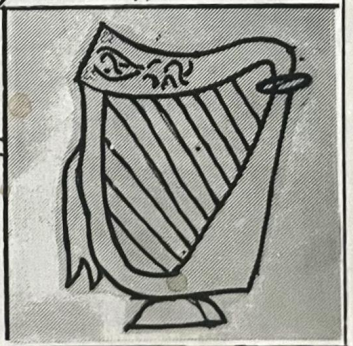
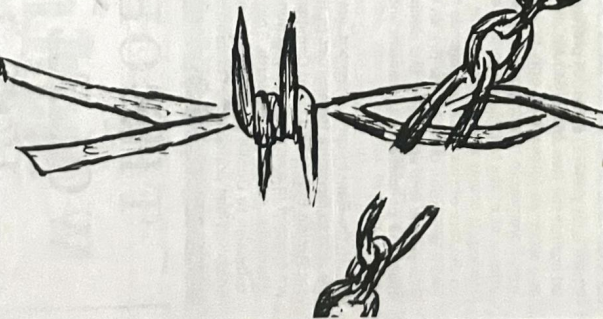
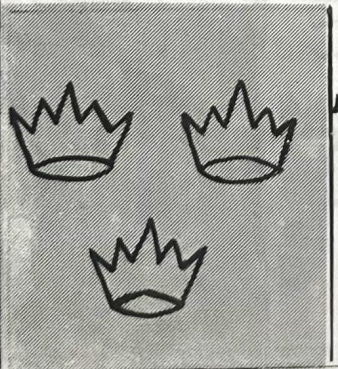
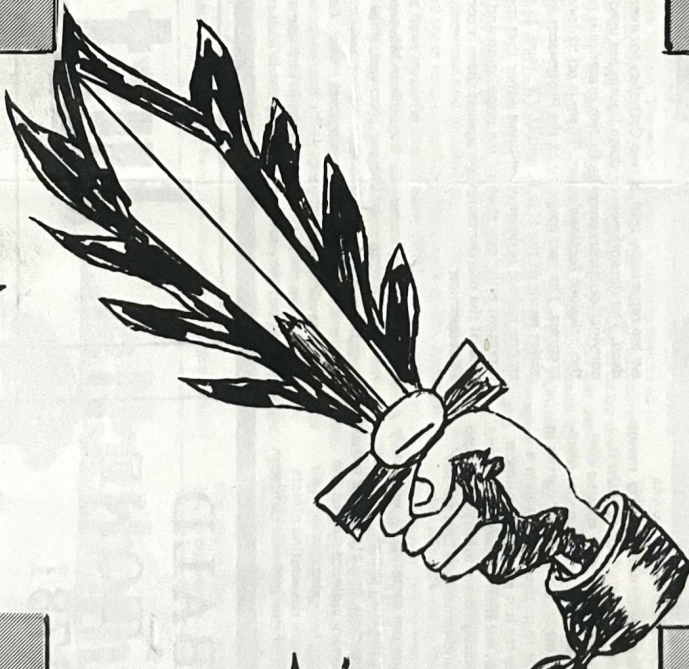
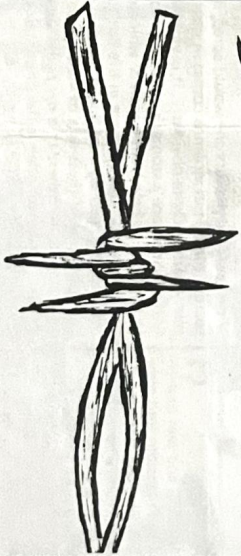
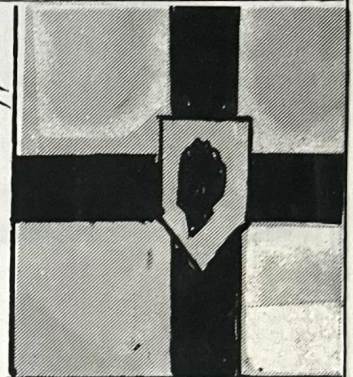


FAOI SLAS

VOL. NUMBER 2.

JOURNAL OF THE SENTENCED REPUBLICAN PRISONERS, LONG KESH



THE PEACEFUL REVOLUTIONARIES

BY THOMAS CONNOR, CAS 22



There is, at present, a massive propaganda campaign being mounted against the Republican Movement, in an attempt to show it as a sectarian force whose only policies are to bring about a civil war. Foremost in this campaign, as per usual, are the paper revolutionaries of the N.L.F. and various other 'Communist' parties in Ireland. It comes as no great surprise to us that sectarianism is to the fore of this black propaganda. It is always the number one justification given by the British for their presence in Ireland. The people who are waging this campaign seem totally convinced that their policies of appeasement and reform are best for the Irish Nation.

We, in the Republican Movement, are not sectarian, — we simply are able to recognise the enemies of the Irish people i.e. Protestant Action Force, Red Hand Commandos, etc. etc. These groups are engaged in a campaign of reactionary violence against the Nationalist people of the North. They have also carried their campaign to Dublin and Monaghan with devastating effects on the civilian population. The ratio of this senseless campaign

we are repeatedly told, is two Catholics for every Protestant dead. The deceptiveness of these figures are used to the full to convince outsiders that the British presence is needed to keep the 'religious factions' apart. There is no tit-for-tat campaign in progress. The vast majority of the Protestants killed were as a direct result of the U.D.A. and U.V.F. feud. In giving the two to one ratio it is never mentioned either that the Nationalists represent only one third of the population and so the massiveness of the murder campaign against them is completely out of all proportion.

