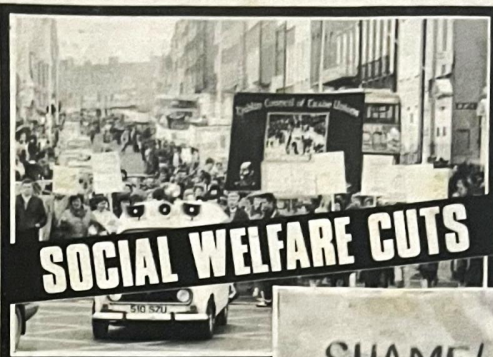


AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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KELLY AND McFARLANE EXTRADITED BY DUTCH



● Back in the clutches of the RUC, Brendan 'Bik' McFarlane is escorted into a heavily-guarded Lisburn Courthouse

UNBEATEN AND UNBOWED

"THEY'RE GOING BACK in a fighting mood," said Dutch lawyer Willem Van Bennekom hours before two Irish republicans, Gerry Kelly and Brendan McFarlane, were handed over to the British and extradited from Holland in an RAF helicopter on Wednesday afternoon.

The eventual decision to extradite the two men was announced at a district court hearing in the Hague on Tuesday after a request to delay such a move (pending a ruling

from the European Commission on Human Rights) was refused.

McFarlane and Kelly were taken straight back to the Six Counties on Wednesday after-

noon and remanded to Lisburn Court on a series of charges relating to their part in the mass escape of prisoners from the H-Blocks in 1983.

The British are undoubtedly relieved that this extradition case is over because it has embroiled them in a ten-month legal battle in the Dutch courts which focused international attention on their repressive role in Ireland.

For the Dutch government

— who allowed themselves to be pressurised by the British and who ignored the advice of their own Supreme Court to make the extradition conditional on guarantees of humane treatment — the case has had far-reaching implications. By changing their country's legal rules to facilitate the British and thereby corrupting their own legal system, they have caused grave disquiet in Dutch political circles which is likely to continue for some time to come.

SHAME!
Robbing
the
POOR
SHAME!



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SINN FEIN COUNCILLORS EXPOSE
Strabane scandal



The auditor's report



Strabane
scandal
exposed

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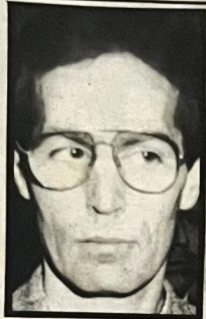
Glenn
threat to
Coalition

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Interview with Bik McFarlane

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OPINION



Extradition

IRISH REPUBLICANS are both angered and saddened that two more of our people have been extradited into British hands and are incarcerated in a British jail not because they have committed any criminal offence but because they dared to fight for an end to the colonial occupation of part of this island.

But we should all take heart from the strength of these men whose long struggle against extradition has placed the cause of Irish freedom firmly on the international stage and won it widespread support.

They never expected to win the fight against their extradition because they knew that ultimately it would be a political decision. Still, they did succeed in winning the argument in court and, in doing so, they inflicted a resounding defeat on the British.

Dutch courts recognised that the struggle being waged by the IRA is a political struggle, a war of liberation.

And Britain's repressive record in Ireland was once more put under an international spotlight as Dutch courts heard details of all the sordid methods: Diplock courts, show-trials, torture and brutality, which the British use in the Six Counties.

The extradition proceedings were monitored by Dutch, British, French and other international lawyers' groups.

A letter of protest handed in by 16 Italian MPs at the Dutch Embassy in Rome last Friday was one of literally hundreds of appeals from human rights, trade union, legal and political groups and individuals across the world which were received by the Dutch Ministry of Justice.

In Holland, the three left-wing parties, other individual MPs, the Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists, and the Dutch sections of Amnesty International and Pax Christi, were among the groups which publicly opposed extradition.

Far from 'criminalising' the Irish liberation struggle, as the British government had hoped, the extradition of these two freedom fighters has only increased support worldwide for the republican demand for British withdrawal and self-determination.

