



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

Week commencing SATURDAY, 24th MARCH, 1973

Vol. 2 Number 79 Price: Four Pence (5p in Britain)



DAMN THE BRITISH WHITE PAPER

NORTHERN IRELAND
CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

WE WANT OUR COUNTRY

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
in Command of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
March 1973*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
Cmnd. 5259
24p net

Where are we going? Let us think

BALLYSEEDY REMEMBERED

On the night of March 6th/7th 1923, a party of nine Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army were on the road to Ballyseedy Cross. Their orders that night were, to block the road with a fallen tree to which a "booby trap" was to be attached. While engaged in this exercise they were surprised and taken prisoners by

a party of "Free Staters" not for their treatment to which they were entitled as Prisoners of War. Instead they were tied to the fallen tree. The mine placed under it and detonated, eight of the helpless prisoners were blown to pieces, the ninth was blown into a field where he lay unconscious and was thought to be dead by his murder-

ers who having completed their brutal deed departed.

On Sunday, 11th March, 5,000 Republicans came from all over Ireland to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of all those who died at Ballyseedy and those who died in Kerry during the so-called Civil War in Defence of the Republic.

A parade led by a colour party and headed by uniformed members of Cumann na G. Cailline from Belfast and Cumann na Ban from Limerick, Cork, Kerry and the Sean O'Carroll Sinn Fein Cumann Andersonstown, Belfast, to the beautiful Memorial erected by

Kerry Republicans in the spot where the 8 Republicans were brutally murdered. Wreathes were laid on behalf of Kerry Republicans, Cumann na Ban, Na Fainna Eireann and Sean O'Carroll Cumann G. Cailline Belfast.

Mrs. Maura Drumm, President of Sinn Fein, in her oration called for greater support for the people in the March in their fight for Irish Freedom.

The organising committee under Kevin Barry who organised this commemoration deserve the congratulations of all Republicans.



Taken in New Lodge Eire Nua Co-Op, Belfast. This was opened by the Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann in October 1972. When our photographer called there was a big demand for butter and the pretty salesgirls were worried about V.A.T.

A pamphlet dropped through my letter box the other night, I opened it up and discovered that it came with the compliments of "God's chosen People" — The Alliance Party. There was an application form attached which invited me to join the local branch of the said Party. I was also urged in another part of the Pamphlet to "Cast my vote for the link with Britain" in the "Border Poll" farce.

I always suspected this Alliance Party was not a working class party, now I'm sure of it as no working man would have the time to spend bombarding the local Press with the amount of letters I've read recently. I'd like to let the Alliance Party know what the 'link with Britain' means to me:

It means above all the un-natural division of the historic Irish Nation. It means wandering up to some of the local Parks as a school boy to get a few hours break away from the mean little street I lived in,

more often than not I would be accosted by other little school boys like myself and probably from a mean little street like my own, but with one difference, they would inquire if I was a "Fenian" and if I answered in the affirmative I had to make to my heels if I valued my life. It means leaving school at 14 and trudging around looking for my first job with high hopes. I soon found out that certain jobs were not open to me — I was still a "Fenian" and still "green" in the sense that I hadn't yet realised that a prospective boss had only to ask my address or what school I had attended to discover whether I was "Loyal" or "Disloyal". It means in later years getting married and, when looking for a home, realising that I could

only live in certain areas. It means reading through the years the Anti-Catholic speeches of Political leaders — certain of whom are now posing as ultra-moderates. It means a Sectarian Police Force, it means Burntollet; Bombay Street, a man dying from his injuries after being bludgeoned by police in his own home in Derry. Another man lying in a doorway in Dungiven dying from the same treatment from the same police, another innocent man murdered by "B" Specials in Armagh and his murderers "covered up" by the R.U.C., it means long months of internment and separation from my family, simply for holding opinions contrary to the Six County Government (despite Brian Faulkner's statement that no one was intern-

ed for their Political beliefs). It means petrol bombs, intimidation, bigotry, 13 men and boys slaughtered in Bogside, 6 men murdered on the New Lodge Road. This is what the "Link with Britain" means to me, this is what the Alliance Party wants me to vote for. The Alliance Party have nailed their red, white and blue colours to the mast. Better men than they nailed better colours to a mast in 1916. They will be remembered long after the Hendrons and Napiers are forgotten. Breathes there a man with soul so dead, whoever to himself has said — "This is my own — my native land".

Is mine, "Torch"

ALL IRELAND AWAKE

An t—Athair Cíomhthainn

air: "The West's Asleep"

While the North her valiant vigil keeps
The South's asleep, the South's asleep
Alas, and well may Eireann weep
While Leinster House lies in slumber deep
From southern sky, a cringing cry
"Stand idly by. Stand idly by"
There is a tear for every eye
While cowards stand — just idly by.

