

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY

PHOBLACHT

Republican News

Sraith Nua Im! 8 Uimhir 10 Deardaoin 6u Marta Thursday 6th March 1986 (Britain 30p) Price 25p

THE ROLE of the RUC in refusing to confront loyalist strikers, who erected roadblocks and openly intimidated, threatened and assaulted nationalists going about their business during Monday's shut-down in the six counties, has confirmed what republicans have always known — that the RUC is an irreformable and unacceptable sectarian force.

Recent SDLP moves towards recognition and support for the RUC, including the appointment of members to the RUC Authority, have come unstuck for the time being following the behaviour of RUC personnel who, at roadblocks and pickets throughout the six counties, adopted an openly co-operative approach towards the loyalist bully-boys.

And in the exceptional cases where the RUC was forced into conflict with pickets, it showed a degree of reluctance and restraint which they have never demonstrated when confronting even peaceful nationalist demonstrations.

Exploding the impartiality myth, the RUC showed by its actions and its attitude on Monday, March 3rd, that it is part and parcel of the loyalist state and that, like other loyalists, its support for British law and British order is conditional on that law and order being directed solely against the nationalist community.

IRREFORMABILITY

There is no indication, however, that this evidence of the RUC's irreformability will make the slightest difference to the Dublin government which regularly boasts that collaboration between the gardai and RUC is being increased substantially in the wake of the Hillsborough deal. Only a week earlier, when signing the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism in Strasbourg, the Coalition justice minister, Alan Dukes, encouraged Northern nationalists to join the RUC, saying that progress was being made in making that force more acceptable.

That 'progress' has involved a

series of cosmetic exercises in the past year, including the re-routing of the July 12th Orange parade in Portadown, County Armagh. Such cosmetics could not hide, for long the real sectarian face of the RUC, however, and it was hardly surprising that in Portadown and nearby Lurgan last Monday masked members of the loyalist Ulster Clubs were allowed to enforce their own version of law and order.

INTEGRAL PART

Alan Dukes, Garret Fitzgerald, John Hume and all those who have been bending over backwards for the past four months to 'reassure' unionists and to persuade nationalists that they should abandon their support for the IRA and turn to the RUC for protection — all of those politicians were given their answer last Monday. By placating loyalism they have endangered entire nationalist communities and, by soliciting support for the RUC, they have ignored the historical and temporary role of that force

as an integral part of the Orange state.

While establishment politicians in the SDLP and Dublin try to minimise the significance of RUC behaviour during the loyalist strike, and while RTE, through blatant self-censorship and distortion, fails to inform people in 'single-channel land' about the full extent of the loyalist bullying tactics and the RUC's acquiescence in those tactics, Northern nationalists will continue to face the vitriolic sectarian hatred of Orange mobs and their armed allies in the UDR and RUC.

Oppose strip-searches!

Picket

Prominent speakers
4pm Saturday 8th March

Armagh Jail ARMAGH

Armagh buses
Belfast: Dunville Park 2.30pm
(phone 223214 for bookings)
Dunloy 1pm, Killea 1.15pm
Clady Corner 1.30pm
Bellaghy 1.45pm, Gulladuff 2pm
Maghera 2.10pm, Toome 2.30pm
Newbridge 2.45pm
Magherafelt 3pm

March and Rally

Prominent speakers include
ex POW and POW's relatives,
Sara Roeloffs (London Labour
Party women's spokesperson)

BELFAST

1.30pm Sunday 9th March
Beechmount to Busy Bee

Dublin buses leave Municipal
Art Gallery, Parnell Square,
at 11am — tails E7

Exploding the myth



● RUC members mingle with loyalist protestors blocking Bangor Road, Belfast



● Turning a blind eye — an RUC man turns away as loyalists harass a motorist

FULL COVERAGE OF LOYALIST DAY OF ACTION
— See Pages 2, 3, 4, 5



● Loyalist pickets at the Harland and Wolff shipyards, Belfast

Nationalists thrown to the wolves

BY HILDA Mac THOMAS

IT WILL TAKE some time before the full effect of the loyalist strike last Monday can be evaluated. The blatant intimidation at roadblocks and the rioting which took place in several areas were the features which attracted most media attention and for most nationalists the strike will be remembered for the manner in which the RUC openly co-operated with hooded loyalists on the picket-lines.

The unionists' media image, especially in Britain, has worsened considerably since last week. The strike was timed, wrote the *Observer* last Sunday, just when Britain was beginning to sympathise with the unionists. The previous Wednesday, the British press, still unaware of the U-turn which had taken place in Belfast the night before, was full of headlines about breaking deadlocks, unionists drawing back from the brink, being constructive and reasonable.

In the twenty-six counties, the

unionists' image took an even sharper nose-dive. Since the Dublin Forum, FitzGerald and his clique had peddled myths about the unionist tradition being "the other side of the nationalist coin", or unionist values such as "the concept of liberty of conscience." Since the signing of the Hillsborough agreement on November 15th, the Free State press appealed nearly every day to those 'enlightened' unionists not to be 'misrepresented' or 'misled' by hardline leaders.

But on the Wednesday follow-

ing the strike announcement, FitzGerald's terse reply to a question in Leinster House betrayed the Dublin government's inability to cope with loyalist militancy. Few comments followed the strike either. FitzGerald once again talked about those mythical 'moderate' unionists who should hopefully see sense after Monday's carry-on. But the events of Monday definitely did not fit in with FitzGerald's — and indeed Hume's — position that the six counties are 'reformable'. The official Dublin government line has now changed from "moderate rank-and-file unionists being misled by their hardline leaders" to "moderate unionist leaders being hijacked by their hardline rank and file," commented the pro-unionist Conor Cruise O'Brien on Tuesday, March 4th. Opposition leader Charles Haughey was also very cautious in his statements, al-

though he must have been rather pleased to be proven right after Monday.

The events which led to the strike, however, were seen in London and Dublin as hopeful signs that the unionist camp is beginning to split.

BRITISH OBJECTIVE

Splitting the unionists by getting moderate unionists to sit down with the SDLP has been the main objective of the British government, especially since the Hillsborough agreement. On Wednesday, February 26th, a British government source was reported as saying that Thatcher's offers to the unionists might have convinced some moderate unionists. If the strike went ahead and failed, he said, that might undermine the strike weapon and, in the long term, strengthen the hand of moderate unionists.

This may explain the British government's decision not to use its 10,000 British soldiers in the North to remove roadblocks and confront loyalist rioters. These callous tactics backed on the Brits, however, since the RUC was not only not up to its promise of keeping roads open and maintaining what they call 'law and order', but many RUC members were seen turning a blind eye to attacks by loyalists on passers-by. On Monday night, the RUC looked on while rioters took over half a mile of the Newtownards Road in Belfast and burned all round them.

The British may have achieved their objective of letting loyalist hardliners 'hang' themselves, but the result is that the RUC's pretensions to be an impartial force which everyone can support were

dealt a death-blow on Monday. There were so many instances of RUC sympathy with the strike that the SDLP deputy-leader, Seamus Mallon, was forced to strongly denounce the same force his party leader had sympathised with in Westminster the week before. Monday's events have certainly got the SDLP off the hook of having to support the RUC for some time to come. This is the worst blow the Hillsborough agreement has received since its inception.

ARE THE UNIONISTS SPLIT?

But are the unionists really split?

The huge anti-agreement rally which was organised in Belfast last November was attended by unionists from all walks of life, including industrialists and university professors. Quite a few of them left early in disgust at the 'riff-raff' from the Shankill Road UDA parading in paramilitary gear. But unionist opposition to the agreement is still deep and widespread. Unionists realised early last year that unity was essential if they wanted to defeat the London-Dublin pact. This led to the formation last August of a joint OUP-DUP working party which met to decide on tactics. The setting up of loyalist Ulster Clubs by a mixture of UDA, UVF, DUP and OUP was not hindered in any way by the unionist leadership which saw them as a way of keeping together the different strands of unionism.

Nevertheless, loyalist memories of how unionist politicians used them and dumped them in previous campaigns, especially the 1977 UUUC stoppage. And they too decided early last year that this time they would go into action when it suited them, not when it suited the unionist establishment. Hence the Ulster Clubs; hence Tyrrie's cautious welcome of more talks between Thatcher





and unionist leaders last week.

LOSS OF CREDIBILITY DOUBTFUL

The DUP deputy-leader, Peter Robinson, was widely reported last week as having taken control of the strike operations and as being the only leading unionist to hold sway with the loyalist paramilitaries. Whatever tensions arose between unionists on Tuesday, February 25th, after Paisley and Molyneux had flown back from London, whatever mistakes the two unionist leaders made in their initial comments on their meeting with Thatcher, it is still doubtful that they have suffered a big loss of credibility.

If anything, they can now say — off the record — to their middle-class followers that they let the hot-heads have their say last Monday and that it was now back to respectable politicians.

Both Paisley and Molyneux went on record on Tuesday, March 4th, to say as much. Molyneux, more apologetic, talked of never again using strike tactics. Unionist leaders can also exploit the strike by saying to their hard-liners like Robinson, "You couldn't control your paramilitary friends. Next time, follow our advice." They will also be able to turn to the Brits and repeat to them what they have said all along: if you do not give us reasonable people some concessions, then there are sinister elements lurking in the background who will take over from us.

FIRMLY IN CONTROL

So, in spite of complete opposition to the strike tactics by middle-class unionists, especially business people, and in spite of attempts by loyalist hard-liners to escalate the campaign and force a confrontation with the Brits on their terms, the present unionist leadership is still firmly in control and the need for unity outweighs any internal tensions.

There is no joy in this for Northern nationalists. They were the predictable targets of the worst loyalist attacks last Monday. The RUC was shown once again to be a sectarian unionist militia. Last Monday, the self-proclaimed spokespersons for the Northern nationalist community, the Peter Barrys and the John Humes, were nowhere to be seen. They seem quite prepared to throw half a million nationalists to the unionist wolves.



● Loyalist rally in Belfast city centre

RUC acquiesce in attacks on nationalist workers

Loyalist rampage

MONDAY'S loyalist day of action saw scores of incidents of intimidation and physical assault across the North in which nationalists were specifically targeted by loyalist bully-boys.

While the RUC stood by and watched, or openly fraternised with the demonstrators, masked and uniformed loyalists blatantly attacked workers determined to go to their places of employment. People were punched and kicked, cars damaged or destroyed, shops and factories attacked.

The most serious incident of the day involving nationalist workers occurred in Lurgan, where 250 women workers were stoned as they attempted to flee from the Saracen clothing factory in Shaerf Drive. They had been besieged for most of the day by several hundred masked loyalists. By the time the siege ended, two women workers had been hospitalised and the factory was set alight by the loyalists.

One worker at the plant described the day's events to AP/RN:

"As we approached there was a crowd of about 50 and they started jeering and calling us sectarian names. They had masks on and the RUC did nothing. They let us go on our own past that crowd. About ten minutes later, one girl was hit with a stone and had to be brought to the hospital with suspected fractured ribs.

"At 11.40am they started stoning the factory really heavily. A woman in the factory office was hit with a stone and

blood poured from her eye. Management sent for the RUC, who told us that they didn't have enough vehicles to give us proper protection."

The women refused to leave at first, but with the RUC claiming that they had little choice, the women attempted to walk out behind them. A worker explains what happened next:

"The crowd all started firing missiles at us and the RUC more or less ran off and left us. There were only two jeeps. Some of the girls dived into the land-rovers but the RUC put them out. We ran back to the factory again and the women decided that they would refuse to leave unless vehicles were provided.

"As we were running back, a woman was trampled over and she was taken to hospital with a broken kneecap."

The RUC were summoned and again refused to provide transport. Local unionist Councillors David Calvert (DUP) and Philip Black (OUP), a founder member of the Ulster Clubs,

also arrived but they too refused to guarantee the women's safety.

"We were stuck there for two hours or more. The stoning got worse and more windows were broken. Some of the women were crying. They were scared stiff — it was really terrible. Some were elderly women and they couldn't have run to safety. Eventually, the RUC said the only option was they would take us out in vehicles, but it was only because we really stood our ground. The women were disgusted with them."

It was after 3pm before the manager and the last of the women were evacuated.

Earlier in the day, Councillor Black was among a crowd of loyalists who intimidated Wellworths and several other shops in the town into closing.