But the fight against extradition has not been confined to Holland; in Portlaoise Jail another H-Block escapee, Robert Russell, also faces extradition as does Lurgan man Gerard Harte, who is currently on bail.

The determination of the Dublin government to hand over these and other republicans to the British is demonstrated by today's (Thursday's) Leinster House debate on a far-reaching extradition bill which will, in effect, mean the end of the political exception clause in such cases.

Half-hearted amendments to this measure by Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats do nothing to challenge the central thrust of the new bill, which seeks to criminalise the resistance struggle to British rule in the Six Counties. Yet, given the precarious position that the Coalition is in, a vigorous opposition to this measure in its entirety could secure its defeat.

That sort of opposition will only come if pressure is exerted NOW!

IRA regrets Newry injuries

ON THURSDAY evening, November 27th, just after 5pm, six mortars were launched against Edward Street RUC Barracks in Newry from a van parked in Merchants' Quay.

All of the bombs missed their intended target and fell into a residential area next to the base. Some mortars detonated, injuring several dozen civilians and causing damage to civilian property.

In a statement on Saturday, the South Down Command of the IRA admitted responsibility for the attack.

"Our engineers will be checking to see why the missiles overshoot the base. The Irish Republican Army takes this opportunity to offer its apologies to the people who suffered injuries in this attack:

"Whilst we have left ourselves open to justified criticism from those we injured and their families, we reject the opportunistic condemnation from those self-seeking

politicians whose support for the British government's attempt to stabilise its rule in Ireland has inevitably postponed the day of a real settlement."

NEWRY BOMB BLAST

On Friday night, the IRA placed a bomb in the Granville Arms in Mary Street, Newry. A 45-minute warning was given before the bomb detonated, causing extensive damage to the building.

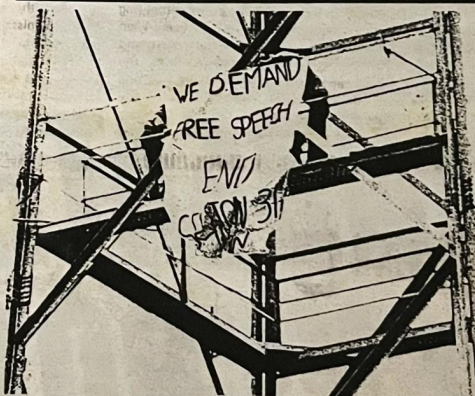
MIDDLETOWN WARNING

The IRA issued a warning on Sunday, November 30th, to contractors who may be contemplating undertaking repair work at Middletown RUC/British army Barracks. The base was mortared on Sunday, November 23rd,



causing severe structural damage.

The IRA statement warned contractors that undertaking such work would mean that they were being "supportive of the British war machine" and would be "dealt with accordingly".



REPEAL SECTION 31 MONTH OF ACTION

DECEMBER has been designated a month of action against Section 31 of the 26-County Broadcasting Act which is due to be renewed on January 17th.

In recent months, there has been mounting opposition to political censorship from various trade union bodies, including the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, many local authorities, cultural groups and prominent individuals.

With Section 31 being debated in Leinster House in six weeks' time, it is essential that the campaign for its repeal is intensified.

Activities being stepped up include:

- Lobbying of elected represent-

atives and prominent individuals.

- Letter writing to newspapers.

- Poster and leafletting of shopping areas, etc.

- Getting motions passed by trade union branches, tenants' associations, etc, publicly calling for the repeal of Section 31.

- Pickets of Coalition deputies' 'clinics' and offices.

Further information is available from the Repeal Section 31 Committee, 16 Merrion Row, Dublin 2 (phone 767762).

