

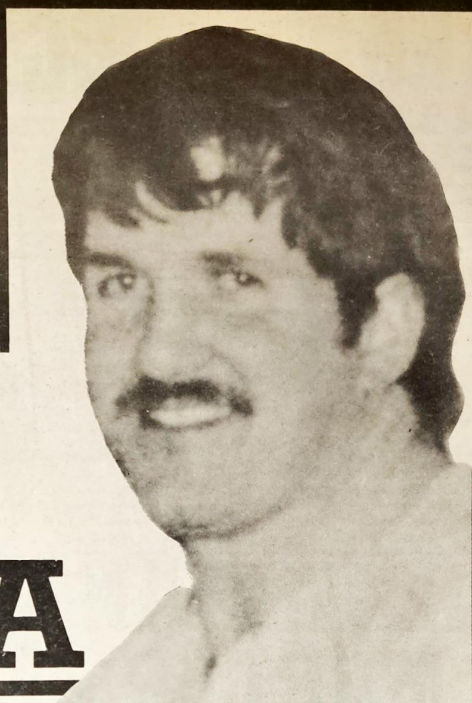
AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Sraith Nua Iml 10 Uimhir 19 12 Bealtaine Thursday 12th May 1988 (Britain 35p) Price 30p

HUGH HEHIR: A COMMITTED VOLUNTEER



THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT has expressed its condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Volunteer Hugh Hehir, who was shot dead by a member of the Garda Task Force following an attempted post office raid in Caher, County Clare. The last time an IRA Volunteer was shot dead by Free State forces was on May 17th 1975 when Tom Smith was killed during an attempted escape from Portlaoise Prison.

Thirty-seven-year-old Hugh Hehir, who lived in Clarecastle with his wife Anne and three children, Hugh (6), Sean (4) and Fiona (3), was an extremely popular republican who was known the length and breadth of Ireland, and this was attested by the large numbers of people from all corners of the country who attended the removal of his body from Ennis Hospital to St Peter and Paul's Catholic Church on Sunday night and at his funeral to the local cemetery following 11 o'clock Requiem Mass on Monday morning. The large contingent of plain-clothes gardai who attempted to infiltrate mourners was an unwitting compliment to the republicanism of 'the Big Fellow' as Hughie was known to friends and comrades alike.

Hughie was the third eldest of seven children. A plumber by trade and 'a man of few words', it was thus some surprise to friends that he became interested in the

national question when the Civil Rights Movement began its agitation in 1968. This interest turned to concern in 1969 with the approach of the August pogroms and it was then that he decided to join the IRA.

Hughie Hehir operated in many parts of the North and on the border and knew other Volunteers from the 26 Counties who had also come North, such as Tony Ahern and Dermot Crowley from Cork who died on active service in May and June 1973. Eventually, in early 1974, Hughie was arrested in Belfast's New Lodge Road area along with Joe Doherty and charged with possession of explosives and IRA membership. While in Crumlin Road Jail on remand, he and Joe attempted to escape but were caught. (In June 1981, while in jail on separate charges, Joe Doherty successfully escaped with others from Crumlin Road Jail. Presently, he is imprisoned in the US, fighting a

British attempt to extradite him.)

Hughie served his sentence in the Cages of Long Kesh where he made many friends. Upon his release in November 1979, he again reported back to the IRA.

Comrades have described him as an exceptional person who made an impression on everyone. He was particularly fond of children and, being adept at woodwork, he made wooden toys for many children in his street. Prior to his funeral, young children called weeping into the house asking for him, refusing to believe that he was dead.

PERSONAL TRAGEDY

Four years ago, Hughie and Anne suffered a personal tragedy when their daughter, three-year-old Tara, died in a freak car accident. Hughie was distraught and his comrades understood that he needed time off. But such was his sense of duty that he said, "I don't want to be a hypocrite, calling myself a Volunteer and doing nothing and I'm not able to do anything at the moment." So he resigned from the IRA but, typically, was back within the year.

He felt a great loss at the death of his close comrade

Vol Jim Lynagh at Loughgall, ironically a year to the day when Hughie received his fatal injuries.

Last Friday morning, Hughie gave his life for the struggle for freedom. Such was the gentleness of Hughie, who could in different circumstances show fierce courage, that rather than assert himself at the post office when the owner raised the alert, the raid was abandoned. As they were driving away in an estate van, a garda squad car approached them, then turned and gave chase. Hughie pulled the van across the road to block the squad car so that they could escape and the second Volunteer got out on the road and trained a rifle on the gardai whose car had mounted the verge and overtaken the van.

A republican source quoted Hughie's comrade as saying: "All I heard was a burst of machine-gun fire from one of the guards who had jumped out of the car."

"For a few moments we faced each other and I shouted for them to drive on, drive on. The Task Force guy fired at me again and ordered me to drop my gun. I then fired two shots well to his left and he ducked. He fired another burst and we kept

shouting at each other. He tried to shoot me again and I fired one or two more warning shots to either side of him, hitting the boot of the car, and eventually the one with the gun got back in the car and they drove around the corner. I went over to Hughie, thinking he was lying down in the car but he was just covered in blood."

MORTALLY WOUNDED

The time was now about 8am and the Volunteer then escaped in a lorry. Badly wounded, Hughie was taken to Ennis General Hospital and was later transferred to Cork General Hospital. At about 10.30am, the Task Force raided Hughie's home in Clarecastle and asked Anne if she knew where he was but did not tell her that he was lying mortally wounded in hospital. By the time a friend telephoned her with the news, it was too late and when she arrived at the hospital in Cork at around 3pm on Friday, Hughie was dead.

Tá Aodh Mór ar síl na marbh anois, ach mairfidh sé go deo inár gcúimhne.

Gabhann Ceannasaíocht Gluaisceacht na Poblachta comhbhrón lena chlann uilig, laoch eile é atá ar lár ach leanfar don troid go saoire.

CROWN FORCES PRESSED

THIS WEEK's *War News* is overshadowed by the tragic death of a Volunteer of Ogligh na hEireann whilst engaged on active service. Hugh Hehir (37) of Clare Hill, Ennis, County Clare, died during a raid on a post office in Caher, County Clare, on Friday, May 6th.

As the body of Volunteer Hugh Hehir was being brought home on Sunday, May 8th, his comrades in the occupied Six Counties were engaged in attacks against the crown forces. Volunteers of the Derry Brigade drove a commandeered van containing 2,000lbs of explosives to the city's Strand Road RUC Headquarters. At 7pm, the van bomb was placed adjacent to the barracks and a warning was delivered. However, it failed to detonate and was later defused by the crown forces.

WEST GERMANY

In a statement, the IRA claimed responsibility for the placing of a booby-trap bomb under the car of a British army captain in Bielefeld, West Germany. The bomb,

which failed to detonate, was discovered on Tuesday, May 3rd, two days after the IRA executed three British servicemen in Holland.

The statement continued: "We call upon the British public to save the lives of their soldiers by forcing their government to withdraw from Ireland."

SOUTH DOWN

On Friday, May 6th, South Down Command, IRA, issued the following statement:

"On Tuesday, May 3rd, our Volunteers placed a 7lb anti-personnel bomb on the main Newry to Armagh road. Between May 3rd and 6th crown force targets did present themselves on several occasions but the presence of civilians in the area prevented our



Volunteers from detonating the bomb and they eventually disarmed the device and abandoned the

operation. Crown forces were made aware of the location of the neutralised mine."

BELFAST

In a supplied statement, the IRA's Belfast Brigade claimed responsibility for a punishment attack in the Twinbrook area. The statement read:

"Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army, carried out the punishment painting and feathering of Harry McGreevy, from Summerhill Gardens, Twinbrook, on Tuesday. McGreevy, one of the most persistent car thieves and joyriders in the area, ignored several warnings given to him to stop his activities, and openly scorned the IRA's ability to apprehend and punish him.

"Our policy in recent weeks has been to try to minimise the number of punishments carried out on anti-social elements. We have concentrated instead on a process of dialogue with these youths.

"However, those such as McGreevy, who openly reject the opportunity and who have escalated their activities, must understand that we have the right to take action against them when necessary.

"To those similarly involved in Twinbrook, we warn you that we intend to carry out action against individuals who refuse to us, and we offer you the opportunity to approach a Republican Movement, within the next 48 hours, with a genuine of an end to your anti-social behaviour."

CRAIGAVON

Elsewhere in the Six Counties the crown forces narrowly avoided injury in a joint gun and bomb attack on Craigavon Barracks. The attack occurred shortly after 9.20am on Monday, May 11th. Several Volunteers lobbed impact grenades over the perimeter fence of the barracks. One grenade exploded causing the most damage to the base. Simultaneously, another Volunteer opened fire with an automatic weapon directing a sustained burst of fire towards the barracks. There were no reports of any injuries.

SECTARIAN MURDER IN NORTH BELFAST

NEWINGTON, an isolated and vulnerable nationalist area in North Belfast, has again been the scene of sectarian murder when loyalists assassinated a young Catholic man in a random attack. His mother was also badly wounded.

The area has been a constant target for sectarian murderers and this latest attack bears all the hallmarks of loyalist assassins seeking any Catholic victim.

The murdered man, Terry McDaid (31), was a married man with a wife and two young daughters. He was sitting in the parlour of his Newington Street home with his wife Maura, his 72-year-old father and 66-year-old mother when the terror squad struck at around 10pm.

The killers appear to have chosen the McDaid home at random because the outside door was open. Two gunmen entered the house kicking in the interior hall door before rushing to the back parlour where the family were. Fortunately the two young girls, Tracy (8) and Patricia (6), had been put to bed minutes before the attack. *AP/RN* spoke to a de-

pily distressed and shocked Maura McDaid.

"When I heard the crash at the hall door I realised what was happening and put my foot against the parlour door, in an attempt to hold them back but the first gunman burst through holding an automatic pistol in each hand. He stepped into the room and began firing wildly. A second gunman stepped into the doorway and raised his weapon to fire at my father-in-law. I snatched up the hose of the vacuum cleaner and hit him with it." Maura McDaid was almost shot herself when the gunman spun round and pointed the weapon at her head. She continued, "As I dived for cover he fired and one of the bullets struck my mother-in-law in the leg exiting and hitting her on the other knee. It was terrible, I don't know how many shots were fired



● Newington Street, North Belfast, where Terry McDaid was killed by loyalist assassins

but Terry was hit at least twice in the chest, once in the neck and once in the back of the head as he fell."

Neighbours reported hearing over a dozen and possibly as many as 16 shots. One man told how the two masked gunmen rushed out and jumped into a red car which sped off into Newington Avenue.

OUTRAGE

There is outrage in the area at the ease with which the gunmen struck and were able to get away.

Residents are also claiming that there was open collusion between the official and unofficial loyalist forces in the attack. Since 8.30pm that evening there had been an unusually large RUC presence in the area, including an RUC road-

block at the end of Newington Street. The crown forces disappeared at 9.50pm and, minutes later, the murder gang attacked their victims, murdering Terry and injuring his elderly mother.

The car used in the attack had been hijacked earlier in the evening from the loyalist Ainsworth Avenue area and was discovered abandoned afterwards in the Lower Shankill, another loyalist area.

Following the assassination, Downtown Radio news reports referred to Terry McDaid as "an ex-internee". Maura McDaid has lashed out at this, describing it as a despicable and malicious lie. Terry McDaid was never interned and had no connection with the Republican Movement. Relatives of the dead man have also critic-

ised the radio station's bosses, pointing out that totally unfounded claims like this have been made after sectarian attacks in the past and that they seem to be trying to justify what are totally random sectarian attacks directed against Catholics.

Sinn Féin legal affairs spokesman, Paddy McManus, commented:

"This assassination, along with other recent murders, marks the escalation of the UDA/UFF murder campaign. It comes only a matter of weeks after the UDA 'inter-council', speaking on behalf of the UFF, vowed to step up the military campaign against the IRA and 'known republicans'. Last night's attack again proves that, to the UDA, 'republican' translates into 'any Catholic'."