How oft times missed these troubled years
To steal a march and conquer fears
To chance an arm and make us free
All 32 see liberty,
But Judas Lynch our life betrayed
Missed his own chance, and Fianna Fail-ed
He stood with England against his own
To always taste our history's scorn.

O God give us strong men this day
To right our wrongs; opponents slay
For sufferings done our kith repay
Avenge us now brave I.R.A.!
O God make voice like thund'rous quake
All Ireland wake! All Ireland wake!
We fight for freedom for your sake
For freedom's sake, for freedom's sake.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

god's chosen people

BRITISH ARMY HERE FOR ONE REASON

TO BEAT RESISTANCE

As the run in to the proposed "White Paper" coupled with one of the new familiar exercises in Democratic window dressing which shall be known as the Border Poll, intensifies, so also, shall the level of the campaign to intimidate and harass the Catholic population increase. British Army and Orange Murder Gangs, after a short lull, have recommenced their campaign against random members of the Catholic community in the occupied Six County area.

The apparent ease with which these murder gangs can penetrate the ghetto areas, from which the I.R.A. operate, are seen as part

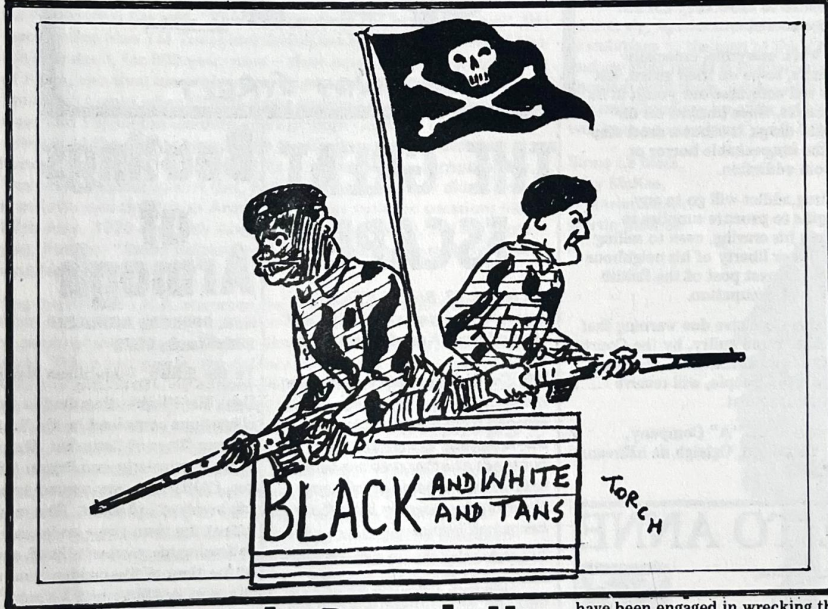
of a well laid and pre-conceived plan, to drive the people of these areas back into the arms of the B.A. and the false impression that the B.A. are here in the role of protectors.

The B.A. as it has been proven again and again clearly approve, and have actively engaged in their type of murders. Only last week a B.A. Captain and Sergeant appeared in court, charged with the attempted murder of some Catholics in Lisburn. Not only were they operating out of the B.A. H.Q. at Thiepval Barracks, but they were supplied with the arms and ammo, by none other than the S.B. at Ladas Drive. This proves, if indeed

any proof was needed, that the end product of such tactics were to intimidate the Catholic population into turning to the B.A. for protection. This particular, tactic appeared to be working quite well. We even at one stage had the ludicrous position of our opposition M.P.s. inviting the Brits to saturate the Andersonstown area to protect the people from the "Murder Gangs". Which is, if it wasn't so serious, laughable. What he should be doing in actual fact, was calling for the withdrawal of British Troops from the Catholic ghettos. It was clearly evident; while the No-Go areas existed, and were policed by the I.R.A. that the areas were never penetrat-

ed by these murder gangs. However, now that the B.A. are in the ghettos in such numbers, continually harassing vigilantes in an attempt to intimidate them off the streets, these murder gangs are given the freedom of the areas.

Therefore, anyone who is gullible into the state of mind where they accept the B.A. as protectors are either idiots or else down right quislings and collaborators. Let everyone be under no illusions, the B.A. are here for one reason only, that is, to defeat all resistance to the continued domination and exploitation of the Six Counties by British capital and British imperialism, and that the sooner the B.A. gets out, the sooner the killings will be ended.



"The Irish People"

To-day, I received my first copy of the American paper, "The Irish People". Perhaps the Republican News, would be interested in printing what appeared on the front page of this paper.

"Ulster Troops Trained in U.S.A."

A battalion of 800 Royal British Marine Commandos has been at a U.S. Marine Corps base in Camp Le Jeune, North Carolina, between tours of anti-riot duty in Northern Ireland.

