



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

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SECTARIANISM!

WHO STARTED SECTARIANISM?

The English murderers who invaded Ireland, massacred the native population who were Catholic and established a Protestant Ascendancy based on the Penal Laws and backed by all the forces of the British Empire.

WHO MAINTAINED SECTARIANISM?

First the English and Scottish landlords and later the Protestant working-class and planters, through the Orange Order, by discrimination, corruption and terrorism.

WHO IS MAINTAINING IT, NOW?

Protestant ultra-right wing politicians and the Orange fascist organisations who have long outlived their usefulness to the British. They are the Frankenstein the British are faced with now.

WHO IS SUPPORTING THEM?

The British Government and Army because Protestants have always shown violence pays, and the British are afraid to take them on.

HOW CAN THEY BE DEFEATED?

By showing that the Irish people have had enough of British brutality and local bully boys and are determined to continue to wreck the sectarian six county statelet which they successfully brought down in 1972.

HOW CAN THIS BE DONE?

1. By maintaining the rent and rates strike and every form of resistance to British and Orange terror.
2. By boycotting all elections and every form of capitulation to British and Orange force.
3. By treating with contempt the propaganda of the defeatist and deluded collaborators with fascism and imperialism - the "official republicans", republican clubs, N.I.C.R.A. and The Communist Party.

YOU CAN DEFEAT SECTARIANISM BY SUPPORTING THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT'



Belfast Fire Brigade have hopeless job trying to fight the fire in Avon Tyre warehouse, Clifton Street, just a stone's throw from RUC/BA barracks at Glenravel Street, Belfast. Daring guerilla operation was carried out in broad daylight under the noses of British Occupation Forces.

MR. COONEY AND OFFENCES AGAINST THE STATE AMENDMENT ACT

The Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, said on the R.T.E. Programme "This Week" on Sunday last that he had no intention of repealing the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act, 1972. "We must take the law as we find it", he said.

On November 29 last in Leinster House Mr. Cooney led the attack on this draconian legislation. He described it as "unnecessary and excessive and repugnant to the basic principles of justice and liberty and the long-established fundamental rights of citizens." Referring to the Section which makes possible conviction for membership of an illegal organisation on the opinion of a police officer, he said that it was "unfair, unjust and essentially obnoxious - it turns our legal system upside down and it provides no protection for an accused person."

Five months after making these trenchant statements Cooney is now in a position to abolish this legislation. Not only will he not do so, but he is actively enforcing it and since Mr. Cosgrave's Government took office several men have been jailed solely on the opinion of a Chief Superintendent. The rights of the individual are no more under the Cosgrave-Corish Coalition than they were under Messrs. Lynch and O'Malley.

Mr. Cooney denied that there was any harassment of Republicans by his police. If this is so, will he call off his "Bow Street Runners" who are constantly watching the home of Daithi O'Connell in Dublin. They constitute harassment of Mr. O'Connell, his wife and young children. On several occasions recently visitors to their home, including Northern politicians and clergymen, were stopped and interrogated on the road outside.

What of the case of another Dublin member of Sinn Féin who returned home one night recently to find two Special Branch men waiting in his sitting room for him? They had posed as friends of his and had been admitted by the occupant of the apartment overhead. First they said they had come to search for arms but never bothered to do so. Instead, they launched into an interrogation of a completely political nature in regard to his membership of Sinn Féin.

There are many more instances of harassment of members of Sinn Féin by Mr. Cooney's police. The prisoners in the Curragh and Mountjoy are kept in dreadful conditions by Mr. Cooney's jailers. To crown it all, the man who condemned the new legislation as "an awful interference with individual freedom" is

(Continued on Column 4)

TELEGRAM TO THE VATICAN IN 1923 (FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN 1973)

To His Holiness The Pope.

Dec. 21st, 1923.

Your Holiness,

On behalf of the Irish people, I desire to convey to your Holiness our deep appreciation of the kindly, paternal interest which prompted the reference to Ireland made by your Holiness at the recent consistory.

We deplore, and feel assured that your Holiness will deplore, the unfortunate fact that the situation here is not such as would warrant your felicitous reference. We regret that despite the Public Reference thereto by His Eminence Cardinal Logue, the scandal of detaining thousands of uncharged and untried political prisoners - including President De Valera in the prisons of The Northern Ireland and Irish Free State "Governments" still continues. That this should continue on the eve of the Holy Season of Christmas very naturally prevents that state of tranquility which your Holiness so desires.

We fear your Holiness must have been misinformed re the happy approach of a settlement. The blow struck by England at the liberty and integrity of Ireland two years ago has been very fruitful of misery and suffering for our people. We regret that we are absolutely unaware of the approach of any settlement or of any intention to remove the cause of all our troubles, viz: - England's unwarranted interference in our national affairs.

Your Holiness's most humble and obedient son,

Padraig O Ruithileis,
Acting President
Sinn Féin.

Who is advising the Pope on Ireland?

For years Irish Catholics were accused of being priest ridden. When a measure of self-government was being contemplated, the slogan, "Home rule is Rome rule" became the rallying call of the Unionist/Orange faction in Ireland.

From every Orange platform throughout the six counties, the dominant theme in all the speeches was "no Pope here". Three times since the establishment of Stormont, Catholics in the six counties have been subjected to bloody persecution.

Now as a matter of political expediency and solely in the interests of British Imperialism, efforts are being made to enlist the aid of no less a person than the Pope himself in order to persuade Catholics to accept the British White Paper.

Catholics accept the Pope as Head of the Catholic Church. This is simply stating a fact. However, this unique position does not give him the right or the authority to ask Irish Catholics to accept the morally unacceptable.

No amount of theological or political argument can persuade the Irish people to accept the British White Paper for the following reasons:-

It does not refer to the ending of internment.

It does not refer to an amnesty for all political prisoners.

It does not refer to the withdrawal of British troops, or to the ending of the harassment of the people.

It does not refer to the re-organisation of the R.U.C. or the creation of a police force that would be acceptable to the people.

It does promise to repeal the Special Powers Acts, but only by having them replaced by Diplock which will lower the age for future internees to 14 years.

It does promise an ineffective Charter of Human Rights, based on a system of so-called power sharing.

It does promise trials without jury.

It relieves the state of producing the onus of proof.

In short, it relieves citizens of every basic human rights laid down by the United Nations.