Elsewhere in Lurgan, at around 2pm, the RUC cleared the top of Edward Street and shut up several shops to facilitate a loyalist tractor and muck-spreader cavalcade.

In Moira, a 23-year-old man was assaulted at about 9am and his car's tyres were slashed as he attempted to go to work at the Moy Park factory.

(*inued on next page*)



● The gutted Saracen factory in Lurgan

(continued from previous page)

"I started to walk towards the barricade and about 30 of them lined up each side of me. As soon as I got past they started kicking at me and pushed and shoved. The majority of them were wearing scarves and combat jackets. There were three RUC there. They sat and watched all this. I asked them could they do anything about it and they said, 'No, there's nothing we can do,' and shrugged their shoulders. They didn't care."

One bus was burnt and six workers, three of them women, were trapped in the factory all day by a crowd of over 200 loyalists.

TERRIFYING

Two Armagh brothers, Patrick and Eddie Mallon, had a terrifying experience as they drove into the city along the Cathedral Road. Their way was barred at Skyebridge by a roadblock of tractors and cars and about a hundred loyalist demonstrators, including local OUP Councillor Speers.

Their car was attacked and pushed into the hedge, the car windows were smashed and the brothers were assaulted by masked men using cudgels. An ambulance was eventually called and the two men were taken to hospital.

Elsewhere in Armagh city, at a roadblock on the Moy Road, outside the Drumsil Hotel, a UDR soldier was flicking through a book of photos as motorists approached the barrier. Photographs were also taken by protestors of anyone attempting to get through the roadblock.

In County Armagh, ten women workers from Armagh city, employed at a factory in Keady, were stopped two miles outside Armagh city while returning home from work at 5.30pm. Although they had successfully avoided barriers that morning they now found their way blocked by tractors and muck-spreaders.

Several of the women approached the RUC, who were positioned beside the barricade. They asked for a way to be cleared for them so they could proceed. The RUC refused to either do that or accompany the women through the barrier claiming they had been instructed 'not to interfere' with demonstrators in any way.

Although frightened, the women had no choice but to walk through the loyalist protestors and then the two miles into Armagh.

RAN AMOK

In Kilkeel, several hundred hooded loyalists ran amok throughout the day. Several cars were destroyed and a local farmer and his wife narrowly escaped serious injury when a gang threw beer kegs through their car window.

Here, as elsewhere, small businesses owned by nationalists were a particular target of the loyalists. A local builder had his workshops burned down and at least two nationalist-owned shops were forced to close by masked loyalists.

As main roads remained closed by barricades, the atmosphere became extremely tense for nationalist residents of the town.

At one loyalist barrier outside the Kilmorey Arms Hotel in Greencastle Street, RUC Reservist Fred Johnson who was supposed to ensure safe passage for anyone wanting to go to work, watched approvingly as his two

sons organised the demonstrators and refused to allow anyone to pass.

Nationalist areas of Portadown were in a virtual state of siege throughout the loyalist strike. The town was cut off by barricades, the Ulster Clubs openly controlled and organised loyalist activities and large numbers of masked and uniformed loyalists maintained a menacing presence while the RUC stood by.

Nationalists were attacked on their way to work and one worker's car was burned at the Metal Box factory. Others had windcreens and windows smashed in Park Road and Northway, and cars heading towards nationalist areas were also attacked.

By lunchtime, few nationalists ventured outside their own areas. In Woodhouse Street, the RUC refused to intervene as loyalist gangs intimidated several Catholic-owned pubs and businesses, ordering them to close. By the afternoon, few RUC personnel were to be seen in the town.

Two nationalists were attacked at a loyalist barricade less than a hundred yards from the nationalist Ballyoran estate. At around 3.30pm, loyalist mobs wielding stones and bottles

mounted an organised attack on Obins Drive and Obins Avenue, in the Tunnel area, but they were held off by local nationalists. When the RUC eventually arrived, they moved back the people defending their homes but took no action against the loyalists who continued their stoning for 15 minutes more.

DEFIANT

The defiant and dignified response of the people of Derry throughout Monday meant that loyalist attempts to bring life in the city to a standstill ended in abject failure.

A day of widespread intimidation began early on Monday morning when workers on their way to the Maydown Industrial Estate were ambushed by loyalists on the New Foyle Bridge. There were many incidents of obstruction and hijackings as well as assaults on nationalists travelling into the Waterside area. A BBC Radio Foyle vehicle was attacked and had its windows smashed.

A large force of RUC allowed the Waterside area to fall under the mob rule of 150 loyalists led by the DUP's Gregory Campbell. Nor was any action taken by the RUC when masked loy-

alist youths from the Fountain estate began terrorising shoppers and shop-owners along several city-centre streets. At one stage they entered a shirt factory on Carlisle Road and ordered the workers to evacuate the premises under threat of being petrol-bombed.

The highlight of the day of action in Derry was to be a triumphant Orange march and cavalcade to the Guildhall Square! At 2pm, however, a large crowd of nationalist youths assembled at the Diamond, determined to prevent the loyalists from parading their sectarianism through the city streets. A smaller, but no less determined, group of nationalists gathered at the junction of Abercorn Road and Bishop Street to meet any attacks which might be launched on the Bogside below.

IMMEDIATE CHANGE

The bold presence of the young nationalists forced an immediate change in the RUC's plans. As soon as the loyalist cavalcade began to make its way along Craigavon Bridge, its way was blocked by a cordon of RUC landrovers. The disappointed loyalists ran riot through

the Waterside, venting their anger on buildings, public property and the RUC. The RUC was clearly restrained in the face of the loyalist mob violence, with two plastic bullets being fired at a crowd of close to a thousand.

The same restraint was not shown by the crown forces when dealing with the nationalist youths who were defending the Bishop Street entrance to the Bogside against repeated incursions by stone-throwing loyalists from the nearby Fountain estate. The British army opened up with plastic bullets solely on the defending nationalists. Some ten to 15 plastic bullets were fired in Derrur Street and Stanley's 'Walk while schoolchildren were walking home.

At the Diamond, the RUC drove their landrovers at the crowd of several hundred nationalists in an attempt to run them off the street. However, the youngsters still refused to be moved and did not disperse until 4.30pm. By then it was clear that the loyalists had been cheated of their day of victory - not by the RUC but by the valiant actions of Derry nationalists.





Loyalist strike bad news

THE INTERNATIONAL image of unionism and of the sectarian six-county statelet nose-dived this week as the British and Irish media reported at length on incidents of intimidation, assault and riots by loyalists during Monday's strike.

"Day of the bully-boys" was the *Daily Mirror's* assessment. "Rampage by Ulster mobs" summed up the Conservative *Daily Telegraph*. The *Daily Mail* denounced the "orgy of lawlessness".

The British tabloids presented a lurid summary. According to the *Daily Mirror*, "angry loyalists", masked and in combat uniform, had "emptied Ulster's factories and high streets with an iron grip of stark threats and smouldering fear". True to form, the *Daily Express* and *Star* painted an inaccurate image of the RUC "rescuing Catholic workers" and "trying to keep control".

But other British newspapers and the Irish media assembled detailed catalogues of intimidation and violence directed mainly against nationalists (and occasionally journalists themselves). And they also reported numerous examples of the scores of complaints of RUC inactivity and collusion in which they had failed to protect nationalist individuals and property. Of this too, several journalists gave eyewitness accounts.

Hugh Carnegie from the sober *Financial Times* reported how the RUC looked on as his car was halted just south of Derry by loyalists, some masked, who were "incensed by the sight of my Dublin registration plates". "I got out, but the effort to

explain that I wanted to report their views and that other road-blocks understood this was in vain. A blow was aimed at my back, the car was rocked and its aerial snapped off."

Carnegie was eventually rescued on the orders of a senior RUC man, presumably more publicity-conscious than his juniors.

PROOF

The *Irish Independent* said: "If the international world (sic) was waiting for proof of the intransigent, bully-boy mentality of thousands of Northern 'loyalists', it had that provided yesterday."

Irish News journalists compiled a several-thousand-word summary of loyalist intimidation and violence. One of many sectarian incidents reported by the paper occurred in County Armagh, where Ballymacnab priest Fr Pol Mac Seain alleged that the RUC had stood by while protestors refused to allow traffic to pass barricades. According to the *Irish News*:

"Fr MacSeain said: 'Pickets were handing out leaflets and I listened to what they had to say but they started abusing the Catholic Church and the Pope. Police officers who were nearby joined in the mocking. Eventually, on the Monymore Road, an RUC man moved a car and I was able to drive up on the pavement to get by.'"

In its extensive coverage, the *Irish Times* reported instances of intimidation from Derry (where a union official at Ulsterbus complained that loyalists were "boarding buses with guns" while the RUC watched) to Belfast and predominantly loyalist Ballymena.

DESPONDENT EDITORIALS

In their editorials on Tuesday, those newspapers which since November have most loudly been selling the Hillsborough accord and eager for any glimmer of an argument that might make it easier to 'sell' the RUC to Northern nationalists, were understandably despondent.

"A long hard road has still to be travelled" before nationalists give support to the RUC, said the *Irish News*. "Imagine, if you will, the disgust in nationalist areas where the security forces have always been willing to use plastic bullets and strong arms to quell disturbances."

"How much more difficult it will be now for Catholics to trust the RUC", bemoaned the *Irish Times*, which realistically rejected suggestions that unionist leaders had 'lost control' on Monday. The strike, said its editorial, "was anything but dignified, as Molyneux and Paisley knew all along it would turn out, as most people who know about the North were aware it would develop".

"Many must suspect", said the *Irish Times* joylessly, that the Union "is in its last days", and it raised the dangerous question of why the British government, knowing the certainty of loyalist opposition, had made no plans to deal with it.

However, by Wednesday, 24

hours later, the same media were busily seeking any alternative other than British withdrawal and Irish independence, the lone alternative that could guarantee freedom and the prospect of peace. The *Irish News*, still depressed at the prospects for its pet Hillsborough agreement, could only vaguely urge the need for "dialogue".

CLUTCHED AT STRAWS

The *Irish Times* clutched at straws: James Molyneux had uttered a "mea culpa". "And he said he would have no more to do with strikes", its editorial enthused about the man whom the paper had, the day before, refused to absolve from the "bully-boy" antics, before hinting that it was time to confuse even the limited aims of Hillsborough and also time for the Dublin government to "move towards the Official Unionists" by discussing a scheme for devolution.

An *Irish Press* editorial also hoped that unionists could be persuaded into "side-stepping the agreement and getting talks underway on a devolved power-sharing administration".

In other words, in a week when Northern nationalists have been given yet another violent demonstration of the reactionary consequences of British involvement in Ireland, embarrassed mouthpieces of the Irish establishment are already saying that nationalist aspirations must be watered down yet again.

At the modern Tower Shopping Centre in Ballymena, the *Irish Times* reported an incident typical of many others on Monday:

"At 11.15am, 20 young men in combat jackets, a couple of

them with balaclavas pulled over their faces, walked into its main plaza. They lined up menacingly in front of Dunnes's Stores. 'We're just window shopping,' one of them joked.

"Within seconds, the few customers had been hurried out, the lights had been turned off and the doors locked by a nervous manager, only too conscious of the vulnerability of his plate-glass windows."

The newspaper's correspondent in Cookstown reported that "the RUC appeared to be operating a minimum enforcement policy that involved collaboration with the barricade leaders. An inspector at one exit from Cookstown called across a personable leader in camouflage jacket and asked whether a journalist would be allowed through."

The car of reporter Willy Clingan (a Northern Protestant, the *Irish Times* pointed out) was attacked by masked loyalists wielding sticks and bottles. Trapped in the town, he asked the RUC to help him get through a barricade.

"Nine RUC men, an inspector, a sergeant and seven constables in a minivan seemed sympathetic when I explained my plight... but they felt they could do nothing, nothing at all."

Still trapped, Clingan continued to tour the town, where he noted that "several moderate nationalists in Portadown expressed deep unhappiness and surprise" at the RUC's performance:

"One man asked: 'How can we possibly be expected to accept a police force that didn't try and stop the sort of mob rule that applied here today?' It was a question posed by many others."



BY DONAL LYONS

TWENTY-THREE WORKERS have maintained a picket on builders' providers F&T Buckleys in Dublin's Robin Hood Industrial Estate since Monday, February 17th. The dispute began last December when the general manager, Sean White, alleged that ITGWU shop-steward Paddy Conway had been verbally abusive to management members. Conway strenuously denies this allegation and management claims that he has received numerous written warnings from management over his behaviour.