TERROR NETWORK FANTASY

CLAIMS by the British Institute for the Study of Terrorism that Irish republicans are linked to European groups such as the Red Brigades in Italy and the Red Army Faction in West Germany have been described by a Sinn Féin leader as "the product of a fertile imagination and misinformation".

Sinn Féin National Chairperson, Sean MacManus, said: "Sinn Féin has repeatedly and publicly disassociated itself from the Red Army Faction, etc."

"The Institute's spokesperson, Bernard Adamczewski, has sacrificed the truth in order to substantiate his 'terror international' conspiracy fantasy. Among his many unsubstantiated allegations is that H-Block escapees Gerry Kelly and Bren-

dan McFarlane were arrested in an Amsterdam squatter camp. In fact, they were captured in a flat in a middle-class suburb of South Amsterdam called Buitenveldert. Misinformation such as this and his assertion that hunger-strike Patsy O'Hara was a member of the IRA when he was in the INLA certainly raises serious questions about the Institute's credibility, unless it is to be dubbed the 'Institute for the Study of Fiction'."



● SEAN MACMANUS

TYRONE REMEMBERS THE LOUGHGALL MARTYRS

LAST SUNDAY was a very special day in Tyrone. After a year of organisation and hard work by republicans in the county, with help and support from all over Ireland and beyond, Tyrone National Graves Association unveiled memorials to seven of the Loughgall Martyrs on the first anniversary of their deaths.

A memorial Mass was said County Monaghan, to coincide with the unveilings, in memory of Jim Lynagh, the eighth Volunteer killed in Loughgall, who is buried in Monaghan. The families of all the Volunteers played a big part in all the ceremonies.

The sad memories and the sense of loss of the Volunteers' families, friends and comrades was coupled with a strong and palpable feeling of pride. The memorials unveiled last Sunday are symbols of the respect and love with which they are remembered.

The first of the morning ceremonies on Sunday took place in The Moy at the Republican Memorial, which was rededicated and had Volunteer Padraig McKearney's name added, alongside that of his brother, Volunteer Sean McKearney and his comrade, Volunteer Eugene Martin. The regilded memorial was unveiled by Mrs Martin and Mrs McKearney and wreaths were laid on behalf of Ogligh na hEireann, the National Graves Association, Sinn Féin and the families. Flowers were also laid on behalf of Tommy and Margaret McKearney, brother and sister of the dead Volunteers, and a message was also read on behalf of Tommy and Margaret. Stan Corrigan, a former POW, read the oration.

EDENDORK

The second ceremony was at Edendork Republican Plot where Volunteer Paddy Kelly's name

had been added to the memorial at Easter. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, the NGA, and the Kelly family by Paddy's three children. Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin delivered the oration, in which he praised the courage of Paddy Kelly who had been imprisoned on the word of a paid-perjurer but who had immediately rejoined the struggle on his release.

The afternoon ceremonies began with a gathering at the grave of Eugene Kelly at Altmore Churchyard. A black marble Celtic Cross was unveiled by Eugene's brother, Gabriel and The Proclamation was read by Barry McElduff, secretary of Tyrone NGA. Before the chairperson of the ceremony introduced Martin McGuinness for the main oration, Geraldine Kelly, sister of the dead Volunteer, recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish. McGuinness paid tribute to the Kelly family and expressed sympathy on behalf of the Republican Movement. He said:

"We understand what you have gone through in the past twelve months. We share your grief, as do republicans across the Six Counties." The chairperson of Tyrone NGA then expressed thanks to the Kelly family for their co-operation in the erection of the memorial.

GALBALLY

In Galbally, a black marble cross was unveiled to Volunteers Declan Arthurs and Seamus Donnelly by their brothers Paul and Damien. A decade of the



● Martin McGuinness delivering the oration above the grave of Vol Paddy Kelly

Rosary was recited by Helen Donnelly, sister of Seamus. The Proclamation was read by Nuala Donnelly. In his oration Martin McGuinness said: "The Loughgall Martyrs were born second class citizens in a British state but they died free men still fighting at the door of a British barracks in Loughgall." A letter was also read out by Paula Arthurs from prisoners in Maghaberry and Durham prisons.

In Aughnagar, at the grave of Volunteer Tony Gormley, another Celtic Cross was unveiled by Tony's brother, Hugh. Seamus

Cassidy, a local Sinn Féin councillor, chaired the ceremonies. A decade of the Rosary was again recited and The Proclamation was read. The main oration was delivered by Martin McGuinness.

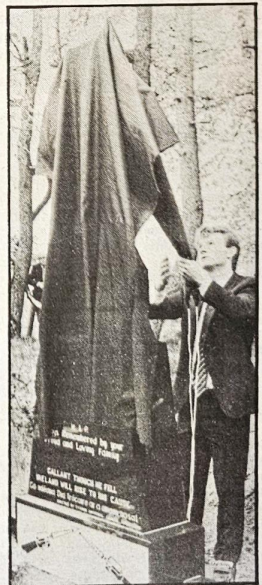
A black marble headstone was unveiled at the grave of Volunteer Gerard O'Callaghan by his father, Patrick. Flags were lowered to the accompaniment of a piper's lament. A decade of the Rosary was recited and The Proclamation was read before Martin McGuinness gave the main oration. In this final oration of the day, he paid

tribute to the people of Tyrone and Armagh on the way they turned out for all the ceremonies, despite the RUC's attempts at intimidation. He also said he had noticed the close relationship which had grown between all the Loughgall Martyrs' families and that this was something we all shared from having suffered together.

Tyrone National Graves Association would like to point out that they welcomed the support they had received from all the families and from all those whose generous donations made the day's ceremonies possible.



● Some of the hundreds of people who turned-up at the different ceremonies throughout Tyrone



● The black marble Celtic Cross above the grave of Vol Eugene Kelly being unveiled by his brother Gabriel

OPINION

RTE censorship hypocrisy

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS facing supporters of Section 31 censorship is that it cannot be defended on any reasonable or rational basis. When confronted on the issue censorship supporters usually launch into wild attacks on the Republican Movement which ascend into the outer reaches of unreality. This, on the basis that if you throw enough dirt some of it is bound to stick — in fact most of the dirt is pretty likely to be Sticky.

A new approach was unveiled last weekend by RTE 'News Manager' Rory O'Connor. He was speaking to an Opus Dei (!) seminar on the media. "In all democratic countries there lurks a similar piece of legislation," said O'Connor. RTE can seek justification through mutual association, apparently. He only gave one example, though, of a country with similar censorship... Britain!

Yes, the imperial power whose broadcasters have so far weathered the Thatcher storm of hysteria over TV exposures of SAS executions in Gibraltar; where (unlike in RTE) investigations into the Birmingham Six, the Guildford Four and the Stalker affair were initiated and where reporters can interview republicans without being sacked is Mr O'Connor's model.

What he has done is deliberately confuse the power to censor with the actual use of censorship powers. Section 13.4 of the BBC's licence is equivalent to Section 31. The point is that, for whatever reason, the British have not implemented it, unlike Section 31 here. As for the rest of Europe, Mr O'Connor should consult the International Federation of Journalists' report on

Section 31. It says that the use of censorship here is "unique... in a Western European context"! If RTE news managers did their homework instead of trying to prevent Sinn Féin members from appearing on gardening programmes they might be able to give media seminars the benefit of accurate information.

Then again, Mr O'Connor's less than firm grasp of the facts could be explained by his over-long exposure to RTE Newsroom traditions. An NUJ report on Section 31's effect on RTE news said it created an "ultra-cautious atmosphere [where] establishment views are aired at length, often without analysis or counterpoint". In other words, you don't have to be a lick-spittle to work in RTE news, but it helps.

It is significant that Mr O'Connor should speak at a seminar organised by Ireland's equivalent of the Freemasons, Opus Dei. Is Mr O'Connor a member? We ask because RTE employees, from researcher grade up, are banned from membership of political groups. The (un) 'official' exceptions to this rule are 'supporters' of the pro-censorship Workers' Party — Eoghan Harris and his many RTE co-thinkers. Maybe membership of Opus Dei, a right-wing politico-religious pressure group, is also an exception. This explains why all RTE Director Generals have been members and why RTE management is riddled with members of this elite pressure group.

To assert that the establishment in this 'Free' State is corrupt and hypocritical is no lie. That is why this observation is banned from the airwaves. Instead there is the joint conspiracy of the fake 'left' with the religious ultra right.

Guth don Ghaeilg

LÁ STAIRIÚIL a bhí ann Deardaois seo caite nuair a labhraíodh arís le Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, comhairleoir de chuid Sinn Féin, a bhí ag iarraidh nGaeilge aon choimisiún poiblí de chuid Phlean Uirbeach a bhí ann le Feirste. Ba é an chéad uair a ghlac coiste oifigiúla de chuid na riarraibh sé de cheart ag duine a chuid tuairimí a thabairt ar nGaeilge. Chuir an coimisiún teangaire ar fáil, an Dr. Hughes ó Ollscoil na Ríona Béal Feirste, a d'aistrigh an Dr. na Béarla.

Duirt an Comhairleoir O Muilleoir gur ábhar imní é nach ndéantar tagairt sa phlean do phobal bríomhar na Gaeilge, agus sa dóigh sin "cuirtear i gceill gur pobal aonteangach é pobal Bhéal Feirste." Mheas sé gurbh é an easpa teagmhála idir an Plean agus an pobal Gaelach bunús na faidhbe seo.

“Dá mba rud é go raibh cumarsáid agus teagmháil ann idir an Roinn agus an pobal bheadh ar dteanga dhúchais luaite sa Phlean Iiríbeach.”

"Tuigtear sa Bhreatain Bheag go dtig le polasaithe pianála leas nó aaimhleas na teanga a dhéanamh agus creidimid go bhfuil an cás amhlaidh abhus anseo. Tá Roinn an Imshaoil ag treisiú na tuairime gur 'teanga leipreacháin' (mar deir iar-Ard-Mheara amháin) í an Ghaeilge sa mhéid is nach naithníonn an Plean gur cuid tabhachtach d'oidhreacht na cathrach í."

ATHBHEOCHAN

Thus sé cuntas don lucht
éisteachta ar athbhéochan na
Gaeilge sa chathair chéanna, ag
trácht ar chomórtaas Ghlór na
nGael, inar roghnaíodh mór-chean-
tar lathar Bhéal Feirste mar an áit
is treise don Ghaeilge sa tír.

Chun staid na Gaeilge i mBéal



● MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR

Feirste a aithint, dúirt sé gur
don Phlean talamh a chuir
leataobh do bhunscoil
Ghaeilge agus do chultúr
lathar Bhéal Feirste. "Is muid
ag léamh fán dá thráidisiún
sa stáitín seo ach fad is a
n-aithnítear an Ghaeilge ní fad
an traidisiún náisiúnach", a
sé.

Agus tháinig an gnáthfhear
faisistíoch ón DUP. Dúirt Róise
Paisley gur masla do phobal
cathrach é go raibh cead ag
Comhairleoir Ó Muilleoir labhairt
i nGaeilge, agus tá a hathair,
ag súil leis an cheist a ard
Westminster.

Multi-Million Pound Swindle

A REPORT on May 5th showed that over half of the wealth created by workers in the 26 Counties in the past two years has been invested overseas. Unemployment and emigration are rising, but then so are the profits of the very rich. While Dublin journalists talked of 'optimistic' forecasts and 'growth', the report by the government's Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) found this economic performance "bizarre".

Since 1986 over £500 million has vanished through the 'black hole' in the 26-County economy, as private companies and individuals invested their profits abroad instead of creating jobs at home. The money represents over half of real economic growth in the period and its disappearance shows the fundamental weakness in the financial programmes of successive governments.

The report is scathing about the effects of these programmes. Developments in 1987 have been "so unusual as to cast some doubt on the meaning or even on the accuracy of some major measures of economic performance". What puzzles the authors is the fact that despite financial growth in the last two years, none of it "appears to be working through into an improvement in living standards".