Sponsors of the Repeal Section 31 campaign include

Kadar Asmal
Neil Blaney
Kevin Boland
Des Bonass
Mark Brennock
Don Buckley
Fr Denis Carroll
Tim Pat Coogan
Joe Costello
Keith Donald
Derek Dunne
Michael Farrell
Capt. John Feehan
Phil Flynn
Noirín Greene
Tony Gregory
Mary Holland
Fergal Keane
Gene Kerrigan
Niall Kiely
Donal Lunny
Tomas MacAnna
Bernadette McAisley
Sean MacBride SC
Neil McCafferty
Eamonn McCann
Sean McConnell
Darach McDonald
Matt Merrigan
John Mitchell
Christy Moore
Lord Henry Mountcharles
Ulick O'Connor
Maggie O'Kane
Dick Roche
Senator Brendan Ryan
Brian Trench
Maol Muire Tynan
Fr Des Wilson

REPEAL SECTION 31 PICKET

5pm to 6pm Every Friday
O'Connell Street Bridge
DUBLIN

THE BIG REFORM HYPE

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

HAILED by the supporters of the Hillsborough Agreement as "significant gains", the reforms announced last Monday by British direct-ruler Tom King amount to nothing of the sort.

An obsolete Act, the 1954 Flags & Emblems Act, has just been repealed. Nationalists have been flying the national flag for years; the conflict is not about flags. The law on incitement to hatred is going to be amended to include parades, behaviour and speeches. 'Intent' will no longer have to be proved. On the surface, loyalists appear to have been targeted here, as their speeches rely heavily on anti-Catholic and anti-Irish racism.

However, in the name of 'even-handedness' — the Hillsborough euphemism for keeping the boot on the natives — the British will not be long in using the new law on republicans demonstrating and denouncing British oppression, or indeed on any expression of support for the IRA. The last change involved greater RUC power to reroute or ban parades, again with Orange parades the obvious target, but with the stifling of any public opposition as the ultimate aim.

Even in the short term, none of these changes will bring any measurable improvement to the lives of Northern nationalists. However, a reform hype is being created by London and Dublin around these pathetic developments, in an effort to counter the now prevalent feeling expressed in the media — and solidly based on fact — that the Hillsborough Agreement has delivered nothing.

"Progress by June," Fitzgerald announced triumphantly last Friday after a visit to London to speak to Thatcher, who was "too busy" to see him. King had to do instead... The progress Fitzgerald is hinting at concerns the RUC, the courts and cross-border collaboration.



● Peter Robinson (DUP) and Alan Wright (Ulster Clubs), in step with 'Ulster Resistance' in Portadown last month

After decades of naked repression, nationalists can look forward to a new RUC complaints body, three Orange judges instead of one, and more military border posts on both sides of the border.

SAGA

The three-judge courts have become a saga of their own. While all self-respecting human rights bodies have for years been demanding a return to full jury trials and the abolition of all emergency laws, the SDLP and the *Irish News* are now setting up the three-judge Diplock court as the best reform possible.

Thatcher's refusal to implement it has

enhanced its prestige: if Herself is against it, it must be outrageously liberal and progressive. And sure enough, last Wednesday the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights came out and advocated the three-judge court idea. "For a better quality of justice", they said, just like the best washing powder ads. The commission is run by the British government.

While the reform hype builds up, Dublin gets further and further ensnared in collaboration with the British; not a week goes by now without Barry advising "young men to make a career in the

RUC". The new Extradition Act is on the way, as is the Single European Act, and what is left of Dublin sovereignty over the 26 Counties will soon be reduced to four lines in the Free State Constitution.

Meanwhile, unionist opposition to the Agreement is bound to receive a boost from the announced reforms. This is the new police state, complained Paisley. Nationalists have been living in one since 1922.

Official Unionist councillors rejected by 2 to 1 their leadership's call to resign from the councils. A sign of new-found moderation? Not at all, they just couldn't stand the idea of abandoning the councils to "a crowd of republicans". The OUP leader showed himself shrewd and flexible; his councillors had picked "the second-best option", he said, instead of talking expulsions and disciplinary procedures.

COUNCIL ADJOURNMENT

Unionist leaders are confident of the massive rejection of the Agreement in their community and are carefully avoiding internal confrontations. Belfast City Council adjourned again last Monday. The adjournment vote was nearly defeated, but when an OUP dissident, who had voted against, saw the imminent defeat, he abstained and the DUP mayor's casting vote won the day. So the day heralded by John Hume has not yet arrived when 'moderate unionists' would throw off the shackles of bigotry and join with their SDLP brothers and sisters in power-sharing. That day has not been brought one second closer by the Hillsborough Agreement.