The week before Christmas, White dismissed Conway without reference to local grievance procedures and refused to enter negotiations with Conway's union official, Eric Fleming. Fleming instituted Labour Court proceedings against the company but on the morning of the tribunal the company withdrew, saying they would only attend an unfair dismissal hearing in the Rights Commission. This is in clear breach of labour law as the aggrieved party has the choice of where the hearing should be. The workers and their union are insisting on their rights and will be maintaining pickets until their demand for a Labour Court hearing is conceded.

Non-union lorry-drivers are passing the picket line to take supplies out and members of the office staff are also breaking

Unfair dismissal

the picket.

Three office workers who were members of the ITGWU were dismissed from the union last week for their strike-breaking activity.

The official launch of the Dublin Trades Council centenary celebrations took place on Monday, March 3rd.

Congress president Jim McCusker who was scheduled to perform the opening ceremony could not attend because of the loyalist strike. Instead he sent a message saying, "The correct place for Northern trade unionists on this day is at work." Taking up this theme, ITGWU president John Carroll slammed the loyalist action: "This 24-hour stoppage is against the interests of working people on this island."

A recurring subject in all other speeches was the "scourge of unemployment". Council president Ben Kearney attacked the Coalition budget as "no friend of the unemployed".

Dublin's Labour minister, Ruairi Quinn, who was present at the launch, also came under attack from Kearney over Quinn's claim that social welfare payments in the twenty-six counties are the highest in Europe. Kearney referred to the totally

inadequate level of payments to the poor and the fact that the subsistence payments which come so grudgingly from the state can "never take the place of self-respect".

The shock announcement that the GAC bus factory in Shannon Industrial Estate is to close with the loss of over 200 jobs has been greeted with alarm in the local community and outrage by the trade union movement.

The company (formerly Bombardier) started operations in 1980. Since then, over 800 buses have been delivered to CIE, including more than 200 buses purchased by the Dublin government last year for use on provincial routes. The job losses are directly attributable to the Coalition's cut-back campaign in the public service area. GAC had confidently expected to receive an order for 800 vehicles from the Department of Education to replace school buses which, according to the ITGWU, are "literally falling to pieces and will have to be replaced within two years anyway". The ITGWU continued: "Why could they not be replaced now to save these jobs. This move would also save the state more than £7 million in redundancy payments and lost revenue from tax payments." The state-

ment went on to highlight the fact that all future orders for such vehicles will have to be placed outside of the country.

The possibility of a major escalation in the Bord Gais dispute came closer this week as management failed to respond to a request from workers for new proposals on their pay claim.

Two weeks ago, the company conceded the union claim of 7.5% over 13 months but the Labour Court intervened to insist that it would only be paid if flexibility conditions were part of the deal.

At the time, the Irish divisional organiser of AUEW/TASS, Brian Anderson, accused the Labour Court of being "lackeys of the Department of Public Service". He now says that management of Bord Gais has been directed by the DPS not to enter negotiations with the unions and that this leaves the unions with no option but to recommend industrial action to their members in pursuit of their claim.

A series of mass meetings of workers are taking place this week to decide on what action to take. If they vote in favour of a strike, it could begin as early as next Monday.

NO RATE AT UNIONIST COUNCILS

BY JANE PLUNKETT

IN THEIR continuing protest against the Hillsborough agreement, a number of the North's loyalist-dominated councils have voted against striking the yearly rate. Others have called several emergency meetings for this week to discuss the issue but inevitably they too will follow suit.

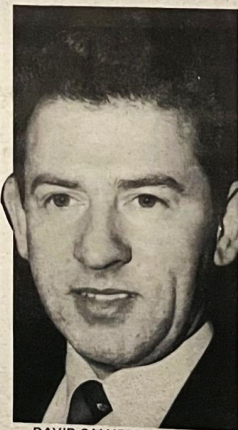
Under a directive from the Department of Environment issued to the 18 loyalist-dominated councils who, to date, have refused to set a rate, Saturday, March 8th,

has been fixed as the final legal deadline. Defiance of this directive will leave the door open for the British to appoint commissioners to run council business.

Castlereagh and Banbridge councils have already voted not to fix the rate, and at council meetings on Wednesday evening, March 5th, Lisburn and Belfast councils followed their lead. Neither meeting lasted more than five minutes.

'DEMOCRACY'

And while loyalist leaders scream about democracy having been "done to death", their own undemocratic antics were once



DAVID CALVERT

again clearly evident last Thursday night, February 27th, in Craigavon Council.

Sinn Féin's two councillors, Brendan Curran and Brian Mc-

Cann, walked out of the council amid loyalist uproar when they demanded, and were denied, a copy of a report recommending the running down of the gas industry.

DUP Councillor David Calvert proposed that only "constitutional" parties receive the report, a motion which yet again defies a High Court ruling last year that elected councillors could not be denied access to council material.

DERRY

At Derry City Council on Tuesday night, March 4th, Sinn Féin Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin expressed grave disappointment that the SDLP had divided the council by voting against a Sinn Féin proposal that jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela be granted the freedom of the city.

McLaughlin accused them of having done the people of Derry a disservice and Sinn Féin Councillor Hugh Brady pointed out that the proposal had the support of the Irish anti-Apartheid Movement, one of whose sponsors is SDLP leader John Hume!



IRA mobilises

IRA ACTIVE SERVICE UNITS were placed in a primarily defensive role this week, with armed Volunteers openly patrolling nationalist areas in the run-up to and throughout the loyalist strike.

The IRA explained in a statement that they had "taken a decision to provide a solid defence in as many areas as possible to ensure the safety of nationalists during any loyalist attack."

"In the past, loyalist protests have often turned into full-scale attacks on people in nationalist areas. With this in mind, we mobilised our Volunteers in a number of areas to provide a defensive cover."

"Although some incidents did take place in flash-point areas, none of them developed into serious confrontation."

DERRY ATTACK

In Derry city, an ASU

from the Derry Brigade hit the British occupation forces on Sunday, March 2nd.

The attack on a British army foot-patrol at noon was carefully planned and executed.

Earlier that morning, an armed ASU took over the Heritage Library in Bishop Street, near the city centre. Having evacuated all of the civilians in the building to safe quarters, IRA engineers then positioned a small anti-personnel mine in the basement of the building.

As the foot-patrol passed by the front of the library, the mine was detonated, injuring one of the soldiers.

Travelling women: Discriminated against in every way Courageous sisters

TWO WOMEN, Nan Joyce and Chrissie Ward, have in recent years emerged as leading spokespersons for the travelling people in Ireland.

In this interview with AP/RN's Mairtin Mac Diarmada at their home near Darndale on the Northside of Dublin, the two sisters tell of their experiences of oppression, both as travellers and as women, and of how they have fought back.

AP/RN: Can you tell us what it was like when you were growing up together, travelling around?

Nan: It was different because we travelled with horses and wagons then. We moved all around Ireland and England. We grew up in the North and there was just as much hostility to the travellers then as there is today. The people in the Bog Meadows, where we camped in Belfast, were very good though.

AP/RN: How many were there in your family?

Nan: There were 11. The eldest was 13 when our father died. My mother, who couldn't read or write — 90% of the travellers can't — didn't know how to claim a widow's pension and got no money from the welfare. The travellers were entitled to all these things but nobody ever told them about them. If a woman was battered years ago she maybe had to take her children and sleep out against a ditch.

Chrissie: But travelling women are still the most discriminated against women in the world; in every way they are being pulled down. In London, in the Irish clubs I saw signs saying "No travelling women" and "No tinkers."

If they go for a drink in the pubs in Dublin they're not let inside the door or into cafes or restaurants. My big daughters came home only yesterday telling how they were stopped going into the laundry.

They are discriminated against in every way.

Nan: When we were growing up we were taught because my father was a great scholar. He used to read the history of Ireland to us — how the Black and Tans carried on and going back to Cromwell and the Famine and all the evictions. But it's still going on today.

We have an Irish government here for over 60 years and they've never done anything for the travellers. If they did you wouldn't have 90% of them not knowing how to read or write and only half the children going to school.

We go around to Trinity College and Maynooth and all the colleges around the country to speak at meetings and you never see a travelling child having a chance to go there. And it's not just the travelling children — it's the poor settled people as well. The colleges for the travellers and the poor are St Pat's (the juvenile prison) and the courts, getting dragged up on charges.

AP/RN: Can you tell us about your group, Minceir Misi?

Chrissie: We're a group for travellers run by ourselves. We get no help from the government and we have very little money. I think they don't want to give us money because they think we're thick or ignorant.

The work we do is all voluntary but we don't even have a minibus, which we badly need.

Most of us involved are married couples with big families to look after. We get no grants from the state but we've done more than all the settled people they are paying to work with us.

Nan: If you stand up against discrimination in your own country you are told you



● (Above) Chrissie Ward and three of her children; (below) Nan Joyce

are being aggressive. You don't see any TDs or doctors or nurses among the travellers — but why shouldn't there be?

Unless we stand up and be heard nothing will be done for us. I want to see travellers preserving their own culture and their own ways.

In schools, travelling children are not learning about their own culture. They are growing up to be ashamed of themselves.

Chrissie: It's no wonder that so many of them are giving up and becoming alcoholics and ending up in mental hospitals.

Nan: When you're a traveller you need a strong will not to become an alcoholic. There are a few alcoholics among the travellers and because they're barred from everywhere they have to drink out in the open, so everyone thinks all the travellers are alcoholics.

AP/RN: How does the alcoholism of husbands affect the women?

Nan: I think the women are always stronger than the men. Of course, there are a lot of great travelling men that work for their families, but you do have battered wives among them the same as you do among other groups of people.

AP/RN: What about the children — how do the conditions affect them?

Nan: Many times more travelling children die when they are babies than do settled children. There's an awful lot of sickness among the children: chest complaints and the like.

Chrissie: Two months ago, a young child was found dead near here from the cold. Three travelling children died altogether last winter in this area.

When I moved to Dublin I tried to get my children into every school and none would take them — including priests and nuns.

I went last to a Protestant school and when the others heard that they were tak-

ing them they all said they would too.

Nan: When you have young people growing up and seeing all this hostility it's no wonder that they hit back at society. It's the same with poor settled children. As long as there is injustice the prisons and the mental homes will always be full and you'll always have alcoholics.

We weren't put on Earth to live like animals. A priest said that to me years ago: that we were born to live like that. Well, if that was the case then why wasn't he? And why are the bishops living in big palaces while you have old people out sleeping rough and dying alone?

AP/RN: The women seem to be to the fore in speaking up for the travellers. Why do you think that is?

Nan: Well, it's the women who suffer the most. They have to do the cleaning and looking after sick children.

The Irish women have always been unpaid slaves — that's what my mother told me. You're there to worry and to have a family and to manage with whatever you've got.

AP/RN: Finally, what sort of future would you like to see for your children?

Chrissie: I'd like to see them having a fair and equal chance of jobs and a decent education. It's not much to ask for.

Nan: It would be too late for my children because they got no chance of being properly educated — they were hunted around from school to school — but I'd like to see them and my grandchildren being able to stand up for themselves in the world.

I'd like to see the same for all the poor settled people. There are a lot of poor settled children that come and play here with our children.

Maybe if the travellers are having a march I'd like to see the settled people joining in — if they sit down and think about it, they are being treated as badly as we are.



very way
ers



● 1985 International Women's Day protest at Armagh Jail

Women's struggle goes on

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, March 8th, is recognised around the world as a time when women organise events to highlight their own oppression in society and to celebrate their achievements in struggle.

In Ireland, as well as fighting against sexist oppression, women have also made a major contribution to the fight against British domination in all its forms: political, economic, social and military. Women such as Helena Moloney, founder of the Irish Women Workers' Union in 1915 and a member of Inghindhe na hEireann; Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, co-founder in 1908 of the Irish Women's Franchise League and chosen as one of five members of the civil provisional government planned if the Easter Rising had succeeded; 14-year-old Mary Bowles, sentenced to five years in Mountjoy Jail for attempting to conceal a machine-gun; and Mary MacSwiney, elected to the executive of Cumann na mBan in 1917.

In the current phase of the struggle, we recall Maire Drumm, vice-president of Sinn Féin, assassinated in 1976, who led the women of the Lower Falls when they marched through and smashed the Falls curfew. We also remember the 11 women Volunteers who have lost their lives since 1971, but even these women only represent the publicly-known figures.