Money has been handed over to the Irish private sector and to multinational companies through massive tax concessions in the hope that jobs may be created. Companies like the Irish-based Cement Roadstone Holdings or Smurfit pay little or no corporate tax. But these firms don't use the money to set up factories in Ireland. Instead, they invest it overseas where profits can be even larger. This outflow means that

BY TOM O'DWYER

the PAYE taxpayer is left with the burden of paying for Irish social services and nearly everything else.

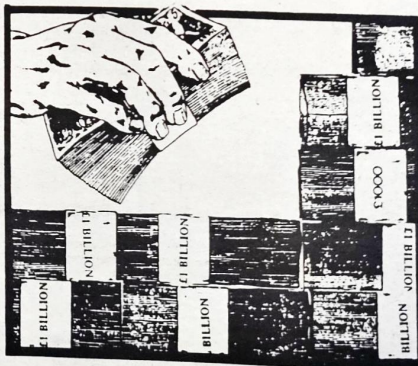
A ten per cent cut is planned by the Haughey government in these services in the next spending estimates and the ESRI warns that this may cause "over-deflation". These cuts may mean that ordinary people have so little to spend that yet more workers will face the dole because there isn't a market for the products they make. By increasing poverty, Haughey's measures may start a tidal wave of unemployment.

NO REAL GROWTH

The report expects the economy to 'grow' by one per cent in the coming year but that figure will be irrelevant to most workers because the growth is going to be in exports and profits — not in jobs. In 1988, employment fell by a further 13,000 jobs but next year the figure is likely to be 25,000, pushing the official jobless figure to just under 20 per cent at a time when unemployment is beginning to drop in every other European country.

The ESRI emphasises that it's

Since 1986 over £550 million has vanished through the 'black hole' in the 26-County economy, as private companies and individuals invested their profits abroad instead of creating jobs at home.



“essential” for future development to provide ordinary people with sufficient funds. But the lack of ready money isn't a problem for the very rich. Economists believe the coming year will see boom profits for shareholders in the top Irish companies. Cigarette-makers Carrolls are expected to make an extra £4.3 million although they've recently laid workers off. But that would only mean the Dundalk-based firm makes £12 million. Smurfits (which invests only a tiny percentage of its money in Ireland) makes nearly 18 times that

amount. It is likely to increase its profits from £154 million to £215 million. Cement Roadstone Holdings' profits are expected to rise from £46 million to £57 million.

MONEY FLOWS OUT

The strategy of governments since the early '60s has been to make it easier for foreign companies to set up in Ireland. That has made the 26 Counties the second most 'open' economy in the world. It's also meant that it is easier for money to flow out of the country. With this money goes the hope of

jobs and as employment dries up
emigration becomes a flood.

Already planners have drastically scaled down their population estimates. In 1985 a survey forecasted that the population of Greater Dublin and the region around it would reach 1.8 million by the year 2011. But on the same day as the ESRI report came news that these estimates had been reduced to 1.13 million. Families are now having fewer children but the main reason for the lower figure was emigration.

TOTAL ECONOMIC
FAILURE

The ESRI report is really an admission of total economic failure. Behind its dry statistics is the real cruelty of an economic policy geared towards the business class. But economies aren't like the weather—they can be changed if people decide to do so. The report shows that the Fianna Fáil government's job-creation programmes, made when the trade union signed the 'National' Programme for Economic Recovery, won't be honoured. The agreement was for a really a multi-million pound swindle but the ICTU can still reject it and fight the government's catastrophic strategy.

Sinn Féin's National Chairman Sean MacManus said the report has devastating implications and is an outright indictment of government economic policy which rely entirely on private industrial development and multinational capital. The "black hole" must be plugged immediately before the wealth created by Irish people entirely vanishes."

TIME RUNNING OUT FOR EXTRADITEES

BY MAIRTÍN Mac DIARMADA

THE FINAL APPEAL of Paul Kane against his detention was turned down by the Supreme Court in Dublin on Wednesday. The H-Block escapee must now continue his long court battle against extradition to the Six Counties.

Kane was arrested last November in Longford during the nationwide wave of arrests and house raids. He was held under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act but was released from Granard Garda Barracks after 48 hours. No RUC extradition warrant had arrived for Kane (as it had for his fellow detainee Dermot Finucane) and gardai had to release him. Kane was then hounded by gardai and pursued by the Special Branch to Cavan, where he was kept in what his lawyers later described as "walking detention".

After driving his car onto the side of the road outside Cavan the gardai chased Kane and grappled with him in a ditch. He was then held overnight on trumped up charges while they awaited extradition warrants under which he was rearrested the next day. It was this conduct by the gardai which Kane challenged through the courts, culminating in the Supreme Court this week.

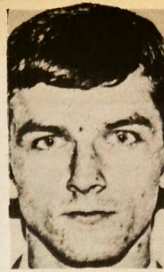
Now that the extraordinary Garda detention of Kane has been upheld by the highest court in the 26 Counties, he must fight the RUC extradition warrants. These include one for the murder of a prison warder during the 1983 H-Block escape in which Kane took part. Last month, the High Court in Belfast, in sentencing 18 republicans for their part in the

escape, ruled that the crown had failed to prove that a murder took place and the charges were thrown out. This casts doubt on the validity of the 'murder' warrant for Kane. It also highlights the fact that fellow Long Kesh escapee and Portlaoise prisoner Robert Russell has been held in the 26 Counties for four years on warrants for a murder that was not committed. He is due to be extradited upon his release from Portlaoise at the end of August.

Robert Russell's sister, Rosaleen, and Paul Kane's brother, Gerry, joined Martin Finucane, brother of Dermot, on a delegation to Leinster House and at the Supreme Court hearing. They met Labour TDs Emmet Stagg and Michael D. Higgins who expressed their support as did Senator Brendan Ryan. Fianna Fail TD Tom Kitt and Senator John Robb also spoke to the relatives.

The relatives asked TDs to "put pressure on the Minister for Justice to accede to the application before him asking him to release Robert Russell and that the proceedings against Paul Kane be discontinued immediately."

"Now that even a Diplock court has been forced to accept there was no murder, there is no justification for continuing to hold our relatives on imaginary murder charges. The worst for



• DERMOT FINUCANE



• PAUL KANE



• ROBERT RUSSELL



• The anti-extradition delegation, which included relatives of those currently facing extradition to the Six Counties, pictured after visiting TDs in Leinster House

which they can possibly be convicted now is for escaping, and the sentences for that range from three to five years. Yet Robert has already been held down here for the equivalent of an eight-year sentence, while Paul served an eight-year sentence in the North on supergrass evidence before being cleared by the Court of Appeal.

"Had the evidence of unfair and discriminatory procedures

now emanating from the Stalker Affair and everything else that has happened since January been available to the court, they could only have found for Robert.

"All three have suffered enough at the hands of British justice. They should now be released."

The Irish Anti-Extradition Committee has called on people to write to the Minister for Justice, Gerry Collins, (Department of Justice, Dublin 2) and to their

local Fianna Fail elected representatives calling for the release of Robert Russell for whom time is now running out. Collins has the power to release any potential extraditee and his decision on Russell's application is still awaited.

All three of the extraditees' relatives came in for petty harassment from the Special Branch who stopped and questioned them during their visit to Dublin.

Gibraltar won't go away

BY ALEX WEST

THE DUBLIN GOVERNMENT should bring the British government to the European Court of Human Rights over the summary executions of Volunteers Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Danny McCann, say their relatives, who are in Dublin for a press conference today, Thursday.

The families of the three Volunteers, among them Danny McCann's widow, Margaret, Mairead Farrell's brother, Niall and Sean Savage's mother, Lily, are also set to call on the Fianna Fail administration to send high-level observers to the Gibraltar coroner's inquest and to highlight the SAS killings internationally.

The relatives believe that the decision to shoot the Volunteers was not made by the SAS but was, in fact, sanctioned at the highest level of the British government. They point out that when the House of Commons learnt of the deaths they cheered.

DESPERATE DEFENCE

The past week has seen the Thatcher government become even more desperate to give

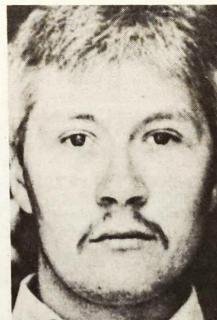
some credibility to its version of what happened in Gibraltar. Last Thursday, Geoffrey Howe attempted to intimidate the BBC into shelving its *Spotlight* programme, in which eye-witnesses to the shootings corroborated the evidence given in the earlier *This Week* programme, exposing the SAS as a shoot-to-kill squad.

Peregrine Worsthorne, the editor of the looney-right *Sunday Telegraph* called for SAS death squads to be legalised by reviving an ancient statute to make the IRA 'outlaws'.

Other newspapers also came to the government's rescue, saying that a group of six teenage eye-witnesses had appeared, all of whom say they heard the SAS identify themselves before gunning down Volunteer Sean Savage.



• VOL MAIREAD FARRELL



• VOL DANNY MCCANN



• VOL SEAN SAVAGE

This proved, they said, the veracity of the government statement which claimed that the SAS had acted within the law.

But eyewitnesses have already told both ITV and BBC that the SAS-man said, "It's okay, we're police," to terrified passers-by after Sean Savage had been shot in the back several times.

Reports designed to lend an aura of impartiality to British justice at the start of the week quoted Gibraltar coroner Felix Thistlewaite as saying that he would initiate charges of murder, if appropriate, on the SAS. Mr Thistlewaite appeared on BBC radio yesterday, and he admitted that there would be no such

charges against the SAS, denying he had ever said there would.

The only statement so far from the Fianna Fail administration on Gibraltar was a two-line press release expressing the government's "concern" about the shooting dead of three Irish citizens and pressure is now mounting on Haughey to act.

Undercover Brits threaten Belfast man

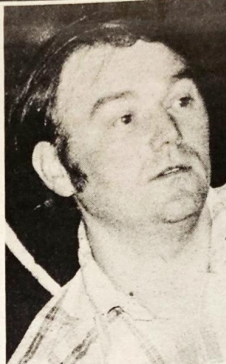
PEOPLE should be very wary and immediately report to Sinn Féin any approaches or threats from undercover British forces, Belfast City Councillor Sean McKnight has said following an incident in which armed undercover British soldiers made a direct approach accompanied by threats of death to a man as he was going to a local leisure centre.

Former Belfast City Councillor, Sean Flynn, was accosted and threatened by undercover British soldiers as he made his way to Maysfield Leisure Centre on Monday, May 9th.

Flynn, who was elected on an anti-H-Block ticket in local elections in 1981, was making his way along the Albertbridge Road towards Maysfield just after midday. He passed the entrance to Grand Central Station where a worker was painting the station wall. There was no one else on the road. Several yards beyond the station a man drew level with him, overtook him slightly and looked directly at him. The man was short and stocky, he was wearing a white je-

ekin and had short fair hair and a moustache. The man then stopped immediately in front of Flynn and said "You're Sean Flynn". Flynn understandably wary, replied "No, you've got the wrong man".

The man who had accosted him and who spoke with a Scottish accent then said: "You're Flynn and we want to talk to you." Flynn said, "Who are you?" to which the man replied "I'm Charley. Do you not remember? I arrested you and took you to Grand Central." Flynn repeated he had no desire to talk. The man then unzipped his jerkin revealing a gun in a shoulder holster, and told Flynn "You'll talk to us or you'll be shot." Fearing for his safety, Flynn



● SEAN FLYNN

ran off into the nearby Maysfield Leisure Centre. He remained there for ten minutes in the hope that

the man would be gone when he came back out.

Flynn walked off in the direction of the city centre, again passing the entrance of Central Station where the worker was still painting. As he reached the entrance to the station, he was again accosted by the same man who emerged from the foyer. Flynn asked the man to identify himself whereupon he was shown a British army identity pass. The same threats were made and the soldier also added, "You know what happened in Gibraltar."

