



REPUBLICAN NEWS

BELFAST'S WEEKLY REPUBLICAN PAPER

WEEK COMMENCING - APRIL 23rd, 1972

Vol. 1 No. 31

PRICE: FOUR PENCE

BRITISH HANDS ARE RED WITH BLOOD THAT



WIDGERY CAN'T WIPE OFF

BRITISH TERRORISTS ATTACK DIVIS FLATS



As an incensed and outraged people once again took to the streets following the savage slaying of Joe McCann, British Forces were rushed to the Divis Towers Housing Complex. For three consecutive days the inhabitants were subjected to the full might of British fire-power as heavy machine guns sprayed indiscriminately at hundreds of homes where old women and young children cowed in terror.

Of course the British Army claimed they fired only at gunmen, just as the R.U.C claimed when they went on their rampage of terror in August 1969. Even Scarman found the use of Browning machine guns inexcusable. But Scarman has come and gone and the same pattern continues. In 1969, it was 9 year old Patrick Rooney. This time it was eighty-year old Paddy Donaghy — a man who had spent his life in the service of the deprived youth of this neglected area. Many of us remember Paddy from our days in St. Peter's Boy Scouts and we recall his mild and cheerful manner and, his dedication to the scout principle "To labour and to look for no reward, save that of knowing that I do Thy Holy Will." Such was the 'gunman' who died. May he now find his eternal reward.

There is one man who should now be satisfied to some degree at least: Brian Faulkner. He spent last week calling for blood — Irish blood. He deplored the 'softly, softly' approach of Whitelaw (though, God knows, nobody else noticed it), Demanded the invasion of no go areas and the proper enforcement of law and order. Everyone knew what he meant and even Whitelaw felt it expedient to rebuke him publicly. But Brian has one loyal friend, who has stood by him in spite of internment, brutality, torture and mass murder. His name is Fitt — erstwhile Republican, Socialist and follower of Connolly. After his nauseating and disgusting performance on television last Friday (14 4 72) he would be well advised to cultivate Faulkner's friendship; he hasn't very many left among the people he is supposed to represent. And his silence on the latest round of British terror has spoken volumes to the people of West Belfast.

THEIR VICTIMS

AN OLD AGE PENSIONER AND A STUDENT TEACHER

LIAM MAC'S PAGE OF *News & VIEWS*

PROGRESS?

"The rich always betray the poor" Henry Joy McCracken's letter to his sister in 1798.

James Connolly used this quotation in his 'Labour in Irish History' in a chapter dealing with the betrayal of the United Irishmen's chiefs into the hands of the Government and thus removing all the middle-class supporters and leaving the humble workers in town and country to their own resources, from whom Robert Emmet was able to build a new movement.

This week I once again read those immortal and true words of Henry Joy, but not in 'Labour in Irish History'. I found them as a caption to an article in the last place you would expect to find them. In the *Loyalist News* 15/4/72.

It read.....
"That maxim is as true today as it ever and always was and it is a truth which abides with no fraction or particular cause, but is a consistent and persistent thread interwoven through centuries of struggle of the world's poor for their freedom.

We the Protestant owners of Ulster, have had our full share of the inherent treachery of the political rich and economically powerful. At present time with our democracy in ruins and Ulster reduced to the status of police state, Bill Craig was moved to comment that it was significant that the first people to take up the fight against direct English rule were the ordinary people on the factory floor.

In other words it is the working class who are the first to pick up the fallen standards of Democracy while the Merchant middle and propertied upper classes seek but to guard their greasy gold.

Robin Chichester-Clark epitomised their philosophy as he pocketed his £7,500 blood money. The victor of Bannside also, perhaps in the hope of embellishing his dog collar with ermine or a place as the dictator's side, can now be counted among the Quisling throng "
(REDHAND)

It is a great pity that with all the intelligence shown by 'Redhand' that he can't just go that little bit further and analyse the true meaning of the political setup in the six counties at present. The shock to the Unionist workers at the betrayal of all their Loyalty by the establishment should, at last, be channelled to the only correct road of fighting for a just and democratic society, that is unity of both Unionist and Republican workers.