Thousands of other women, less celebrated, have also borne the brunt of repression and have been at the forefront of the continu-

ing struggle, active in all phases and aspects of the fight for a democratic socialist republic. Women have been active as members of Sinn Féin and the IRA, campaigning on prisoners' rights and welfare, housing issues, violence against women, repression, harassment, internment and plastic bullets.

ARMAGH JAIL

In the six counties, the symbol of the resistance of nationalist women has long been Armagh Jail. The prison authorities have also been aware of this and have steadily increased their repression within the jail over the years. In December 1976, the women were forced to embark on the no-work protest. Continuous harassment from that time finally culminated in the women being brutally attacked by both female and male warders and, in February 1980, the no-wash protest began.

At the end of 1980, three women — Mary Doyle, Mairead Farrell and Margaret Nugent — went on hunger-strike for political status. The hunger-strike lasted for 19 days until the women were persuaded to take nourishment because the British government had made a deal which the prisoners believed met their demands. The British gov-

ernment later reneged on the deal and this led to the historic 1981 H-Block hunger-strike.

Having experienced at first hand the courage and commitment of the women, the prison authorities believed that it was vital to their control over their own repressive regime that they break the spirit of the Armagh women. It was with this objective in mind that strip-searching was introduced in November 1982. Since then, there have been nearly 3,000 strip-searches on a prison population which has never exceeded 35 women. The physical and psychological effects have been devastating, but the women in Armagh refuse to be broken.

The British government, however, continues to set great store by its weapon of intensive strip-searching. So much so that it has extended its use to Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer, being held on remand in London's Brixton Jail. These two women have suffered over 800 strip-searches since their arrest less than a year ago.

Once again, the violation of women's bodies and their human rights is being used as a means to destroy their strength. Martina and Ella, like the Armagh women, remain determined to resist.

MAGHABERRY

Armagh Jail, with all its history of torture and repression, will soon be closed,

but the struggle will go on. It is clear that the British government will continue to use strip-searching as a weapon against women even after the move to the new £40 million prison at Maghaberry. As their introduction to the prison, the women have been told that all of them will be strip-searched before even being brought into the complex.

Far from heralding a new era in 'civilised' and 'humane' prison conditions, Maghaberry represents a fresh offensive against republican prisoners. The British government has spent over £5 million on 'security' alone, emphasising constant surveillance techniques which, like strip-searching, have often been linked with psychological torture because of the constant sense of violated privacy.

The prison is built in small, separate units which will accommodate seven prisoners only, effectively isolating each 'grouping' from the others and reducing the likelihood of mass protests against conditions and treatment.

Armagh Jail has served its purpose, but the struggle goes on both inside and outside of the prisons. While it does, every one of us must show our support for republican prisoners by taking part in the events arranged for International Women's Weekend and all future activities of the anti-strip-search and prisoners' campaigns.



● Defiant Armagh POWs show their determination to resist

Money-lenders keep out!

"MONEY-LENDERS are unwelcome in Monaghan" was the clear message delivered by Monaghan Urban District Council on Monday, February 24th.

After a series of complaints to the local Sinn Féin advice centre from people who had fallen into the money-lenders' clutches, Sinn Féin Councillor Owen Smyth raised the issue in the council chamber and had the following motion passed unanimously:

"That this council states unequivocally that it views the recent infiltration of money-lenders into working-class areas in the town as a highly-unwelcome development."

Seconding the motion, Sinn Féin Councillor Padraigh O'Murchadha denounced money-lenders as "parasites who prey on people" and called on people with financial problems to go to their local credit unions rather than loan-sharks.

SECTION 31

Another local authority has joined the growing list of councils

around the twenty-six counties who are demanding the repeal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

At their February meeting, Cashel Urban District Council passed the anti-censorship resolution which was proposed by Sinn Féin Councillor Michael Browne. The Fine Gael and Labour members formed the minority of two which voted against.

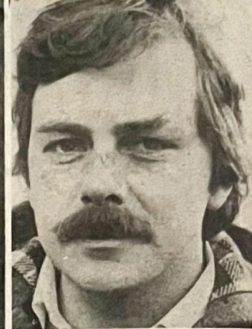
Councillor Dick Wood (Fine Gael) expressed his own concept of democracy when he told the meeting:

"Until such time as subversives are eliminated (our emphasis) they are entitled to be proscribed." (1)

The meeting also passed a resolution calling for a plaque to be erected on the Rock of Cashel in memory of those slaughtered there by Cromwell's deputy, Lord Inchiquin, in 1647.



• Sinn Féin Councillors Padraigh O'Murchadha and Owen Smyth who raised the motion on money-lenders at Monaghan UDC



Michael Browne proposed the motion which, he told the councillors, was to remind people of the fact that three thousand had been killed by Inchiquin during his campaign in Ireland. This resolution was also passed by the Council.

LETTERKENNY HOUSING

A statement by the chairperson of Letterkenny Urban District Council, in which he criticised the allocation of houses to travellers, has been condemned by Sinn Féin.

Hugh Dorrian, in a recent issue of the *Donegal Democrat*, said that he was "unhappy that four itinerants got houses" in a new estate in the town. Sinn Féin

spokesperson Denis O'Donnell said that Dorrian was using the allocation of the four houses to travellers to divert attention from the fact that around 150 people are still on the housing list in Letterkenny.

The Sinn Féin statement said: "The Council chairperson is using these people as scapegoats because the Council of which he is a member has failed miserably to provide adequate housing for the people of the area."

"Sinn Féin calls for immediate action on the provision of funds for further housing development in the Letterkenny area so that everyone in need of a house can be housed — no matter who they are."

Postcards

FOUR COLOURFUL new postcards have been produced by Republican Publications for Easter.

Priced at 15p each or 50p for the set plus postage, they are available from all the usual republican outlets.

Badges

METAL EASTER LILY lapel badges, price £1.30 each plus postage (bulk rates available on request), can be obtained from Republican Publications at 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast (phone 732820) or at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin (phone 726932).



Framed prints

SPECIAL prints of the 1916 Easter Proclamation (above) are being issued this year.

Available in an attractive wooden frame, the prints come in two sizes 10 1/2" x 15", £6; 16" x 21", £10 (please add postage — bulk rates available).

Orders should be sent to Dublin Sinn Féin at 5 Blessington Street (phone 308783).

Garda slum landlord

TENANTS in Dublin's Blessington Street are living in virtual slum conditions in a house jointly owned by a solicitor and a garda inspector.

There are four flats in the house, all of which are in a dangerous state of disrepair. The basement flat is occupied by Adrienne and Derek Slater and their four young children, all of whom sleep in one small bedroom.

After they moved into the flat last August, the plaster on the ceiling collapsed onto one of the beds. The tenant in the ground floor flat above them cannot use the shower because the water pours into the Slaters' bedroom below. The landlord has covered all the solid walls with boards in an attempt to hide the dampness



• (Left) Adrienne Slater with three of her children; (centre) the Madden family with a neighbour, Mrs Hanlon; (right) Councillor Christy Burke points out the exposed fuse-box and wires in the Maddens' flat



which has spread throughout the house.

The Slaters' rent is £30 per week for their tiny three-roomed

flat. Two more young families live in the building. In the flat of Helen and Seamus Madden an

exposed fuse-box is positioned only a couple of feet from the floor with live wires exposed to their two young children. The ceiling in the Maddens' flat also collapsed and the walls and floor are ridden with damp.

In the other young family's flat (the Hanlons) the toilet is broken and the landlord has told them that he cannot obtain a new one to replace it. Water from the broken toilet continuously spills onto the floor.

GARDA INSPECTOR

Number 19 Blessington Street is owned by Garda Inspector Stephen Finehan and his agent, Leo Martin, a solicitor with offices in nearby North Frederick Street.

Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke has called for the Corporation health officers to declare the building unfit for human habitation. According to the tenants, Finehan has recently acquired another house in Nelson Street and is preparing to rent it out in flats. Commenting on the case, Christy Burke told AP/RN:

"This is an example of the kind of thing rack-renting landlords can get away with. I shall be pressing for this building to be condemned by the health authorities and for the families to be rehoused in the Inner City."

BALDOYLE ROOF ROW

BY MARTIN Mac DIARMADA

FOR the past 12 years, people living in the Seagrange estate, Baldoyle, County Dublin, have been campaigning to have the faulty felt roofs on their houses replaced with conventional pitched roofs.

The original flat roofs in the Dublin Corporation estate have caused endless problems for the tenants with leaks in most of the houses. One resident, Alice O'Keefe, was warned by the ESB not to use the lights in her bedrooms because water from the roof has reached electrical fittings in the ceiling. She now fears for the safety of her seven children who have to sleep in the dangerous bedrooms.



• Seagrang residents marching to City Hall on Monday

Two hundred people from the estate staged a protest march from Tara Street to City Hall on Monday, March 3rd. They picketed the meeting of Dublin City Council and a deputation presented the residents' demands to the councillors.

The meeting passed a resolution calling on the City Manager estate, but the campaign is set to continue as the City Manager opposed the motion, claiming that the money was not available for the re-roofing.

Inquiry probes Toomebridge killing

A public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the killing of Francis Bradley by a British army undercover squad in Toomebridge on February 18th was held last Sunday, March 2nd.

Organised by the Community for Justice, a group of clergy and laity formed over a year ago to focus attention on repression, the inquiry's panel (including several solicitors) spent over three hours taking evidence from eye-wit-

nesses, family friends, local clergy, legal representatives of the Bradley family and Barney McLarnon (one of the men arrested near the scene of Bradley's death and subsequently released without charge).

Written statements were taken

from a number of witnesses and the inquiry's co-ordinator, Fr Joe McVeigh, issued an appeal for anyone who hasn't come forward to do so immediately, no matter how trivial they think their evidence might be.

THREATS

One witness after another told the inquiry of the harassment, surveillance and death threats endured by Francis Bradley in the

final year of his short life.

Testimony was given of how the crown forces had warned Bradley that he wouldn't see his 21st birthday — a warning that became a grim reality.

A report of the inquiry's findings will be published as soon

as all the statements have been compiled and evaluated, but the inquiry team has stressed the urgent need for anyone who saw anything, leading up to or following Francis Bradley's death, to contact them without any further delay.

● Scene of the murder of Francis Bradley in Toomebridge



Intimidation exposed

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A SOUTH ARMAGH nationalist has revealed details of an attempt by the British army to recruit him as a paid informer.

Thomas Flynn (31), from Tullydonnell, was first approached on Thursday, February 13th, when he was stopped late at night by British soldiers on a road close to his home.

Flynn was ordered from his car and told to open the boot. As he did so, a soldier dropped a £10 note into it and asked Flynn if he knew 'any republicans'. Flynn told AP/RN, "I told him I didn't and threw the £10 note onto the road but the Brit told me to ring him the following

Thursday in Bessbrook Barracks." If he failed to do so, the Brit threatened, republican 'sources' would be informed that Flynn had given the British information during detention five years ago. The Brit then said that a forthcoming monitoring offence against Flynn would be quashed and he was then given a code-name (the 'Mechanic') and told to ask for 'Bertie' when he rang Bessbrook Barracks.

BLACKMAIL

Thomas Flynn immediately contacted Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister to expose this blackmail attempt. They decided to wait until the following Thursday in order to establish whether or not the Brit had been acting under orders

or playing a trick on Flynn. However, when Jim McAllister telephoned, he was told that 'Bertie' was not available but to telephone later that night.

There were no further attempts to contact Flynn until Tuesday, February 25th, when he was stopped by the same Brit at a checkpoint near Forkhill. His two brothers and a friend were taken out of the car while Flynn was taken aside and told to walk towards Fordcross, where he would be met at 5pm that evening. Flynn wisely contacted Jim McAllister again. "By this time," he told AP/RN, "I was very worried about what was happening. I didn't even tell my wife as she's expecting our third child. I was afraid to upset her."



● Thomas Flynn with one of his children

Jim McAllister called on nationalists who found themselves in a similar situation not to hesitate in exposing such "underhand methods of intimidation".



● Delia McDorman (left) with her sister Patricia Gorman

RUC attack

BY NUALA DOHERTY

AN EVENING OUT for a group of local people at the Pound Loney Social Club in Belfast ended in a totally unprovoked and brutal attack by the RUC.