Flynn noticed a second man standing just inside the station entrance wearing the same type of light-coloured jerkin. He also seemed to be carrying a weapon inside his coat. When the first soldier again said "You'll either talk to us or be shot", Flynn shouted to the painter "These are British soldiers. If they shoot me remember that." The fair haired man said: "If you

want to make a scene Sean will give you a scene." Flynn then shouted to the painter "That man has a gun up his coat produced an Uzi sub-machine gun from under his jerkin."

Eventually the two soldiers were talking to Flynn "Remember you can talk to us or be shot. We'll be talking to your door and if you don't talk to us then we'll shoot you."

Flynn pretended to go towards the city centre but doubled back when the two men went into the station. He watched them go down an escalator to a lower level carpark and saw the two men climb into a brown four-door car with registration number EX1 6052. A third man was already waiting in the car which drove off towards the city centre. Flynn hid inside the station foyer until the men had gone and immediately went to a friend's house where he arranged to see a solicitor to seek advice.



BELFAST MAN HIT BY PLASTIC BULLET

AS ANTI-PLASTIC BULLET CAMPAIGNERS are in the United States lobbying for an end to the use of this lethal weapon, a Belfast man was hospitalised after being hit with a plastic bullet fired by a British soldier.

Plastic bullets are a central weapon to the British strategy of cowering people down. They are not a minimum force weapon, used as a last resort. They are a weapon of first resort whose deadly capability and indiscriminate use are employed on a regular basis to 'keep the Croppies down'.

The latest incident reflecting this reality occurred on Sunday night, May 8th, and involved Belfast man Pat McBride. McBride and his companions had just turned the corner from Waterford Street into Colligan Street on the Falls Road when they saw four members of a six-strong foot patrol harassing and assaulting a number of youths who had been shoved against a wall. As McBride got within 12 feet of the incident, he protested to the soldiers that there was no need for their behaviour. Without any warning, one of the soldiers turned and fired a

plastic bullet at point-blank range directly at him. The bullet struck him on the left side, and knocked him down.

TWO MORE BULLETS

As McBride fell, the soldier in charge of the patrol ordered his men to make off to Springfield Road RUC Barracks. They ran off jeering and fired two more plastic bullets up Colligan Street as they left. McBride, who was in considerable pain, was helped by friends to the nearby Royal Victoria Hospital, where he received immediate treatment for lacerations and severe bruising before being detained in hospital for observation.

The injured man intends to contact a solicitor and to press charges of assault against the soldier involved. Local people who saw the incident told AP/RN, "This type of incident is too regular an occurrence. Plastic bullets should be banned."

CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLASTIC BULLETS IN USA

SIX MEMBERS of the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets who embarked on a two-week tour of the United States on April 30th, have been reporting a number of significant victories in the first week of their tour.

The aim of the tour is to put across to as wide an audience as possible the facts on the use of plastic bullets by Britain as a lethal community control weapon. To date those participating in the tour have made a number of important live television and radio appearances and have addressed various legislative assemblies. Three of those assemblies have now passed resolutions emphatically urging the United States Congress to call upon the British government to abandon the use of plastic bullets in the Six Counties.

Martin Galvin, Publicity Director of Noraid, who are hosting the tour, said:

"The UCAPB is showing Americans that British violence, together with religious discrimination, are the twin pillars upon which British rule rests in the North of Ireland."

Among those on the tour are Mrs. Emma Groves who was blinded in 1971 when a British paratrooper fired a rubber bullet at point blank range through the window and hit her in the face and Brenda Downes, wife of John Downes, who was slain in full view of the world media at a peaceful public protest in August 1984.

LONDON PROTEST

The UCAPB will hold a picket at Downing Street, London, next Thursday, May 19th at noon. The picket commemorates the deaths of Julie Livingstone, aged 14, and 12-year-old Carol Ann Kelly, who were killed by plastic bullets fired by British soldiers in Belfast in May 1981. A letter of protest calling for the banning of these weapons will be handed into number 10.



Simultaneous protests will be held in Belfast, Dublin, Birmingham, Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Oslo and Stockholm.

Visitors victimised

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ON TUESDAY MORNING, May 10th, a number of relatives of republican POWs received a written threat from H-Block Governor Gibson that their visiting facilities could be suspended until he is "satisfied that they are no longer likely to subvert discipline and good order."

The threat was in reference to the justified refusal by the relatives, all from Armagh city, to leave the waiting room in Long Kesh and stand outside in the car park in torrential rain on April 20th. That day Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Carroll had driven them to the jail for their visits but, when they got there, Carroll was taken to Lisburn RUC Barracks on a trumped up charge of assaulting an RUC man. He told AP/RN, "When I was stopped in the car park in Long

Kesh I gave my name and address but, when I was asked a second time, purely to harass me, I refused to repeat it, as is my right. The RUC came and they immediately accused me of assaulting one of them and arrested me. They strip-searched me in Lisburn and verbally abused me but all the time my only concern that the relatives, who were depending on me to take them home, would be left stranded."

Carroll was released at 5.30pm that evening and taken back to

Long Kesh. In the meantime, the relatives, their visit over, were ordered outside to wait for Carroll's return.

BLATANT HARASSMENT

"This is simply a case of blatant harassment of relatives of prisoners," said Tommy Carroll. "Some of them are elderly. Mrs. Toal, the mother of republican POW Paul Toal, is in her sixties and they expected her and the others, some with children, to stand outside during a cloudburst of torrential rain. The threat to suspend their visiting rights is not only petty but is indicative of the attitude of the prison regime towards prisoners and relatives alike."

SINN FÉIN INTERNAL CONFERENCE

HERE TO WIN

THE FIFTH national Sinn Féin internal conference took place in Dublin last weekend. In two days of debate and discussion party members looked at the way the organisation should be tackling the central political issues facing the Irish people, how the economic aspect of national sovereignty needs to be addressed and the urgent need to broaden the demand for British withdrawal and national self-determination as the Hillsborough Treaty approaches its third anniversary.

There were four discussion papers put before the conference and, in spite of time limits, the delegates considered each one carefully in workshops and general discussions. Jim McAllister gave the first paper which dealt with what he called 'mainstream politics'. He spoke about the need to identify the most important issues Sinn Féin should be campaigning on and how short-term policies and long-term aims can be related. He gave an example:

"We can just clamour for roadworks and blame Leinster House and the councils for the deplorable state of the roads, or we can draw up a practical strategy for repairing and upgrading roads, giving statistics on the employment prospects, co-ordination of the works and, of course, details of possible cost and method of funding. The second scenario is the one which would get serious attention from the public."

"In it we tackle several problems — the roads, unemployment, emigration, rural decay. Such a scenario is an indication of what I mean by participating in mainstream politics. This would make the implementation of Section 31 more difficult, and would make republicanism more acceptable to many people to our mutual benefit."

The wide-ranging nature of McAllister's contribution meant that the discussion was less concentrated than at other sessions and many speakers diverted from the main theme of what he had to say.

On Saturday afternoon a message was read from the republican prisoners in the H-Blocks who sent their solidarity greetings.

The main debate on Saturday centred on the contribution from Jim Monaghan of the Sinn Féin Education Department. He presented a paper entitled 'Republicanism and the social and economic struggle'. In this he argued that the party had three options in the 26 Counties. It could build around the national question to win support for the struggle in the North; build around the social and economic problems of the ordinary people and, by helping them, get their support in return for the national struggle; build around the social and economic problems that by its nature ties in with the struggle in the North and gives ordinary people a stake in an overall victory.

Monaghan argued that Sinn Féin must show the link between the social and economic crisis and the resolution of the national question. He thus argued that the third option was the way forward, identifying the lack of economic sovereignty which is central to all the major social and economic problems, and which is a result of Ireland's colonial history. With its economy ruled by British and EEC interests and its dependence on multinationals, economic sovereignty

was denied to Ireland.

There was much debate on this paper, including a contribution from the prisoners in Portlaoise, and it was the one which sparked the most controversy. Several speakers felt that the paper completely ruled what it called the 'intellectual or patriotic' appeal of the demand for national self-determination. They felt that it sought a strategy based solely on economics and did not sufficiently stress that the prerequisite for economic sovereignty is national self-determination. Most of the speakers in the general discussion did not share this interpretation of the document and felt that it presented a realistic way forward, recognising that the struggle had a different aspect in the 26 Counties where the effects of partition and foreign domination are felt most directly in social and economic terms. The general consensus was that the paper was interesting and its ideas could help provide a political direction for Sinn Féin in work in trade unions, community groups and a wide range of campaigns on social and economic issues.

SINN FEIN/SDLP TALKS

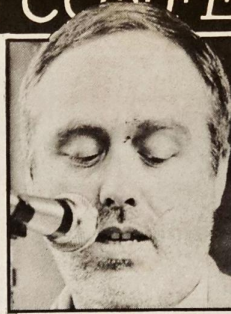
On Sunday morning the conference was given a report of Sinn Féin's talks with the SDLP and then moved on to consider a paper from Tom Hartley, joint general-secretary of the party. He said that "Britain can only be moved on the national question if the British state is confronted by the combined forces of Irish nationalism". He then discussed how this could be brought about and argued that republicans should be aiming to dislodge the SDLP from its present links with the London and Dublin governments. To do this it was necessary to recognise that the SDLP is not a monolith and that all its rank and file members do not share their leadership's role in British counter-insurgency.

Hartley said that every effort should be made to make the SDLP adopt the correct demands on national and civil rights. Like Fianna Fáil, its nationalist base is vulnerable to pressure on the role of its leadership — when their nationalist supporters raise demands on which they have sold out (extradition for example) they are forced either to change their pro-British position or alienate their base.

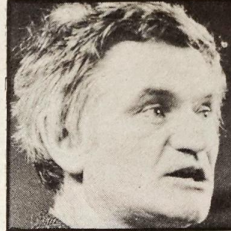
Sinn Féin's attitude to both Fianna Fáil and the SDLP was dealt with in the discussion that followed and there was general agreement that broadening the republican struggle meant bringing as many people as possible inside and outside these parties to support the demand for British withdrawal and self-determination.

The final session of the conference heard a detailed review of the Hillsborough Treaty, three years on, from Danny Morrison. He pointed out that it had failed in its aim of isolating and defeating the Republican Movement.

It had succeeded in making the Dublin government a closer ally of British strategy with the only concrete results being increased cross-border collaboration. The speaker reminded the conference that all the major issues — discrimination, culture, prisoners and lately the social problems of West Belfast — were on the Hillsborough agenda not because the SDLP and the Dublin government raised them but because nationalists and republicans had campaigned on them. The inability of Hillsborough to deliver on



• DANNY MORRISON



• JIM MONAGHAN

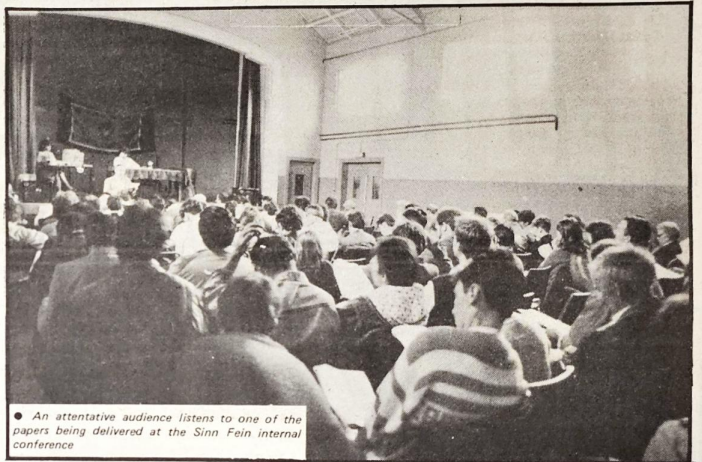
BY MAIRÍN
Mac DIARMADA

them exposed the irreformability of the statelet and the contradiction of Fianna Fáil and SDLP support for it. Morrison ended on a high note:

"This autumn the Treaty, bar something major, unforeseen happening, is likely to be signed for another three years. Loyalists are still talking to King but it is almost certain that they feel strong enough to sit their ground and having held out for its first three year lifespan they will claim, is some sort of victory in itself."