As I have already stated, the Republican Movement is not, nor ever has been, engaged in a sectarian war, since the present struggle for liberation was embarked upon. What we have done is defend the Nationalist areas against British Army aggression and marauding Loyalist gangs — for this we make no apology. Not only are the N.L.F. playing the British game of divide and conquer but they are also justifying the British presence in Ire-

land as a 'peace-keeping force,' keeping the sides apart, and thereby prolonging their occupation of our country. No longer are they content to stand and watch as the revolutionary war moves on towards victory, they have instead decided to take part — ON THE SIDE OF THE IMPERIALISTS.

The peaceful revolutionaries have told us that because we are prepared to fight, instead of grovel, for what is rightfully ours that we are reactionaries. This bit of hypocrisy needs no qualifying statement from me. As a revolutionary movement it is our duty to destroy repressive institutions, and this we have done to the best of our ability. If the present truce breaks then we here in Long Kesh feel proud in the knowledge that the people of the war zones will give our Units unlimited help, as they have done the past. The truce will not be broken by the Republican Movement. It would be broken however, by the persistent denial of the rights of the Irish People. Those rights of freedom and justice, will not be won by peaceful revolution nor will we allow them to be denied by the peaceful revolutionaries.

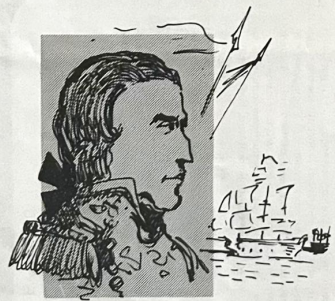
THE OBALD WOLFE TONE

1763-1781

By
SEAN MAC AOIDH, CAS 10

Obald Wolfe Tone was born in Dublin in 1763 and was murdered by the English in 1798. He was an Irish Protestant and played a very prominent role in the Rising of '98. We Republicans refer to Tone as the Father of Irish Republicanism, a very fitting description of one of the greatest figures in Irish History. Tone, along with McCracken and other radicals were members of the revolutionary movement known as the United Irishmen. The movement was formed in 1791 and its aim was to unite Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter in the struggle for self-determination. It is for this reason that Tone is known as the Father of Republicanism, for he made it clear from the beginning that the solution to Ireland's problems lay not in reforming parliament or such half-measures, but in the complete political and economical separation of Ireland from England and the establishment of an Irish Republic.

Tone and his comrades were greatly inspired by the French Revolution and adopted its slogan of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' as their war cry. In this particular era, when unjust Governments were falling and reforms were taking place in almost every corner of Europe, hopes were understandably running high in Ireland and an air of revolution was rife. The ideals



of Freedom and Socialism of the United Irishmen, which are just as real today as they were then, appealed to a very wide spectrum of people from different social and political backgrounds — from Landowner to Lawyer, from Carpenter to Peasant Farmer. They also realised, as have all true revolutionary movements since, that to achieve such ideals force would have to be used.

So with all this in mind they turned their attention to the French for preparation and participation in the fight that was to come. Tone himself went to France and returned to Ireland with the assurance that an expeditionary army would be sent to their aid once when the fighting commenced. Unfortunately this help never materialised and with the aid of spies and informers the leaders were arrested and the rising failed. Spies and traitors were always the curse of revolutionary movements in Ireland and even during the present s in Ireland and even during the land and even during the present war we can fully appreciate the damage they can cause and the danger they represent. Tone was murdered in his prison cell and his body is now buried in Bodenstown Graveyard near the quiet town of Salina in Kildare. A few weeks back tens of thousands of Irishmen and women from all over the country joined with the Republican Movement in paying tribute to the Father of Irish Republicanism. The presence of such a massive crowd of people, paying respect to Tone almost 180 years after his death was living proof that the flame of freedom burns bright within us and shall never be extinguished until the final goal of the establishment of a 32 county, Socialist, Democratic, Republic.

Just Violence

BY SEAMUS O HEARA, CAS 23.

Violence, I think everyone would agree, is a great evil in 'our' society today, but violence comes in many forms and under many names. Quite obviously, it is violent to hold a gun or a knife to someone's stomach — but it is not equally as violent to condone or help build a society which compels thousands to exist for no other purpose in life but to work and toil so that a privileged few can live in comfort? By what standards can either one of these acts of violence be judged as being greater than the other? It is my belief that the most violent thing in existence today is the present Social System based on greed, inequality and oppression.

How can one bring about major social change within the existing social system? How indeed! Presentday politics are amongst the most corrupt, hypocritical professions in the World. At present in England there is a Government calling itself Socialist and in the illegal 26 county State we have another of these erstwhile Socialist Parties in the government. Both these 'Socialist Governments', in the short time they have been in power, have enacted some of the most repressive legislation seen this century. It is impossible for a true Socialist Party to work within the constitution of party politics in a capitalist system.

This is logical when one realises that a capitalist will not surrender his ill-gotten gains without a fight, and any serious threat will be met with every opposition from them. So the Socialist Parties' in power today must not be viewed as threats by the capitalists but rather as a diversion for social unrest. One stark example of incompatibility between capitalists and genuine socialists was the overthrow of the Allende Government in Chile. Allende was elected by the people and upon gaining

power began to implement his socialist policies. The capitalist class immediately recognised the threat and began sowing the seeds for Allende's downfall. They first tried to make the new Government's job impossible by withdrawing their money from industry and removing files, documents, etc. but despite this the united popular Government gained and held control.