If the Pope wishes to lend his support for such draconian legislation we can only assume that his advisers are so far removed from the present thinking of the Irish people as to make them unworthy of holding office.

STATEMENT

The Staff Of The 2nd Battalion, Irish Republican Army.

An Active Service Unit of the 2nd Battalion, Irish Republican Army carried out a successful military operation against the British Forces of Occupation on Sunday last. As a result one Brit was killed and three others seriously injured.

We would like to state categorically that the active service unit took every precaution to prevent civilian casualties with the result that none of the civilian population was injured in the attack.

The fact that people went to the aid of the injured Brits was in the circumstances a humane thing to do. In all just wars injured parties on both sides are treated in the same humane way and we would not wish our people to do otherwise.

However, considering this we would point out that the Major of the 2nd Light Infantry Regiment (who sits safe in his billet while the private soldier does HIS dirty work for him) should not take this as a sign of support for the British Government's repressive policies towards our people here. Indeed the operation against this regiment on Sunday was a direct reprisal for their continued and unmerciless harassment and intimidation of the residents of this area.

We would also state that the British Army does not give the same humane response to our people. One has only to remember young Francis Liggitt from the St. James' area who, while dying on a hospital floor was dragged on his heels into another room. Young Jimmy Quigley, just 16 years old after he was shot was dropped head first from a two storey building. Remember also the treatment given out to Billy Reid, shot dead in May 1971.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that the Irish Republican Army will engage the Crown Forces whenever and wherever necessary until such times as they are withdrawn from our areas and there is a cessation of the British Army harassment, intimidation and brutality of which we are all so well aware.

Mr. Cooney

now operating it. If it was bad law then it is still bad law five months later. But then Mr. Cosgrave, Mr. Corish and Mr. Cooney are only the paid servants who obey orders from Westminster. Not only Republicans and Republican prisoners know this. The people of the Falls and Bogside know it also, to their cost, in the blood of their kith and kin murdered by Crown Forces who would be gone from Ireland by now but for the collaboration of the Leinster House Parties.

INHUMAN TREATMENT OF INTERNEES IN CAGE 2

On Wednesday night, April 4th with most of us in Ireland watching with revulsion the treatment meted out to unfortunate prisoners by both sides involved in the Vietnam War. Must this T.V. programme not be taken as food for thought by us here in Northern Ireland.

We have in this country the last of the concentrations camps in Europe. The suppression, brutalities and degrading treatment meted out to the prisoners in this Hell Hole LONG KESH has up to now been unequalled by the KZs, or the late Gestapo in Nazi Germany. We have received reports from visitors to LONG KESH of the inhuman treatment of internees in Cage 2 and other compounds after an attempted escape there. Baton swinging British soldiers of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, "You must be proud of them Your Majesty" assisted by Trusedale warders invaded the internees quarters harassing and beating the prisoners. One man was spreadeagled against the toilet door and these brave British soldiers proceeded to beat his hands until they burst his right hand, he is now in the cooler "cell block" for attempting to escape. Food stuffs which the men depend on were deliberately destroyed under foot, and cigarettes and personal property looted, Religious objects desecrated. Old men and young were treated alike.

Trusedale the governor has vowed that he will break every Republican mentality and otherwise before this is over. Early morning raids on the mens sleeping quarters are almost now a daily affair with British soldiers bragging the men half naked to the showers and giving them the full treatment insisting that they stay there for long periods in the cold.

The hypocrisy of these people, like Robin Day who wish to convey to the world the impression that by highlighting the prisoners dilemma in Vietnam that there hands are clean. We would ask the B.B.C. and Mr. Robin Day has the British Government ever given them permission to interview any of the men who have returned from LONG KESH or would that be too much to ask of you.

We have seen for ourselves some of the men who have been released from LONG KESH and have noted that they are still under Doctor's care after months outside. We would remind our people that the British were the first to introduce the concentration camps and that their hypocritical love for justice and fair play does not impress the people in this country as they are the only people in Western Europe to retain one. "Times have not changed much with the old Bulldog from 1899". If the philosophy which this T.V. programme is so expounded and adopted then you, Britain, must first of all be the pupil and not the teacher. If however there is to be a repeat of the Hell Hole Camp affair at LONG KESH, no excuse by you Britain or by Mr. Whitelaw's office to cover up the affair will be tolerated. We also look with disgust and contempt towards the actions of the British Army in LONG KESH. On the other hand see this hypocritical British Government creating an up roar about the imprisonment of one of their reporters in Rhodesia.

SIX COUNTY LOCAL ELECTIONS

The leadership of the Republican Movement calls all Republican-minded people to ignore the forthcoming Six-County Local Government elections. Participation in the elections will not assist the struggle for freedom but will simply confuse and fragment those who have heroically resisted British military terror over the last few years. Many heavy sacrifices have been made to end British rule for all time and to be diverted now into a cul-de-sac of meaningless politics will only give comfort to the Whitelaw regime and to those who are determined to maintain foreign rule in our country.

Military repression of the people is the hallmark of current British policy. The shooting of innocent civilians and the killing of unarmed wanted men is the order of the day backed up with increased raiding and searching of homes and the jailing of Republicans. The conduct of the Parachute Regiment in Ardoyne, Newry and South Armagh has evoked the condemnation of all and the placing of a detachment of those troops in Andersonstown heralds a new phase of increased military terror in that area. Under the circumstances, Mr. Whitelaw's talk of "free elections" is nothing more than a smokescreen for military repression upon which he has based all his hopes for defeating resistance to his junta. By ignoring the election, Mr. Whitelaw can be deprived of his smokescreen and exposed for the dictator he has become.

The system of local government proposed by the British is a meaningless form of government. The elected representatives will have no power to serve local communities in a positive way, but will simply provide a skin of so-called respectability for the English overlords in Stormont Castle. Involvement in such a system is alien to the Republican political programme of giving power back to the people at local, regional and provincial levels and we urge those who know only too well the malpractices of the last Unionist regime to avoid giving any consent to the tinsel substitute proposed by Mr. William Whitelaw.

Withdrawing consent from Stormont was a big factor in bringing about its downfall and it would be the height of folly to throw away that victory by accepting a further British career.