"Much of this has got to do with the staunchness of republican supporters in the North who have not been bought by the SDLP promises and who have not been broken by RUC batons or SAS executions."

"One thing is for sure: as a result of their courage and determination we are here to stay and if we understand the lessons of struggle and the nature of our enemy we are here to win!"



• An attentive audience listens to one of the papers being delivered at the Sinn Féin internal conference

Illegal dumping continues — EOLAS

UP TO 5,000 TONNES of toxic waste has been illegally dumped in the 26 Counties over the last three years, according to Eolas, the science and technology agency. It is believed that multinational pharmaceutical, solvent and paint companies are responsible for the 5,000-tonne gap in the figures between toxic waste production and its official disposal.

Responsibility for ensuring that companies dispose of their toxic waste safely lies with local authorities but many county councils do little or nothing to monitor those factories in their area.

LICENCING SYSTEM

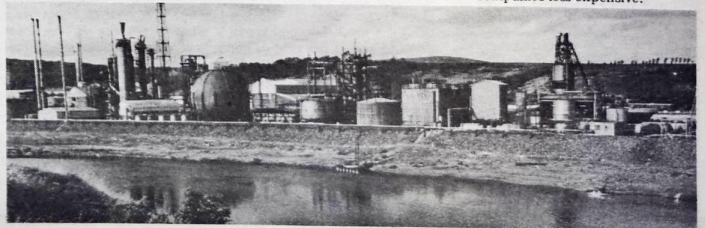
The Chief Fire Officers' Association has called for a licensing system for the storage and handling of toxic waste which could then be withdrawn from

companies who break the law.

FINE TOO LOW

At present the maximum fine for illegal dumping, in the unlikely event of being caught, is £1,000 and many of those concerned with the issue say that this amount is far too small to deter unscrupulous multinational companies.

Industry Minister, Albert Reynolds, now seems set to build a waste incinerator in the Cork area to make waste disposal for the areas main pharmaceutical companies less expensive.



TESTAMENT TO THE HUNGER-STRIKERS

Bernadette Devlin/McAliskey, one of the founder members of the Civil Rights Movement in the North in 1968, gave the annual Bobby Sands Memorial Lecture in Twinbrook on Thursday night, May 5th. Her address, to almost 500 people in a packed hall, fell on the seventh anniversary of the death of H-Block hunger-striker Bobby Sands. She spoke of her own emotions and reflections on the hunger-strike and of the last 20 years of struggle since 1968. The following are selected extracts from her speech.

"THE HUNGER-STRIKE was something which, in myself, I've never really come to terms with. I don't think I've really got over the awesome spectacle of ten young men dying in the way the hunger-strikers did.

"I've two memories of the hunger-strike: one is that almost incredible strength and courage and intensity of belief in the rightness of what they were doing that allowed them to die a minute, a second at a time for up to 73 days.

"And my other memory is the agony of mothers and the courage of the hunger-strikers' mothers who were in an impossible position that really only mothers could be put in. That they had brought those children into the world, and they had brought them up, and they had taught them the difference between right and wrong, and basically they had given them, not necessarily the political beliefs, but had given them very fundamental beliefs of the difference between what is good and what is bad, and what is worth having and what has to be sacrificed to hang on to dignity and integrity and justice. And that they were put in a position where, having brought children into the world and looked after them in the way all mothers do and brought them up in very difficult circumstances in this country, knowing not only its overall politics but its day-to-day problems of poverty, of making the Supplementary Benefit

stretch out for a week, of finding a week's wages, of getting children out to school, of getting shoes on their feet, of turning them out nicely for Holy Communion or whatever, and bringing them to a point where there came a conflict — a conflict there was no way out of for those women. A conflict where what they had believed all their lives, in basic goodness and honesty and decency, in the country we lived in, inevitably led their sons to the death bed.

"And those women sat there and watched their children dying, and were forced with all the social pressures that said from the outside 'As mothers, your responsibility is to stop this; as mothers, your responsibility is to override what your sons want to do, to save his life against his will'. And that they withstood all of that is possibly the hardest of things any mother could have to do — to accept the right of her children to make their own decisions and, whether you agree with them or disagree with them, no matter how painful it is, that you allow them that right and you stand by them as they do what they think is right.

"That memory of the hun-

ger-strike has always stayed with me. Not simply what we all went through but particularly what the mothers of the hunger-strikers suffered as they watched their sons die. The amount of courage, just plain raw courage when there's nothing else to hang on to, that it took for those women to stand with their sons and support them, particularly towards the end of the hunger-strike when the Church and other people, who would have been very strong influences in the lives of those women, seemed to have turned against them."

A SIMPLE DEMAND

"When you look back 20 years ago, when we were smart-assed kids down at university and the Civil Rights Movement started — and you know what we were looking for? The right to vote! You weren't allowed to vote in local government elections in those days unless you owned a house. So we had this great world-shattering demand that we all ought to be allowed to vote in the local government elections." Sarcastically she noted: "At that time there wasn't anybody worth voting for, as I recall it, but we all wanted to vote anyway. Did you know that we didn't even ask for the right to work? The Civil Rights Movement never demanded the right of people to work and earn

their wages and have a decent standard of life. We were moderate, quiet, decent people in those days, not extreme or anything, we were actually asking for a fair share of unemployment.

"The slogan was 'One man one vote'. There was nobody, including me, looking votes for women, and us out on the street, getting our heads beaten in, shouting 'One man, one vote!' It never occurred to me that if they granted that demand I still wouldn't have one! Well, that's what we were in 1968. I don't know who thought up the slogan. A combination of the Communist Party and the Republican Clubs and a number of other 'subversives' who thought up this wonderful scheme of a non-violent, non-political, non-sectarian movement which would walk up the streets and down the streets.

"And I actually believed in those days, being the well brought up Catholic student that I was, that if enough of us walked up the streets and down the streets and made all these placards, then somewhere out in the big wide world people would notice that we didn't have votes or houses or jobs and they'd say 'Give these people a job, give them a vote and give them a house' and then we would get that and I'd go back to Queen's and to my classes. And then something went wrong. I never saw the inside of Queen's again.

"We got votes at the local government elections and then we were told who we weren't allowed to vote for! Use your democratic vote, but if you 'irresponsibly' vote for Sinn Féin, no Ace scheme for you! That's you out for the window! Saw you out at the Sinn Féin caravan, sticking up the Sinn Féin posters, no job for you!"

"So we have the democratic right to vote Conservative!



● (above) Bernadette McAliskey, during the August 1969 (below) Bernadette in conversation with Councillor Pat Rice, and Flair Campbell after the



Twenty years later, the penny has dropped with us — that it's not a fair share of unemployment we want, it's work we want and a decent standard of living, an opportunity to do what we can do and to do what we're good at doing — to have an opportunity to find out what we would be good at doing and by doing it to earn



● The resistance of the people remained strong from the defence of the Bogside against the invading bigoted RUC, the 1981 Hunger-Strike, and since then

Earth am I doing and what are we all doing? Maybe Maggie Thatcher's right, maybe people who get money off the government should not criticise the government. Maybe we should all face in the direction of Maggie Thatcher and bow three times — do you know what happens after that?

"I have heard tell in history books that in Germany all the poor Jewish people thought that it would be a good idea and the odd subversives would sit and tell them, 'Hitler's coming for us, you should do something.' And they said 'No, we should be nice to the man, we should all bow three times in his direction and show him that we're harmless, say thank you.' Thank you for the Supplementary Benefit, thank you for the free education, thank you for the awful house with no kitchen and a fire that doesn't work and no, we won't vote Sinn Féin, who would you like us to vote for?"

LESSON OF HISTORY

"The lesson of history is that when you lie down you get walked on and, after you've been walked on, you get gathered up and you get put away. The other day a bona fide liberal journalist who would in fact, right up to the point of death, or court order, protect his information, actually asked a person representing OBAIR in West Belfast 'Do you think that it's very proper for an organisation that would need the government's money to criticise the government?' It's a very, very dangerous idea which was being put across by that journalist.

"Bit by bit there is the idea abroad that democracy is the responsible use of liberty and the responsible use of liberty is to do exactly what you are told.

"Freedom of speech is the right to support the government and the Tories and the SDLP and Charlie Haughey. Those of us who disagree with that have 'abused' that right and the privilege of freedom of speech is, therefore, taken from us. Section 31 is a 'responsible' social gesture — that's what we're told. The right to gather and assemble is a basic democratic right only if it's exercised by the DUP and the UDA and everybody else, because they support the government. We have abused that right consistently for 20 years. We



have abused the right of assembly because we have assembled and we complain and say 'We will not be walked over' and so that right has been taken away from us.

"And after I looked at all that, I thought, 'Take comfort, Bernadette, because if you're still at it after 20 years not

only is your head cut but so are many others' because there are actually now far more people about thinking 'subversive' thoughts, like liberty and freedom and justice and democracy and a decent house and a decent job are things worth having."

British occupation, she also

here and have a good night and go home and not be accosted on the street. The right to know that your children will grow up to be old men and women. Liberty in those terms is denied us and yet in 20 years we have suffered consistently. Now maybe we didn't come through the Famine, maybe we didn't come through the numbers massacred in Drogheda, but in 20 years we did consistently come through more hardship and sorrow and death and pain than any other time in Irish history.

"And consistently through all of that, we have produced people, not the leaders who'll be sung about maybe in 50 or 100 years, not the one brilliant organiser, not the one politician or great speaker or whatever, but in places like Twinbrook and Coalisland and Andersonstown and Fermanagh and elsewhere, we have produced ordinary, everyday working-class people whose capacity to struggle and suffer and still keep going is beyond question."

The struggle had produced working-class people who "struggle every day against the odds, struggle every day to find what'll feed children and what'll pay the £1 a week to pay the club that'll keep them in shoes, that'll get the rent man paid, that'll get the groceries in. That day-to-day battle and, on top of that, that attack by soldiers walking your street, accosting your children coming home from school, harassing your people. And on top of that the number of people that we know and love who have spent years in prison and their families who have survived without them.

COURAGE OF THE HUNGER-STRIKERS

"And we've come through all that. We haven't come through it unscathed but I don't believe what William Butler Yeats said 'Too long a sacrifice makes a stone of the heart'. I don't believe that. I believe it's a testament to the courage that was shown by the hunger-strikers and yet is in every single person who survives — the courage and determination of our people to reach out for a better life against all the penalties that have been imposed upon us. We've come through internment, Bloody Sunday, curfews, poverty... and we've survived it all and we're still going.

"People say 'What's next, Bernadette?' and I have to say 'you know what I am not going to do? I'll be damned if I'm going to sit at 80, an old woman on a stick,' and people say, 'Hush', I'll be damned if I'm going to struggle on to see my own lad at nine years old and the wee face of him, grow up to be a soldier and I'll be damned if I've raised two daughters to see the inside of a prison. We started it and we thought we were great when the going was easy and we pitched stones at policemen who pitched stones back. And they've thrown everything they have at us, but we have shown in 20 years the guts and bravery and vision and courage that we deserve to win.

"Our next stage is to start putting out heads together because we have dared to struggle and we have survived. I think for the next phase we have got to dare to win and plan the day when our children will not fight for this country — they'll run it!"

ERS



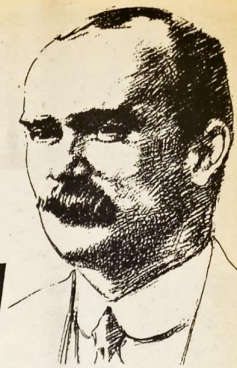
...ey, during the Battle of the Bogside, ...e in conversation with Sinn Féin ...mpbell after the memorial lecture



enough money to survive decently. Twenty years later, we never even got as far as our fair share of unemployment. Statistics show that we are in exactly the same position that we were in 20 years ago as far as jobs are concerned."