As the club's customers began to leave, they found that more than 20 RUC men had forced their way through the security gate and were in the hallway. Delia Dornan and her sister, Patricia Gorman, were among the first to leave when the RUC began to abuse them, calling them "Fenian whores". A young man in front of them objected and was attacked by three of the RUC men.

When the two women tried to protect him, they were beaten with batons. Delia Dornan's glasses were broken and she was bruised all over her body. Her sister's blouse was ripped and she was also badly bruised.

As other people tried to leave

the club, they were hemmed into the hallway by the RUC and by six armoured landrovers drawn up in the courtyard. During the attack, the RUC used batons, gas cylinders, iron bars and sticks against the defenceless men and women. A number of people needed hospital treatment for cuts and bruises and one man, Hugh Carson, was detained in hospital.

COMPLAINT

Delia Dornan and her sister went to Springfield Road RUC Barracks after the assault to make a complaint, but they were again assaulted, and Patricia Gorman was struck on the neck. When she insisted on making the complaint, she was arrested and charged with disorderly behaviour.



70ù Comóradh Éirí Amach na Cásca

SINN FEIN wishes to announce that as part of its celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, a commemorative march and rally will take place in Dublin on Saturday, April 5th. To make this occasion a fitting tribute to all those who have laid down their lives in the cause of freedom over the past 70 years, Sinn Féin invites political, social and cultural groups to attend. Bands are especially welcome and these should contact The Secretary, Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, as soon as possible.

AS this is the 70th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising we expect the demand for lilies to be greater than ever so place your orders as soon as possible. Available from Mrs Peig King, 29 All Saints Park, Raheny, Dublin 5. Price 1RE15 per 1,000.

Honour Ireland's dead —
wear an Easter lily



Imeachtaí

'STOP THE ARMAGH STRIP-SEARCHES' PICKET
5pm to 6pm Every Friday
College Green
(opposite Trinity College)
DUBLIN

WELCOME HOME SOCIAL
For Paddy Quinn, Colm Murphy & Dan McGuinness
Music by Perfect Alibi
8pm Friday 7th March
Old Border Inn
KILLEEN
County Louth
Taille €2 (bar extension)
Organised by Belleks Sinn Fein

SOCIAL NIGHT
10pm Friday 7th March
The No. 5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein Youth

CLONARD MARTYRS COMMEMORATION FUNCTION
Featuring Bonaparte
Friday 7th March
Seanmhúileann/Pour'd Loney Club
BELFAST
Taille £1

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS

EXHIBITION
(Stalls, info, music & creche)
12 to 5pm Saturday 8th March
O'Lehane Hall
9 Cavendish Row
DUBLIN

WORKSHOPS ON REPRESSION
10am to 1pm Saturday 8th March
Whiterock Community Centre
BELFAST

SOCIAL
Women only
Various artists
8pm to 1am Saturday 8th March
Teachers' Club
36 Parnell Square
DUBLIN
Taille £2 (£1 unwaged)

'BOYCOTT SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS' PICKETS
11am to 3pm Saturday 8th March
Shopping centres at Blackrock, Dun Laoghaire, Rathfarnham, Dundrum, Kilmanagh, Rathmines, Nutgrove, Finglas Village, Crumlin, Walkinstown, Northside & Grafton Street (Barclays Bank)
DUBLIN
Protests also Belfast, Cork, Derry, Limerick, Newry & Waterford
For details contact your local branches council or IAAM branch
Organised by the ICTU & Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement

ICTU ANTI-APARTHEID PICKET
2.30pm Saturday 8th March
Dunnes Stores
NAVAN
County Meath
All Sinn Fein members to attend

'STOP STRIP-SEARCHES' PICKET
11.30am to 1.30pm
Every Saturday
Brixton Prison
Jebb Avenue
LONDON

'STOP THE ARMAGH STRIP-SEARCHES' PICKET
2pm to 4pm every Saturday
GPO DUBLIN

CLONARD MARTYRS COMMEMORATION
1pm Sunday 9th March
Assemble at gates
Milltown Cemetery
BELFAST
All support groups welcome

SINN FEIN ELECTION CONVENTION
8pm Monday 10th March
Dundrum Community Centre
Monkstown Farm
DUN LAOGHAIRE

New wave of emigration

BY CHARLIE MCFADDEN

A FEELING of "isolation, loneliness and rejection" is often the end result of an unplanned emigration, a meeting of the Irish Futures Society was told in Trinity College Dublin on Friday, February 28th.

The meeting was addressed by Fr Bobby Gilmore of the Camden Irish Centre, London, who maintains that two out of seven people sleeping rough in London are Irish and Irish people are among the higher percentages in hostels for the homeless.

These are the grim realities facing Irish people leaving for Britain, yet recent research indicates that 57% of young Irish emigrants make no arrangements about accommodation before leaving and 34% have less than £30 on arrival in Britain.

In addition, the feeling of insecurity which many young people experience on leaving home is further complicated by cultural differences and the 'generally inferior quality' of accommodation

available to migrants because of their economic circumstances.

In this environment, young people find it hard to develop roots and have a tendency to drift aimlessly from place to place. They are also at higher risk from drugs, drink and other related problems, in some cases leading to homelessness.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Michelle O'Brien, of the Youth Emigration Action Group, emphasized the need for young people to make an informed decision about emigration. They should know what to expect and what the actual situation 'on the ground' is. The Youth Emigration Action Group stresses that it is not telling people to leave but



● (Left to right) Michelle O'Brien, Fr Bobby Gilmore, Dr P.J. Drudy and Joan Smith at the TCD meeting

rather that if they are forced to emigrate then they should at least be able to use the available information that will make the transition less traumatic.

This position is in total contrast to that of certain Southern politicians who openly advocate emigration as a viable option to young unemployed school-leavers. Of course, this is a handy cop-out for a government embarrassed by the continued failure of its economic policies. It also has the added 'advantage' that it hides the true extent of the unemployment problem.

ANNUAL FIGURES

Informed voluntary sources put the number of Irish people emigrating annually to Britain at between 15,000 and 20,000.

However, there has been no

attempt to halt this new wave of emigration. Instead the numbers have been deliberately underestimated by a Coalition government which remains firmly attached to a multinational strategy of 'economic growth'. And while this strategy was initially successful, its inevitable failure has been confirmed by the daily increases in the emigration and unemployment figures.

Only a radical rethink of present economic policies coupled with investment in native resources and labour will provide the sure foundation for lasting economic growth. But, as one speaker pointedly remarked, the Dublin government is more concerned with subsidising foreign capital than with subsidising native labour.

South African sanctions campaign

THE DUNNES' STORES anti-apartheid strikers are staging lunchtime pickets of Leinster House this week and next week as a 'reminder' to the Labour/Fine Gael government of their pledge to ban South African imports if it can be proved that prison labour is used in their production.

John Mitchell, head of the Irish Distributive & Administrative Trades Union (the Dunnes' strikers' union), told AP/RN:

"Amnesty International has said that there's 'incontrovertible proof' that prison labour is used in the production of South African fruit.

"Given the time that it takes for government

decisions to find their way through the bureaucracy and actually be implemented, moves to impose sanctions should be made now, not at the end of the month."

March has also been designated as a 'month of action' in support of sanctions in a joint campaign launched by the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU).

This Saturday (March 8th) will see leafleting of shopping centres throughout Ireland (see *Imeachtaí* column for details) and opponents of apartheid are being asked to increase the pressure on their elected representatives to back the call for sanctions.

ANC UNION CENTRE

The ICTU has launched an appeal for funds to set up a union training centre in the ANC's Freedom College in Tanzania.

Donations for the centre and orders for boycott leaflets, posters and lobbying kits for the sanctions campaign should be sent to: Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, 20 Beechpark Road, Dublin 18 (phone 895035);

ICTU, 19 Raglan Road, Dublin 4 (phone 680641);

ICTU, 1-9 Castle Arcade, Belfast BT1 5DG (phone 241452).



Tragic death of Gill O'Brien

A TRAGIC FIRE has claimed the life of John 'Gill' O'Brien, one of Tralee's best-known and much-loved musicians.

Gill, who was in his 80s and had a life-long association with the Republican Movement, died in a blaze at his Mitchell's Avenue home on Monday, February 24th, when clothes drying over the range caught fire. His wife, Patricia, who was injured by flames, ran for help but her husband was dead on arrival at Tralee General Hospital.

As a young man, Gill was an active republican during the '20s and he later founded the Gill O'Brien band after being inspired by the energetic and colourful contributions of Northern bands at successive Bodenstown commemorations.

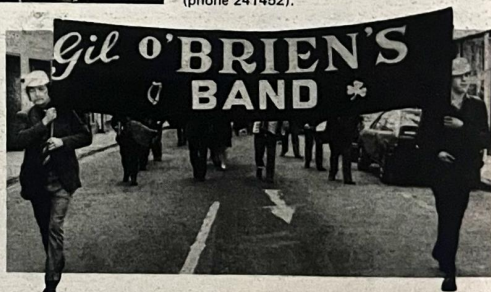
Gill's band was always available to

the Republican Movement and it was present at the unveiling of the Ballyseedy Monument in 1962, but it also played a major role in the general life of Tralee.

Gill and his band could always be seen at GAA matches, St Patrick's Day parades and 'ringing in' the New Year festivities. "Every time a Kerry team won an All-Ireland, he played them down from the station on Monday night," said Charlie Dowling, one of his many friends.

LARGE ATTENDANCE

The removal of remains and funeral on Wednesday and Thursday of last



week was attended by a large number of Kerry republicans along with local county championship swimmers as a lone piper led the cortege from St John's Church, through Tralee and on to Rath Cemetery. Members of the Gill O'Brien Band marched at the head of the procession as Gill's coffin, draped with the Tricolour and the flag of the Kerins/O'Rahilly GAA Club, was flanked by a club guard of honour.

Wreaths included those from the Republican Movement, An Cumann Cabhrach and the republican POWs in Portlaoise.

John O'Connor, the present leader of the band, pledged:

"The band is going to live on and we will be out on St Patrick's Day in tribute to Gill. He used to say, 'Win, lose or draw, the show must go on' — the show will go on."

REVIEWS

Beastliness and bigotry

BY AINE MARTIN

MEDIA COVERAGE of the loyalist stoppage was not without a little light relief. For instance, on Thursday night, February 27th, on UTV's *Counterpoint*, Ian Paisley compared Britain's record of 100 days lost per work-week per year through strike action with 80 days in the six counties. Therefore, he said, "Workers in Northern Ireland deserve their long weekend!"

And then the direct-ruler, Tom King, came on TV on Monday afternoon, saying that the whole exercise was a waste of time. As hooded thugs threatened people who didn't want to take part in the 'Ulster Says Stop' festivities, Tom King said that it was just simply awful that these "people were trying to be beastly to their fellow Ulstermen."

If you despair of the British people ever understanding what is going on in the six counties, you may not be encouraged by the fact that British journalists aren't too familiar with even the names of the protagonists. The direct-ruler was introduced on BBC *Newsnight*'s Monday night programme as 'Tom Sing'!

We have all heard the loud claims from right-wing governments for the release from the Soviet Union of the dissident, Andrej Sakharov. South Africa's President Botha has even claimed that he will release Nelson Mandela if Sakharov is released.

With these calls of concern echoing in our ears, it was interesting on Monday to trace the fortunes of another Soviet dissident, Vladimir Sakharov, a spy who had been his way to the US after risking his life passing secrets to the CIA. After the CIA had debriefed him for all the information he possessed, he was given a new identity and a place to stay - a seedy motel. Adding insult to irony, the new identity was that of a German - equivalent, he thought, to "giving a Jew the identity of an Arab." Many of his relatives had been killed by the Nazis during the Second World War.

Monday's *Panorama* dealt with how dissidents were treated by the grateful USA, for whom they had betrayed their native countries. It found that of the hundreds who had made their way to the US, most were dumped after they had given all the secrets they could pass on. The vast majority of them, in the words of one ex-CIA boss, were "squeezed like a lemon."

leabhar

Uaisleacht smaointe

IS DOILIGH dom i dtólamh léirmheas a dhéanamh ar leabhar filíochta, de bhri go bhfuil an oiread sin cineál leabhar filíochta ann, agus tá mise claonta in aghaidh na lacha filíochta ann, agus tá bhfuil rithim ná réasún inti in "nua-filíochta" nach bhfuil rithim ná réasún ina deir amanna, ach "an méid sin ráite agam, áfach", mar a deir lucht na n-aghallamh ar an teilifís, caithfidh mé a rá gur bhaín mé sult agus aoibhneas as an leabhar seo de chuid Chiaráin Ó Coigligh agus tá moladh mór tuillte ag Pádraig Ó Snodaigh 'gheall ar an leabhar álainn seo a chur ar fáil.