In the end the ultimate weapon had to be resorted to and Allende was overthrown by a right-wing military coup. Allende had proved a threat and not a tool and so was overthrown by violence. Violence! But violence is one of the greatest evils! Evil though it may be seemingly it is a necessary evil when the status quo is threatened. We have often heard of Just Wars, and Justified Violence, but what is just? Is Capitalism with its inequalities just? I think not! Is exploitation (legalised theft) just? Is social blackmail, capitalism's number one weapon, just? Again I think not. All these things are grossly unjust and should therefore be strived against. But how? Violence is evil!

Party Politics are corrupt and they in turn corrupt. The acceptance of reforms as a means to an end inevitably leads to the means becoming the end and so reform is not the answer. Violence, no matter how evil, will be used in defence of the capitalist system and against any danger that manifests itself to that system. There is only one way to meet violence and that is with violence! This is the basis of war, violence for the good of the people versus violence for the good of the few, just violence, the only type of just violence.

Yes, violence is evil, but which is the greater evil — which is preferable, the removal of a cancerous growth or a slow death from cancer?

WHAT CRISIS?

The spirit of reconciliation that has prevailed throughout the Northern Ireland Convention manifested itself on Monday last when Gerry Fitt, so overcome with his love of power-sharing, jumped up on the chairman's table and performed a tap-dance to the sound of Gary Glitter's latest hit 'I'm back with the boys.' In a fit of unabashed hysteria, Mrs. Eileen Paisley flung her 'New City Roller's Fan Club Badge' into the public gallery and without regard for her political future, moved to the dispatch box and conducted the entire ensemble in a heart-rendering chorus 'Faith of our Fathers.' She had no sooner finished when Brian Faulkner rose to his feet and passed a vote of no confidence in himself. Mr. Oliver Napier thought it would be in the spirit of the house if Mr. Faulkner were to sing a verse or two of 'The Men Behind the Wire,' but Sir Robert Lowry the chairman, ruled him out of order because nobody knew the words. The house then rose for the Summer Recess and not, as was first reported, because of all the hot air within.

Speaking on the 'Batchelor Peas' weekly programme on R.T.E. Mr. Marilyn Rees expressed his delight that things were 'struck on such a genuine and sustained note of harmony.' He added that the incident centred used to monitor the Convention were functioning very well also. On the same programme, Sir Jamie Flanagan, who inspected the passing out parade at Templeogue earlier in the day, made a special appeal to all road users and in particular to travelling gunmen, to be extra careful when driving home from the Twelfth Celebrations. He advised everyone to stay well clear of the Ards Peninsula next Sunday evening because an R.U.C. breathalizer Unit would be in operation. All R.U.C. members on duty that day are requested to bring their own drink.

Meanwhile the political storm which had threatened to blow up in the Free State due to the Government's decision to allocate senior Army posts to jockeys, has apparently blown over. Mr. Jack Lynch, leader of the Soldiers of Destiny political party, and a founder member of the 'I won't stand idly by' Movement, was arrested as he spoke outside the G.P.O. against the Government's decision. He is to appear before Neil McCafferty in

the Special Anti-Freeze Speech Court last tonight. Mr. Des Boal, the defendants' barrister, declined to comment on an article in tonight's edition of the Beano, that John Stonehouse had offered to act as bailsmen for his client.

Mr. Cooney is to appear on all channels of the Irish National Television Network, through courtesy of Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien and the B.B.C., to explain to the Nation why the Government had found it necessary to arrest Mr. Lynch. Before leaving in a helicopter, hired especially for the occasion from Twomey's Helicopters Ltd., Mr. Cooney told himself that 'the Government had to act on this latest stool' overpowered by subverted subversives.' The Coalition Cabinet is meeting in Maynooth to discuss the implications.

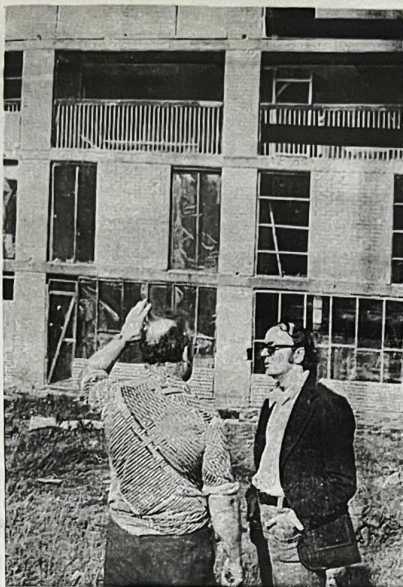
The man at the centre of the dispute, Admiral Lester Pigott, whom the Taoiseach appointed as his A.D.C. was reported to be having a tete a tete with Adolf Hitler on the most effective type of cyanide pill. A statement from the Government Information Bureau said that it was purely a precaution against Mr. Cosgrave falling into the hands of subversives. 'Admiral Pigott feels it is essential that we keep one jump ahead of the rest of the field,' the statement ended and self destructed before anyone could read it.