Looking back since those early Civil Rights days, she said she had asked herself "what on

JAMES CONNOLLY BOBBY SANDS COMMEMORATION



OVER 500 PEOPLE gathered in Conway Hall, London, on Sunday, May 8th, for the Wolfe Tone Society's third annual James Connolly/Bobby Sands Commemoration.

Richard McAuley, Sinn Féin, said of Connolly and Sands, "It is important to remember that they were not products of events of one single generation, but were combatants in the longest colonial struggle in history. A struggle which we in this generation intend to bring to a satisfactory conclusion."

In his opening speech Mohammad Arif, of the British Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation, said that "the oldest and longest struggle for freedom stands as a source of light and inspiration for the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America."

Maura McCotter (Relatives Committee for the Repatriation of Irish Prisoners) and Claire Keating (Irish Prisoners Appeal Group) spoke of the hardship endured by

Irish republican prisoners in English jails and their relatives — long journeys, harassment, ghosting of prisoners and appalling visiting conditions. They contrasted with the British readiness to repatriate loyalists and convicted British soldiers.

Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn paid tribute to the more honourable traditions in the British Labour movement which historically opposed British policy on Ireland and asked questions of those who supported the Hillsborough Agreement. "Has it resulted in justice for the Birmingham Six? Will it result in justice for the Guildford Four? Has it resulted in improvements in the judicial legal procedures in the Six Counties? Has it resulted in improvements in end-



● Richard McAuley receiving £2,000 for a prisoners' relatives mini-bus for Strabane

ing the pollution of the Irish Sea? Has it resulted in any qualitative improvement in the life of the minority population in Northern Ireland?"

Harpal Barar (Indian Workers Association) was loudly applauded when he said, "If you want to

judge whether a British politician or worker is a democrat never mind a socialist, he or she must be judged on their attitude on Ireland."

Among the messages of solidarity were those from the Black Liberation Front, Korean Friendship

Committee, Danish and Dutch republican support groups, Troops Out Movement and the Ford Workers Combine. During the rally the Campaign For Free Ireland presented £2,000 raised for a mini-bus for prisoners' relatives in the Strabane area.

Frame-up phonecalls discovered

BY TOM O'DWYER

CHRIS MULLIN, the author and Labour MP whose investigations have highlighted the innocence of the Birmingham Six, has now forced the British police to investigate collusion between two key prosecution witnesses, Dr Frank Skuse and former police inspector George Reade.

Under British law, trial witnesses aren't allowed to discuss their evidence with others. But, last week, Mullin sent police a copy of the telephone bill which Skuse ran up at his hotel during the recent Birmingham Six appeal hearings. The itemised bill showed that Skuse had phoned Reade on at least two occasions during the trial, despite being reminded by the judges not to do so.

The case against the Six hangs on the testimony of Skuse, who claimed he found traces of gelignite on their hands and Reade,

the arresting officer who forced confessions out of them. The defence showed evidence during the appeal that Reade had rearranged the timing of the confessions to fit in with that of Skuse's forensic "discovery" but this evidence of collusion was thrown out by the appeal judges.

The new evidence provided by Mullin backs up the defence case that Skuse and Reade concocted a story to protect themselves. It fits in with an account by a British television news team who visited Reade during the trial for an interview at his home.



● CHRIS MULLIN



When they rang the bell, Skuse answered the door. Gareth Pierce, the solicitor for four of the six Irishmen, called on the Bri-

tish government to "let the men out straight away" and Chris Mullin noted that this police inquiry was the fourth of its kind

into aspects on the case. "One hopes the outcome will be more positive than those of the previous inquiries."

Limerick remembers Hunger-Strike

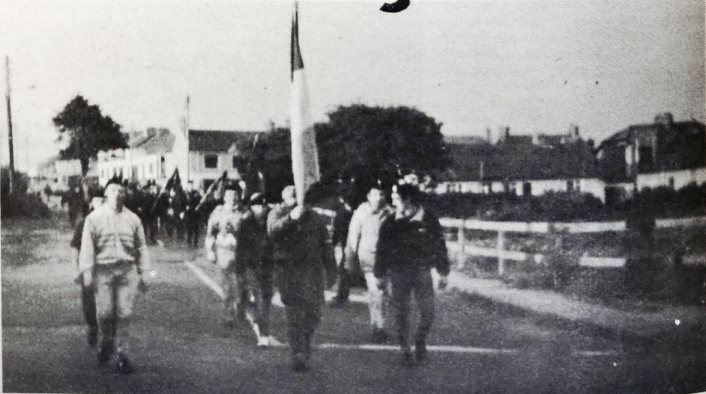
OVER 100 PEOPLE attended the annual Bobby Sands/H-Block Martyrs commemoration in Limerick on the evening of Thursday, May 5th. The commemoration started with a march from Bedford Row to the Manchester Martyrs Memorial, adjacent to Mount St Laurence Cemetery.

The march was led by a republican Colour Party and a piper. A large contingent of Fianna Éireann also took part. At the memorial the proceedings were chaired by Pádraig Malone of Limerick Sinn Féin. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and Fianna Éireann.

In the course of his oration Denis O'Connell, chairperson of Clare Sinn Féin Comhairle Cean-tair, recalled the brutal intransigence of the British government which led to the deaths of the ten hunger-strikers: "But this intransigence rebounded on them in the shape of increased support for and a stronger Republican Movement."

He also recalled the role of Haughey during the hunger-strike and particularly his promise to the O'Hara family that he would ensure that Patsy would not die. O'Connell condemned the Extradition Act and pointed that the 26-County establishment shamelessly collaborated with Britain because the interests of British and Irish capitalism alike were threatened by the republican struggle. He concluded:

"The only fitting memorial to Bobby Sands and his comrades will be an Ireland in which not only could our people feel proud to live, but which would also be worth living in."



HONEYMOON HIJACKED

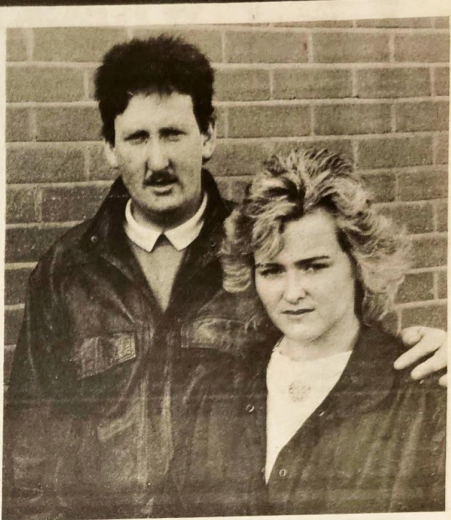
A YOUNG Derry couple have again become the victims of deliberate vindictiveness when the RUC pounced upon them last Sunday as they prepared to set off on a two-week honeymoon in Greece.

Patrick (28) and Liz (22) Flood were married on Saturday, April 23rd, just four days after Patrick was released from Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. It was the third occasion on which the RUC had deliberately arrested and detained Flood prior to the date of his proposed wedding (see AP/RN 28th April). His interrogators at Castlereagh were able to tell him the date, destination, flight number and various other details related to his intended honeymoon, and told him that they would stop him going.

The RUC carried out their threat at 12.30pm last Sunday when the car the couple were travelling in was flagged down at an RUC checkpoint just outside Aldergrove Airport. Patrick Flood was arrested under a seven-day order, which meant that the couple lost the £700 they had already spent on their holiday.

When the driver of the car, a friend of the Floods, protested that the couple were just married and going on their honeymoon, the RUC simply said "We were instructed to hold this car and take it to Antrim RUC station."

Interviewed by AP/RN on Monday, Liz Flood said, "This is over the top. We didn't think they would have the cheek to arrest Patrick at the airport. But they got our hopes built up to believe that they weren't going to arrest him as they'd threatened - but at the very last minute they lifted him, ruining our honeymoon just as they promised they would." But Liz Flood is determined not to allow the RUC to destroy her honeymoon totally. "I'll make other arrangements and, if they wreck our plans again, it'll show them up for what they are." Patrick Flood is still being held in Castlereagh.



● Patrick and Liz Flood before they got married

GARDA

COVER-UP FAILS

A LIMERICK MAN who was seriously assaulted by gardai has been awarded £10,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

Breffni O'Rourke of Moyross, Limerick was arrested for allegedly being drunk and disorderly on February 17th 1984. While being driven to Henry Street Garda Station he was repeatedly punched and struck with batons. In a cell at the station he was again beaten up. As a result of the assaults, he suffered a broken

jaw, damaged teeth and numerous cuts, bruises and abrasions. He was then charged with being drunk and disorderly, resisting arrest and damaging Garda clothing.

After at least 14 court appearances all charges were either withdrawn or struck out.



In April 1984, O'Rourke made a formal complaint to the then Minister for Justice and local Fine Gael TD Michael Noonan, but received no satisfaction. He then contacted a solicitor who in turn wrote to the minister on the matter. Noonan instructed an Inspector O'Donnell to investigate the complaint, and as a result of this claimed that the gardai were exonerated. He did not release the

findings of the internal Garda inquiry.

It was only when O'Rourke opened a civil action against the gardai that these findings became available.

O'Rourke claims that the assaults arose out of an incident involving his brother-in-law and an off-duty garda in which a row ensued over a game of pool. The garda in question approached O'Rourke and made threats against his brother-in-law. When O'Rourke reported these threats the garda approached him again and told him that he would get him.

CONFLICTING EVIDENCE

The internal Garda report on the assault was found to be riddled with contradictions, with gardai giving conflicting evidence on the events on the night in question. An example of this was the claim by a garda on duty at Henry Street that he reported an incident in Cell Block A involving a prisoner named O'Rourke, while the sergeant to whom he claimed

to have given the report denies ever receiving such a report.

O'Rourke told AP/RN that the Garda report was clearly seen to be "a very bad attempt at a cover-up". He also claimed that after he made his initial complaints his home was raided a number of times. On one occasion while he was in hospital and his wife was visiting him the gardai arrived at his house. "My daughter, who was 11 at the time, at first refused to let the guards in. She told them that she was not allowed to let anyone in while her parents were out. The guards told her that if she did not open the door they would kick it in. She was terrified and opened the door and they searched all over the place without any warrant."

O'Rourke is satisfied with his out-of-court settlement. "It vindicated my stand and I hope that it will encourage others who are victims of assault by the guards to take them to court and show them that we the citizens still have some rights and are prepared to stand up for them."

BRITISH ARMY ABUSE CHILDREN

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE PARENTS of four young Newry children are outraged at the obscene behaviour of British soldiers who made sexual advances to their children as they were playing in their own street last Wednesday, May 4th.

Another parent is equally angry after a separate incident there at the weekend when her daughter was pinned down and held at gunpoint by British soldiers who threatened to shoot her.

It was around teatime when the four young girls, aged from six to nine years, were playing only yards away from their homes in the O'Neill Avenue Estate when members of a British army patrol, accompanied by an RUC man, arrived. The soldiers told them, "If you pull up your skirts, we'll give you 50p". The soldiers then asked the children to go around the

corner" with them to a quarry, which is usually deserted.

One of the mothers told AP/RN, "I didn't hear about it until about 9pm and only then from one of the other children for my wee girl hadn't said anything. She then told me what happened."

"There was a policeman with those soldiers yet the RUC are going around schools telling children not to talk to strangers or not to take sweets from strangers, yet they're coming along with soldiers who are asking young girls to do this and remember, they tell these

children they are the 'law', so the children think they have to do it."

HE JUST LAUGHED

Another mother added, "The policeman was standing there and he just laughed. That's what annoyed me. If a child had been on its own in an isolated area and a soldier came up and asked them to do that, God knows what would've happened. We want it highlighted to put other people on their guard. It's not just strange men, it's the like of the army walking the street with guns. It took my wee girl a week to get over it."