To the unionist worker and to 'Redhand' in particular I would point out that Henry McCracken was a Presbyterian and a very religious man, who, by the way, started the first Sunday School in Belfast for all religious denominations. I only wish they would also take note that he took his place in the leadership of the Republican Movement of '98 to fight for his belief in the necessity of a free and Independent United Ireland to further his social aims he believed in.

Yes Henry Joy, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces of '98 in the North is one person both Nationalist and Unionist workers can be very proud of.

NOT INTIMIDATION—SAYS R.U.C.

"More than forty Catholic families in Rathcoole have complained to the Police of intimidation.

The families claim that they have received letters telling them to quit their homes. In other incidents windows have been smashed and cars damaged.

Newtownabbey police say that they are watching things closely and what is going on is a lot of vandalism and has no sectarianism. Some of the cases were genuine but others who moved were merely claiming it as an excuse."

(*East Antrim Times* 14/4/72.)

I love the way the R.U.C. always get out of a difficult situation and can find reasons for not doing anything that may bring their loyalty into question with the local unionist leadership.

Both just for the record I would recommend any one interested in intimidation in Rathcoole to read the '*Loyalist News* (1.4.72.) On the back page is a letter which states.

Dear Editor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rathcoole Women Loyalists for their gallant work during these troubled times. They have without doubt spent many a long hour to enable people — (Loyalist People) of Rathcoole to sleep content in their beds, without the worry of R.C. scum crawling next door to them.

Their aim is to make Rathcoole 100% Loyalist, so get in touch with them and they will show you how its done."

UNIONISTS AND THE LAW

Since the Civil Disobedience Campaign started with the withholding of rents and rates, we had daily exhortations from members of the Stormont government telling the people that action such as this was immoral - no one, they preached, should opt out of their responsibilities.

What a change since the suspension of Stormont, those same gentlemen such as John Taylor and Ha Ha Brooke have called on their supporters to carry out a civil disobedience campaign so that the Whitelaw Commission won't be able to work and even called on them to take part in the disruption campaign of the Vanguard.

Tut Tut gentlemen what about the ethics and morality of it all?

PATERNALISM

Even with the suspension of Stormont the unionist establishment cannot forget for one moment their paternalism over the native Irish and must keep on telling us what is necessary for a quiet life.

"The Catholics have to adjust themselves to rule by Englishmen from London. Equally important, the British authorities must proceed forthwith to restore the rule of law to all parts of N.I.

All those who detest violence must show it in the most practical way by denying the I.R.A. and sympathy and support.

The army should not allow any no-go area.

The S.D.L.P. must begin to challenge the I.R.A. for political supremacy in the ghettos.

So with the ink on the 'reforms' not yet dry we are told what is good for us by that great liberal editor of the *Belfast Telegraph* who through their letter page night after night allows all the dregs of humanity freedom their pages to vent all their hate and bigotry on to all those who differ from their small seige mentality.

DIALANN

DEACAIR

RADIO NA GAELTACHTA

Fe dheireadh thiar thall rinneadh gníomh fiuntach ar shon Na Gaeilge agus Na Gaeltachta. Ta Radio Na Gaeltachta ar an aer agus ma's comhartha ar bith e craoladh an chead la ta moran indian do'n radio ceanna. Bhi an caighdean an ard ar fad i gcomartas leis na clarthai Gaeilge a bhios ar Radio Eireann o h am.

Bhi an tabhar fein thar a bheith suimiul ach an rud a ba shontasai faoin an rud uilig go rabh na clair reachtairi (ta tearm- riocht an radio dulta i bhfeidhm ormsa cheana fein) comh maith sin. Is daoine iad nach rabh baint acu roimhe seo le craoladh de sheort ar bith na le h-iriseoireacht fein, ach taobh istigh de ghearr thamaill d'eiri leo snas agus slacht a chur ar a gcuid oibre a ba dheacair a shamhlu. Chuir siad na clarthai inar lathair go fíor mhaith agus is tuar dochais e do'n staisiun ur agus do Ghaeil go geineralta gur eiri le Radio Eireann daoine gomh cumasach a fhail o'n phobal bheag ata fagtha san Fhíor Ghaeltacht.