The refusal of the Whitelaw junta to allow free political activity by Republicans makes it well nigh impossible to present our programme for a new Ulster to the people. As well as the harassment and jailing of our members, the continuous censorship on radio, television and press deprives the people of even an elementary knowledge of our political, social and economic programmes. Despite these obstacles, Republicans will continue to put our policy before the people insofar as it is possible and we look forward to the day when genuine

free elections can be held and the people of Ireland can exercise their right to choose their own democratic institutions of government.

EXPLOSION AT THE FLAGSTAFF

The following statement has been issued by Oglagh Na H-Eireann, on behalf of an Active Service Unit, of the North Louth Battalion.

An Active Service Unit of the Irish Republican Army, claim responsibility for the explosion at Flagstaff on Friday last. Despite denials of casualties by the British, information received by us from people in the area, and they are witness to the fact that we did inflict casualties. Six Paratroopers were injured and four of these were very serious.

The action was taken as a reprisal for the persecution which the Paratroopers have subjected to our people. It would take volumes, to list the crimes of the Paratroopers all over the Six Counties. More retaliatory action will be taken, when and where necessary, against the British forces or any body acting against our people in the Six Counties.

Our attention has been drawn to the fact, that a number of incidents have occurred in the Dundalk area during the past number of weeks, by people using the name of the I.R.A.. After extensive investigation by our intelligence officers, we have the identity of the persons responsible. We wish to make it clear that anyone using the name of the I.R.A. will be punished.

Letter smuggled out of Brixton Prison

One day last week Liam Armstrong was exercising in the Yard. A Prison Officer called him an Irish animal. He in return called him an English bastard. Since then all bedding and furniture and clothing were removed from his cell. He is sitting on a chair, without clothing and is on bread and water diet for three days.

The Prison Chaplain (a Jesuit) is very hostile to the Belfast remand prisoners. He calls them Irish thugs. Two of the boys want to get married in Chapel over here. The Chaplain advised the boys to get married in a Register Office because the boys will be jailed for a long time. He told them it will make it easier for the girls to get a Separation, when they get fed up waiting for them.

Hopes Realised

The following statement has been issued by the Republican Movement in the West Tyrone area:

We would like to thank all those who gave us such whole hearted support over Easter.

Easter we believe was something of a testing time for the Republican Movement and we watched it with hope and expectation. Our hopes were realised. The annual Commemoration at Drumboe, Stranorlar, proved to be the biggest in its history. Approximately 4,500 people marched in well disciplined lines and we reckon that between 500-600 women and children viewed from the side lines.

This was tremendous in view of the harassment by the forces both North and South of Republicans and also in view of all the talks of peace at any price from many sources. From the Easter Commemorations the answer went out loud and clear to Britain and the Free State Governments and all their satellite collaborators in the S.D.L.P., Alliance and N.L.F. that Ireland wants her Freedom and the people of Ireland see that the only way to achieve it is through the Republican Movement.

The British Propaganda Machine have done a lot to play down the vote of confidence expressed to the volunteers of Oglagh Na H-Eireann by all these who attended the Easter Commemoration but the message went out very strongly to continue until the aims of the men who gave their lives in the Woods of Drumboe in 1922 finally fulfilled.

INTERMENT WRONG IN AUGUST '71

... STILL WRONG

so-called minority leaders have not enough of treading the lonely path of justice and truth - hence the blatant opportunist welcome accorded the White Paper. Before one dwells on ill-considered, but none the less devious, aspects of our society and the irrelevance of the White Paper to them, it would be illuminating to analyse some reaction, well highlighted by the British and Irish news media.

The overall prize must go to the thirty Derry Catholics, who resigned from various public positions after internment, but have now called on the minority to work the institutions set up by the White Paper - or which will, when proposed legislation goes through Westminster. In effect, they have called for an end to the policy of boycott which we were all given to understand would continue till the gates of Long Kesh closed for ever.

Their reasons are patently ridiculous, since they now blame the I.R.A.! The idea seems to be that the onus is on the Provisionals, as internment will end if they stop violence. That condition, it must be said, also applied in August,

1971. Why the sudden change of attitude? After all, where these people not supposed to be against internment on principle?

The acceptance of internment, White-law style, is also a statement that those incarcerated in Long Kesh are all members of the I.R.A., and thus deserve to be there. The facts, however, do not bear out such an insane suggestion. To give one example, what about the man arrested recently as 'the Commander of the Provisional I.R.A. in County Derry'? It was proved conclusively that he did not merit the description of being one of the twenty most wanted men in the six Counties, by virtue alone of his weekly collection of unemployment benefit. That is only the tip of the iceberg. Added to that are the cases of men classified innocent by the courts, and those who have been brow beaten into making all sorts of absurd "confessions" at the interrogation centres of Ballykelly etc. To work a set up which is thus operated is an unforgivable betrayal of the struggle against repression. To say that the campaign by the I.R.A. justifies such a quiescent attitude on the part of our "elected representatives" is nothing short of an insult to the intelligence of the people. Certainly, increased political activity by Sinn Fein can no longer be ruled out, if only by virtue of the fact that they are very much a voice in the wilderness. Let there be no doubt about it: Only one organisation has stood firmly behind the men behind the wire, with the company of P.D., the Northern Resistance Movement, and a handful of others.

So much for the reaction of the S.D.L.P. and their cohorts. It must also be recognised that, apart from the obvious facts already highly lighted by the "Republican News", several important pre-requisites for true democracy are missing.

The most obvious is the news media. It still operates as the mouthpiece of the imperialists, or, alternatively, the Catholic middle-classes; now anxious

to get back to a largely apathetic and "normal" life.

The fact still remains that for every one interview with a Republican there are a hundred with established figures. Television programmes have yet to make use of the available. Sinn Fein panel, in their construction of current affairs coverage. Both the B.B.C and I.T.V. news staffs continue to be either censored, or they censor themselves. When two N.I.F. men were killed in Armagh recently in separate incidents, the British Army version of events were reported as the Second Gospel, and there was not an allusion even to dissidence from local populations. This will continue, and intensify. The people must also be on their guard for a repetition of an "Elizabeth Hyland" episode.

It will be recalled that the N.I.F. kidnapped this girl, held her for several days and beat her up for "spying". In view of the enormity of the alleged crime, it must be accepted that she was treated lightly. It was a much more preferable punishment than thirty years jail - a standard hand out by the British to Russian operatives. Yet for days after it, half of the tea time news programmes were devoted to it, with painful interviews with those immediately concerned. Only about two minutes was given one late night, to the other side of the story. Is it significant that the murder of two civilians by the British Occupation Forces later was not even mentioned? Is it significant that the media have reverted to the practice of being a parrot for the British press releases?