A British embassy spokesman said

that the training was "normal" and had "no connection at all" with the battalion's planned return to duty in Belfast around Easter.

Sen. Kennedy said the training "raises extremely serious questions of American involvement in British policy towards Ulster".

The British unit, made a 10 day Atlantic crossing on the H.M.S. Bulwark, had been in Belfast from mid-June to mid-October, taking its four-month tour with other Marine and Royal Army units who

have been engaged in wrecking the homes of the people of "Ulster" and who have constantly fired rubber bullets at innocent people and children leaving them dead or blind for life.

A spokesman for the British Embassy in Washington, John G. Taylor, said, "British units train here all the time, just as U.S. troops train in Britain". "The United States has only a modest amount of experience in riot control and urban guerrilla warfare," Taylor added. "We've had a great deal". More than 17,000 British troops are permanently stationed in "Ulster".

Ominious

"We observe an ominous about-face by Mr. Billy Hull, after the meeting which he and Mr. Tommy Herron had with W. Whitelaw," said Belfast Republican Press Centre, in a statement issued last week.

"Before the meeting, there was threats of bringing life in the Six Counties to a standstill," continued the statement, "if the British White Paper didn't please loyalists. Suddenly, after meeting Mr. Whitelaw, Mr. Hull expressed 'satisfaction' with the discussion.

"It would appear to us that White law has given some sort of assurances to loyalists concerning the contents of the White Paper. This, of course, can only hint of further oppression and intimidation of the Irish minority in the Six Counties. This is bound to increase the fears of the 'moderates' who sought some relief from the White Paper."

A Mass Protest was held at United Nations, 47th Street New York on February 24th to protest the training of British Commandos on American soil, for the purpose of using them against the Irish Freedom Fighters in the Six Counties.

Mise le meas,
Ann Gallagher.

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE ON GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT

Firstly — Our School children

It is no service to the Cause we claim to serve to allow our children to roam the streets when they should be in school. The school board has approached Sinn Féin who have agreed to co-operate with the school board in the matter of school attendance. We seek the full co-operation of the parents in this respect. No punishment will be meted out by the teaching staff to a child who returns to school after a period of absence.

It has also come to our notice that children have been seen abusing senior citizens, breaking windows and committing other misdemeanours. We would point out that control of children is the responsibility of parents. However, if the parents abdicate their responsibilities we will be obliged to take corrective measures. At all times we will hold parents responsible for the conduct of their children.

Secondly — Removal of Rubbish from Streets and Entries

The condition of our streets and entries leaves much to be desired. To facilitate their cleansing, provision is being made for 10 skips to be placed at strategic points. All groups in the area are co-operating in this effort. The disposal of household rubbish in entries, will no longer be tolerated. After the skips are in position, it will be an offence, (which will incur a severe penalty), to dump rubbish other than in the skips. If you are unable to dispose of large quantities, Na Fianna Eireann will assist you.

Thirdly — Theft

Thieving, and its attendants, the buying and selling of stolen goods,

will no longer be accepted as being part of normal life in this district.

We pledge ourselves, to take whatever measures as may be necessary, to eradicate this blot on the character of our community. As and from now, **THEFT MUST**

STOP. Anyone found thieving, will be severely dealt with.

Fourthly — Informing and Drug-Pushing

CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE

We have no hesitation in labelling **INFORMING AND DRUG-TAKING** as "CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE".

These crimes are the poison in our community — the rotten apple which corrupts all round it.

We also have no hesitation in linking them together, since we have evidence to show they are not unconnected.

We warn everyone, especially parents, to be on their guard, lest this evil embraces our youth in its tentacles. Once hooked on the "soft" drugs, it is but a short step to the unspeakable horror or heroin addiction.

A drug addict will go to any lengths to procure supplies to satisfy his craving, even to selling the life or liberty of his neighbour at the nearest post of the British forces of occupation.

We therefore give due warning that anyone found guilty, by the Courts of Ogligh na hEireann, of crimes against the people, will receive just punishment.

Signed: O.C., "A" Company, 3rd Battalion, Ogligh na hEireann Belfast.



THE GREAT ESCAPE

On March 12, **BILLY KELLY** successfully escaped from the Hell-Hole of Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

The Six County State would have the world believe that Billy Kelly escaped from lawful custody . . . this is farcical in that Billy like hundreds of other men are being held without charge or trial and therefore by escaping Billy Kelly has gained justice.

In celebrating the wonderful achievement of the great escape by Billy, let us not forget the less fortunate men and women who still are being denied the right to freedom by internment and detention; let everyone resolve to make the coming months, months of liberty and freedom by striving to bring internment to a close for ever!

Lest you forget, these men and women in the concentration camps are innocent of any crimes. They are being held captive by the whims of a long out-dated regime.