Ni thig lion gan smaoineamh gur mor an trua nar bunaíodh a leitheid 30 bliaino shon nuair a bhí pobal i bhfad ní ba mho sa Ghaeltacht. Is feidir go dtabhairfeadh se an spreagadh sin go mhuintir Na Gaeltachta a bhi de dhioghbhail go ndeanfadh siad pobal ceart doibh fein. Ta gach pobal mar bheadh piosa eadach ann ath connithe le cheile ag luibini agus da mhead luibini a thuiteann ar lar is amhlaidh is laige an t-eadach. Is iad

na forais agus na hinstitiudai eagsula na luibini igcas Na Gaeltachta. radio, teilifis, paideir nuachta, forais airgeadais agus oideachais, a coinníonn gach pobal i gceann a cheile sa chomhlúadar ina mhaireann muid in iarthar na h-Eorpa agus an pobal nach bhfuil na bealtai cumarsaíde agus na forais ecomiocht agus cultúrtha aige ata luaite agam tuitfidh se as a cheile.

Nuair a thainig claochlo ar an tsean choras Ghaelach sa tir ta na luibini ag tuitim de nar ndiaidh go dti nach bhfuil fagtha anois ach ceantracha eagsula in iarthar na tire ata scartha ona cheile a bheag no a mhor. Bhi daoine ann a thuig an sceal agus b'iad sin fa ndear eigse eagsula a bhíodh ann, na comortasai idir Ghaeltachtaí, peile ceoil agus dramaíocht a bhíodh ann o h am go h-am. Gan fiu an toireachtas fein nach rabh ion mholta ina thaobh sin nuair a thug siad daoine le cheile as gach aird in aon lathair amhain. Ba iarrachtaí iad gach ceann acu le pobal a chruthu agus ba cheart go mbeimis buíoch da bharr.

A dhalta sin ag Radio Na Gaeltachta is iarracht conasach e le pobal beo a dheanamh de na comhlúadair eagsula sa Ghaeltacht agus is tabhachtaigh i bhfad e dar liomcionnus go bhfuil se ann de bharr iarrachtaí mhuinntir Na Gaeltachta iad fein de. thairbhe "Saor Radio Conamara" SRL. Ta tabhacht ag baint leis fosta sa mhead seo go dtig le daoine as An Ghaeltacht a bhfuil na buanna sin acu ata riachtanasach le radio a choinneail sa tsuill, go dtig leo a bheith ag suil le fanacht ina nduthaí fein imeasc a muintire fein agus a mbuanna a chur chun tairbhe san am ceanna. Beidh cuid mhor scríneoireachta le deanamh ar shon an radio agus bheinn ag suil as go bhfasfaidh gluaiseacht ur iriseoireacht as. Ni rabh a leitheid ann mar iriseoireacht Gaeilge, dairiribh agus is ceard e nach dtig le teanga bheo a theacht, gan e an la ata inniu ann. Tus maith leath na H-oibre. Go neiridh go geal le Radio Na Gaeltachta is feidir go bhfuil ar Gcinniunt uilig ag brath air.

BRIAN -THE POLITICIAN

"I wonder how many viewers in N.I. understand what Brian Faulkner is thinking from night to night. He has been giving a fair imitation of injured innocence but the chip on the shoulder has been as evident as a stage prop. And when he takes to reminding commentators that they have not done their homework his slip begins to show. Brian Faulkner is worth watching on television."

(Alf McCreary Telegraph 15/4/72.)

I wonder what Alf would say when he saw the wee man and Gerry Fitt having a cosy chat on U.T.V. on Friday night, 14/4/72. There they were, two politicians leaning on each other and patting each other, until, when Gerry told Brian he had been a brilliant Minister of Commerce. the wee man licked it all up like a satisfied hyena. Yet Alf McCreary sums up such a spectacle with "The more I watch politicians on television the more I believe that nothing is impossible. There is a polite convention that politicians are not deliberately misleading, that they do not indulge in behaviour that would automatically exclude them from most organisations where straightness is one of the main requirements. Politicians play politics. Politics cover many short comings. Civilised society turns a blind eye on such behaviour."

STILL IGNORANT

So John Graham has visited the Bogside again and still he can't understand what makes the people of Derry tick. You remember I once quoted from his article in the Financial Times when he talked to the people and told them they were mad fighting for a United Ireland when Britain was giving them such good social benefits.