The so-called "Nationalist" press has a lot to answer for. Imbalance is nothing new in the "Irish News", but even they have went to incredible lengths since the White Paper.

The pattern was well established last year. The Republican Movement held a rally in Belfast, which was attended by a massive 6,000 people. It was pushed to the middle pages, and given a quarter column (a maximum estimate). Yet when one of the "Peace Movements" held a rally in the city centre, which attracted a meagre 600 people, it was given almost a third of the front page, and photographs of the main speakers were thrown in! There is an appalling ignorance over the way attempts are made to foster the attitudes of the young in schools. Yet that is a major problem. The main agency is through the subject of history.

One standard text book refers to that renowned Imperialist country, the United States, which, for example, keeps Managua in economic slavery, as the leader of the "Free World".

We are informed that the Fenian Society was a "terrorist organisation", guilty of perpetrating outrages. "The methods of the Land Leaguers" were

By our Strabane Correspondent

repulsive. "The 1920 war against the British" consisted of a series of brutal and squalid outrages against policemen and other servants of the Crown. "What need of a "Loyalist News" to inflame Protestant feeling when we have that! Is it right that the British status quo rulers have the right to brainwash that attitude into our children? How does the White Paper aim to alter it? We must WAKE UP. The society we

are living in is NOT democratic. We cannot, in all sincerity, revel in our protestations of loyalty to the Republic proclaimed in 1916, and follow the lead of supporting the White Paper, while making trivial criticisms. The sooner we recognise that, and really set about building an Ireland proposed in "Eire Nua", the sooner we, the Irish nation, can take our proper, and long denied, place in the "Cabinet of Nations."

THE "DEMOCRATIC" SOCIETY?

The British White Paper and current British policy are essentially geared towards elections. That in itself ought make us suspicious. Are the British suddenly imbued with a desire for democracy? Anyone who even glances at the British record and thinks that, needs his head examined. Britain could not care less about what the people of this island want. The only possible conclusion is that these elections are for the purpose of finally convincing the world (and the people of the Six Counties) that the leopard has at last changed his stripes. They will be used to show that we have entered an age of democracy, and to aid Britain in that, when it is the accepted idea that internment is also over, is nothing short of criminal lunacy.

Other FACTS, apart from Britain's far from saintly record, automatically deride the idea of Ireland being a democratic political entity. The Six County gerrymander stays. Can we really believe, as the S.D.L.P. want us to, that participation in partitionist assemblies or a milk and water, Conor Cruise O'Brien vs. Erskine Holmes, Council of Ireland will end that state of affairs? If anything, support for the latter would loose nationalism its impetus, since politicians are more concerned about "power sharing" and other schemes devised in the corridors of power. Even if Sinn Fein became represented, who seriously entertains the notion that Paisley, Faulkner and Craig can be won over by reason? The illogical, self-centred nature of Imperialist satellites does not permit it.

We want a bit more, also, than a job sop to the unemployed of Derry, Strabane and Newry. Self determination is our goal, and, let the politicians beware, the Republican Movement; and the people will not be bought off.

A further central prerequisite for a democratic state is media impartiality. The facts speak for themselves in this, and anyone with eyes

in his head knows this does not exist, either in the Six Counties, the Twenty Six Counties of Britain.

There are also other ways of brainwashing the people, which the British would have us believe are confined solely to Maoist China or the days of "Uncle Joe Stalin" in Russia.

In history books issued to the Irish youth of the Six Counties pure bias is evident. The Fenians were a "terrorist organisation", who perpetrated "outrages." The 1920 Tan War consisted of a series of brutal and squalid outrages against policemen and other servants of the Crown. (The Black and Tans, by the way, were guilty of "excesses." Lord Widgery and Compton, where are you?)

BOYCOTT STILL HAS A CREDITABLE PART IN OUR CAMPAIGN

It is also the only real choice facing us, when we add brainwashing and gerrymander to internment, mass arrests and murder. It also adds up to some advice for the Editor of the "Loyalist News". If he does not make urgent representations to the Minister of State for Education he will find himself out of a job:

By voting on May 30 or June 28 people would only be giving an almost defeated Imperialism a new lease of life. They would be continuing internment, and giving Gerry Fitt and Co. power which rightly belongs to the people.

BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS, and show that YOU stand for TRUE democracy, TRUE independence, and a freedom from the internees which makes it worth their while to come out of LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP.

Never spent so much before

STATEMENT FROM SEAMUS
BURNS AND CHARLIE HUGHES
SINN FEIN CUMANN.

Over the past few months we have been subject to an increased amount of propaganda from the forces of occupation. Never since World War 11 has the British Government spent so much of its budget on propaganda. Photographs appear daily in newspapers of the hardships the troops have to suffer. Many incidents of brutality in our own areas by the British forces are never published in these same newspapers. The White Paper, the so called solution to the problem of Northern Ireland, was nothing more than a whitewash. On the contrary since its publication the minority have had to suffer an increased dose of repression by the British Army.

With the continued ban on Sinn Fein, the British Government had arrested yet another of our democratic rights. To deny people the right to vote for the party of their choice is another fine example of the dictatorship that they are. So often in the past it has been said that Sinn Fein does not speak for the people. Why then were they not allowed to take part in the forthcoming elections? Is it because Mr. Whitelaw and his administration fear the strength and support for Sinn Fein? Having enforced this ban it leaves Sinn Fein with no choice but to call for a boycott of these elections. Could you imagine the S.D.L.P. Alliance etc. or any other political party taking part if they were banned. These elections are to be held under the P.R. system. And just in case you are wondering what P.R. stands for, its easy, "Parliamentary Restrictions". Now that the rest of the parties are fighting to see who will become king of the castle, every trick will be used by these power hungry politicians to cadge your vote. To make sure they don't get your vote send for a Postal vote and destroy it.

Remember

WE ARE IN
AGREEMENT WITH THE
INTERNEES' CALL

BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS

VOLUNTEER DEVLIN DIED FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

The following statement has been issued by the Eugene Devlin Sinn Fein Cumann, Strabane.