In the second incident on Friday, May 6th, a 13-year-old girl from the nationalist Barcroft Park Estate, in Newry, was assaulted by British soldiers. The girl was walking through the John Martin Gardens playground

with two friends at 8.30pm when she was deliberately tripped up by a British soldier. She fell and grazed her arm.

The soldier then thrust the muzzle of his rifle into her chin, breaking the skin. He demanded that the weeping child tell him the names of young boys who had thrown stones at them. Still shaken from the incident, she told AP/RN:

"They said if I didn't tell them they would shoot me with a bullet in the legs going at 90 miles per hour. I was on the ground for about five minutes and they kept asking me the names, until a woman came along and got me away from them. I feel frightened when they're about since." The girl's mother commented: "That gun could've gone off in her face - she could've been killed."



IMEACHTAÍ

JIM GRALTON COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND

9.30pm Friday 13th May
Concert and Ceili
County Hotel
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON
County Leitrim
10.15am-1.30pm Saturday 14th May
and 4.15m-5.45pm Symposium on
Emigration — Its Effects on Ireland —
And the role of Irish Emigrants in the
British and US Labour Movements
Speakers: Doris M. Daly (London),
C. Desmond Greaves, Sean Cronin
(Washington D.C.)
2.45pm-4.15pm
Trees or People in Leitrim
Speakers: Jan Alexander,
Francie Guckian
County Kerry

10.30am-12 noon Sunday 15th May
The Alternative to Emigration
Speaker: Michael D. Higgins TD
3pm Parade with Bands
from Morrison Cross
3.30pm Commemoration Ceremony
Speaker:
Councillor Paul Dolan (Cavan)
At site of Pearse — Connolly Hall
Effevagh

For further information contact:
Declan Bree, Secretary, Gralton
Labour History Committee, 1, High
Street, Sligo. Tel: 071/45490
John Rooney, Asst. Secretary,
Keenaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim. Tel: 075/21096

HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION RALLY

Saturday 14th May
Assemble: 12 noon Speckhill Park
BIRMINGHAM
Rally at Birmingham Central Library
Exhibition Hall

IRISH NIGHT

9pm Saturday 14th May
Aiden's Bar
Bridge Street
DUNDALK
Music and entertainment
No admission charge
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach
and PDF, Dundalk

ITGWU — CONNOLLY DAY

March from Church in Church St
to Ardour Hill
after 11am Mass
Sunday 15th May
Come and join the Anti-Extradition
contingent in the march

GORTNAGLANNA COMMEMORATION

Prominent speaker
2pm Sunday 15th May
GORTNAGLANNA
County Kerry
Assemble: Knockanure — Listowel

ANTI-EXTRADITION PUBLIC MEETING

2pm Sunday 15th May
Conway Mill
BELFAST

VOL FRANCIS HUGHES ANNUAL COMMEMORATION

2.30pm Sunday 15th May
Assemble Ballinacombs Road
BELLAGHY

OPPOSE THE OUTPOSTS MARCH AND RALLY

3pm Sunday 15th May
GLASSRUMMOND
Assemble: Glassrummond
(near Crossmaglen)

SEAN MacDHIARMADA COMMEMORATION

Speaker: Mitchel McLaughlin (Derry)
3pm Sunday 15th May
KILTICLOGHER

TORTHAÍ CRANNCHUR

SIX COUNTY DRAW

Week 1
£250 for fully paid-up members: c/o
Barney Morris Sinn Féin Cumann,
1st prize £250; Anne Marie McAleer,
Newry; 2nd, 20" Colour TV;
Patrick Black, Rasharkin; 3rd, Music,
Centre: Brian Dobbin, Toome.

REVIEWS

MEDIA

WRECKING DUN LAOGHAIRE

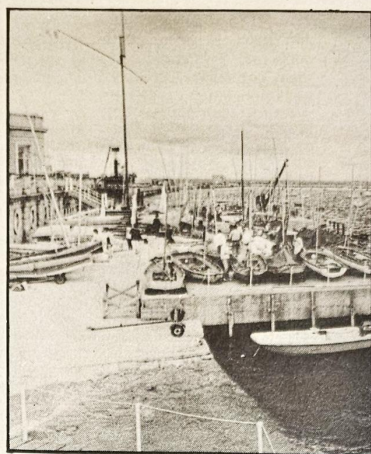
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS on RTE One on
Sunday nights has lost its flair and excitement.
Was a time when it was impossible to miss it. You
never knew who might be there, and the way
they might look at you.

Last Sunday night had
Fianna Fail TD Dick Roche
defending Charlie Haughey
and his pals' part in the pro-
posed development of the
new marina at Dun
Laoghaire. Eighty per cent
of the harbour is currently
in the hands of three private
yacht clubs. Then, out of the blue, came a development plan. Charlie's friends are involved in the plan. The company was set up only one month before the development was announced. No planning permission is required.

Michael Noonan, former
Fine Gael Minister for Justice,
was battling for the
opposition. This smarney
individual has the ability to
turn half the stomachs of
the country with a lick
of his lips. It was he who
once stated that he would
set up an Independent Garda
Complaints Body but,

when he became Minister
for Justice, he changed his
mind. Now he said that
even though his party supported
the government in their
cuts and so on, that support
might not be forthcoming if
this little matter was not
cleared up.

Dick Roche said that
no planning permission was
required for what was
proposed. There was too
much red tape in this
country he said. He rejected
any suggestion that the
marina should have been
put up for tender either.
More red tape no doubt.
And then Roche came out
with the immortal line
'They'd get planning permission'.
If it was necessary that
is. How did Roche know?
Was he in touch with
God? Fianna Fail were
handing out the goodies
once more. I took a much
kinder view — that Mr Roche
was consulting with an



● Charlie Haughey's marina plan for Dun Laoghaire is as far removed, from the needs of the people of Ireland, as Paddy Hillery

astrologer to predict the future. And the very next day wasn't there something to back up this theory.

STAR WARS?

Seems that Ronald Reagan got his wife to consult with an astrologer too. This was according to fo-

rmer White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who left the White House last year after rows with Ronnie's missus. Thus Ronnie Reagan made very few public appearances during the Iran-Contra hearings last year. They were bad days. Some days were good. Others were iffy. Pol-

icy was being decided by the stars. Pre-destination and doing something about it and all of that. It was a great constellation to know that Ronnie was doing the right thing and staying in as much as possible. Which is more than can be said for our own boy.

Paddy Hillery is in China. Reporters were sent after him in droves to report on his every movement and utterance. The President of China thanked Paddy for voting for China's re-admission to the UN in 1971. "When the elephants fight, the grass gets destroyed" answered Paddy. Sound man Paddy. Always well up on these Oriental bits of wisdom. It cost a fortune to report this drive. But sure, isn't he one of our very own. Or is he?

There are those who think that he is from another planet. Nobody knows who he is or what he does. If Charlie Haughey's friends had half a heart, they would give him the start on the new marina at Dun Laoghaire. He needs a steady job to keep his head straight. And imagine, he wasn't cut off in mid-sentence! Which is more than can be said for some.

An occasional column about Britain from behind the lines

BEHIND THE LINES

BY
GEORGE
KING

LEGITIMISING SHOOT-TO-KILL

THE IRA'S STEADFAST prosecution of the war in Ireland is beginning to concern certain pro-government journalists over here to such an extent that they are now pressing for extraordinary measures.

In the most astonishing example, the editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, Peregrine Worsthorne called for the restoration of the ancient British method of dealing with public enemies — making them into "outlaws."

This would mean putting IRA Volunteers outside the law, giving

the police and the army open season on them and, therefore, openly acknowledging the existence of the now-secretive shoot-to-kill policy.

Crown forces would be given an indemnity, excusing them from any illegality they might commit when killing, wounding, tortur-



ing, arresting and presumably jailing any IRA member.

According to Worsthorne, "known members of the IRA would all become public enemies whose lives were forfeit". There was more. "The right answer is a shoot-out, in which the bad guys always end up biting the dust. At the moment, we are having the worst of both worlds. We are not getting the credit for being civilised; still less are we getting the results that come from barbarity. Reactivating the concept of outlawry might be a way out of what is becoming an ever more vicious circle."

While it is nice to see that Mr Worsthorne admits that the SAS are barbarians, his analysis after that leaves much to be desired. Worsthorne is part of an establishment which seeks to condition people into accepting that all IRA suspects will be shot on sight. What he fails to mention is that this has been happening with some degree of regularity for a long number of years in the North. One has only to think of Pádraig McKearney and the other seven Volunteers shot dead at Loughgall, Seamus McElwain shot dead in Fermanagh, Tony McBride shot dead near the Ban. And it goes as far back as John Francis Green

shot dead in the South back in the '70s.

SMEARING WITNESSES

The television programmes have had an effect. The smearing of witnesses have not worked as well as expected. So Thatcher's supporters are trying to turn the argument away from whether the SAS operation was within the law into a totally different argument about whether or not the IRA should be subject to any law. A further example came in the *Sunday Times* from Brian Walden, though he refused to go quite as far as Worsthorne. "I do not like legal rights withdrawn, even from the IRA," he wrote. "But the time has come for great severity."

Walden, echoing a call made months ago in the same paper by the paper's former Irish correspondent, Chris Ryder, demanded "reluctantly, but emphatically" the introduction of internment for "suspected terrorists."

Apart from pointing out that internment has been tried before and failed before — more than once — it indicates the hopeless limitations of British political thinking.

Walden, once a Labour MP but now a fervent Thatcherite, litters his article with misunderstandings and downright lies (even accusing the IRA of enjoying terror). Most significantly, though, it ignores the most important fact of all. Internment did not work in the past, it did not deter republicans and was a consequent disadvantage to the British government. It is a further example of coming up with a "security" answer to a political problem, and is therefore bound to fail.

Whether interned or called outlaws, republicans do not lose their ideals... and the ideals of republicans will never die.



wolfe tone COMMEMORATION Bodenstown

SUNDAY
19th JUNE

Assemble 2pm

SALLINS Co. KILDARE

PROMINENT SPEAKER



REVIEWS

FILM

RUC PRESS BRIEFINGS: THE MOVIE

A HAPPY, PASTORAL SCENE: green fields, country road, the words "Northern Ireland" flash up on the screen and we see a couple of Provos planting a bomb in a disused tree. Ah yes, here comes the target, a lorryload or two of Brits. But wait, isn't that a school bus I can see in the distance? Oh no... surely not... cut to the happy children in the school bus... the Brits pull over to let the bus pass... bang.

According to RUC press briefings after every IRA attack on the Brits, there's a school bus, usually full of handicapped children, that misses being blown up by only seconds. But the RUC didn't write the screen play for *A Prayer for the Dying*. Martin Lynch, brother of Belfast Chair-Stick Seamus Lynch, did.

Martin Fallon, played with not a bad attempt at a Belfast accent by Mickey Rourke, is an IRA Volunteer who runs away to London in a state of shock. Evil Bastard Jack Meehan (Alan Bates) tries to get him to do "one last job" in exchange for a passport and escape from the IRA (represented by the excellent Liam Neeson and a cardboard cut-out from the Bond movies called Alison Doodly who is also after him for some reason).

Ex-SAS commander and Roman Catholic priest (yes, seriously) Father Da Costa (Bob Hoskins) witnesses the gruesome deed but when Fallon confesses it



● Liam Neeson as Liam Docherty and Mickey Rourke as Michael Fallon in the censored version of *A Prayer for the Dying*

BY
ALEX
WEST

great little thriller about a computer systems expert and his stepson who become involved in a bank heist. A major bank has had a cost-efficiency study conducted by Hiller's (played by Bernard Hill) company so he has access to computer tapes which reveal how much money is in the bank at any given time. He also has a drink problem, which is used by some unscrupulous criminals to force him to assist them in robbing the bank of £23 million.

The producers, Handmade Films, have built up a reputation over the last few years for well-directed films with careful acting that don't cost millions to make, and *Bellman and True* is up to their usual standards. Great perfor-

mances from Kieran O'Brien as the boy and Bernard Hill, as well as from Richard Hope as Salto, a white-collar amateur criminal who panics when he realises that he just can't hack it with the big boys.