Last week in his article in the Financial Times 12/4/72 he shows very clearly that he still cant understand them, he writes. "Everyone is fired with the struggle of getting the British out of N.I. for good and to re-unite Ireland. If you try to explain to most Bogsideers that they would be worse off in an United Republic they wont believe you. Like all Irishmen, the Bogsideers have a remarkable gift for believing their own fantasies and the British have so far totally lost the propaganda battle."

John, John, will you never learn what and why we are fighting...to Hell with your social benefits. We are fighting for a better society which will not have to depend on the charitable hand-outs from England.

A NORTHERNER'S JOTTINGS

WHICH MARX BROTHER

TO THE EDITOR

SIR

Karl Marx. Oh Karl Marx, how many sins are committed in your name? Every week I come across new groups starting up under all the names one could think off and the by-line always is that they are a Marxist group. It also seems that they are formed by people who believe their job in life is to put all other Marxist groups on the right lines. Thus they have no time for anything else because you see the job of convincing all other Marxists, I mean labelled Marxist — is a lifetime job, and until they convince the others that the line they themselves are following is the correct one, it wouldn't be right to try to organise the workers for the revolution — so workers will just have to wait.

I am not joking when I tell you that I attended one meeting of a certain revolutionary Marxist group and one innocent little girl wanted to know which of the Marx brothers did the group follow.

I was reminded of that joke when I had to read the last two copies of the 'Youth Bulletin' the fortnightly magazine of the Irish Young Socialists (Trotskyites) and I still can't understand what brother they are following. Take the issue of March 28th April, 1970. A long statement on the front page from the International Committee, dealing with direct rule. They warn everyone that co-operation with, or support of, direct rule is a sell-out.

Then they go off on a milk run when they suggest that this reactionary measure is supported by every Left-wing Labour and Republican Nationalist and Independent M.P.s as well as the Provisional Republican Movement.

They seem to be the only ones outside Purdysburn, not to have heard of the stand being taken by the I.R.A. and the pressure being used by certain interested people and parties to change the Republican attitude. When you read the front page of the April issue 11-25. You begin to get an idea of their Marxism and their own wee individual cure for all our problems. The article is in fact an open letter to Bernadette Devlin, who, God love her, will hardly find the time to read it never mind replying to it. It seems that Bernie has got really into their bad books because in a speech or two she didn't point out clearly enough that we must have unity between the Irish and the British class....for why? to bring down the Tory Government and get Harold Wilson elected.

No I'm serious, they end the article with this piece of 'Marxism' "Failure to fight today for the unity of the Irish and British working class to force the Tories out is the most vital condition for the continued exploitation of Irish labour and resources by imperialism."

So the wee girl asked the silly question about which brother they followed maybe had a point there.....because now I have come across another Marxist group who have gone to Dublin to fight Irish imperialism by chaining themselves to railings at Iveagh House. And still another group wants Stormont back with a Bill of Rights and I suppose another group will want Billy Hull as the new Prime Minister, etc. etc. etc..... You lucky people in the Republican Movement seem to be the only ones to know where you are going.

(Yours in the Struggle — Joe Marx.)

"Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have already suffered from the English overspill. By this I mean the responsible and influential posts they hold in the three countries mentioned, and their determination to foist English 'culture' on to the people who prefer their own."

(W.D.A. News 10/4/72.)

★

"There was only one difference between Wilson and Heath. Wilson would stab them in the chest and Heath would stab them in the back."

(Brian Smyth chairman of the Young Unionists at Vanguard Rally in Lisburn. 12/4/72.)

★

"Sir. I was talking to the secretary of the Brian Faulkner Publicity Fund and was surprised to learn that with the prorogation of the Parliament and Government of N.I. contributions have diminished substantially — one misguided man actually wrote for the return of his donation."

(Letter in Newsletter 15/4/72.)

★

The Rev Ian Paisley said that he had heard in London that only two hours after the prorogation of Stormont, Ulster Cabinet Ministers had rung up Whitelaw saying 'If you can give us a job we will help you. Now because there is no chance of them being asked to help or get a job out of it, they are all saying they won't serve.'

(News item 15/4/72. Telegraph.)

★

"Now we have a Party not held to any economic and political dogmas but with a heart and a mind of its own and above all with a cutting edge of tempered steel."