To Billy Kelly goes our best wishes and congratulations on gaining

freedom the hard way . . . (With acknowledgments to "Unity News" organ of Henry Jny McCracken/Louis Scullion Sinn Féin Cumann, Unity Flats, Belfast).

Beatings at Armagh

H.M. PRISON, ARMAGH
15th March, 1973

To the Editor, Republican News

Dear Sir—We are disturbed at the allegations contained in the Republican News of Saturday, March 10th, particularly one Prison Officer, **QUIGLEY**, was named as being involved in assault. This man was at the time away on leave following his mother's death and at the time of the incident was on the way to Aldergrove Airport with relatives who had attended the funeral. These allegations have added considerably to the mental anguish of himself and his family especially as he has received threatening letters.

Signed: Kathleen Kinahan,

Michael Nulty
Frances Maguire

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, H.M. Prison, Armagh. (It is

(It is noted that the Prison Visitors who signed this letter give no indication if they are disturbed about the kicking and beatings administered to the women political prisoners in Armagh Prison. We would welcome clarification from them on this point—Editor).

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE

(Written by a member of the Ballymurphy Slua, Cumann na mBan)

We'll always remember Anne Parker,
Our comrade, brave and true.
She did for her people and country,
What some men never could do.

She fought with all her heart
And hoped to live and see
Her people once more united
And her country Gaelic and free.

Anne fought that the North and South
May be freed from English laws
And that her people would no longer be bound
By those brutal English laws.

We'll never forget you Anne,
We think of you with pride
We'll always say a prayer for you
And remember for what you died.



TO THE PEOPLE OF ARDOYNE

(From the men behind the wire in the British Concentration Camp at Long Kesh)

On the 7/3/73 a statement made by Rev. Fr. Aquinas of Ardoyne, came to our notice and left us with a feeling of amazement and disgust. We feel obliged to answer it, if not on our own behalf, then to uphold the names of our brave comrades, who have died in the defence of Ireland and Ardoyne.

For ourselves, we are not interested, since slander and deliberate lies only fool people who don't know any better, and only hurts those who have not been used to the same from the British Army.

Our friends who are dead, about 100 in all, eight of whom came from Ardoyne, stood for the same principles as we do. They however, are unable to answer Fr. Aquinas, for they lie in Milltown Cemetery. We will answer him, for we only lie in Long Kesh.

As Fr. Aquinas has said, "Power comes from the barrel of a gun". (He was quoting Mao Tse Tung) and British has been a very powerful Nation in Ireland, for 800 years now — their power came from the barrel of a gun, and they used this power to prevent people from defending their own homes when Orange mobs wrecked and burned them in areas like Farrington Gardens and Cranburn Gardens. The British Army held the people back, while the Orange mobs burned their homes. This is power of the sort Fr. Aquinas quotes, corrupt power. You were helpless against this, Father, your own power didn't prevent it or influence the British Army and Orange mobs on occasions like 27th June, 1970 and 10th August, 1971. You had to, and we quote you, Father: "Stand helplessly by while these people destroyed this wonderful parish".

The Provisional I.R.A. stemmed the Orange mobs, their power held them back. They defended the district against all odds with no thought of personal safety. Indeed some, like Patrick McAduff, died defending it. This is just power, the defence of a people. The people of Ardoyne witnessed their actions and have not forgotten them. Even the scandalous writing of a man of God can't change that. Many of the lads are still there, many are not. Some lie in Milltown, some in prison. These men have not changed their principles nor has their example been bad. Their example to the youth of Ireland had been of the highest standard. We are proud to say that due to their example, the youth are awakening to the terror and misery of British and Unionist rule. They have realised that they must defend their own homes, their own people for no one else will.

You say that freedom means: "The right to do what one morally ought to". Well, is one not morally bound to defend one's family and one's home? This is all part of freedom, the right to be able to protect them. **YOU DENY US THIS.** You condemn us for advising and telling people how to achieve freedom. Well, Father, is heaven not the ultimate freedom? and does Christ not, through you, tell us how to achieve this? Can we not do likewise, when it is the freedom of our country that is at stake?

There are now over 700 men and women who are deprived of even your definition of freedom in the hell-holes of Long Kesh, Crumlin Road and Armagh Prisons. Are you aware of this, we wonder. Are you so vain and blind that you don't believe it to be deprivation? How can you understand the emotional stress that these men go through? You are not forced to watch your family leave you after a

30 minute visit once per week. You don't have to worry where people are going to get the money to come down on your next visit. In your words they have never been better off in their lives. Even outside, when men are driven to be prisoners of the dark, because they are wanted men who can't turn their backs or sleep at home lest they end up like Gerald McDaid. Yes, Father, you could say they have never been better off in their lives, but not materially. They are better off because they are off their knees, they have achieved freedom of a sort.

