvale Branch who threatened that unless the executive disowned Wilson he would leave the Party. George, a school teacher by profession (Everton) is also spokesman on education for the party and this week he has been demanding from Whitelaw that he sets at rest the fears of the Protestant workers and "carry out a referendum so that the question of the link with Britain can be settled once and for all time"

How foolish can this little man be, but one must understand the predicament of the NILP, as another little Unionist party-Alliance Party - they are screaming at the top of their hysterical voices for the same action by Whitelaw - they are both fighting for support from the unionist workers and they are finding competition between them is getting fierce, so much so that one expects some of these days they will be having some gimmick such as Green Shield Stamps for all those who can prove they voted for that individual party.

BOAL DEFENDER PROSCUITOR

The great defender of the people's rights and privileges, Desmond Boal, who acts as crown prosecutor oras defence council, as the whim takes him, or should I say when he finds that it is more profitable to his bank account and political prejudices. In the REPUBLICAN NEWS we quoted the case when the bold Desmond took great pleasure in prosecuting a little girl of 17 and was proud of being able to convict her and send her to prison for two years, her crime - in his eyes - she was a Republican. This past week the great democrat was in action on two occasions and we are sure he was proud that again he won both his cases - but on these occasions he was defending the right of the RUC and the security forces to brutally treat their victims once they had got them inside the law and order compounds. You remember the day Harry Thornton was murdered - the Saturday before internment - the driver of the car, Arthur Thomas Murphy was arrested and brought into the Springfield Road Barracks. Sergeant McGowan and Constable Proctor of the RUC immediately started to beat up Murphy who later had to have hospital treatment after he had been released when no charge was brought against him. The court case was the result of Murphy taking an action against the police. The Army Officer gave evidence for the defence that he had watched the police beating up Murphy. Boal knowing he had case, went on the offensive and what do you know the police in turn blamed the troops for the beating up. Anyway, before the day was out the judge and the jury did not even know what day it was, the police then got discharged for lack of evidence.

The other case with Boal defending was a clear cut case of two soldiers beating up a chap who was arrested for merely disturbing the peace, but the troops thinking he was a Republican, gave him such a beating and kicking that he lost an eye, again Desmond with his great pride and respect for the law, went on the offensive and admitted the soldiers took the law for a Republican - in his eyes that political outlook is not covered by the law. Anyway it was an unknown third soldier who had done most of the kicking. RESULT of the case, the soldiers were only fined £25. That my friends is the one and only Desmond Boal defender of the people's rights and privileges.

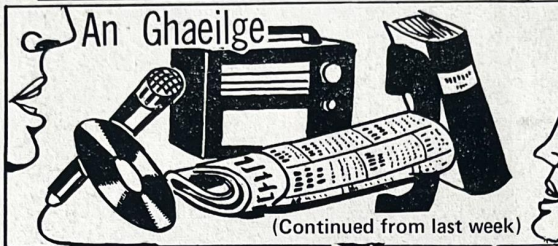
HERE & THERE

"THE PROVISIONALS have been talking to Paisley and Roy Bradford, and they in turn have been talking to Robin Baillie and Basil McIlvor. 'Our dilemma,' as Ian Paisley succinctly put it, 'is how to sell the idea to Protestant people' of a hazy outline of some form of a long term settlement in the context of all the 32 Counties of Ireland."

(Insight, Sunday Times 4/6/72)

ÉIRE NUA

THE
DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC
TO BE



of years struggled for freedom. It was no coincidence that it was during the great advance of Conradh na Gaeilge in the present century that another attempt to win national freedom began in 1916.

Not only were the leaders of 1916 all supporters of the language movement, and several of them actively involved in it, but the first Dail Eireann (1919-1921) adopted as national policy the restoration of the language. The first meeting was conducted entirely in Irish apart from the reading in French and English of the Declaration of Independence and the Message to the Free Nations of the World, and the reading in English of the Democratic Programme.

But as in so many other aspects, the fine principles of the four glorious years were abandoned by many leaders, and from the betrayal has come disillusionment. The language itself is indeed the victim of the great betrayal. With good reason in many cases a lot of people look on the whole restoration effort as hypocritical. The national ideal of "Saor agus Gaelach" still hold good. We have been living a lie since 1922. While Irish is taught in our schools, no coherent comprehensive plan has ever been drawn up to give proper meaning to the work of the schools. The Gaeltacht areas, which were already declining seriously prior to 1921 have been allowed shrink disastrously and many of those still remaining in these areas see little use in continuing to use the language.