Northern nationalists are beginning to see now the extent of the Hillsborough disaster: Dublin is now established as a satellite of London, the British are refining their repressive apparatus with the support of Dublin, the unionist bloc has consolidated and loyalist murder-gangs reactivated.

Clinging to power

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

WITH THE COALITION GOVERNMENT still recovering from its near-defeat on the Christmas social welfare 'bonus' vote in Leinster House on Wednesday, November 26th, Fine Gael Deputy Alice Glenn has sent it reeling back into a new crisis by ending its parliamentary majority.

There is now increasing speculation that the Coalition cannot survive even until Budget day in February despite assurances from Garret Fitzgerald that the government intends to complete its term in office.

It seemed that the collapse would come even sooner when Michael O'Leary (Fine Gael deputy for Tallaght) declared that he would not vote with the Coalition on the cut in the Christmas 'bonus' to social welfare recipients. After getting maximum publicity on his 'principled stand', however, O'Leary back-tracked on his promise and voted with the Coalition, saving them from a potentially disastrous defeat.

The very next day, Fine Gael Deputy Alice Glenn came crashing through the Fine Gael facade of liberal pluralism on her very own 'constitutional crusade'. Her "enemies of the people" remark in *The Alice Glenn Report*, a news-sheet written and distributed by her in her Dublin Central constituency, was clearly an attack on the minority churches because of their pro-divorce stand.

Fine Gael, particularly Garret Fitzgerald, was seriously embarrassed when the story broke in the media that afternoon.

It was the last straw as far as Glenn's selection chances as a Fine Gael candidate was concerned and she was rejected at the

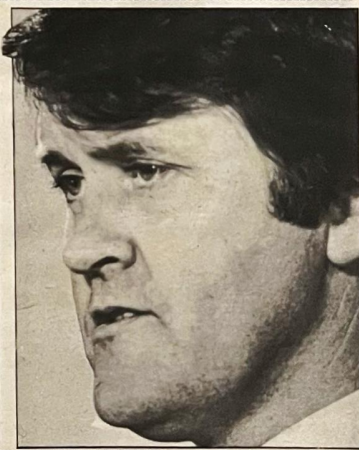


● GARRET FITZGERALD

weekend's constituency election convention. She has now announced her resignation from Fine Gael and her intention to run as an independent, although Fitzgerald, in a face-saving exercise, rushed out a statement saying she was being expelled from the party.

DESPERATE

The Coalition's desperate clinging to power in the face of all logic has little to do with a desire to stay in power in order to try



● MICHAEL O'LEARY

to get a budget through in February but a lot to do with its determination to push through the Single European Act and the new Extradition Bill before the government's inevitable collapse.

The Extradition Bill, designed to ensure that anyone for whom the British issue an extradition warrant will be automatically handed over, was part of the Hillsborough Agreement.

The Coalition's commitment to ratifying the bill was conditional on the British delivering on

the promised 'reforms' in the North's judicial system. But even in the absence of these reforms, the Dublin government is desperately pushing it through before falling from power. The ridiculous and meaningless six months 'stay of execution' on the implementation of the bill, if passed, is another smokescreen intended to fool people into thinking the promised reforms will be delivered in that time.

It is a measure of the depths of the Coalition's collaboration.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY workers at the Irish Sugar Company's head office at Earlsfort Terrace in Dublin went on strike on Monday, December 1st, as a result of the company's decision to transfer 16 staff to their plants in Carlow and Thurles and to make 14 others redundant.

The proposed redundancies and transfers are part of a rationalisation plan by the Sugar Company which has already resulted in the loss of 1,400 jobs, one third of the workforce.

Two hundred seasonal workers at the Irish Sugar Company plant at Tuam are to lose three weeks' wages as a result of the company's decision to begin the run-down process three weeks ahead of schedule.

The company claims that the early closure was brought about by supplies of beet running out but workers' representatives claim that the Sugar Company diverted beet from Western growers to their plants in Carlow and Thurles and thus deliberately closed down the plant early. The workers' view is supported by community leaders in the area.