We wish to thank all those people who attended the Easter Commemorations Ceremonies in Strabane and the other wreath laying ceremonies on the graves of all those who dedicated their lives to Ireland's cause.

At the graveside of Volunteer Eugene Devlin approximately 100 people were in attendance and an oration was delivered by Mr. Seamus Quigley. The following is a text of his speech:-

A Chairde,

Today we are gathered at the grave of a true soldier of the Republic, who gave his life to set his country free from foreign domination. And in paying our respects to this gallant Volunteer and to those who died at the hands of foreign troops for the past 800 years. It should never be forgotten that patriots like Eugene Devlin have pointed the true path to victory and have never failed the call of duty that lay before them. It is with pride and sorrow that we commemorate our glorious dead who died for Ireland on Easter day.

The death of Volunteer Devlin has shown to us the spirit of his faith in the Republican Movement. And to his comrades, one and all, let it go from this grave this morning that we will pledge our loyalty to the cause he gave his life for, like Padraig Pearse, Wolfe Tone and Robert Emmett, who kept on the straight path towards freedom - freedom from the Imperialist Monster that has held our country down the years for the benefit of the nobles and gentry of a dying Empire, already committed to doom and failure in the pretence of divide and conquer. But young men in every generation have given their lives for this holy cause, and with the passing of time they have proved their true valour to uphold the Republican Principles of the 1916 Proclamation. And on that straight path victory will come in sight but the hard narrow road to freedom is not just around the corner. We must take our inspiration from the Fenian dead, one which we pay honour and respects to - this young Volunteer a Martyr - a young man who lived up to the ideals and standards of his Christian faith, never faltering in the task of what his duties where and what lay before him. With these motives in mind Volunteer Devlin was both ready to meet his Maker and die for a holy cause. We are proud of our Strabane Martyr and we know he is in safe keeping, among Ireland's heroes of the past, who have kept the faith to free our country from foreign Imperialism and capitalist war Mongers, seeking to undermine and destroy a tradition and heritage of a God given right to the Irish people, now in a death struggle to revive an Ancient Nation, who will not be subjected to the whim and cry of a decaying Empire propped up by the Common Market. The proof of the fault is a well known fact in the disaster and corruption meted out to this old Nation of ours. But as long as we hold the graves of our Martyred Heroes Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglagh Na heireann, Eugene Devlin Sinn Fein Cumann and Tobias Molloy Cumann.

Considering the turnout at the wreath laying ceremonies and the massive number of people at the annual Commemoration at Drumboe we feel that the British and all those who think that by slandering the 'Provos' they will gain support must now take note that the people are firmly with us as never before.

Since we internees have become the major issue in the coming elections our silence could be construed as consent to the present politics of co-operation.

The S.D.L.P. say they will end internment by politics and further claim that they, and only they, have brought improved conditions for us. In other words, they have changed and will end wrong by co-operation with the wrong-door.

In the past, any respite gained for us was due to our own sacrifices coupled with the efforts of the suffering peoples outside, be they Nationalist or Loyalist. Let everyone recall the riots and hunger and visit strikes within Long Kesh. Only when these became news-worthy did our over-worked politicians intercede, not with our interests, but their own at heart. When their photographs and statements got headlines their concern ended. For their benefit, no lasting changes were implemented and conditions here are at their worst since the beginning of internment.

At the minute they are poised to jettison 'Civil Rights' and all other

LARGE CROWDS AT COURT IN COVENTRY

The number of supporters who demonstrated outside Coventry Magistrates Court last Monday when the 6 appeared was well over 200. The presence of such a large crowd was very encouraging for the prisoners. Also outside the court, there was the usual collection of policemen - some of them supposedly armed - shuttered vehicles, sirens cordoned off roads, etc; all of which is designed to create the impression that the 6 are dangerous and desperate men.

Not all the policemen were in uniform. Two plainclothes men were busy taking photographs of the crowd. At least one other was spotted in the crowd. This individual was conspicuous by the fact that he had a letter, headed Warwickshire Constabulary sticking out of his pocket. He went off when one of the crowd tried to photograph him.

It is essential that the large crowds at the court every time the 6 appear are kept up. It shows the prisoners that they are not alone, and it shows the authorities that we will not be intimidated by the arrests and false charges.

This news item appeared in the weekly bulletin of the Coventry Prisoners' Defence Committee . . . have you a bulletin, if so why not send us a copy regularly?

S.D.L.P. will end Internment?

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE
BELFAST REPUBLICAN PRESS CENTRE:

groupings who say that political talks with a government who could justify internment would be useless, as it is immoral and a smear on any democracy. The 'Democratic' party however holds that it is a matter for debate.

Can anyone debate in a situation where 'might is right'? Only when Britain, with her armoured cars and tanks and guns openly abandons this precept, can conditions for political debate prevail.

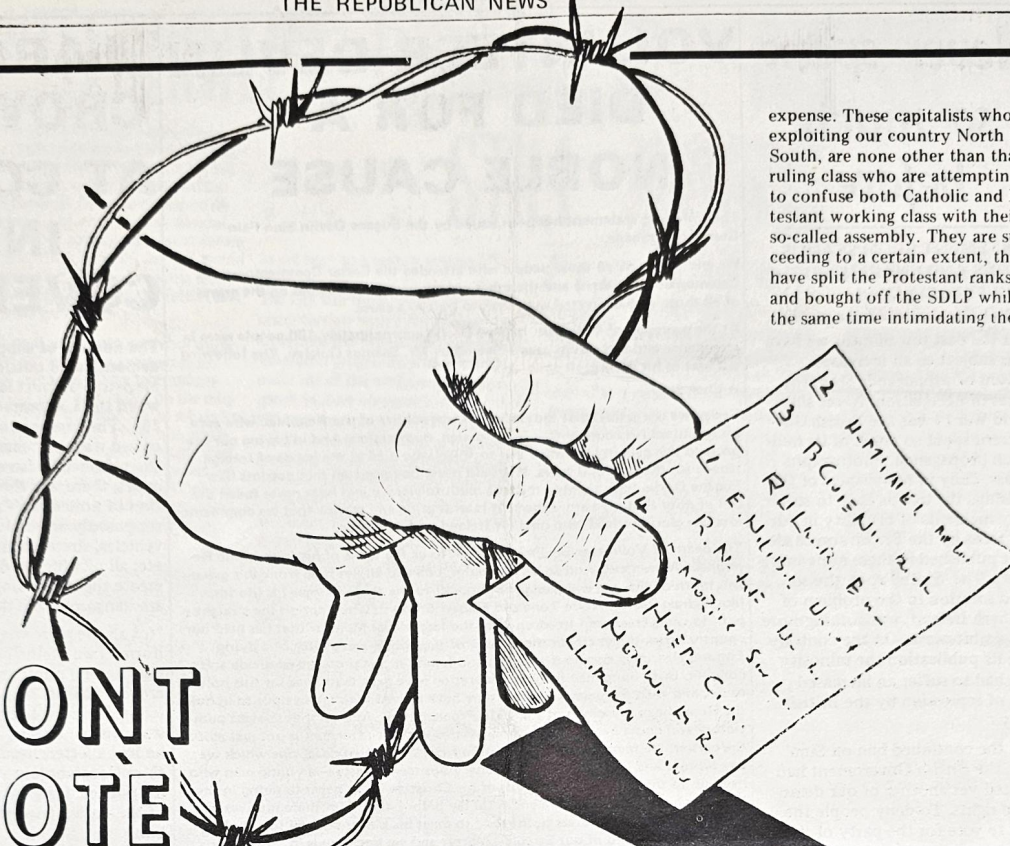
By armed Confrontation Britain has been made sick of 'Ulster'. She banished Stormont, attempted Military defeat and as a last ditch stand has offered the White Paper. Should it succeed, Britain succeeds. The S.D.L.P. by co-operation is working for its success and hopes