Only Sinn Fein can restore the spirit, the enthusiasm, the idealism and give the leadership which existed prior to 1921. The politicians of Leinster House, pre-occupied with preserving their positions, can only lead the nation to the final stage of national apostasy.

Sinn Fein will evolve a plan for the restoration of Irish which will have as an immediate aim the development of the use of the Irish language as a medium of communication to the minimum degree required for creating a cultural milieu which will make possible the national and organic national development essential for the moral, social, spiritual and material needs of the Irish people.

It will be a progressive step by step plan and will involve all our people in the political, social, religious, economic and cultural sectors of the nation. Such a plan cannot be put into practice completely in isolation — just as the language itself cannot be considered in isolation. All aspects of the life of the state and nation must be involved and taken into consideration. We visualise the following headings as being essential parts of the restoration plan:—

1. A vast continuous programme of education to explain the philosophy behind the restoration effort will be undertaken, and all the media of communication will be utilised. This programme will be based on the most modern research findings in sociology, socio-linguistics and anthropology, and will be so framed that it will appeal to all sectors of the people. It will include an authoritative study of the history and significance of the language in its proper historical context. Suitable adaptations of the programme will be prepared and used in all educational institutions.

2. For the restoration of the Irish language to its proper place it must not only have the full legal backing and leadership of the State, but a social atmosphere must be created so that people will be able to accept Irish as a natural aspect of their lives. It will not be enough that Irish has an honorary or a nominal legal status — leadership and practical direction must be given. Therefore, one of the first targets will be the transaction of all Central and Local Government business through Irish from Cabinet level down. This may not be practicable immediately after political independence is achieved, but time-limits with targets will be set. These will be set within two stages — firstly, all internal

work and correspondence through Irish; secondly, all communications with the public to be through Irish. This includes the work of all government, semi-government and state-sponsored bodies.

3. The development and expansion, economically, socially and culturally of the Gaeltacht areas will be given priority. A Bord na Gaeltachta, government-sponsored but independent of the Civil Service, containing as well as Government nominees, democratically elected representatives from all Gaeltacht areas, will be set up as the principle authority for these regions. This authority will be completely autonomous and will control regional institutions, supervise and direct all services, including local government, industrial, publishing, radio, and television, etc., for the Gaeltacht areas. Irish only will be recognised as an official language in the Gaeltacht areas as they exist at present. It will also be the policy and aim of Bord na Gaeltachta to develop new Gaeltacht areas along the lines of Rath Cairn with proper facilities such as piped water.

4. The national radio and television service will be reorganised to play its full and proper part in national rehabilitation. A national film industry will also be set up.

5. The Irish versions only of all place names will be used officially, and signposts will be altered accordingly. Steps will be taken to ensure that roadmaps with the correct placenames are provided.

6. The publication of all forms of Irish literature and reading matter catering for all tastes will be actively assisted. Special attention will be paid to the needs of educational institutions in the matter of text books and all other teaching aids required.

7. A practical and comprehensive plan will be evolved in consultation with the various interests for the development of the use of Irish in the commercial life of the nation, and all assistance necessary, including adequate finance, will be given. Initially, incentives will be devised to encourage the use of Irish. These might include cheaper postal rates for letters addressed in Irish and increased benefits such as children's allowances for those whose home language is Irish.

8. Irish will be an obligatory subject and the first language in all schools. Eventually, all subjects (except other living languages) will be taught through Irish in all schools. In the early stages steps will be taken to ensure that all teachers, especially trainee-teachers at all levels, acquire competency in the use of Irish and that they are properly trained for teaching through Irish. It is recognised that in implementing this the rate of progress will be slower in the Six Counties than in the rest of the country.

9. A Minister for National Rehabilitation will be appointed and with the assistance of a fully equipped and qualified Department endowed with the necessary powers, will direct and co-ordinate the complete restoration efforts. It will be his duty to set out targets, timetables, etc., for the restoration plan and ensure that all sectors of the nation are playing their part.

10. An Irish Academy will be established by the State. Its functions will include the publication of all text books, treatises and other matter required; it will be the deciding body on all questions relating to Irish grammar, spelling, phonetics, coining and standardisation of words and terms etc.

The Folklore Commission and the Arts Council will be transferred to the Academy as subsidiary bodies and their powers and functions extended and developed. The Academy will also undertake to establish machinery for the study, development and teaching of Irish music, both classical and traditional.