The drastic toll of unemployment and emigration in County Wexford has been made clear in a recent study of census and employment figures for the area.

A total of 1,666 people emigrating from Wexford since 1981 was described as only the tip of the iceberg. One fifth of the workforce in the county are now out of work with unemployment rising to 25% in some of the worst areas.

On top of this, there has been a drastic slow-down in the population growth in Wexford.

Well over 600 jobs in manufacturing industry have been lost to the county since 1980.

Sugar Co strike



● Workers picket the headquarters of the Irish Sugar Company in Dublin's Earlsfort Terrace. The company, which intends laying off 14 workers in Dublin, has also announced the temporary closure of its Tuam plant with the loss of 200 jobs

Further bad news for Wexford workers came with the revelation that the Toyota car manufacturers are to stop their importing operations through the port of New Ross.

labour is involved in the Toyota operation.

Delegates to a special conference of the Postal & Telecommunications Workers' Union have decided on a long-term strategy in pursuance of a productivity claim going back to May 1985. The claim

was made by postmen, sorters, clerks, telephonists and cleaners and has been rejected by the company on the grounds that it should be self-financing.

The special conference was held on Sunday, November 30th, in Liberty Hall and unanimously agreed to the strategy put forward by the executive. The details of that strategy were not made public.



● Gardai remove a protesting student from the Department of Education headquarters last Wednesday

PROTEST AGAINST EDUCATION POLICIES

STUDENTS protesting against Coalition education policies were forcibly removed by gardai from the Department of Education building in Dublin's Marlborough Street on Wednesday afternoon.

The students, who had occupied the building earlier in the day, were protesting against fee increases and the inadequate grant offered to students, both of which increase discrimination in education by excluding lower-income groups.

Third level students from Galway, Letterkenny, Cork and Waterford joined their Dublin colleagues in a condemnation of government student financial support policies which have seen fees rise by 130% in universities, 286% in teachers' colleges and about 350% in VEC colleges since the 1981/82 academic year. Student leaders also pointed out that the grant is worth only 74.6% of its real value of 1982.

Students' leader Patricia Hegarty called on the Coalition to take a long hard look at its current

education policies. Pointing out that over a 36-week period the maximum grant works out at £33.69 per week, she said:

"A single unemployed person receives £39.50 (benefit) or £32.15 plus a health board rent allowance (assistance) and even these rates have been described as wholly inadequate by the Social Welfare Commission.

"The unrealistic means test, the two/four honours rule and the 15-mile rule mean that very few students receive even this maximum award. The truth of the matter is that life for the majority of students is one of poverty, in cold, damp flats, eating inadequate food and with excessive financial problems which lead to stress and poor academic performance."

SINN FEIN COUNCILLORS EXPOSE Strabane scandal

BY EAMON TRACY

A MUCH-SUBDUED Strabane Council agreed on Monday night, December 1st, to a proposal from Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr seeking the establishment of a committee of inquiry to examine allegations of incompetence and financial irregularities against council officials which was partially revealed in a report by the local government auditor last weekend.

Strabane, a predominantly nationalist border town blighted by decades of high unemployment, poverty and unionist discrimination, has been shaken by the revelations of negligence and corruption among elected and appointed council officials which have only come to light due to the persistence of Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr.

Last year, following months of painstaking investigation and almost a year of publicly accusing senior officials of a gross misconduct, often in the face of blatant official attempts at stonewalling, Ivan Barr has finally seen the publication of the Local Government Audit of the council's accounts for the period 1982-86. Although Ivan Barr is disappointed that the report falls short of giving a "detailed analysis of the financial wheelings and dealings for the period covered", the report substantiates his claims and provides clear evidence of serious financial irregularities on the part of council officials between 1982 and 1986.