(Alliance Magazine April, 1972.)

★

It all seems that the Alliance Party, not going anywhere anyway, doesn't need to have a policy; Now of course without Stormont they will soon be concluding they don't need a party, and for once most people agree with them.

"The Alliance Party has led off with its version of the N.I. parliament of the future., which is basically Mr. Faulkner's Green Paper Stormont minus security powers."

(Editorial Telegraph 13/4/72.)

★

No it's not a joke...wee man Brian did say it...and he was serious. In a speech to the Conservative Bow Group he said that the Ulster Unionist Party ex-Ministers would place themselves at the disposal of Willie Whitelaw and if he wanted advice on how to run the six counties they would help him out."

(Financial Times 12/4/72.)

★

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know Mr. William Whitelaw, that the R.U.C. of Portadown took part in the recent Vanguard call up? This is proved by the fact that a resident phoned the local barrack requesting police protection as he was being intimidated by loyalists.

The reply he received was that the officer at the barrack was sorry, he couldn't help, he had just arrived in Portadown from Belfast and he had not a clue of the locality, adding that the local R.U.C. had left their posts to join the strike.

What a wonderful, imported body of lawmen we have, you could take them anywhere.

EIRE NUA

THE
DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC
TO BE

The ownership of agricultural land is unevenly distributed among the population of both parts of the country. About 60% of the agricultural holdings are of 30 acres (12 hectares) or less, while less than a tenth of the holdings are of 100 acres (40 hectares) or more. The latter group in the Six Counties occupies 20% of the land; in the 26 Counties it accounts for 36% of the land.

In both parts of the country most holdings are small and there is still a lot of land in large holdings, despite the activities of the Land Commission. The trend is for the small holdings to be amalgamated and their owners to emigrate, so that the middle group is increasing at the expense of the small group. The large group is stable.

Not only is the land inadequately distributed, but also the type of farming practised helps the robbery of the small producer in order to line the pockets of the large. The staple product of Irish agriculture, store cattle, is the instrument of this process. The production of this commodity is so ordered that the costly and risky operation of rearing calves is carried out largely by the small farmers in the North-West, West and South, while the large farmers finish the process with maximum gain and minimum risk and labour.

Thus, there is an inter-regional pattern of exploitation, which functions within the overall British-imposed pattern of national exploitation, whereby Ireland as a whole is kept economically dependent on Britain. This structure also encourages the growth of a merchant element which preys on agriculture as a whole, thriving on seasonal and regional price differences. Thus, the social structure for the whole country has wide regional variations; by and large the ranches, which are the main beneficiaries of the present system, are situated in the East and the small holdings in the West. Agricultural Trade Unionism is strong in the East, among the workers on the large estates. This accounts for the ides, prevalent in Labour circles, that the farmer is basically an employer and, therefore, has nothing in common with the urban workers. In fact, however, two-thirds of the agricultural population enjoy a standard of living ranging from modest to absolute impoverishment.

Agriculture in the Six Counties enjoys a higher level of income than does that of the 26 Counties. This may be attributed to the greater emphasis placed on dairying, as well as to the high level of subsidy enjoyed.

The main feature of Irish agriculture, in farms of all sizes, is its variability of productive level. By and large, the more land a man has, the less per acre he gets from it. The pure grass-land large farm (ranch) is the least productive of all. Yet the pattern of production imposed by the live cattle trade perpetuates this wasteful type of land usage.

It is quite possible to obtain a family income of over £1,500 per year on a 30 to 40 acre (12 to 16 hectares) farm of moderate land. Large farmers having 1,000 acres (400 hectares) or so who farm at this level of intensity employ perhaps 100 men and are equivalent to an industrial firm with perhaps a quarter of a million to a million pounds capital.

The basic problems which prevent all farming being at this level of intensity, with corresponding increase in the national income, are (a) the uncertainties and fluctuations associated with the marketing structure, (b) the technical problems presented by farm management, (c) lack of capital to invest in elementary amenities such as piped water, as well as basic requirements such as fertilisers. The relatively few farmers who have been able to scrape together capital sufficient to make use of available state grants have prospered. The rest continue to exist in poverty on emigrants' remittances or have emigrated themselves, letting their land on *conacre*. "The absentee landlord" has assumed a new meaning.