Foilsíonn an Snodach níos mó leabhar filíochta ná filítheoir ar bith eile in Éirinn agus ba bhoichte staid na filíochta Gaeilge ina éagmais.

and thrown on the ash-heap." In a recent, highly-publicised case, Colonel Yurchenko, the highest-ranking KGB officer ever to defect, decided to go back to the USSR after a few weeks.

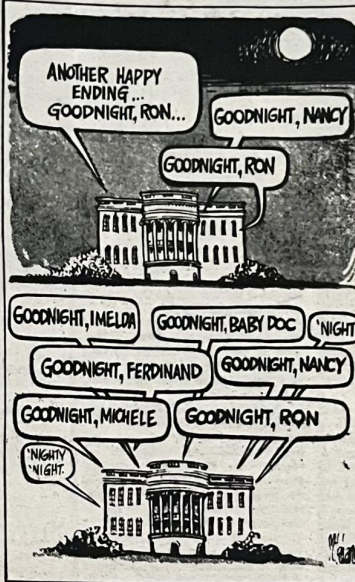
Most of the defectors became alcoholics and suffer serious social and psychological problems. More than a few have committed suicide.

Panorama looked at a few case histories: all eminent men in their own countries, all ignored by their new homeland. One man, Alexander Ushakov, climbed a mountain to defect. He was debriefed for eight months and then dumped, without knowing a word of English, to work as an unpaid caretaker for food and board. He was formerly a professor of naval affairs.

Another man, Andrei Sorokun, a brilliant student who speaks three languages fluently, was promised a job at a university if he defected. Now he works at washing dishes in a restaurant.

The only defectors who had got well-paying jobs were doing lecture tours around the US, feeding the anti-Soviet paranoia of small-town America. Another opening is writing autobiographies - appealing to the same market. Many of the defectors had gone to the US because they were disillusioned with the USSR. Now most of them were very disappointed with the harsh reality of life in their new homeland.

But then again, a traitor's



lot is not a happy one.

Now that Ferdinand Marcos has departed from the Philippines, I wonder how other close friends of Ronald Reagan feel.

Do they sleep soundly

these nights?

Although the transition to a new government went a lot more smoothly than the Shah's toppling in Iran in 1979, it was quite clear that, in both cases, the US had pulled the plug - the former 'good buddy' had been dumped.

Marcos and his clan were probably the biggest crooks of the modern world, robbing between five and ten billion dollars from the Filipino treasury. With all the property Marcos bought in the US as well as in other parts of the world, there can be no doubt that the Yanks knew there was fraud being practised on a grand scale by the Philippines dictator.

But what about the other friends of the US: Chile's Pinochet in Chile and all those other vicious criminals who run the banana republics of South America for the benefit of their northern neighbour?

With Baby Doc and Marcos driven out of the countries they ran as their private estates, those other dictators must be feeling a bit uneasy as they go about their daily job of robbing their people blind.

It's not often I'm shocked any more with news reports of sudden and violent death. But Friday night made me sit up.

When an international peacemaker like Olof Palme was gunned down in Sweden, a country renowned for democracy, peace and progress, we all suffered a great loss. A life-long socialist and a man who has led his people to a standard of living that we envy, he used his country's neutrality in sterling efforts to make this cruel world a bit more humane.

He will be sadly missed, especially by those developing countries whose rights he had always stood up for.



● Anatoli Sharansky is welcomed to Israel after his recent release as part of a spy-swap



ann, tá cuid eile ann a bhfuil seánmhéadar na Gaeilge iontu. Tá dán deas ag Clárán i gcuimhne ar Roibeard Ó Seachnasaigh ina deir sé: Folamh gach bolg tráthnóna Is ar maidin arís, faraoir;

gan' cota ag fear ná ardbhóna ach culaithphluid náir-thine.

Agus rann gearr aige fán am ar dhúilgaigh Gearóid Mac Gearailt freagra a thabhairt ar cheist i nGaeilge:

Ba shuarach is ba ghrán-na dár Leader, gan tuairisc ná ráiteas as Gaeilge a thabhairt uaidh ar theallach an Ghaeilí, i Londain faoi dhán seo na hÉireann.

Níor ní leis an Ghaeltacht a mhaíú, Níor shuí leis a tráithe ná a cándúit. De n-iarraidh an mheirdeach fa' bhascadh, Is é a shíl go ngearóid sé an t-alcasán.

Tá dánta beaga gonta sa leabhar ar nós 'Luan Cáscá' agus 'Domhach na nDeor' agus dánta fada ar fíú machnamh a dhéanamh orthu - macasamhail 'Altú'.

Ní miste dom a inseacht gan uabhar ná císteacht mar mhaolaigh ar mo mhíneach i dtosach mo loingis ar arthach na linne is de bhúifochas mo chine...

Tá binneas focal agus uaisleacht smaointe ag Clárán Ó Coigligh in *Doineann agus Uair Bhreá* agus mholainn é do dhúine ar bith a bhfuil dóil agus spéis aige in áilleacht na filíochta Gaeilge.

● *Doineann agus Uair Bhreá* le Clárán Ó Coigligh arna tholúis ag Coiscéim. Praghas £1.50.

Imeachtaí

- DUBLIN SINN FEIN QUIZ FINAL**
7.30pm Thursday 13th March
Belvedere Hotel
Gardiner Row
DUBLIN
Taillte £2
Music by Dan Paddy Andy
Tickets available from
No 5 Blessington Street
- 1916 70th ANNIVERSARY LECTURES**
'National Sovereignty at the end of the 20th Century'
By Dr Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, historian, UCG
8pm Thursday 13th March
ATGWU Hall
Middle Abbey Street
DUBLIN
Organised by the Irish Sovereignty Movement
- ANTI-EXTRADITION WHITE LINE PICKET**
Saturday 15th March
BRIDGEND
County Down
- BALLAD SESSION**
Music by Cúig Fáilte
Saturday 15th March
Siane House
NAVAN
Taillte £1.50
Organised by Navan Sinn Féin
- PARLE/CREANE/HOGAN MEMORIAL UNVEILING**
Speaker: Ruairi O Bradaigh
2.30pm Sunday 16th March
Assemble: Cresent
LOC GARMAN
Organised by Loc Garmán NGA
- WELCOME HOME SOCIAL FOR DAITHÍ KAVANAGH**
Music by Celtic Country
9pm Saturday 16th March
County Hotel
WEXFORD
Taillte £10
Full meal & bar extension
- VOL TOM SMITH COMMEMORATION**
12 noon Monday 17th March
Assemble Berkley Road Church
March to Glasnevin Cemetery
DUBLIN
- HILLSBOROUGH AGREEMENT PUBLIC MEETING**
'Milestone or Millstone?'
Speakers: Ruairi O Bradaigh, Fr Des Wilson
8pm Tuesday 18th March
Atlanta Hotel
GALWAY
- 1986 LUTULI MEMORIAL LECTURE**
'The Crime of Movement in South Africa: The Pass Laws'
8pm Friday 21st March
Oak Room
Mansion House
DUBLIN
Organised by the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement
- DAY SCHOOL OF IRELAND**
Featuring workshops, videos, bookstalls and a social evening with live music from 7.30pm
Speakers: Christine Crawley MEP and representatives of Sinn Féin, Labour Committee on Ireland, IBRG, Armagh Women's Group
10am to 5pm
Saturday 22nd March
Highfields Workshop
Maidstone Road
LEICESTER
Organised by the Labour Party
- BALLAD NIGHT**
Music by Shebeen
Saturday 30th March
Riverside Bar
KILCURRY
County Louth
Taillte £1.50
Organised by Sinn Féin
- DINNER DANCE**
Music by the Nights
10pm to 2am Sunday 30th March
Lake of Shadows Hotel
BUNCRAHA
County Donegal
Taillte £12/£10 (Includes 5-course meal and free £100 Draw)
Free bus from Derry Organised by Sinn Féin
For details phone Buncrana 61587
Between 6pm and 8pm



Salute to a true republican

A LONE IRA VOLUNTEER, marked and uniformed and armed with a revolver, fired a volley of three shots over the remains of veteran Belfast republican Tom Magill (67), who died after a long illness in the early hours of Friday morning, February 28th.

Tom Magill had been an active member of the Republican Movement for 60 years and was extremely well-known and respected throughout republican circles. His popularity was amply demonstrated over the weekend by the many scores of people who visited his Turf Lodge home to pay their final respects and offer their sympathies to his wife Sadie and family.

Throughout the three days his remains were in the house his comrades in Oglagh na hEireann mounted a uniformed guard of honour. On Sunday afternoon at 1pm the coffin, covered in a Tricolour and with his beret and gloves on top, was carried out of the house into the back garden where a Volunteer fired a volley of three shots over his remains.

On Monday morning, March 3rd, following Mass in Holy Trinity Chapel, Turf Lodge, Tom Magill's remains were carried to Milltown Cemetery. The funeral was attended by over 300 people and at the graveside, wreaths were laid on behalf of GHQ and

The oration was given by Gerry Adams

"Ar dtús ba mhaith liom ár gcomhbhrón a dhéanamh le clann Magill ar bhás Tom Magill agus go háirithe ár gcomhbhrón a dhéanamh san am seo lena bhean chéile Sadie. Bhí meas mór agam ar Tom Magill. Ba fear iontach é, fear cróga agus poblahtánach láidir. Ag an am cheanna lena chlann féin ba fear chéile agus athair maith é agus nuair a dúirt mé go raibh meas mór agam ar Tom tá fhios agam go bhfuil mé ag caint ar bhrú shon fosta. Tá muidne cruinnithe anois mar seo, chun ár mbeas ar an bhfear seo a léiriú."

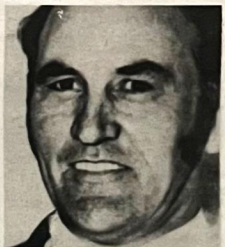
"Almost 60 years ago, Tom Magill joined Fianna Éireann, when he was seven years old, and later, at the age of 17, he joined Oglagh na hEireann. Tom was arrested in Birmingham, England, in 1938 while engaged in the bombing campaign and received a ten-

year sentence. He was released in 1945. The following year he married Sadie Malone, a staunch republican from the Springfield Road in Belfast.

"During the 50s he was active and was eventually arrested on March 17th 1958 in the Iveagh district of West Belfast and interned for four years, only being released in the 1962 amnesty."

"I first met him in the 1960s, when he became my first contact with active republicanism. He was one of a very small number who helped to reorganise the Republican Movement after the '50s and those who witness the Movement in popular times have little idea of how difficult it was in lean times."

"He had a serious operation in 1969 and his health deteriorated since then. It was totally fitting that Tom's comrades in Oglagh na hEireann paid their final respects by providing a uniformed guard of honour for him in his home."



Death of Andy Shaw

ANDREW SHAW (59) and his 15-year-old son, Christopher, were tragically killed in a road accident near Magherafelt on Friday, February 28th. His sudden death stunned his many republican comrades who had come to respect this quiet father of 12.

Andy Shaw joined the Republican Movement during the 1950s campaign, and from that time until his sad and unexpected death last week had worked tirelessly for the achievement of an independent socialist republic. As an active member of electoral registration committees, he contributed substantially to Sinn Féin's electoral success in the South Derry area.

STRONG INFLUENCE

He was a strong republican influence in his own locality and was known throughout the area as an honest man. He played an important role in the St Patrick's/Antoine Mac Ghiolla Bhrighde Flute Band in Keenagh, and as a tribute to him and his son, a guard of honour from the band accompanied their coffins to the graveside.

As the funeral made its way to the local chapel from his Inliscairn home at Desertmartin, hundreds of people joined in the cortege and hundreds more waited at the graveside.

The Republican Movement extends its deepest sympathies to his wife Sheila and family. He will be greatly missed.

WORLD VIEW

Philippines

FIVE WORDS exemplify the feelings of at least two supporters of Ferdinand Marcos, the ignominiously deposed dictator of the Philippines: "Sons of bitches!" and "Oh shit!" The former was contributed by United States President Ronald Reagan and the latter by a town mayor of Arab Province in the Philippines.