to lead the sizeable minority in this respect.

It goes without saying that it has failed. With its failure will come the admission, however cloaked of Britain's disinterest. What of the politicians who have jumped the gun? So often before they have fooled the minority into a premature conclusion of the struggle. Their justification for entering the elections this time is to prevent future discrimination, is that a good enough reason for accepting as they intend to do such grave injustices?

In our attempt to effect change we have been single-mindedly unselfish and honest. You the people have borne with us through thick

(Continued on Page Seven)



DON'T VOTE USE YOUR HEAD

In the midst of all the confusion and conjecture, as to who our people should vote for in the forthcoming council elections or if indeed they should vote at all. We as Republicans would like to state our position in relation to the elections, and why we have taken this stand on a matter of principle and honour. Also, in the light of the stark historical and political facts.

If by any chance, any of our people allow themselves to be gulled into participating in any shape or form in this farce, then these people, shall in the future, stand indicted, in the eyes of the generations yet unborn.

Anyone who believes, that by taking part in this election - they will possibly change the status quo, are either very politically naive or else they are blatant place-seekers.

Do they forget so easily? Is this not what this present struggle is all about? For 50 years our so-called representatives had pussy footed about, getting us nowhere. Until our people, spear-headed by the Provisional IRA said: "Enough! We will take what you will not give." It is too late for bit-by-bit politics... it's no good going through the motions of democracy under the corrupt British capitalist system, we've had it all before, no more lies, deceit

and time wasting. It's no longer any use trying to treat the cancer, major surgery is required.

As the Vice-President of Sinn Féin Daithí O'Conail, said in his oration at Milltown on Easter Sunday - "The central issue in the war is one of conflict between Ireland's right to freedom and England's determination to keep us in subjection, all other issues are subordinate to this basic point."

If indeed there is anything good to be said about the forthcoming elections it is, that they, will serve to shatter illusions which many people have, that changes can come through the ballot box under this system. One has only to look at the type of people who welcomed the "White Paper" and the proposed Assembly, the compromises of the SDLP, the middle-class 'reactionaries' of the Alliance and those British capitalist agents in Ireland, the Unionists and the Fianna Fáil.

They all recognised right away, what was behind the master-plan... that is... a tidying up of British capitalist control in Ireland, North and South. The British have made clear that they no longer want to keep the Unionist one-party rule, that has caused too many problems - coupled with the cost of keeping an army here to suppress the minority. The old type Unionist dictatorship is

clearly at an end. This is now to be replaced by the more obvious dictatorship of the whole rich ruling class here in Ireland and in Britain. Other than by a section of that class in the form of the Unionists. They also hope that by dragging in the 'reformed' N.L.F. and their supporters, on the safe ground of parliamentary politics and in turn by offering some say in the running of the state to the quisling SDLP, that they will convince the Catholic working class that they will have gained some control over their own affairs. However, the great deceit will fail. Our people learned during the period of the "Free Areas" something of their own potential, they did not have to depend on the ruling class leaders, because they administered their own affairs, in their own areas.

The people are beginning to realise that any parliamentary assembly under English dominance, will not change the situation here in the North. It will only be a facade, which will conceal where the real power lies, with the British capitalists at Westminster, who control the economy and the politics.

This corrupt capitalist class system is based on the exploitation of the working class, and the necessity to accumulate profit at their

expense. These capitalists who are exploiting our country North and South, are none other than that ruling class who are attempting to confuse both Catholic and Protestant working class with their so-called assembly. They are succeeding to a certain extent, they have split the Protestant ranks, and bought off the SDLP while at the same time intimidating the

true Republicans, with their military arm, the British Army.

What they will never do, except if they are forced to, by force of arms, and the resistance of the people, is to withdraw and leave the economic and political control to its rightful owners, the Irish people. With investments above, in the Six Counties worth 7,000 million pounds, bringing in 500 million pounds clear profit, it is not surprising that they refuse to let go. Indeed, in Ireland nine per cent. of the population owns 90 per cent. of the wealth. This situation is only maintained by British imperialist, military, economic and political dominance of the whole country.

These are the reasons then, why we state that to give even tacit support to this rotten system, this acceptance of the "White Paper" or its farcical elections is tantamount to gross betrayal of 300 years of National aspirations, not to mention the martyred patriots of the present struggle.

That is why we must reiterate our position emphatically, so that there can be no doubt in our people's minds. What we demand is that Britain acknowledges the right of the Irish people to self-determination, and that, until Britain recognises that right, we shall never enjoy peace and stability in our land. No amount of British assemblies, Stormonts, or Leinster House politics shall restore that peace and stability...

Press Release

Mr. Malachy Foots, P.R.O. of the Ulster Executive in a statement today in regards to A Wing Crumlin Road prison after the discovery of a tunnel, said that the security forces have used this as an excuse to mount a full scale onslaught on defenceless prisoners who as yet have not been convicted by any courts but are being remanded in custody.