An intense security net was thrown around Long Kesh today after the finding of a '3K' in the British Army Press Centre at Lixnaw was unable to confirm or deny a statement by the P.R.O. of the Prison Officer's association that three of their members had effected an escape. First Class Governor Robert Truesdale, is cutting short his holiday in San Quentin to examine, at first hand, the situation in the Camp. Before boarding the Yacht — Morning Cloud — which Harold Wilson had once described as a 'queer wee boat' First Class Truesdale told newsmen that he hoped that the Government would not realise it was imperative to ban the special status accorded to Prison Officers. 'ORNY then will Long Kesh be secure' he roared through his megaphone as Teddy uttered the anchor.

(with apologies to Donal Foley)

SELF HELP

BY SEAN O NUANAIN, CAS 7



In the last issue of *Faol Glas* we had an article on simplicity; on keeping the aims we are fighting for plain and simple. To me this word can be put on the way of life we want here in Ireland, when we have won the military fight. We have had many debates and discussions in here on Socialism, Capitalism, Colonialism and all the other 'aims' but I would like to put here in plain and simple language what I would like to see.

To me the whole question comes down to survival; the survival of the Irish Nation. The word survival is nothing new to us in this concentration camp, as our whole life style by necessity is one of survival. We survive the inedible food given to us by the administration, by coming together in groups to share our parcels with one another. We withstand harassment and assault by the Brits by sticking together and meeting them with a United Front. Day and daily in here our life is one of survival. Imagine the country we could build if this feeling of comradeship and self reliance could be extended to everyone in Ireland.

In the Sentenced end of this Camp alone we have more than 400 men, and these men come from every walk of life. Amongst them we have carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters etc. This is the whole basis of a community that could work for itself. Why then should we all have to return to the same type of system that existed when we came in here, when we relied on large monopolies and capitalist firms to do whatever work needed to be done for us. Why shouldn't we prepare ourselves for our return to our areas when we can put our skills to use for ourselves and our people and not be content to hire ourselves for a wage to a capitalist boss who will reap the rewards of our labours?

These ideas of 'Self Help' need not be confined to the areas of

those with a skilled trade. Small Farmers who are finding it hard to survive should band together. The housewife who is finding it more and more difficult to feed her family each week could band together with other housewives and buy collectively. The worker who cannot get employment should form a group with other unemployed workers and work together. These are all forms of co-operatives, which exist on a very small scale outside at the moment. Why can all the co-ops not work together? The farmer selling direct to the housewives, the workers doing any work that is needed, either on the farms or in the areas. To me it is the Economic resistance programme. Why has all this talk not been converted to action?

Talk is one of the few commodities that there is never any shortage of, but I see no other purpose of talk that it's necessary in formulating a course of action. If the action is not forthcoming then all the talk, and all the speeches are just so many words.

What can be done in here? In here we have large groups of men from each and every area, when these men get out they should be in a position to give a lead to the people. There are only two other alternatives to this, you can just fall back into the same system you left or you can become nothing but a liability to the people. I see it as every man's duty to have the answers to the many problems besetting his area. There are plenty of examples we can look to for inspiration - Glencolmille in Donegal, Whitecrook, Crossmaglen, and all the Gaeltacht islands - these are all places where words have been converted to actions.

Although we can never allow ourselves to drift away from the military fight we must also have the answers for the people who ask them. No one could honestly deny that we, above everyone else, are in a position to find these answers and as soon as possible to convert our answers into meaningful action.

IDENTITY

By
CYRIL MAC CURTAIN, CAS 22

It has been said frequently in the past, and increasingly more frequently in recent times, that the Unionist/Loyalist/Protestant section of the population suffer from a crisis of identity, which can manifest itself in a schizophrenic fashion. Something which is rarely discussed however, and has not been faced up to is the cultural identity of the Nationalist/Republican/Catholic section of the population in both parts of this partitioned country. It too, can be labelled a cultural crisis and if we are to overcome it we must first be clear in exactly what we mean by culture.

Some people take cultural to be either the Irish Language, Irish Music, Irish Sports, or maybe all three. By so doing it is given a bracket and so has boundaries. My definition of culture is the complete lifestyle of a Nation and it's people. It cannot be narrowed down or diluted to any one aspect or facet of a way of life.

After centuries of usurpation, persecution, repression, it is now wonder that people should be confused. Prior to the rising of 1916, with a few odd exceptions, the erosion of the Irish way of life (culture) was not counteracted and little attempt was made to supplant the foreign culture and restore the native. With the declaration of the Republic in 1916, the then leaders saw the need, not just merely to remove the physical presence of the British Empire, but it's influence on the minds of the people.

The disastrous and treacherous treaty of '22 and the equally disastrous 'civil' war, left the country without any strong leadership and the compromising and faint-hearted politicians undid all the good work which had been started in the period prior to the Rising. After 50 years of quasi independence, the 26 county Free State can be correctly labelled a State of West Britons. The neo-colonial influence has achieved it's aim of assimilating the ex-colony into the life style of it's former master. The economical aspect goes hand in hand with the cultural aspect.

We all admit that Ireland has lost her identity, so the question to be posed now is - do we intend to stop this rot and live up to the aims and objects of the Republican Movement, when they say they will restore the Irish language to it's proper position and the inevitable changes in our life style that this will bring. Television is the modern opium of the masses and it is firmly in the hands, directly or indirectly, of the capitalist class. Television is here to stay however, so we must use it to our advantage. Would everyone in the Camp agree that B.B.C. and U.T.V. will have to go and that we must establish a T.V. service that will firstly be compatible to the ideals of a Socialist Republic and where the emphasis will be on creating a respect once more for all things Irish. At first, obviously, Irish couldn't be the main language but it could be phased in over a period of say 10 years. Match of the day, Top of the Pops etc will have to be replaced by informative, and identity building programmes.