The relatively few successful farmers who have managed despite everything to prosper on small or medium farms have done so by the following means:—

1. Investment of all available personal and government grants capital.
2. Establishment of a farm plan diversified enough for the various activities to complement one another, but not so diversified that the various activities interfere with each other and dissipate the effort.
3. Taking advantage of all available government services (scientific advice, artificial insemination, etc.)
4. Establishment of some control over market conditions by entering into regular con-

tracts (milk, beef, vegetables, wheat, barley, etc.)

5. The cultivation of a methodical attitude to the use of their own time. (In industry this is known as "work study" and is imposed from above). A good farmer working for himself does this as second nature, considerably increasing his own productivity.

Despite this, the profit to be obtained from investment of capital and effort into a farm is substantially less than that to be obtained by investing a corresponding amount of capital in industry. The reason for this is that agricultural production is basically seasonal and supports a stratum of merchants who live by exploiting the seasonal variations in price. The farmer, therefore, on the average sells at a depressed price. A further reason, is that industrial capital tends to be grouped in larger productive units and can take advantage of economies of scale.

It is possible to overcome this chronic agricultural depression within the existing framework to some extent. Two methods exist — the first, State subsidy, is widely practised in Western Europe. This, by relatively favouring the larger producers, has had the effect of developing an industrial-type agriculture, with considerable mechanisation, low wages high profits, high dependence on the chemical industry and declining quality of produce.

The Irish agricultural price-structure is dominated by the existence of subsidised industrial-type agriculture in Britain, so that its effective independent development is prevented. The key factor in this dependence is the store cattle trade. A subsidiary factor in the case of the Six Counties is the fact that the farmers themselves benefit from the relatively high subsidy. This subsidy is, of course, outside their control; it depends on the whim of a foreign Government.

A further factor operating mainly in the 26-County area is the Dole on which large areas depend. This Dole is so regulated that it constitutes a rural survival subsidy rather than an agricultural subsidy; increased production, if achieved, is penalised by loss of Dole. A system better adapted to perpetuating poverty would be hard to devise. Various other rural services exist in the 26 Counties

which are effectively subsidised, such as rural electrification. The total rural subsidy in the 26 Counties, including also the butter export subsidy, is not so far off the rate paid in the Six Counties as to be unworthy of comparison. Thus, the argument that the Six-County farmers would lose their subsidies if they came in with the 26 Counties is not so potent as it appears at first sight.

It is, however, necessary to stress that Six/26-County comparisons are irrelevant; both parts are stunted by Partition. The correct basis for comparison is Six/26 versus 32 Counties. The point here is that the united Republic would have a sufficiently well developed industrial sector to be able to support agricultural subsidies on the European scale, should that method of raising agricultural production prove to be sound.

The second method of overcoming chronic agricultural depression is for the farmers to organise co-operatively in such a way as to control their own marketing channels and to establish direct and close links with urban and export markets. Gains in farm income comparable with the average Six-County subsidy have been obtained without difficulty in the few areas where co-operative marketing of this type has been established. Further gains are possible by co-operating in the use of machinery and in production generally.

It is therefore, possible in the short run for considerable gains to be made, even within the existing framework, along co-operative lines. This is a national objective, worthy of the full attention of the Republican Movement; failure to proceed along these lines, as noted in the Introduction, will allow rural and national decline to continue to the point of national extinction. Development of this co-operative movement on a 32-County basis is likely to run into political obstacles, the overcoming of which will raise the level of political consciousness of the people, and render the unification of the Nation more rapidly possible.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Priest's views on Provos to be studied by superior

AN ARTICLE supporting the Provos in the *Republican News* under the name of Father Sean McManus, a Redemptorist based in Scotland, is to be investigated by the head of the order in Britain, Father Charles Shepherd.

Fr. McManus is the brother of Westminster MP, Mr. Frank McManus, who was yesterday sentenced to six months' imprisonment for taking part in an illegal march.

The last time Fr. McManus was in Ulster was last September, when he was fined for obstructing a police officer. He refused to recognise the court.

Fr. Shepherd said he would be seeing Fr. McManus "in a few days' time". He refused to comment on the article.