It is envisaged that the Academy undertake expanded promotion and cultivation of art in all its forms, including cultural and exhibition centres in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Derry and Belfast. These centres would include workshops, studios, rooms and halls for the development of art, drama, music, poetry, etc., and would be constantly open to the public.

Under the establishment of a National 32-County Parliament with effective jurisdiction over all Ireland, Sinn Fein will encourage the use of Irish among its members, sympathisers and the public at large and will promote other forms of Irish culture. Sinn Fein will also co-operate with all other organisations sincerely working towards the restoration of the Irish language and the development of the Gaeltacht.

IRELAND'S PATRIOT DEAD

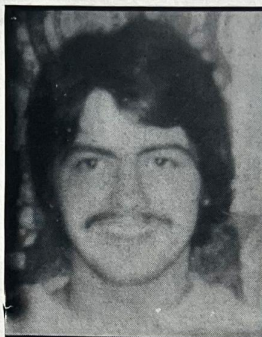
CLONARD STREET



Lt. Sean Johnston



Vol. Tony Lewis



Vol. Tom McCann



Vol. Gerard Crossan

ANDERSON STREET



Staff Capt. J. Fitzsimmons



First Lt. M. Engelen



Lieut. Edward McDonald



Lieut. Jackie McIlhone

THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THE REPUBLICAN NEWS SINCERELY REGRET THE DEATH OF ALL AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT EXPLOSIONS IN CLONARD STREET AND ANDERSON STREET, BELFAST.

WE TENDER OUR DEEPEST SYMPHY TO THEIR RELATIVES AND TO THE NATIONALLY-MINDED PEOPLE OF THESE AREAS..... GO NEADAH DIA TROCAIRE AR A ANAM.....

BETSY GREY

Betsy-Grey the heroine of the Battle of Ballynahinch - whose name has been immortalised in the ballad, song and story. The memory of this heroic lass still lingers on and her story has been told time and time again by generations of Irish people, and preserved for immortality.

On the 13th June 1798 the Battle of Ballynahinch was fought, and it was the last battle fought by the United Irishmen in the North. On the 12th June Betsy Grey, a young girl of twenty years, the daughter of a Presbyterian farmer, set off from her home on a cart laden with provisions for her brother George and her boyfriend Willie Boal. Betsy decided to stay and watch the battle the next day. On Windmill Hill the kings soldiers were mustered under the command of Major-General Nugent, who also occupied the town. On Edennavadhy Hill stood thousands of poorly armed but enthusiastic United Irishmen, ready to sacrifice their lives for their country and their impoverished countrymen.

When the battle began, Betsy Grey, dressed in green, mounted on a horse, and with sword in hand, rode beside General Henry Munro, the commander. When Nugent's forces were being pressed back, and

at the point of winning the battle, the United Irishmen, hearing the trumpet sounding in the Kings army, not knowing that it was sounding the retreat, broke off contact when they came under the cross-fire of the musketry and soon they themselves retreated in disorder and that was the last of the rising in Co. Down.

Betsy Grey and her companions fled out towards Lisburn Road near Ballycree. They were overtaken by a party of Hillsborough yeomen. Betsy tried to save her comrades, but was set upon by three yeomen, who hailed from Anahilt. They cut off her hand and then shot her through the head. Her brother and Willie Boal met the same fate. One of the yeomen who did this foul deed gave his wife the green skirt taken from the body of Betsy, and when she wore it the people of the district knew at least one of the murderers involved and boycotted the family, they would not even sit in church with them.

"Far dearer the grave or the prison,
Illumined by one patriot name,
Than the trophies of all who have risen,
On liberties ruins to fame."

HENRY MOORE.



THEOBALD WOLFE TONE

**DON'T FORGET
BODENSTOWN
THIS SUNDAY
11th JUNE**

What is it that draws not only the bodies of Irishmen and Irishwomen, but the thoughts and loyalty of countless thousands down through the years since 1798 to an obscure graveyard named Bodenstown, about two miles from the tiny village of Sallins in Co. Kildare? The answer is of course, because it contains the last resting place of THEOBALD WOLFE TONE, who has been called the father of the Irish Republic.