RAT RACE JOE



A sentence of imprisonment has become commonplace - an experience to be shared by the ghetto youths of the Nationalist areas of the Six Counties. The figures of those who have served, those who are serving now, and those waiting to serve, runs into thousands. Indeed it has been rightly stated on a number of occasions that H.M.P.s have become the biggest single industry in the area and in it's own way the 'prison industry' has contributed a small boom to the ailing economy through the creation of 'jobs' for an idle work force by turning them into a highly paid idle work force.

The proportion of the male population associated in one way or the other with the prison industry serves as an indication to the failure and bankruptcy of the Stormont system over the past 50 years. On the one hand there are those of us who have come to expect imprisonment as an occupational hazard and see it for what it is - another weapon in the arsenal of the Establishment for the defence of the system. But what about Joe, that highly paid 'idle worker whose 'job' it is to mind us in here?

One the face of it, it would appear that there are two categories, the prisoner and the screw, but who is the prisoner? Who 'knows that mercenary reasons led Joe to apply for the job, whatever they were we can list a few facts which might have contributed to his decision.

1. He is almost certainly from a working class background.
2. In the past he has found it hard to get a job, either because there were none, or
3. Because he couldn't or wouldn't do work when he had the job.

He now finds himself in the £3,000 per year bracket, unable

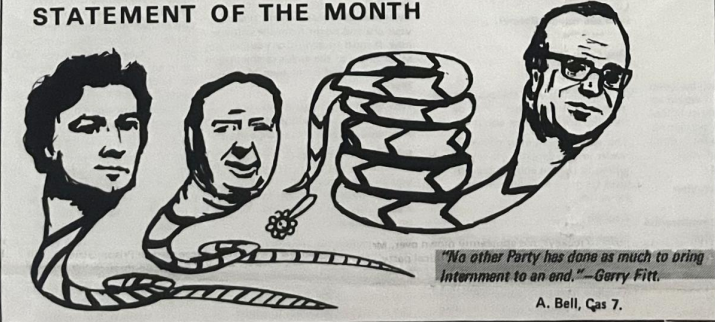
to live in a working class area because of his job (the working class are particular about their neighbours) he moves into a higher class area where the neighbours couldn't care less and where the only thing in life that matters is money. Joe has sold his soul. In return, Joe finds that at last he can afford, with a bit of overtime in here, some of the things we are told we can't live without in those glossy magazine advertisements. Joe is now living the life of a well off leper. He surrounds himself with all the wee gadgets that are associated with good living, a colour T.V. a stereo set, maybe a new Ford Escort, and of course a new suit like Derek Dougan's, so that he can dress up and imagine he's not really a screw but a Kojak, or a James Bond type swinging groover. He needs some form of escape. This poor bastard has found himself a new life style but has become a slave in the process - he is a prisoner of his own chains.

To maintain his new found life he must keep up with the overtime, can't afford a day off, mustn't lose a minute, have to make a payment off the house, tax the car, the wife wants a new deep freeze, more money saved! Have you ever heard Joe talking with his mate walking around the Cage, - overtime, wages, how many hours, how much tax, - and to top it all Joe has a distant fear that some day it's all going to end, the Provos might get an amnesty!

But Joe has committed himself, he can't turn back. He has paid the first instalments on his new wee World and he can't give it back. So while Joe gives himself ulcer after ulcer from irregular hours and worrying about his next payment, who in his right mind would like to be a Joe? Again I ask, who is THE PRISONER????

DONNACHA MAC DONAILL
CAS 22

STATEMENT OF THE MONTH



The Volunteers Funeral

By MADRA RUA, CAS 7

Stand Irishmen, the bell tolls,
Dishonour their honour rolls, The centuries, Their silence,
Their lawyers, Their politicians, Their lunatic violences,
Open the gun barrels by the back of your head!
It's well worth the jack-boot in the groin - when you're dead.

Lie there isolated, your mandate complete,
To a fascist police, To England's spoil-crazed suburbs;
By the mother of all possessives;
It's worth the stab in the back - The spit in the face.
Burden them with your funeral in broad daylight,
Begrudged stagnation by your casket, your shroud;
Let them shout loud their obscenities, Their armies,
Mapping, re-routing - Paving decay,
It's well worth it son - When you're proud.

A spear'd a spade and sacred in your meadow,
You plott'd it, your groto in Ireland,
And buried there The Treaties of the Oceans and the Seas;
Straighten us with your love - Beloved,
It's well worth it man - To be Free.

WAR OF WORDS

We've all heard of them, the 'theoretical revolutionaries', the 'paper tigers', 'rusty Guns' etc. — those advocates of World Revolution who refuse to recognise the war on their own do-om; forever waiting on the sideline to condemn and criticise, but who never do anything constructive themselves. We see it every day of the week and in every walk of life; people who seem to be just waiting for something to be done so they can point out the mistakes and advise on 'how it should be done.' The Republican Movement has never been short of these un-solicited advisers who insist on telling us how the war should be fought.

Lengthy editorials in the Socialist Worker, the Unfree Citizen, etc. are forever patiently pointing out our 'mistakes' to us and telling us where we're going wrong. Perhaps it helps them take their minds off their own impotence, I don't honestly know, but even if this is so it is the only result of their efforts. These non-combatants have not ceased their counselling despite the fact of our truce; having directed our military struggle for us (from a safe distance of course) they now plan to advise us on matters on the political front.