Quoting you one final time Father, "One is bound to repair the Calumny" when one breaks the 8th Commandment, we would say to you Father that it's time you began living the 8th Commandment, in stead of quoting it at your own convenience: "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbour".

In ending, we would like to extend our sympathy and respect, to the people of Ardoyne, who have suffered so much and who have fought so bravely, against such terrible odds, and we would extend our congratulations to the men of the Ardoyne Unit of Provisional I.R.A. and say only regret is that we are not out there standing shoulder to shoulder with them, we are with you in spirit, and as practising Catholics and Christians we offer up our prayers for you all and hope you will keep up your good work, as we know you will.

Sinne Le Meas,
Billy McKee,
Proinsias McAirt
Martin Meehan



CALL FOR WHITELAW TO STOP VIOLENCE



"WE CONDEMN in the strongest possible manner the latest series of British Army raids in the Catholic areas of Belfast," said the Belfast Republican Press Centre in a Statement issued on Monday night.

"The most recent of these British raids took place on Monday afternoon, March 19th, almost on the eve of the British White Paper. These raids were carried out in the usual brutal manner — beatings and abuse, ending with the inevitable arrests of many men, young and old.

"We see this as a final desperate effort by Westminster to intimidate the Catholic population into accepting the terms of the White Paper. Shades of Lloyd George and his threat of immediate and terrible war!

"We call upon the Whitelaw administration to cease these intimidatory measures forthwith. It is not without significance that these raids follow in the wake of various statements from sources hitherto remarkably silent on the situation since 1969.

"We note especially the remarks of Cardinal Heenan who urged Catholics to cease harping on past injustices ignoring the fact that we are more concerned with the burden of present injustices. His Eminence was conspicuous by his lack of comment on our affairs all during our ordeal.

"We would remind him of his earlier remarks on BBC's "lift Up Your Hearts," when as Bishop of Leeds, he referred to the Six Counties as a Police State. In this respect the situation has worsened. It is now a Police/Army Statelet.

"We have no doubt that the British White Paper is going to prove so unpalatable that Mr. Whitelaw finds it necessary to flavour it with further threats of violence and repression in order to compell us to make a meal of it."

LET US...

KEEP FAITH

Seven Irish patriots signed a document in Dublin, during Easter, 57 years ago. A few weeks later, they were dead, their remains buried in quick lime, shot by the Rifles of British execution squads.

The document was the 1916 Proclamation, they signed it on behalf of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic. They knew in the event of military defeat by the British, that in effect, they were signing their own death warrants.

The Proclamation was an official public announcement from the Provisional Government to the people of Ireland in 1916, which still has Relevance for us in 1973.

It was set out in six paragraphs. Republicans have a duty to study it carefully in an effort to understand the historic message from the Provisional Government:-

THE FIRST PARAGRAPH was a call to Irishmen and Irishwomen to rally to the flag and to strike for freedom. The call to arms was made in the name of God. Tribute was made to dead generations from whom Ireland receives her tradition of nationhood.

THE SECOND PARAGRAPH

By *cathal mac Liain*

stated that Irish manhood had been organised and trained in the Irish Republic Brotherhood, a secret revolutionary organisation, or in the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizens Army, both open military organisations. The Provisional Government realised the need for a period of preparation, in order to organise, train and to perfect discipline. They stated that while they were supported by exiles in America and allies in Europe that they relied mainly on their own strength.

THE THIRD PARAGRAPH declared the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, to be sovereign and indefeasible.

I note that indefeasible means, "not to be questioned". It would appear that Mr. Jack Lynch would question this right as defined by the Provisional Government when he stated that the Fianna Fail Government stood for the re-unification of Ireland by peaceful means, subject to the consent of the Unionist majority in the Six Counties. This slavish ringing false doctrine has also been trotted out by Fine Gael, the Labour Party, the Nationalist Party and N.D.P. Their policy flies in the face of that set out by the Provisional Government, whose members sealed it with their life blood.

They stated that Irish people in past generations had asserted in arms, Ireland's right to Freedom and that the members of the Provisional Government and their comrades in arms were re-asserting that right. They proclaimed the Irish Republic and pledged their lives to the cause of its freedom, welfare and exultation among the nations of the world.

THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH stated that the Irish Republic is entitled to, and claimed the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. It guaranteed religious and civil liberty, equal rights and opportunities to all Irish citizens.

THE FIFTH PARAGRAPH affirmed that the Provisional Government would administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people until a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by universal adult suffrage was formed.

Needless to say, the Fianna Fail or Unionist Governments do not fulfil the qualifications laid down by the Provisional Government for a National Irish Government. None of them are representative of the whole people of Ireland.

Republicans should keep faith with the seven signatories by ensuring that a Republican Provisional Government for All Ireland continues to exist and function supported by our dedicated allegiance until the National Government visualised by the foundation members is realised.

We have to try and translate our Republican ideals into action by positive service to the Republic.