One flaw, however, is Irish actor John Kavanagh. Watch out for him playing the part of 'Psychopathic Irishman' in the gang who says: "I'm used to armed robberies but all this electronic stuff... I don't know." You might recall Kavanagh, in the role of 'Psychopathic Provo Godfather' in *Cal*, saying "We want you to do a little job for us, Cal," and if you do you'll know it's not a pretty sight. Still, it's a good film, well worth a visit.

MOONSTRUCK

Moonstruck picked up nine Oscars in the US last

month and although I don't think it deserved them all, it is a well-made sappy film. Loretta (Cher) is a widow in her late 30s who accepts a proposal of marriage from Johnny Caraberi (Danny Aiello). But then she goes and falls in love with his brother Ronny, a bit of a geek (played by Nicholas Cage, who also played *The Geek in Peggy Sue Got Married*).

It's all very Italian and very emotional, but it has some lovely acting and some good one-liners. There's no blood at all, and there's a happy ending.

continued from previous page

ANTI-EXTRADITION PUBLIC MEETING

8pm Tuesday 17th May
Ballyfermot Community Association Hall
Ballyfermot
DUBLIN
Speaker: Rita O'Hare, Matt Merrigan (former ICTU president)

NATIONAL ANTI-EXTRADITION FUNCTION

Guest speaker: Fr Des Wilson, Belfast
10pm Thursday 19th May
Melvin Hotel
KINLOUGH
Taillie: £2
Bar extension and Music
Proceeds in aid of Owen Carron's legal defence fund

EUROPEAN DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST PLASTIC BULLETS PICKET

7.30pm Thursday 19th May
Woodbourne RUC Barracks
Stewartstown Road
BELFAST
Organised by the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets

SPECIAL BENEFIT CONCERT

Featuring Matt Molloy, Paddy Glackin, Sean Potts and friends, Mick Hanly, Tony MacMahon
8pm Friday 20th May
Auditorium, Coláiste Mhuire
Parnell Square
DUBLIN
Tickets £7

VOL RAYMOND MCCREESH COMMEMORATION

Commemoration and Anniversary Mass
11.30am Saturday 21st May
St Malachy's Church
CAMLOCH

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET

2pm Saturday 21st May
PORTLAOISE PRISON
County Laois
Bus from Dublin
(phone Ailistair (786366))

ANTI-APARTHEID BENEFIT GIG

Music by The Membranes and guests
Wednesday 25th May
Cathedral Club
Christchurch
DUBLIN
Organised by NCAD Students' Union
Details: Patrick O'Flaherty (711377)

BALLAD SESSION

Featuring Ragamuffin
8pm Friday 27th May
Camelot Hotel
Malahide Road
DUBLIN
Taillie £2.50

MILLTOWN RELIEF FUND

SUPPORT THE MILLTOWN RELIEF FUND

Send your donations to any branch of the Bank of Ireland Account No. 92056051, or directly to any of the following trustees:
Fr Des Wilson,
123 Springhill Avenue,
Belfast 12;

Sean Mac Sean,
c/o Andersonstown News,
Andersonstown Road,
Belfast 11;

Liam Burke,
29 Andersonstown Road,
Belfast 11;

Leo Wilson,
16 St Agnes Drive,
Belfast 11.

NOTICES DEADLINE

ALL NOTICES for *AP/RN* must be in either our Dublin or Belfast offices by 5pm on Monday for inclusion in the issue of the Thursday of the same week. Late notices will be carried in the following edition of *AP/RN*.

VIDEO

'Out for ourselves'

City Women looks at a small group of women in Dublin's North Inner City and how their lives were changed and enhanced by a personal development course. The course taught the women how to cook the food they liked but usually bought pre-cooked — curries, lasagne, bread and cheese cake but that's not all it taught them. As one of the women said, "it brought me out of myself".

During the course of the 27-minute production the women create a picture of life for women in Dublin's Inner City. All of the women featured are married and have children and life for them revolved solely around their husbands and their children. For three hours a day, four days a week, for 12 weeks the women had "time to ourselves". In that time the women rediscovered a sense of independence. They began to trust the other women in the group, something they hadn't done before. And through this trust and friendship their own self-confidence grows and grows. The women went to the theatre together and even ate out afterwards.

The women give us a glimpse of their problems, the problems of living where they do and with so little money. They fear for their children's futures, for their unemployed husbands. But, as one woman pointed out, even families with one person working doesn't really make a family rich. (Off-camera shouts of "give us a loan of a tenner" sent the interviewee into fits of laughter.)

But these worries will not defeat these women. They are living for themselves now, as well as for their families. "I am me; not just a wife and a mother anymore".

City Women was made by Exposure Film & Video



● Life for Inner City women can revolve around more than work and the home as the women in *City Women* illustrate

Collective, directed by Jack Talbot. The Combat Poverty Agency funded the project. Jack lamented that because its funding was cut by 50% this year

by the Fianna Fail government, that agency is unlikely to sponsor other such ventures.

VHS copies of *City Women* are available at £7

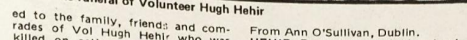
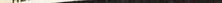
per week (plus postage) from:

Mary Scally, Irish Film Institute, 6 Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 795744.

HEHIR. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades of Vol Hugh Hehir. From the ranks of Vol Hugh Hehir. From the ranks of Sinn Fein Cumann, Gal-

HEHIR. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades of Vol Hugh Hehir on their recent tragic loss. From the Terence MacSwiney Sinn Fein Cumann, Enniscorthy, County Clare.

HEHIR. Deepest and heartfelt sympathy to Anne and the Hehir family in the death of my friend and com-



you and your baby. From Willie.
BURKE, Jackie. (H8-Block). Happy

comrades of Vol Hughie. From Gerry,
Donna and Hughie.

the death of his mother. From the
Kieran Doherty Sinn Fein Cumann,
Cavan.

BURKE, Jackie (Maghaberry). Congratulations on your baby boy la

★★★★★★★★★★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ry, Dublin.

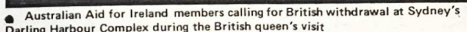
would have occurred on May 8th.
Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for
him. Always remembered by his
father Eddie and brother Michael.

WATTERS. Birthday memories of Brendan Watters whose birthday

AUSTRALIAN senator James McKiernan condemned British [redacted] new multi-million dollar Pal

The royals and their hangers-on were deeply embarrassed when royals and their followers were trespassing.

.....



.....

The protestors drowned out the playing of the Australian national anthem during the opening ceremony. But the embarrassment the authorities was doubled when a young aboriginal girl, dressed in the colours of her people, slipped through the cord around the British monarch and presented her with a posy. Thinking this was a form of tribute, the British queen smiled and carried the posy throughout the ceremonial parade. But the posy, in the same colours as the girl's dress, was actually a symbol of aboriginal resistance. A red-faced Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, was finally forced to inform the monarch of her unwitting participation in a protest against British colonialism.

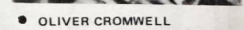
DURING CROMWELL'S nine-month campaign of butchery in 1649 and May 1650, the south and in March, 1650, Cromwell and his forces laid siege

Cromwell arrived in Ireland in August 1649 and struck swiftly. In the year he continued his campaign in

In the spring of the following year he continued his campaign in

FOOLS RUSH IN

Clonmel was Cromwell's last military action in Ireland and



when he left for England later in the month, the back-bone of resistance had been broken and the people subdued. Cromwell and his forces suffered their greatest defeat during their campaign in Ireland at Clonmel on May 9th 1650, 338 years ago this week.



"One of the bravest..."

THERE WERE large attendances both at the arrival to his hometown on Sunday night of the body of Volunteer Hugh Hehir and at the funeral on Monday. Among the mourners were friends and comrades, ex-prisoners, a number of Sinn Féin elected representatives and Ard Chomhairle members and veteran republicans. A republican guard of honour, dressed neatly in black berets and white shirts and black ties, accompanied the hearse containing his body, which was led by a lone piper.

The coffin was draped with the Tricolour, on top of which was placed the Volunteer's beret and gloves. At the graveside the piper played the lament 'In memory of the dead' before Coireall Mac

Cuirtin, a close friend and comrade, gave the oration.

He said: "Thar ceann Gluaiseacht na Poblachta, ba mhaith liom ár gcomhbhrón a chur in iúl do bhean chéile, páistí, tuismitheoirí, clann uilig agus gaoil a bhás tubaisteach Aodh Uí hAichir.

"Cailleadh mór is ea é dá chlann agus thairis sin don pobal poblachtánach, tá cumha agus briseadh croí ar mhórán.

"Duine ar bheagán focal ach mórán ghníomha ab ea é, duine cróga, calma é, a bhí i gcónaí chun tosaigh nuair a bhí níl ar bith idir lámha. Thug sé deua shampla i gcónaí agus níor iarr sé riamh ar éinne dul sa bhearna baol gan é féin i lár an chatha. Dúirt sé liom lá i gcampa na Ceise Fada, arbh fíú an troid, ar thuill phobal na hÉireann an t-fobairt. Dúirt sé sin, is dócha, nuair a bhí beagan amhras air, ach ní raibh rian den amhras i geist ó tháinig sé amach mar bhí sé lán-pháirteach sa troid go dtí an deireadh. Fuair sé bás ar



fianas agus mar Óglach ag troid ar son a mhuintire. Bhí sé dílis don deireadh.

"On behalf of the Republican Movement, I would like to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the wife, children, parents, family and relations on the loss of Hugh. Their heartbreak and grief is immense as it is throughout the Republican Movement, amongst his friends and comrades. There is sorrow and sadness because we have lost a brave and gallant soldier of Óglach na hÉireann. His loss is enormous and leaves a void that will never be filled again.

"He was a man of few words, but much action. He died in the service of his people as a Volunteer in Óglach na hÉireann last Friday morning. His sacrifice is just as great as those made by Volunteers at Gibraltar, Loughgall, Belfast, Derry or any part of the occupied

Six Counties. He now enters the pantheon of those who have laid down their lives for Ireland.

PERFECTION WAS HIS AIM

"There are people here from every single county, as his commitment was recognised far and wide. The regard and high esteem in which he was held is exemplified by such a turn-out. The attendance of his own friends and neighbours from Ennis and Clarecastle again is eloquent testimony of the respect for Hughie the man. No matter what Hughie did, perfection was his aim. As a wood carver and in his own trade as a plumber, he always gave of his best.

"Since his release in 1979 he has been to the forefront in the struggle. Discretion does not permit an outline of those actions yet. He believed that Ireland and her people should be one. He was engaged in action last Friday as he saw appropriate to that end.

"His principle was that one should not argue, debate, hold meetings ad nauseam but that one should give life to one's views through action. He believed in moral force, that is physical force against the tyrant England. He believed that it was and is a 32-County struggle. He saw the war as the main cutting edge but believed that political activity can go hand in hand. There need not be any compromise between both. If Hughie could speak from the grave now, his words would be, 'Let's fight on, Tiocfaidh ár lá.' Slán leat a h-Aoidh, déanfar sin.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE LIES

A STRONGLY-WORDED letter, protesting against a misrepresentation of a telephone call made to the Belfast Republican Press Centre by a journalist from the Sunday Tribune, has been sent to that paper's editor. Several radio and TV stations and newspapers made similar queries as the Sunday Tribune had, asking if the Press Centre could comment on whether Hugh Hehir was an IRA Volunteer. A spokesperson at the centre said he was not in a position to make any such comment. All other sections of the media were satisfied with this reply but the Tribune misrepresents it in an article as a denial of Hughie's IRA involvement, an item which naturally distressed his family.

On Sunday the IRA issued a statement confirming that Hugh was a Volunteer.



● The wife of Hugh Hehir, Anne, walking behind his coffin (inset) Coireall Mac Cuirtin who gave the graveside oration