These inactive warlords have unlimited access to the media (for obvious reasons) and the volume of their lies and half-truths hit us from every angle. Such is the extent of their war of words that it must surely cause some people to stop and wonder

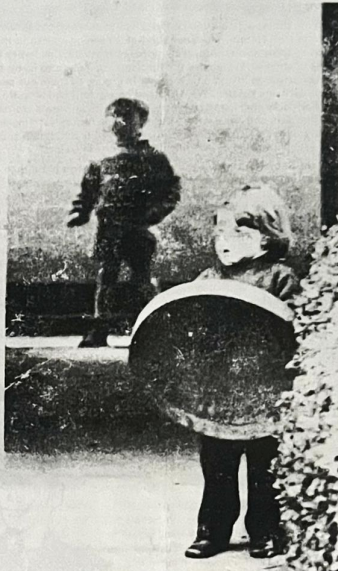
BY DEREC MAC THOMAS

whether or not they could possibly be right and maybe the path to Irish freedom really does lie in pleading with the British for a bill of rights. After all, wouldn't it give us the freedom to gain more freedom? (Now where have I heard that before). This chatter, criticism and back-seat revolution however, should be treated with the scorn it deserves and completely disregarded. The young boy who throws a stone at a soldier of occupation knows more of Revolution than the N.L.F., P.D. and C.P. all put together. His one simple action not alone equals their mountain of words and propaganda, but surpasses it.

The British love talkers, there can be no doubt of this, whenever they come under any serious pressure, either at home or in the colonies, they immediately instigate commissions, inquiries, and conventions, and let people talk away to their heart's content. There are no shortage of talkers in Ireland and they have almost succeeded in turning a straightforward war of Liberation into a quagmire of lies and half truths. They do not create situations, revolutionary or otherwise, but merely react to them. Time and time again, they have advanced the imperialist cause by sub-dividing the people through black propaganda, and thereby weakening resistance to oppression. The reason I draw attention to these facts is not in any way an attempt at petty point-scoring. Division has always been the curse of the Irish struggle and were it possible to present a totally united anti-imperialist front, then no force, no matter how great, could oppose it for long. When everything is whittled down to these bare facts, we are presented with the startling proposition that it is we ourselves, as a people, who are assisting the enemy to hold us in bondage.

The British have used the same tactics over and over again since their imperialist wars began, but still we have not learned. — "Divide the people. Get them condemning each other. Crush the activists and let the talkers talk." — the same old tactics, the same old results. Do the P.D. and N.L.F. honestly believe that they can bring about changes in the social system by their present activities (inactivities), I find it incomprehensible if they do.

For instance, they tell us that the partition of Ireland, which disunites politically the working class of North and South, is the main obstacle to the advancement of Irish labour "while at the same time they recognise and give credibility to the il-



THE YOUNG BOY WHO THROWS A STONE AT A SOLDIER OF OCCUPATION KNOWS MORE OF REVOLUTION THAN THE N.L.F., P.D. AND C.P. ALL PUT TOGETHER!

legal states both North and South. They tell us also that 'Constitutional acts can be revolutionary but whose constitution are they talking about? England does not even have a constitution for her own people, let alone for its colonies. Talk Talk!

At this crucial stage of our Nation's history, a mobilisation of all anti-imperialist forces, who could of course still maintain their own identities, would soon achieve the centuries old dream. The reason I have underlined anti-imperialist is because I mean precisely that — that is the only common denominator required. It would not include those who recognise Britain's right in Ireland. Plainly and simply, anti-imperialist. Those excluded by this would obviously be those who support the link or who refuse to work to break it.

If this were to be achieved, then the war in Ireland would once again be shown to the World for what it is, a clear-cut colonial war, and no amount of propaganda could hide this fact. Talk, by all means, but also act.

"Remember still, through good and ill, How vain were prayers and tears, How vain were words, 'till flashed the swords, Of the Irish Volunteers."

(Thomas Davis).

THE NEW SLAVERY

At the Convention is paraded in front of the community, as the last ditch hope of 'producing a solution' to the present situation in Ireland, many strange alliances between the politicians who form the Convention are taking place. It is the intention of this article to look at the reasoning behind this change of attitude.

On the run-up to the election for the Convention everything looked normal (normal that is in Northern Ireland politics). The same cliques uttered the same clichés in the same ghettos as they have done since 1921. Even the result of the election was the same, with the exception that a very large percentage of the Nationalist population refused to vote — this was in response to the Boycott call of Sinn Féin.

Perhaps one could point out that this is not entirely true, as Middle of the road Parties have emerged — such as Alliance, or U.P.N.I. who are not allied to either of the main parties, the U.U.U.C. or the S.D.L.P. While this is so, these 'middle of the road' parties have only a voting power of 15.4% in the Convention while the combined voting power of the U.U.U.C. is over 50% and 22% for the S.D.L.P. As these parties are non-allied (Alliance/U.P.N.I.) the only effect they could have would be to water down the policies of the S.D.L.P. because even if they were to vote with the S.D.L.P. they would not have a majority but if, on the other hand they were to vote against the S.D.L.P. they would make the S.D.L.P.'s point of view seem very meagre indeed. So the fact that the only place where they can exert pressure is on the S.D.L.P. who would then be forced to water down their proposals and policies in order to suit the Alliance and U.P.N.I. This combination of votes is the only hope that all these minority parties have to bring a sort of pressure to bear on the U.U.U.C. Even in a situation like this the U.U.U.C. would only have to stick to its guns and it's superior voting power would enable it to resist any pressure. The reason I have gone into the voting power of the different groups will be seen when I examine the motives of the politicians in the Convention.