IN THE SIXTH AND FINAL PARAGRAPH, God's blessing was invoked upon the arms of the Irish freedom fighters. They placed the cause of the Irish Republic under his protection. They prayed that no one who served the cause would dishonour it by cowardise, inhumanity or repine. They understood that the Irish people would have to prove themselves worthy of their destiny by valour, discipline and readiness to sacrifice themselves for the common good.

The seven signatories were revolutionaries, who planned, organised and trained for the revolt that they led. Easter Week, 1916 was the culmination of their life work. While their insurrection was not a military success, they with their ideals and valour are part of the dead generations from which Ireland still receives her tradition of nationhood, and Republicans, our inspiration to continue the struggle for freedom.

We of this generation are duty

bound to again assert the right of our people to national freedom; not in words only, but by effective deeds. The need for political and military policies to establish the Republic should be self-evident. One without the other is only a delusion, an escape from reality.

We suggest that Republicans should join together in spirit at noon on Easter Monday, 1973 and spend one hour in private, meditating on the Proclamation.

During the meditation, let us ask ourselves how we can be true to the seven noble signatories and their comrades in arms who gave their lives to establish a sovereign Irish Republic. Let us try to emulate their patriotism, valour, integrity and spirit of self-sacrifice.

EASTER IN BRITAIN

Irish exiles all over Britain will remember Ireland's dead on Easter Sunday. In what is intended to be the most impressive turn-out of Republicans ever and the Republican Commemoration Committee for Britain have made the following arrangements:

The Parade will assemble in Hyde Park (Speakers Corner) at 2.30 p.m. and will march to Kilburn Square where the ceremonies will be held. The Commemoration this year will be attended by Joe Clarke. The Oration will be given by a senior member of the Republican leadership from Ireland. The ceremonies are being organised by Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceannair in Birmingham and London. Coaches are being organised by the Cumann throughout the Midlands and the Home Counties.

In the North the James Steele Cumann, Manchester, are organising the ceremonies there.

YOUR MAN SAYS

C.U.R.E.

A few weeks ago the Republican News criticised the trade unions in living in a world of unreality, when they held their conference on *The Right to Work*, and then from that conference went on to organise another for the 3rd March, which they claimed would be bigger and better. At the 3rd March conference, they got the numbers alright, but they still didn't get much reality. Even CANON MURPHY half-way through the speeches tried to put flesh on the bones of the conference. He said: "I sense a growing unreality. I have heard everything that has been heard this morning, said in 1969 before the violence began. I am afraid we want to hear other people's confession not our own, yet we all bear a collective guilt. WHERE DOES VIOLENCE COME FROM? DOES VIOLENCE FLOURISH IN A HAPPY SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE IS CONTENT AND PEOPLE ARE GETTING THEIR RIGHTS? NO, VIOLENCE DOES NOT FLOURISH IN A JUST SOCIETY".

When young ANN HOPE of N.I.C.R.A. tried to attack the role of the British Army in its attack on the people she was interrupted by a respectable lady who it seemed was worried at any show of disrespect to the Brits. people who should have known better. For instance we had DES O'HAGAN, that well known member of N.I.C.R.A. and known as a socialist, who seems to have lost any of the republican ideals he was supposed to have had, by sneering at the fact that people who claimed to be republican had not attempted to attend the conference. Anyway says our Desmond, republicanism has become a dirty word in N.I. and he felt a sense of despair in the conference. His next words surely showed his own despair when he declared that he did not want to be linked with the wreckers of society, those who wish to bring down the formal social structures of society — DESMOND! NOT EVEN THE STRUCTURES OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY? NOT EVEN THE STRUCTURES OF UNIONIST AND REACTIONARY BIGOTED AND DISCRIMINATING SOCIETY THAT HAS RUN THE SIX COUNTIES FOR FIFTY YEARS? — WHAT A SOCIALIST! No, all that poor Dessie could think off was that we should fight for a new comprehensive education system. And so it went on and on.

At the end of the day, they formed a new organisation called "Citizens United for Reconciliation and Equality", named C.U.R.E. at least its cute. The platform party then handed down their list of the committee to run it — no discussion — you can't discuss things like that, look who might be elected on it — and a very respectable committee it was — MR. MARSHALL one time member of the Scarman Tribunal was made chairman. 3 clergymen are on the committee along with such notables as BRIAN WALKER, J. O'HARA, TOM CONATY, BRENDAN HARKIN, E.G. QUIGLEY, DAVY WYLLIE, ANDY BARR and DANIEL MCCREA (Press Officer).