The article attributed to Fr. McManus described the Provos as "the true prophets who alone can unite Ireland and win its freedom".

Fr. McManus has since said that he will stand by the article.

From the Belfast
Telegraph 18/4/72

One wonders if anyone in authority will investigate the statement of the priests who used the pulpits of Belfast Churches to expound their own warped ideas on the current National crisis. From statements by eminent churchmen one would have thought that only the Provos stood in the way of Freedom of expression. But some clergy seem to have found a very effective method indeed. By exploiting the average Catholic's reverence for the Mass and the House of God they know they are safe from immediate criticism and that their audience will hear only one side of the story. It never seems to occur to them that reverence for the house of God should be shared by the clergy and that the pulpit is not, therefore, a suitable platform for the airing of political opinions.

*Letters, Poems, Songs
etc., for insertion in
the Republican News
will be accepted by
your local distributor.*

LETTER TO THE ED.

Sir

Mr Fitt has a perfect right as an individual to be most friendly and fawning towards Mr Faulkner. When he claims to speak on behalf of the political minority he must reflect that minority's attitude. If Fitt's performance on TV with Faulkner on Friday last foreshadows the representation of the political minority will receive from the SDLP at the Conference Table, God help us all. No wonder that so many political activists who played such a big part in the campaign of civil resistance candidly do not trust the SDLP to represent them at talks.

The political minority see Faulkner as the man who launched us in total war on 9th August which has led since to 280 deaths as against 30 during the previous two years; the prime minister who has held about 1,000 men hostages, has had school boys women and babies arrested. Faulkner was head of the Security Committee which directed the firing of bullets into churches, blockaded funeral corteges, shot men dead while dancing in halls. Above all Faulkner was the man who signed the detention orders, the internment orders and the removal orders which sent men off for a week's torture to unknown destinations. As the wife of one of those tortured men I resent very much that any man purporting to represent the minority should even speak to Faulkner while these men are still being held.

Faulkner, contrary to what Fitt says, was no "brilliant Minister for Commerce" but rather a brilliant divider — of the community, a brilliant promoter of sectarianism and he used this ministry to achieve this.

The sooner Faulkner fads from the political scene the better for community relations. He will be remembered not as a "brilliant minister of Commerce" but as the man who brought suffering, sorrow and death to so many homes in 1971-72 and the man who prepared the ground for this since he first entered Parliament.

Yours etc.,

Wife of an Internee who was tortured.

WHERE ARE THE PEACE LOVERS NOW?

Have all those outspoken champions of peace been stunned into silence by the horrible events of last week? What happened to the exponents of the immediate and unequivocal condemnation? Where are all those who were so concerned two weeks ago about the continuing violence? Why has a wall of absolute silence descended on all those good people who had nothing but the purest of motives and an impartial concern for the good of the whole community, when they were so voluble in their condemnation of I.R.A. violence so recently?



The McCann infants in happier circumstances
(left to right): Ciaran, Aine, Nuala and Fergal.

Has Monica and her 'women together' parted company... are the four McCann infants different from the Crawford children? Paddy Donaghy was a parishioner of St. Peter's, well known to Father Padraig Murphy. But Father Padraig remains strangely silent. But then the British claim that Paddy was a sniper and as a good British agent Father Padraig could hardly contradict them. (Only the I.R.A; make mistakes and shoot in built up areas.) And Sean McConville his death appears to have passed un-noticed. But Dr. Philbin says the British troops are our protectors, and we have no need for barricades. And somewhere it was mentioned that a baby was shot in the Whiterock district. But Dr. Philbin must have missed it or we would have seen him on television visiting the hospital and comforting the distraught parents. And the S.D.L.P! The death of a young student, Patrick Magee, is not worthy of a comment. Or is it not gentlemanly to criticize the British Army now, since they are only doing what Faulkner has been begging them to do, and Faulkner as you know is the bosom pal of our Gerry, the SDLP Leader.

It was a horrible tragic week, but some good has emerged. The hypocrites in our midst have been exposed as never before. And the people have shown they are as resolute as ever

A PEOPLE'S TRIBUTE



TO A MAN



OF THE PEOPLE

He walked the world as would a king
Home-coming from a triumphing;
Now let him rest as but beseems,
Wrapped in the glory of his dreams.