Mr. Foots continued, in pointing the finger at the whole Whitelaw handling of this situation. Today Monday, Mr. Foots said that he had spoken to relatives of the Romand prisoners in "A" Wing and that they were very upset at the large influx of paratroopers into the prison; and the refusal by the prison authorities to them having their visits. One woman quoted a prison warden as saying, "The natives are restless and until they settle down there will be no visits nor parcels to "A" Wing."

What greatly disturbs one is the lack of thought on the part of the prison authorities to the visitors to-day. Some who had travelled from Derry, Lurgan, Armagh and Newry only to be told their visits were cancelled. Mr. Foots called for a refund for those people who were out money on travel expenses to be made available from the Authorities who were responsible for imposing this ban on visits.

Mr. Foots concluded by saying that the events in the prison coupled with events of the past week clearly showed that the Westminster Government had consented to giving their army the go-ahead to once again try and impose a military-type victory on the minority areas and military in these areas recently is reminiscent of "Operation Motorman."

Mr. Foots also called for a team of Doctors to be given access to the men in "A" Wing to check the injuries that may have been inflicted by the British soldiers who are at present in the jail. Until this is done there will be accusations of brutality levelled at the prison Authorities.

We publish below a letter sent by Belfast man, Danny Crawford, to some friends at the Irish Social Club, Birmingham. We are sure that Danny's letter will be read with great interest by our readers. His letter shows that even though he is far from Ireland, he still has a "gra" from his National Language. Ed.

Dia Duit A Sheain,
We were pleased to hear from you and the other members of the Irish Social Club. We receive lots of mail from Irish in England and newspapers. We receive the "Irish Post" every week by Air-Mail.

Most of us are in this country about 12 or 15 years. I emigrated from Beal Feirste (Belfast in 1960). I come from East Belfast (Ballymacarett) but most of my family live near Falls Road, Glen Road, or Lenadoon.

Our Lawyers have made an appeal

Statement from Belfast Brigade

We wish to unreservedly condemn a statement issued by Mr. Gerry Fitt that we were in any way responsible for the shooting of Mr. Mc Cormick, in Raglan Street on Friday. We would ponder the question. Where did Mr. Fitt get this information from. Let us refresh his memory.

At the time of the shooting a bomb scare was taking place in the Falls Road. The area was sealed off and all streets were manned by Army Foot Patrols. Mr. Mc Cormick was shot at the corner of Raglan Street. The car was allowed to proceed unchecked towards the Sandy Row district. We could ask Mr. Fitt why the British Army did not stop this car. If it was as he said the Provisionals the occupants of the car were more than likely be on their way to Milltown Cemetery.

We believe, despite an ambiguous statement from a loyalist extremist organisation the they were responsible, and that this was the work of S.A.S.

We would advise Mr. Fitt to check his facts about this incident. A visit to the area among his constituents would have enlightened him. However, since Mr. Fitt has not been seen in the area for several years and relies on his information from fellow drinkers we suggest that he refrain from implicating others.

The B.B. wishes to point out that a robbery took place at a post office at the corner of Springfield Road today. A few weeks ago we issued a statement giving an assurance that we would no longer rob local post offices. This decision was reached because we had been consulted by people in different areas that the closure of post offices through robberies caused a severe hardship to local people. However, post offices are still being robbed not by us but by people who deal in double standards. On the one hand claiming to represent the working class and on the other hand doing their best to deprive them of services. We give warning that this practice must cease otherwise we will be forced to take necessary action to see it stopped.

Arrests in Manchester

Three people have been arrested in Manchester and charged with attending a meeting at which arms drilling took place. It was said in court in Coventry, that there was a connection between the Coventry charges and the Manchester charges. None of themmen arrested in know anyone in Coventry, and the police haven't even told them at which meeting the offence is meant to have happened.

PRIESTS TAKE SIDES

Last weekend people who were handing out the bulletin at churches and clubs were harassed by the police and priests. At two churches the police were called by the priest, and at another we were denounced from the pulpit. However, we will not be deterred by this and will continue to work for the release of the prisoners.

(From the weekly bulletin of the Coventry Prisoners' Defence Committee).

and thin. Some have offered the ultimate sacrifice. For what? Certainly not to avow ourselves to be used in furthering the self interest of unscrupulous politicians. For us this would be prostitution of our cause. An end to all our wrongs. will be brought about by a successful conclusion to the struggle - interment included.

We therefore call for a complete boycott of the elections which at this date are of consequence. When right has been upheld then you, our people will be able to choose with a clear conscience on higher political not sectarian issues. Only then will we have a clean start. Due to the muddled thinking of power mongers we once more find we have to go it alone.

AMERICAN BIGOT EXPOSED

to Judge Leo Brewster who put us in Jail) to have us moved to a jail near York where our families could visit.

It came over the news that Judge Brewster said he had sympathy with the men's families but that the men had the keys of their Jail in their pockets if they would "Testify" (so he turned down the appeal). He also said that the Lawyers of the 5 men were behaving in an unethical way and were using the men for their own selfish interests by making Martyrs of the men in order to collect money for the I.R.A. (This is only one of the Judges bigoted remarks). Last June when he jailed us for contempt he made a lot of biased remarks.

"Trial," a magazine for Lawyers has quoted all the remarks of Judge Brewster in Red, printed in last months

issue. England called the Tune and the Orange Flute is in his mouth.