The conference pledged to work for the elimination of violence, the upholding of equality of citizenship and the right of all people to advocate by peaceful means, social and political change. Later the committee met the Minister of State LORD WINDLESHAM to brief him on the conference. I THOUGHT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A VERY APPROPRIATE MEETING FOR THE COMMITTEE TO TELL HIS LORDSHIP THAT THEY OBJECTED TO THE INTERNMENT OF YOUNG GIRLS MERELY BECAUSE THEY WANTED POLITICAL CHANGES. THIS IS ONE FORM OF STATE, VIOLENCE THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN, BUT THEY ARE NICE PEOPLE, AND NICE PEOPLE CAN'T JUST SAY ANYTHING WHEN THEY MEET WITH A LORDSHIP.

So I thought that's another conference over and we can all get back to our cosy little nests until we are wanted again for another conference, to get our photos taken and our names mentioned and become known as members of the centre-moderates.

But hold it, it's not yet over — this week WILLY WHITELAW after patting the committee on their little heads, went a step further and set up a Joint Working Group to deal with matters of intimidation and the physical protection of workers in industry and commerce.

The group would be able to call upon the advice of the "SECURITY FORCES AND OTHER AGENCIES" to stop intimidation inside factories — and who are the men selected by Willy Whitelaw they are BLEASE, MORROW, KENNEDY all I.C.T.U. — SLEATOR, ROLSTON, SIGGINS all C.B.I.

DAMN RIGHT THEY ARE RESPECTABLE, BUT CAN YOU SEE THEM GOING TO MACKIES, THE SHIPYARD OR THE SIRROCCO WORKS, AND COMPLAINING ABOUT DISCRIMINATION? OR IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING A FEW CATHOLICS WORK IN THESE ESTABLISHMENTS, WHO WOULD BE HERO ENOUGH TO TAKE A JOB. Well it was a fishy idea in the first place anyway.

THAT POLL

I like the language and the conclusions about the border poll in the latest issue of Paisley's Protestant Telegraph (17/3/73).

"While opposition village idiots and pipe sucking leprechauns have been trying to discredit and devalue the result of the Border Poll, the abstention of the R.C. and Republican side did nothing to denigrate the loyalist cause, rather it statistically revealed that their boast of 40 per cent support was not maintained when it is considered that about 15 per cent of the electorate failed to vote".

So don't believe the statistics issued which shows that 42 per cent of the

electorate abstained from voting, take Paisley's word for it there was only 15 per cent — but when he starts to congratulate those 6,000 odd voters who did in fact record their opposition to the link, even the "Loyalist News" comments "Beware when Paisley falters you".

THAT "HERO"

In the Republican News (3/3/73) writing about SAMMY SMYTH the boy who issued the news sheet "The Militant" we suggested that he was changing his luck in continuously criticising the leadership of the many unionist groupings and para-military organisations.

Those leaders have finally caught up with Sammy and warned him off, the newsheet has not stopped publication and Sammy is now back in the fold as press officer of the Vanguard in East Belfast.

But Sammy is a real hero right to the last. He still maintains that TOMMY HERRON and BULLY HULL will betray the unionist people they are leading for good political jobs from their new master, wee BRIAN FAULKNER.

THAT FOOL

Writing about SAMMY SMYTH reminds me of another character — LINDSAY MASON — I was speaking to him last week — in fact he was trying to sell me his latest activity — handkerchiefs embroidered with orange slogans. He told me it is the only way he can make a living as the newsheet he was issuing has gone out of business, and believe it or not when he applied for the dole, he says he was sent to a job within a few days of signing on and where do you think they sent him for a job, to a super-market in Andersonstown. I laughed and wouldn't believe him but he was emphatic this was so. Poor Lindsay, Councillor for Falls, no one loves him any more.

MICHAEL MCINERNEY

It is hard to imagine that MICHAEL MCINERNEY, political editor of the Irish Times was once a paid organiser of the Communist Party of Ireland. He has become so much part of the establishment in his political theorising, and when in an article for that so-called uncommitted independent and liberal magazine, "Fortnight", he gave three cheers for the election successes of LIAM COSGRAVE and the Coalition, they were cheerfully given for the reason that "COSGRAVE WOULD DEAL WITH THE MENACE OF THE I.R.A. HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NORTH, SO IF IT IS AN ABANDONMENT BY LABOUR OF ITS SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES FOR MERE RADICAL REFORM SUCH SOCIALISM ISN'T THE ISSUE TO-DAY". SO WHAT ARE THEY WORRYING ABOUT THE MAIN ASSET WON BY COMING TO POWER IS THE COALITION'S HATE OF THE I.R.A.

You can give your three cheers Michael, but really you haven't been such a good prophet in your assessment of politics in recent years.

In December, 1969, McInerney wrote a series of five articles for the Irish Times, called "Britain's New Look at Ireland" they were in reality a superb boost for the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and their work in the fight for reforms in the Six Counties while walking the tight rope of representing the unionist working-class, the majority of whom were fighting the reforms put forward by the Civil Right Movement.