Tone was born in Dublin on June 20th 1763 and died in that city 35 years later. He awaits the resurrection not only of his immortal soul but also of the country for which he fought and died. The grave of a man who inspired Patrick Pearse 114 years later to say, "We have come to the holiest place in Ireland; holier to us (Irish Republicans) than the place where Patrick lies in Down. For whereas Patrick brought us faith, this man brought us life."

Wolfe Tone was the first Irishman to define and formulate in clear and unambiguous terms our National aspirations which today 170 years later are as clear and undiminished as it was when first uttered. Liberty, equality and fraternity. Liberty to choose and elect your own form of government, free from foreign domination; to think, speak and act without fear and intimidation; to own the soil and enjoy the fruits, paying tribute to no man. Equality to all citizens, as opposed to the privileges of class or station in a corrupt society. An equality of rights and opportunities guaranteed and recognised as a fundamental by the constitution.

Fraternity embracing all creeds within the nation; divorced from the poison of religious strife so insidiously fostered by a partisan and alien government. A fraternity of all people rejecting and abhorring injustice, tyranny and oppression. These then were the aims of Tone and are the aims of his successors of today who struggle and example to attain them. To appreciate in full the aims and objects of Tone, one must not only be conversant with the history of his time, but one must also know Tone, for he, and he alone, personifies them. He was the formulator of reason in the chaos of his time, he was the defender of truth and justice; he was the architect of reform and the organiser of revolution. He was articulate while others were dumb. He was consistent while others compromised. He coherently expressed the desires and fears which perturbed his nation. He was sincere, this man TONE. His words ringing clear down through the years are the gospel of true democratic republicanism.

James Fintan Lalor who publicly felled O'Connell, a foresworn traitor at the height of the agitation for repeal knew the value of Tone's teaching when he said, and how applicable it is today. "A mightier question moves Ireland today than that of repealing the Union. Not the constitution that Tone died to abolish but the constitution which Tone died to obtain. Independence, full and absolute independence; for this island and for every man within this island."

Connolly too acknowledged the worth of Tone as did also McSwiney and Pearse never wearied praising him. He said, "that God spoke to Ireland through Tone, and through those who after Tone have taken up his testimony; that Tone's teaching and theirs is true and great and that no other teaching as to Ireland has any truth or worthiness in it at all. This is a thing upon which I stake all my mortal and immortal hopes".

We are blessed as a nation to have had a Tone. Larger nations pay signal tribute to lesser men. His name still lives and his honour survives the abuse

of his calumniators. His memory will last as long as we have a history. It would be hypocritical to commemorate Tone if we ignore his aspirations, it would be foolish to ignore his aspirations when today, as then our Country and our Countrymen stand divided and disunited, when today we still fall short of the State that Tone envisaged. Today as then the privileged class exists. Today as ever they resist every attempt to form a true Democracy. Today as then they have their terrorists to frighten the timid and the time servers into supporting them. Let us therefore in all sincerity pledge ourselves as Tone and his comrades did, never to desist in our efforts until we have asserted the independence of our country. Then let us abolish the memory of all past dissensions and substitute the common name of IRISHMAN in place of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter.

HE IS GONE!



At approximately 8.45 a.m. on Wednesday morning two jeep loads of British Military arrived at the home of Mr. Robert Campbell, New Lodge Road, Belfast, who had been on hunger strike since May 15th in protest against the refusal of the British Authorities to grant him political prisoner status. He had been removed to the intensive care unit of the Mater Hospital in a weak condition on Tuesday.

"Is he dead?" Mrs. Campbell enquired of the British raiding party. "No, he is gone", they replied. There was great jubilation in the New Lodge Road area as the news became known. Many people in the district had spent the previous night huddled on floors because of the gun battles which started at 9 p.m. and lasted until the early hours.

Mrs. Campbell received a telegram from the prison on Tuesday that her husband had been removed to hospital. She was told that he was refusing to take glucose. We understand that the prison doctor asked her to speak to Bobbie, as he, the doctor, did not want to lose any of his patients. He has lost his patient, but not in the way he expected!

BEST OF LUCK TO YOU BOBBIE.

National Flag on Belfast Public Baths

Over 60 members of Sinn Féin in Belfast walked into the Falls Road baths at 7.00 p.m. last Monday, took it over and hoisted the National Flag above the building. The occupation lasted until near midnight and was a continuation of the direct action programme under the auspices of Belfast Comhairle Ceantair in solidarity with the Republican prisoners who are on hunger strike for political status.

The British Army was aware of the demonstration. While they kept the baths under close watch, they did not try to remove the demonstrators.