From the word go, everyone had forecast the failure of the Convention — but then, overnight, a startling change takes place in the attitudes of the politicians and already we are hearing of the approach of 'a new era in Northern Ireland politics.' A new relationship arises between rival politicians, the likes of which has never been seen before. The S.D.L.P. talk of the U.U.U.C. in terms of 'trust and understanding' and party comms. insist on this new found quality for the Convention could be a success. At the same time the U.U.U.C. are bending over backwards to tell us that 'they won't be found wanting if agreement can be reached.' Glen Barr and John Hume issue a joint statement that they will work together to alleviate the unemployment problems in Derry. Carson and Donnelly do the same in North Belfast. The U.U.U.C. issue a statement about an Independent 6 Counties with an Ulster Nationalist fervour that has not been hinted at in the past. They also seem determined to shed the yoke of the para-militaries who went to the line, by calling them gangsters, thugs etc., and even lately by calling for the abolition of 'Special Category Status' — a great change from the days when these organisations were well supported by all Loyalist Politicians.

The question is why the great change? Since the Truce between the British Government and O'Connell's Ireland there was much speculation as to what the Provos had achieved to convince them to call a Truce. This was brought to a head by the Rev. Arlow who stated point blank that the Provos had received a declaration of intent. Reaction to this statement seems to be the major factor which heralded the change of attitudes by the politicians. While the Brits are here the Loyalist Para-military organisations could always be made to move but a British withdrawal would put the shoe on the other foot. The same threat applies to the S.D.L.P. who credibility would be destroyed in the eyes of the the Nationalist population, as their only achievements to date have been a series of abortion on the political front. The Free State Government recognise it's own insecurity in the situation and it's reaction is to harass and try and break the spirit of the Nationalist people, by striking at the spearhead of Republicanism — the Irish Republican Army.

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

Although this is only the second edition of 'Faoi Glas', our editor's office (a table and two chairs — and an Editor) has been besieged with fan mail — some offering us words of encouragement, others, not so kind, urging us to take our printing press to the local Provo Bomb Disintegration Unit. But leaving this group aside, we discovered a great deal of correspondence from people with problems seeking advice and comfort. There has been so many letters of this nature that Faoi Glas is opening up for you — the suicidal, the depressed, the lonely and withdrawn — a special column whereby you can write and seek the companionship, friendship, and sometimes sympathy of an eminent psychologist we have just drafted on to the Editorial Staff. In future all your correspondence should be addressed to: MISS CEE CROW, c/o The Snooker Rooms, Cage 23 Long Kesh.

She will be only too willing and happy to help ease your anxiety. Now to this month's letters. — The first from a reader in the Stormont Committee Rooms

Dear Miss Crow,
For many, many years now I have been engaged in public life. I have dedicated myself to furthering and bettering myself, as is the normal

with all good politicians. But of late I've found that the peasants who elected me to my present financial position, I mean, well, they just don't seem to trust me any more. They seem to think that just because I've broken a few of my pledges on Internment and the likes in the past, that I will accept any crumbs the U.U.U.C. might throw to me. My problem is — how can I convince my innocent, ignorant, imbecile electorate that I need power, no matter how far I have to crawl. Please, please help me — I am suicidal.

Yours,
GERRY FITT.

Miss Crow advises:
Dear Gerry,

Your problems is one which has beset man from Adam right on. I would advise you to retire from politics before someone else retires you permanently. I'm sending you on a jet — don't wear it — hold it in front of your mouth and talk through it.

P.S. Please put a stamp on your next envelope.

Next, to a reader in the Administration Block, Long Kesh, who writes:

Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,
All my life I have been engaged in the

essential service of locking nasty terrorists up and protecting the public from them. Her majesty the queen appointed me the other day and said I was a first class Governor. Well, last week, one of these nasty terrorists wrote a letter to a newspaper complaining about me — just because one of my nice prison officers stole my clothes, food, leather, books, fruit, a ball, a hairbrush, and a toothbrush out of my parcel. How can I stop these evil nasties saying unkind truths about me. In desperation

Robert (1st Class) Trussdale
Long Kesh
(you can call me Bobby).

Miss Crow replies:
Dear Bobby,

Your solution is very obvious, put the screws on these nasties . . . or do they say unkind things about you too?

This week's Star Letter goes to a reader in Dail Eirann. He says that he wishes to remain anonymous but gives his name as Paddy Cooney. He writes:

Dear Sir,

Please would you excuse me ritin and spellin, but I cannot tink of anyone else to rit to. I am a minister in the government and boy do I have a problem. There are subverted subversives in dis country who do not like me or dis policies and refuse to recog-

nise me courts. I even set up Special Courts for dem but it dozen't matter a damn. Instead they call me a fascist pig dog swine but I am knott. I just happen to be a great fan of Hitler, Mussolini, Franco and Bill Craig. Could you help me please. I will send you an sum money when Ritchie Ryan introduces his min'l Budget. I must finish — there is a ball ringing on a machine beside me and I have to answer it in case it mite be de telly fone.

Miss Crow says:

Dear P.C.
I was moved to tears when I read of your cry and plight from the wilderness. It must be awful for you, to say nothing of the embarrassment you are being caused in the eyes of the World.