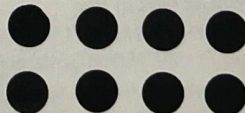
So the greatest thing in that never to be forgotten year when the people on the streets fought, died, and suffered as refugees from their burned out streets, to McInerney was that SANDY SCOTT held a meeting inside the shipyard and was able to keep out sectarianism from the workshops. What a wonderful victory, wrote McInerney and suggested that Scott was going to be recommended for the Nobel Peace Prize — by the one and only CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN.

Anyway, our Michael in his writing of what took place in 1969, gave all the credit for the "Revolution" in 1969 to the Trade Unions and the Labour Government, and the reforms won had gone even further than the most optimistic civil righter had ever hoped to achieve.

"MR. CALLAGHAN DID NOT HAVE TO DO ANY 'ARM TWISTING' of the Stormont Government" and this beauty "CHICHESTER-CLARK HAS SOME FINE MEN AROUND HIM WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR REFORMS EVEN IF HE RESIGNED. IF FAULKNER BECAME P.M. THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE AS HE IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE REFORMS. The danger seen is that the Opposition may not be able to identify the new situation, the continuation of a mere anti-unionist opposition only would benefit the right-wing and lead to disaster".

That was our Michael in the year 1969. He didn't realise that by June 1970, Wilson would be replaced by Heath which in turn give new life to the discredited Unionist Government, who had haggled and retreated from the package of tricks promised by Wilson. He didn't realise that Chichester-Clark would totter about on his throne weak and stupid until March 1971, when wee Brian would turn the Six Counties into a massive concentration camp.

No Michael, keep your cheers for the Coalition Government. It's early days yet, the future may surprise even you.





Ardoyne PROTEST

- 1—Demonstrators awaiting reply from the British Army. They made it clear that they do not regard British troops as their protectors.
- 2—Residents of Ardoyne protesting against the murder of Mr. Eddie Sharpe outside British Army post after a Protest Meeting in Brompton Park.
- 3—Sit-down outside Ardoyne Fire Station after British Commander refused to receive a deputation.

EASTER CEREMONIES

A Cara,

The Easter Commemoration ceremonies to be held in Belfast, on Easter Sunday, April 22, are being organised by the Easter Commemoration Committee, a body set-up by the National Graves Association.

The simple purpose of the ceremonies is to honour the memory of all who died in every generation in the cause of Irish Freedom.

The Committee invites members of National Organisations and the general public to participate in the parade from Beechmount Avenue, and in the ceremony at the Republican Plot in Milltown Cemetery.

It is expected that the number of people participating in the

Easter Commemoration this year will be the largest ever. All those intending to walk in the parade are asked to assemble at Beechmount at 1.30 p.m. At least 70 stewards will be on duty at Beechmount prior to the assembly time to ensure good order and a prompt start.

In an effort to minimise incidents, those wishing to take photographs including the Press, are asked to apply to us for letters of authority and official identifications as soon as possible.

Mise le meas,

CATHAL MAC LIAM, P.R.O.
Easter Commemoration Committee,
C/o 25 Divis Street, Belfast.

Dear Sir,

I would be obliged if you could print this letter in the Republican News.

On Sunday night, March 18th, a group of boys were playing in Mourneview Park Estate, Newry, which faces the U.D.R. Centre, when the British Army opened up fire on them.

One young boy was hit in the arm and is now in Daisy Hill Hospital recovering from the incident. Many of the shots went through windows of the houses, and frightened the residents of the estate, in particular one old lady who had gone to bed early with her husband when they heard the shooting this frightened them enough but then they heard a bullet go through their front window on through a door and into a wall which separates the bedroom from the front room.

INCIDENT

Had this wall been a ½" thinner then it was that the old lady would have been killed — the old lady collapsed and fainted. As I spoke with her on Monday night she was shaking with fear and was taking tablets to calm her nerves. The local residents tried to locate their M.P. but he could not be found. Who shall be the next victim of British oppression in Newry? Mourneview residents are terrified of these thugs.

Mourneview Resident.

Northern Distress Fund
GRAND IRISH CABARET
at the Cock Tavern,
596 Holloway Road, N.7
WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH

a ceili cabaret

will be held in the

SEAN O'LEARY HALL, NEWBRIDGE,
on Friday, March 30th, commencing 9.00 p.m.

Artistes include Ulster Scor Seachto Champions, The Moneyglass Dancing Team, Oliver Kearney, Creggan, Ulster Scor Seachto Champion. Music by Joe Chivers Ceili Band. ADMISSION 50p

grand ceili

ARD SCOIL, DIVIS STREET, BELFAST
on Saturday, 24th March, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Young and old, come and enjoy yourself in an
Irish Republican atmosphere

SPOT PRIZES : REFRESHMENTS : TAILLE 30p