The town mayor had been watching one of ex-President Marcos' increasingly deranged television appearances, appealing for all of his supporters in Manila and outlying districts to come to the besieged presidential palace and demonstrate their support and loyalty. Upon reaching the South Gate of the palace, the town mayor was stopped by armed troops. The mayor, taking umbrage, remonstrated with the troops: "What's wrong with you? Didn't you hear the president's appeal?" He was informed, much to his horror, that these troops now supported Aquino. "Oh shit!" he cried, before making himself scarce.

President Reagan's outburst came at a White House press conference, called to explain why the US had decided to abandon its "friend and long-time ally." Reagan was receiving a particularly bad mauling at the hands of the assembled reporters who, not surprisingly, doubted the sincerity of the president's feelings for the new incumbent, Aquino. The obviously exasperated president, visibly suffering under a barrage of questioning, turned to his aides and commented, "Sons of bitches!" Reagan's choice of words were picked up by reporters' audio equipment, whereupon the "great communicator" had to suffer additional verbal lashings from the somewhat piqued press.

BIZARRE

The bizarre chain of events which ended in Marcos fleeing the country began at 5pm on Saturday, February 22nd. The newly-appointed chief of the armed forces, General Fidel Ramos, and Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile issued a statement declaring that they were now switching their allegiance to Aquino.

When news reached Marcos that his chief of staff, Ramos (the hated General Ver had been stood down "as an act of goodwill"), and his defence minister, Enrile, had defected, he ordered Ver back to his old post and dispatched orders to loyal troops — the 25,000 palace guard, and the tank division at Fort Bonifacio — to attack Enrile's and Ramos's bases. Enrile abandoned his base at Camp Aguinaldo at 2pm on Sunday, February 23rd, and retreated to Camp Crame. Marcos's tanks advanced on Camp Crame at 3pm but their way was blocked by a million people behind strategically-placed buses, taxis and lorries. The tanks were forced to retreat.

TV APPEARANCE

Meanwhile, Marcos made another of his rather strange TV appearances to declare a state of emergency. He also berated the opposition for saying that he was incapable: "They repeat that once more and I will set the tanks on them!" Marcos went on, "I may even want to lead the troops. I am just like an old warhorse, smelling powder and getting stronger."

During the TV performance, General Ver openly argued with Marcos, with Ver insisting on "smothering the rebels." But this farce was brought to an end with rebel forces literally pulling the plug on Marcos, replacing him with jazz music.

While all this was happening, Reagan's aides, national security advisor John Poindexter and White House chief of staff Donald Regan, were desperately trying to change Reagan's mind over Marcos. Reagan had already made several statements confirming the US government's support for the Filipino dictator and, for good measure, had described the election as a "success" which showed "evidence of a strong two-party system." Even when overwhelming evidence was presented of Marcos's



duplicity, Reagan still insisted on supporting him.

But when Marcos's troops advanced against the opposition, Reagan's aides were able to breach a gap in the US president's wall. They argued that if Marcos attacked the rebel forces, then it would constitute a "violation of US military aid." So, on Sunday, February 23rd, Reagan warned Marcos that US military aid would be stopped if used "against other elements of the Philippines military." Reagan also reminded Marcos that US military aid should be used against "the growing communist insurgency." This paved the way for the final break with Marcos that Monday when White House spokesman Larry Speakes was able to comment, "Attempts to prolong the life of the present regime by violence are futile." The rug was finally pulled from under Marcos's feet.

Marcos was down but not entirely out.

Ignoring his 'betrayal' by Washington, Marcos vowed to resist the Aquino rebellion "to the last drop of blood."

At 11am on Tuesday, Corason Aquino was sworn in as president of the Philippines. One hour later, Marcos was also sworn in as president in his own ceremony, but television coverage was cut by Aquino supporters. A few hours later, Marcos was on his way into exile, first to Guam and then to Hawaii. President Aquino proclaimed "The long agony is over. No more hate, no more fighting. Now is the time for peace."

NO REASON TO FEAR

Looking at the new administration, there is no reason why the US should fear for its position there.

Corason Aquino is surrounded by the hard men of Philippines politics. Ramos, a relation of Marcos, was trained at West Point Military Academy in the US, served in Korea and Vietnam, and is known as a 'US general'. Defence Minister Enrile was educated at Harvard University and was one of Marcos's most loyal allies since 1965. The new prime minister, Salvador Laurel, who is also foreign minister and vice-president, goes back a long way with Marcos and is now arguably in a far stronger political position than Aquino.

The question that is now being asked is who actually rules the Philippines?

Is it Aquino's 'People's Power', blessed by a benign military, or is the Aquino tail being allowed to wag the military dog, with Ramos, Enrile and Laurel playing a clever game of wait and see.

Are they letting the steam run out before they move in and get down to the real business of running the Philippines their way?

The odds are that the 'thriller in Manila' is still far from over.

Cork veteran dies

MOLLY CRONIN, an 86-year-old veteran of the Tan War in Cork, was laid to rest in Dunballig Cemetery, County Cork, last week, three days after her death on February 21st.

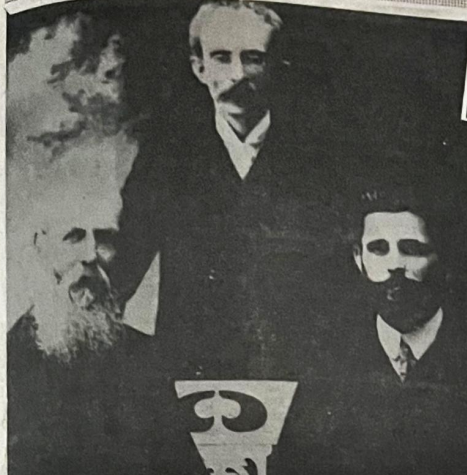
In a graveside tribute, Tomas Mac Curtain spoke of Molly's courage during her Tan War active service days in Cork city and her unflinching loyalty to the Republican Movement and the ongoing struggle today.

The ceremony was drawn to a close

by a lone piper from the Cork Volunteer Pipe Band (of which Molly's late brother, Nellus, was a pipe major) playing a lament.

The Republican Movement extends its deepest sympathy to Molly's family, friends and comrades.





Tom Clarke (centre) with veteran Fenian John Daly (left), who was imprisoned with him in England, and Sean Mac Diarmada

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Tom Clarke

TOM CLARKE, the oldest of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, was a veteran revolutionary and a living link between the Fenians and the small band of dedicated republicans which planned and organised for Easter Week.

His father, who was from Galway, was a soldier in the British army and was while his parents were living in the barracks at Hurst Castle on the Isle of Wight that Tom Clarke was born on March 11th 1857. After some years in South Africa, the family moved to Dungannon, County Tyrone, where Clarke spent most of his youth.

In 1881, he emigrated to America and in New York he joined Clann na Gael, which at that time was planning a bombing campaign against English cities.

Two years later, in 1883, he travelled to England as part of the bombing team led by Dr Thomas Gallagher. Before any dynamite attacks took place, however, the team was arrested by the London police. Clarke was sentenced to penal servitude for life and was to spend the next 15½ years in English prisons.

He later wrote about those years in his *Glimpses of an Irish Felon's Prison Life*. It is one of the classics of Irish prison literature and graphically describes how the brutality of his jailers drove his fellow political prisoners to madness or to an early grave.

"The horror of those nights and days will never leave my memory. One by one I saw my fellow prisoners break down and go mad under the terrible strain - some slowly and by degrees, others suddenly and without warning. 'Who next? was the terrible question that haunted us day and night -

When the decision was taken to go ahead with the Rising, Tom Clarke was given the honour of being the first to sign the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. He was a member of the GPO garrison and, when the republicans surrendered, Clarke was singled out for particular abuse by the British soldiers and RIC detectives in whose books he had been a subversive for over 30 years.

Tom Clarke, with Pearse and Mac Donagh, was shot by firing squad in Kilmaham Jail on the morning of May 3rd 1916, the first of the 16 executions that followed the Rising.

IN THE WEEKS leading up to the 70th anniversary of the Easter Rising, *Remembering the Past* will focus on the lives of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

and the ever-recurring thought that it might be myself added to the agony."

After his release in 1898, he returned to America, eventually settling in Dublin in 1907 where he set up a small tobaccoist's shop in Parnell Street. The Irish Republican Brotherhood was then only a remnant of what had once been a mass movement - old Fenians with little enthusiasm and no plan for action.

Tom Clarke, with the help of younger men such as Sean Mac Diarmada, began to revitalize the organisation, founding the republican *Irish Freedom* newspaper and making it a force behind the cultural and social revival which was taking place in Ireland.

IRISH VOLUNTEERS

When the Irish Volunteers were formed in 1913, the Irish Republican Brotherhood controlled the ruling body, the Provisional Committee. Clarke was responsible for recruiting both Padraic Pearse and Liam Mellows into the IRB. Along with Pearse, Mac Diarmada, Eamon Ceannt and Joseph Plunkett, he was a member of the Military Council of the IRB which was formed after the outbreak of the First World War to plan an insurrection.

James Connolly and Thomas Mac Donagh later joined the Council and these seven were the signatories of the Easter Proclamation.

It was in the back room of Clarke's little tobaccoist's shop (75a Parnell Street) that the details of the Rising were planned. Clarke was the initial link with Clann na Gael in America which provided badly-needed funds to the revolutionaries and helped to organise Roger Casement's ill-fated arms shipment on the *Aud*.

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Tom Clarke, with Pearse and Mac Donagh, was shot by firing squad in Kilmaham Jail on the morning of May 3rd 1916, the first of the 16 executions that followed the Rising.

Tá airgead agat - you have money
Níl talamh agat - you haven't land
Níl páiste aici - he hasn't a child
Tá buachaill aici - she has a boy
Tá síopa aici - he has a shop
Níl tigh aici - she hasn't a house
Níl airgead againn inniu - we haven't money today
Tá talamh againn - you have land
Níl mac againn - you haven't a son
Tá páiste acu - they have a child
Níl cáilín acu - they haven't a girl
Tá buachaill agus cáilín acu - they have a boy and a girl

PHRASES

Níl an chiall aici (neel ain cheal eogh) - he has no sense
Tá dúil aici (taw dooil aici) - he is in a rage
Súda, má sé do thoil é (shookra maw shay do hull ay) - sugar, please
Tá sé ansin (taw shay unshin) - it is there

from Breda, Vincent, Michael and Tanya and from Phil, Jimmy and Mary Canty. (Portlaoise.) Happy Sugrue, Pete. All our love. From Marie, and from Jimmy Griffin and family.

SUGRUE, Pete. (Portlaoise.) Quarter of a century down, three quarters to go. Keep the head up. Love from the Holly family and from Lala and Noreen.

TUTE, Gerry. (Portlaoise.) Talmid ag dul in aolais nach bhfuilfidh ag dul in aolais na fear e. Gra go leor o Noreen.

Have a happy birthday, Eugene, and a better one next time. Beir bua. From Frances.

O'DWYER, Ella. (Brixton.) Love and lollies and happy birthday. From Marian and Clara.

O'DWYER, Ella. (Brixton.) Bolated birthday greetings on your birthday, of a few days ago. I wish you God bless and thank over you, Pat, Gerry and Peter. All here send you their love. From The Bard and friends.

SUGRUE, Pete. (Portlaoise.) Birthday greetings and best wishes. From Tara Abu, Belle Atha Clath, xxx. Always, Pella of you. Happy birthday, Pete. Always thinking of you. Love from Mam, Dolores, Peter and James.

O'DWYER, Ella. (Brixton.) Best wishes on your birthday, Peter. Love from Jackie, Eddie and Joanna, and Christina Kelleher. (Portlaoise.) Best wishes on your birthday, Pete. Love

IMMICHUIMHRE

CREANE, James; HOGAN, Patrick; PARLE, James. (63rd Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of Vol James Creane, Patrick Hogan and James Parle, Ogalah na hEireann, who were murdered by Free Staters on March 13th 1923. Ní bheidh slochan go mbuidh Eileas. Always remembered by Wexford Sinn Féin.

CROSSAN, Gerard; JOHNSTON, John; LEWIS, Tony; MCCANN, Tom. (14th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of Vol Gerard Crossan, Sean Johnston, Tony Lewis and Tom McCann, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who were killed on active service on March 9th 1972. I maeac laochra na hEireann go raibh a namacha. Always remembered by their comrades and friends in the Belfast Brigade.