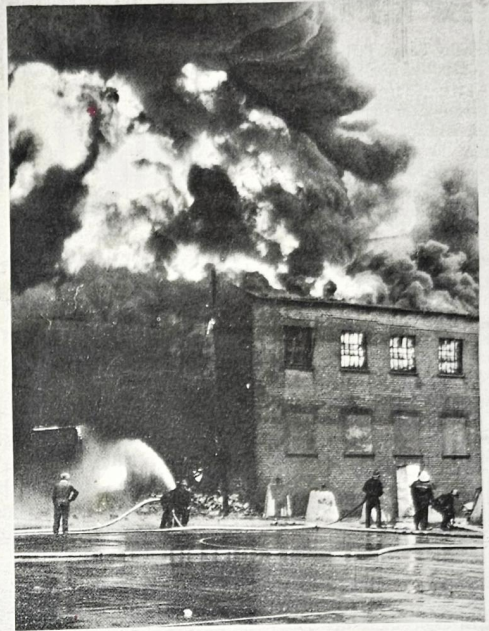
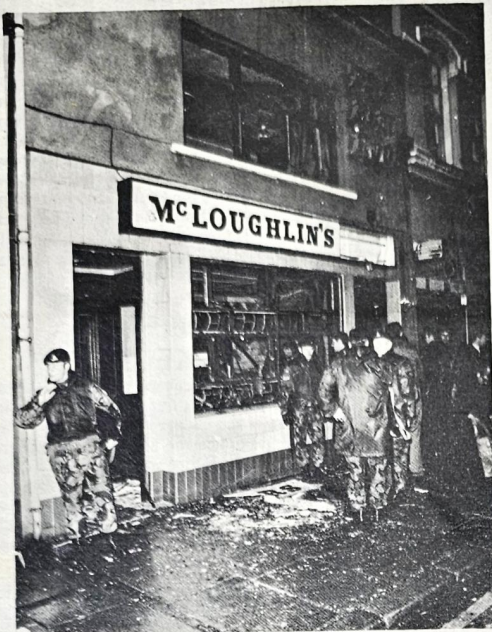
At the Court hearing last June, he remarked, "I never saw such a Battery of Lawyers from New York and at what expense, only people in serious trouble would bring such a Battery of Lawyers. (Our Lawyers, Paul O' Dwyer and Frank Durkan, have given their services free) The Justice Dept. had four Lawyers. The Judge then called our Lawyers a bunch of obstructionists and said "You are not going to make an 'Angela Davis' Flasco out of my Courtroom". He then refused bail saying, "If I give bail to these men they might fly to Algeria like the rest, or be abducted by a terrorist group in New York to keep them from talking He then added "You are the

first men in eleven years I refused Bail. The last one was a Gang Leader called Flanagan, Racial Slur.

Three brave Irish nurses, Nvala Haughey and Bridge Haughey, neice of Maurice O' Neill, Coalisland Tyrone and Maire O' Neill, Kerry, who picketed the Court House were threatened with deportation and were finally dismissed from Harris Hospital. A Civil Rights group ~~later~~ got them jobs in Peter Smith Hospital.

Senator Kennedy and Congresswoman Bella Abzug, New York, have got a Congressional Inquiry in Washington started in this whole affair. Senator Kennedy charged that this was a thinly veiled attempt by the Justice Dept. on behalf of the British Government, to harass Irish Groups in U.S., working for Justice in Ulster.

Inquiry still at hearing.



Pictured on the left: British troops outside McLoughlin's pub in Smithfield, Belfast after Saturday night's blast. It is believed the attack was made by S.A.S. squad. Picture on right: Flames leaping from the Avon Tyre Co. warehouse in Clifton Street, Belfast, after armed Volunteers had planted a bomb there. The warehouse was completely destroyed.

Liam mac

LIAM MAC'S POPULAR ARTICLE PAGE HAS BEEN HELD OVER TO NEXT WEEK.

My information about toys being made in the I.E.L. factory was right, the information why they were being made was wrong and I apologise. I received my information from a good source, a good unionist worker employed in the firm, but it seems he also was mistaken. I hope the workers keep up their welfare work among the Spastic children as it is such a good cause and should be supported. Heres luck to them.

Dear Sir,

Regarding the article which appeared in the Republican News 7th April, under the heading "The Economy". I wish to clarify the statement re: toy-making in I.E.L. The toys in question were in fact 13 go-karts designed to help spastic children who cannot walk under their own steam.

Contrary to your statement that the I.E.L. management supplied the funds for the wood for the toys in question, this is an untruth, as the money was in fact collected from friends in the factory and a hotel in Donaghadee. The sum raised was £25.00.

To go a little further, in 1954, a committee was formed in I.E.L. to help spastic children. I myself was on this committee and have first-hand knowledge that close on £8,000 has been collected not including various pieces of special equipment for the welfare of handicapped people.

I felt it my duty to reply to your article as over the years the management and employees have been more than generous to the spastic's committee.

I would be obliged if you would print this letter and rectify this damaging error.

Yours faithfully, William J' Curran, 59 Gibson Street, BELFAST 12.

MERGER

Should existing Republican papers in the Six and Twenty Six Counties merge so that one paper can do a better weekly and, eventually, a daily job for the truth about the national struggle?

Representatives of "An Phoblacht", "Republican News" and "Derry Volunteer", met recently to discuss the project. Progress was reported. It was decided to ask readers of the three papers to suggest a title for the new paper.

Children playing around British soldiers

We would like to take this opportunity to remind the parents of young children as to the danger involved in young children playing around British soldiers. At all times we take precautions to prevent injury to our own people, but we would say that the Brits will take advantage of the presence of the children around them to save themselves. Also the Brits are well known for interrogation of these children endeavouring to find out information about local people etc.

Again this is a great hazard to not only ourselves, but to the people living in the areas.

The British Army have no love for you, or for your children and they care very little if children are wounded or killed so long as they can blame it on the I.R.A.

So for your children's safety please take this warning - keep all children big and small away from British Troops.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE EDITOR AT ... 182 Bröampton Park, Belfast. Please continue to send all your letters, poems, pictdres, etc., to the above address.

Although 20 Republican remand prisoners were listed to appear in court last Tuesday, only 5 appeared in fact, due to injuries inflicted on the rest in 'A' Wing, Belfast Prison, by RUC and British Army.

It is reported that the men in the Wing, not in hospital, have been chained to their beds in the cells.

The Association for Legal Justice have called for:

1. The restoration of visiting facilities to relatives immediately.
2. Immediate access to the prison of doctors nominated by the prisoners or their relatives.
3. The admission of food parcels to the prisoners forthwith.
4. That prisoners be freed from handcuffs and shackles and the restoration of free association among prisoners.

Mr. Sean Moore who was interrogated at Castlereagh RUC station is now in the 'Hospital' hut in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, as a result of injuries he received at Castlereagh. His own doctor has been refused permission to examine him in the camp.

The British are well versed in "divide and conquer" tactics. As well as using these tactics in places like Belfast, and Derry, they also use them in an effort to separate and isolate Republican prisoners. We must do what we can to try and prevent this trickery. Do not let us be gulled. It does not matter whether Republicans are sentenced, interned or on remand, they are all Political Hostages. In future, let us call them by their proper title.

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