Why don't you try painting your courts all the one colour — say green, like your eyes — and arrange for all subverted subversives to come along and inspect them. Then, when you arrest them and they appear in court they will be able to recognise your courts because they will be the same colour.

P.S. — enclosed is a check for 2/6p. Give it to Ritchie for his budget.

Our last lucky dip from the mail bag is very short. Again it is post-marked Dail Eirann.

Dear Ed.

My problem is simple. I am looking for another job. I want to retire from politics and take up work as a French Polisher. Do you know of anyone who would employ me?

Happy Christmas
CHARLIE HAUGHEY.

Miss Crow recommends:

Dear Mr. Haughey or is it Hee Haw, My word on this matter is very definite — stay where you are. You'll never get employment as a French Polisher. Your last employer — Jack Lynch — once told me in an interview in 'Our Boys' that once upon a time he had a lovely CABINET and yourself, Neil, and a few more of the boys wrecked it on him.

A final word from MISS CEE CROW: I hope the words of wisdom prove useful. I accumulated my case knowledge of 'Human Behaviour' a few years ago when I first left my beloved Ardarae. I'm sorry I couldn't answer all your queries and problems. However keep the mail coming — like Teddy Heath, I just love MALE.

With apologies to Angela McNameara, Lucy Aston, Linda, Clare, Gabriel Hicks, and all others.

FOR THE FLAG

Joe Bugner was reeling around the ring in Kuala Lumpur, weakening under the barrage of blows from his opponent Muhammed Ali. The fight, for the championship of the World, was midway through and the T.V. commentator, Harry Carpenter was searching desperately for something to say which would somehow influence the lost cause for which Bugner was fighting in the ring. Carpenter found it when he came up with the immortal phrase — "Bugner is carrying the flag well." At that stage in the fight Bugner would needed to have been carrying a sub-machine well! but that's besides the point. The inference in Carpenter's phrase was obvious. Joe Bugner was carrying, attempting to restore some of the lost prestige which Britain is suffering from all over the World at the present time.

She is bankrupt, despised, a figure of fun, a small Nation trying to live in the past shadows of glory; a once great Empire now reduced to begging for funds from the European 'Community' and totally dependent on her allies to pull her through worst period of her history. Even now when the going is getting tough she is being torn apart by her capitalist social system and is in grave danger of going down. The morale of her people is at an all time low and the attempts to counter this low morale and feeling of despair are beginning to manifest themselves as in the example quoted above — the world championship fight — and the reference to 'carrying the flag.'

If you are alert and on the lookout for the signs of decay and despair, you will see them almost daily in the media, T.V. press, etc. Take, for instance, the wily old 'Big Black Daddy,' President Amin, and the way he is holding Britain by the short and curlies, making her do his bidding, and putting her on the ground with his boot raised ready to smash her, like a cat playing with a mouse just before it administers the final coup-de-gras and ends the game. Amin has been aware of all the signs of weakness and diminishing morale now prevailing in Britain and has seized the opportunity to put the boot in. When you consider the appalling historical record of England in Africa, you will understand immediately what motivates Amin to act as he is acting at the present time. He is, in his own way, extracting a subtle revenge against Britain, and doing so in the full glare of World publicity. He is also furthering the true image of the British in World affairs and is making the prefix true image of the British 'Great' when applied to Britain, one of the most comical descriptions of all times.

How does the fall of the British Empire affect Ireland? Before that question is answered a comparison must be made so that the perspective is maintained throughout. The Provos are the equivalent of President Amin, undermining as they do, the very morale of the British and giving them the fingers up sign, no matter what the British try to do in their pathetic attempts, past and present, to destroy the Provos. Those 'bobby mad Irishmen' would not lie down and would not accept defeat. Just as the boub President took the michael out of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jim Callaghan, so the Provos kept plugging away at the British Army and the secretary of State, Merlyn Rees. They too, just like Amin, have capitalised on the decline of the British Nation and had enough strength of character and resolve to stand firm in the face of all the English could throw in their reaction to the cheek of those 'Paddies' who dared to take on the British Army. It's not cricket you know, getting the boot in when the opponent is down, but don't the British, with their stiff upper lips and their obsession to put a good face on things, just ask for that sort of treatment? If the roles were reversed, you could bet your life (and you would probably have



to) that the British would show no embarrassment whatsoever in putting not only the boot in, but the armoured cars, tanks, and guns etc. would be called to the fore to do their thing 'for the flag.'

The fall of the British Empire is now manifesting itself in her relations with the Irish. She has had enough and is packing it in, leaving it to the Irish themselves to sort out the mess. This is the result of a declining morale coming at a time when the Provos were attacking the very fabric of the remaining shreds of the tattered British image. Now the will to remain in Ireland is gone, the emphasis will be on the home front, dealing as best they can with their economic problems, huge as they are.

Would this situation for withdrawal have come about without the military pressure exerted by the Provos over the past five years? The simple answer is no! The British would have limped along in Ireland draining the natural resources of the land and maintaining her investments as a safeguard against the inevitable bankruptcy she will face sooner or later at home. The Provos changed that, and made the British presence in Ireland a very uncomfortable and unpleasant one. The commitment to withdraw is there and is only a matter of time — a shorter period than some people think.

If the reader is a Provo, he should be proud. If he is not a Provo — he should be!

THIS ARTICLE BY DAVE MORLEY, CAS 10