CROSSAN, Gerard; JOHNSTON, John; LEWIS, Tony; MCCANN, Tom. (14th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of our friends and comrades Gerry Crossan, John Johnston, 'C' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who were killed on active service on March 9th 1972. Fuar slaid bas ar son saoirse na hEireann. Always remembered by Sean Murray (Long Death) and his family.

CROSSAN, Gerry; JOHNSTON, John; LEWIS, Tony; MCCANN, Tom. (14th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of our friends and comrades Vol Gerry Crossan, John Johnston, 'C' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who were killed on active service on March 9th 1972. Fuar slaid bas ar son saoirse na hEireann. Always remembered by Sean Murray (Long Death) and his family.

CROSSAN, Gerry; JOHNSTON, John; LEWIS, Tony; MCCANN, Tom. (14th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of our dear young friends Vol Gerry Crossan, John Johnston, Tony Lewis and Tom McCann, who died for Ireland on March 9th 1972. Mary of the Gael, pray for them. Always remembered by the Murray family.

DEVINE, 'Bunt'; DEVINE, David; BRESNAN, Charlie. (1st Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of Vol David Devine and Charlie Bresnan, West Tyrone Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who were killed on active service on February 23rd 1985. They were in might and glory, bright, this empire once so grand, they built it on a rock of wrong, they built it without pain, but bank on guns they have none to break an Irishman. - Bobby Sands. Always remembered by Mucker and Tony (Portlaoise).

HUGHES, Charles. (15th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of Vol Charles Hughes, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who was shot dead by Workers Party gunmen on March 8th 1971. I maeac laochra na hEireann go raibh a namacha. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

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COMHBHRON

PROPHY, The Seamus McCusker Sinn Féin cumann, New Lodge Road, extends their deepest sympathy to the Brophy family on the death of James. Go mbnabhall Dia crocrair ananam.

CRONIN, The Republic Movement, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Molly Cronin, who died on Friday, February 21st.

CRONIN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Molly Cronin, who died on Friday, February 21st. From Cork Sinn Féin comhairle ceannair.

GOUGH, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Vol Tony Gough, who was killed in action on February 22nd. From Martin.

MCGARRIGLE, Deepest sympathy is extended to my friend Joe and to the McGarrigle family on the death of my friend Joe. From Mick (Portlaoise).

MAGILL, The Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, extends their deepest sympathy to the Magill family on the death of Friday, February 28th, of their friend and comrade Vol Tony Magill, Ogalah na hEireann, who was killed on active service on March 4th 1972. RIP, Mary. Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always there. Still loved, still missed, still very dear. Always loved and missed by his parents, brothers and sisters.

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Workers Party gunmen on March 8th 1971. From Barry and Gerard in Ruatalla, Breda, Long Kesh, Kevin, Moya and Joseph, Belfast, and Terry and family, Dublin.

KAVANAGH, Albert. (14th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of Vol Albert Kavanagh, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who was killed on active service on March 4th 1972. I maeac laochra na hEireann go raibh a namacha. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

KAVANAGH, Albert. (14th Anniversary.) We remember with pride our beloved son Vol Albert Kavanagh, 'A' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who was killed while on active service on March 4th 1972. RIP, Mary. Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always there. Still loved, still missed, still very dear. Always loved and missed by his parents, brothers and sisters.

KAVANAGH, Albert. (14th Anniversary.) In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Albert Kavanagh, 'A' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who was murdered by the RIC on March 4th 1972. RIP, Mary. Queen of the Gael, pray for him. When thoughts go back to the past, I have the memories I have of you. Never forgotten by his brother Paul (Garry).

LEWIS, Tony. (14th Anniversary.) In loving memory of our son and brother, Vol Tony Lewis, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who was killed on active service on March 9th 1972. St. Martin, pray for him. In his lonely grave at Milltown, he sleeps his last long sleep, and in our home his memory will always be remembered and each year his love of truth, his scorn of wrong and fear, and teach them to love our land as did our son. Always loved and never forgotten by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

LEWIS, Tony. (14th Anniversary.) In loving memory of my dear brother, Vol Tony Lewis, 'C' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogalah na hEireann, who was killed on active service on March 9th 1972. St. Anthony, pray for him. In his lonely grave in Milltown, he sleeps his last long sleep, and in our home his memory will always be remembered and each year his love of truth, his scorn of wrong and fear, and teach them to love our land as did our son. Always loved and never forgotten by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

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NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound. Vowels can be long or short, the lengthened version being indicated by a fada (long mark). Thus we have do (lái) - to go and do (lái) - two. Ch is pronounced as in LOCH ERNE. O and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth. DH and GH are like G far back in the throat.

Airgead (arigead) - money
Talamh (toluv) - land
Tigh (tych) - house
Tigh (tig) (Munster) - house
Mac (mook) - son
Sios (shoop) - daughter
Cailín (colleen) - shop
Cailín (colleen) - girl
Buachaill (boochail) - boy
Agus (oguss) - and

Beannachtai

CUNNINGHAM, Gerry. MULRYN, Pat. (Long Lartin.) Best wishes for your birthday. From John, Glasgow. DOUGLAS, Dave. (Portlaoise.) Happy birthday Dave. From the lad in Bon's. ECCLES, Tommy. (Portlaoise.) Birthday greetings and best wishes. From Alan and friends, USA. FANNING, Eugene. (Portlaoise.) Happy birthday, Eugene, with all our love. From Ma and Da, your brother Pat, and sisters Kathleen, Maureen, and John. FANNING, Eugene. (Portlaoise.) Happy birthday, Eugene, with love and love. From Maureen, Maureen, and baby John. FANNING, Eugene. (Portlaoise.) Happy birthday, Eugene. From Lollies, Emmet and Paul, UTP. FANNING, Eugene. (Portlaoise.)

Have a happy birthday, Eugene, and a better one next time. Beir bua. From Frances.

O'DWYER, Ella. (Brixton.) Love and lollies and happy birthday. From Marian and Clara.

O'DWYER, Ella. (Brixton.) Bolated birthday greetings on your birthday, of a few days ago. I wish you God bless and thank over you, Pat, Gerry and Peter. All here send you their love. From The Bard and friends.

SUGRUE, Pete. (Portlaoise.) Birthday greetings and best wishes. From Tara Abu, Belle Atha Clath, xxx. Always, Pella of you. Happy birthday, Pete. Always thinking of you. Love from Mam, Dolores, Peter and James.

THEY COULDN'T even have a funeral ceremony without gerrymandering! Did you notice that three coffins were needed to bury loyalist democracy at the Belfast City Hall rally last Monday?

Addressing the rally, Peter Robinson of the DUP drew a comparison with the recent overthrow of Marcos in the Philippines and said we were witnessing the rise of 'People's Power'.

It was in 1980 that DUP leader Ian Paisley visited the Philippines and pledged his support for FERDINAND, but that's irrelevant.

PICKETS outside the gates of Stormont neatly placed a Union Jack on the tarmac and appealed to civil servants to respect their "flag, religion and coun-

try". By mid-afternoon, the red, white and blue flag looked like a mechanic's rag.

A FRENCH journalist from *Liberation* walked up to an RUC officer in Portadown and asked him why his men were making no attempts to remove the barricades placed across the main road by hooded men. The RUC officer replied:

"Right, mister — what's your name and address then?"

A TV CREW arrived outside Larne at a road blocked by a felled tree. Among the crowd of embarrassed loyalists on the scene was DUP Councillor Jack McKee. A reporter asked, "Did you do this?"

They all looked at each other, shaking their heads. "No, no, not at all. But luckily we've a chainsaw with us and we're going to cut it out of the way because there's no intimidation, you know."

A NUMBER of paratroopers accused of the gang-rape at the Bulford Barracks of a member of the Women's Royal Army Corps have had their sentences reduced by a sympathetic panel of appeal judges. Six soldiers were involved in the sexual assault and two who appealed, a private and a lance-corporal, had their sentences reduced to six months and three months respectively.

Lord Justice Watkins, one of the three judges who heard the appeal, accused the victim of being "dissolute and sexually depraved". The paras were "fine men who had thrown away their careers for activity that lasted only minutes," he said.

THE "I couldn't give a damn about what goes on in South Africa" chairperson of Strabane District Council, James O' Kane, has had a hard year under a constant onslaught from the three Sinn Féin councillors, particularly Ivan Barr.

Going through the annual figures for council expenditure, Barr discovered that £32 had been set aside to pay for a Tyrone Crystal bowl presented to RUC Superintendent Cecil Morrison when he left the town last December. The

presentation had been made just ten days after the council had passed a motion condemning RUC harassment in Strabane.

A brilliant defence, on a par for veracity with Peter Robinson's assertion that British agents provocateurs caused all of last Monday's trouble, was made by O' Kane. He said that Morrison had come to the council offices on a courtesy visit and he (O' Kane) gave him a parcel without knowing what was in it! Tell it to the marines, James.

The Liam Óg Column

Tales from Norniron



● "Radio Free Ulster" DJ, hooded in case his listeners recognise him!

Barr proposed that the council should not pay the bill for the crystal and this was agreed. The SDLP councillors, including John Gallagher, abstained. John was one of those present at the pass-the-parcel party when the RUC superintendent and other unionist councillors retired with the chairperson to his chamber for drinks.

PUPILS in Rockport School, Hollywood, County Down, were recently given a general knowledge test. Here is a selection of the questions and answers.

- Q. What animal is said to have been driven from Ireland by St Patrick?
- A. Rats.
- Q. What unit of currency is used in Japan?
- A. Water.
- Q. Who was Yuri Gagarin?
- A. President of the Philippines.
- Q. What was a yak?
- A. A boring talk.
- Q. Who rode nude through the streets of Coventry?
- A. Mrs Thatcher.

AT THE Coleraine-Ballymena United Irish Cup match two weeks ago, a loyalist supporter was giving out "Boycott Eire goods" stickers. He had the stickers in one hand — and a can of Harp lager in the other.

LIKE FATHER, like son?

William Tebbit, son of Tory Party chairperson Norman 'On Yer Bike' Tebbit, and 11 other bright young things at Exeter University have been cleared by a students' union tribunal of involvement in alleged financial irregularities.

Young Bill and his chums had a real ball last year when they organised a Conservative Club champagne summer ball. However, the Dirty Dozen could only account for £300 out of the £12,000 that was brought in by ticket sales.

Just William's little escapade, coming hot on the heels of Tebbit Senior's government being caught fiddling the unemployment figures, has got me wondering who put the Con in Conservative Party.

Why go to the trouble of reaching agreement to safeguard unionist interests when, for a reaction no less damning and perverse, we could have said, 'Okay, boys. The party's over. It's a united Ireland.'

— Guardian editorial at British impatience with loyalism.

It is the unionists who claim to want the union. They claim to respect the queen; they claim to be British as it were. If they claim they are not going to take notice of a British government, well, I'll tell you this, then the strength of feeling over here to say, 'We'll let them get on with it,' will be extremely powerful. The unionists can break the Union. The republicans cannot. That's what the next six months is going to show.

— Former direct-ruler, Merlyn Rees.

The irony of today's strike is that it is the people who have gained most from the Anglo-Irish agreement who are striking against it.

— Peter Archer, the British Labour Party's spokesperson on the North.

Isolation of BBC, UTV, RTE, Downtown Radio broadcasting stations: no news-gathering or output by media use of reporters on the ground.

One of the objectives of the strike as contained in the Assembly committee's strategy blueprint.

Those who say they support the agreement, especially the hypocritical SDLP, will measure the success or otherwise of yesterday's happenings by the way in which the security forces dealt with law-breakers. Anything less than the treatment meted out to the miners and the blacks in London and South Africa will be regarded with disappointment by nationalist leaders.

— News Letter.

Relations between the RUC and the protestors seemed excellent. Near the Seagoe Industrial Estate, where the main road was blocked by two tractors and trailers parked end to end, a policeman lay against his landrover munching an apple. 'Everything okay?' asked the DUP councillor. 'No problem,' said the policeman. 'Great weather, isn't it?'

— Irish Times reporter Willy Clingan.

It could have been the RUC's big day. Experiences of our own reporters published in today's newspaper show the partiality and failures of the police. How much more difficult it will now be for Catholics to trust the RUC.

— Irish Times editorial.