BACKGROUND

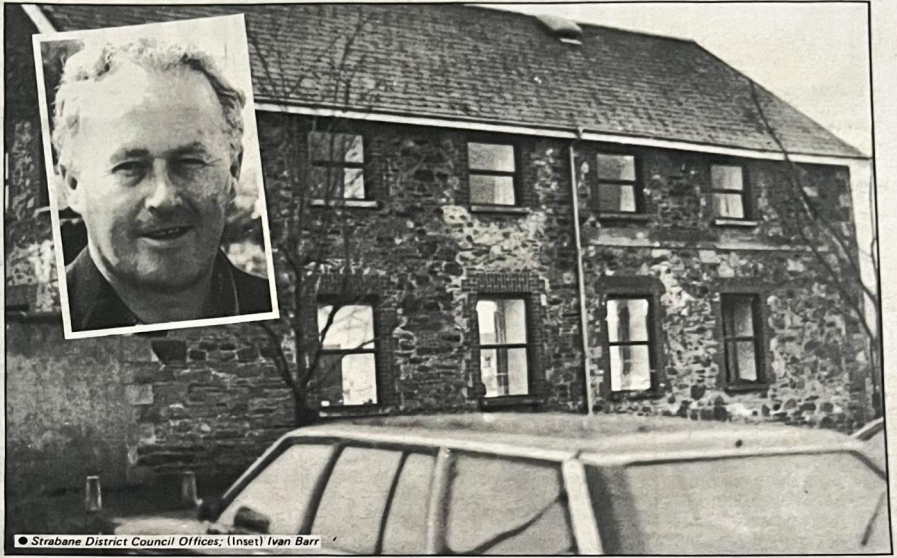
Shortly after their election to the council in May 1985, Sinn Fein Councillors Ivan Barr, Charlie McHugh and Tommy McNamee became concerned at the off-hand manner in which monthly accounts for the council were passed at council meetings. In particular, they grew concerned at how often specific firms were appearing in the treasurer's accounts seeking large sums of money for the hire of "plant and machinery".

Attempts to raise the matter on several occasions were brushed aside by the council chairperson, Independent Councillor James O'Kane, with suggestions that the Sinn Fein councillors seek clarification from the finance office. Barr, realising that he and his colleagues could pursue their worries no further without evidence, in November 1985, began to systematically check the financial records of the council.

On February 19th, he handed a letter to the then town clerk, Norman McMorran, specifying accounts in which he believed irregularities existed. McMorran agreed that some payments were excessive and pointed out to Barr that one account in particular (the Branch Road filling station, from which the council hired a minibus and other vehicles) was the responsibility of council chairperson O'Kane and council works manager P.J. Doherty. McMorran promised a speedy inquiry but suddenly died five days later. As to Barr's original letter, it mysteriously "disappeared" from council files without trace. Barr, however, gave a copy to the local government auditor.

In the next three months, Barr and his two colleagues, supported by SDLP Councillor Peggy McManus, sought to raise these issues at council meetings. O'Kane, the chairperson, consistently refused permission for Barr to do this and on several occasions illegally adjourned council meetings to prevent discussion.

When Barr queried an excessively high



● Strabane District Council Offices; (Inset) Ivan Barr

bill for £525 from the Branch Road filling station in February for a private taxi taken by O'Kane and another councillor to Cork, O'Kane initially denied having signed the account or even that such an account existed. A request by Barr that the finance officer be permitted to leave the meeting and get the account reviewed in O'Kane's absence was refused.

Later meetings similarly ended in adjournments and uproar with two SDLP Councillors Paul O'Hare and John Gallagher supporting O'Kane's behaviour.

In March, at a private meeting with John Buchanan, the local government auditor, Barr discovered to his horror that no audit had been carried out on the council's finances for the years 1982-84. At a

stormy meeting of the council on April 22nd, a vote of no confidence in O'Kane was passed and a motion from Barr calling for an extraordinary audit received support to be passed.

REPORT PUBLISHED

While Buchanan's audit report, published last weekend, provides further evidence corroborating Sinn Fein's discoveries Ivan Barr believes it is only "scratching the surface". He told AP/RN:

"We believe that this report raises more questions than it answers. In particular, why did the previous local government audit fail to audit this council's accounts at the proper time? From our own investigations we know of specific incidents of

fraud and corruption by council officials expensively entertaining each other at the ratepayers' expense and we believe these questions can only be answered in a full and public inquiry.

"We feel that it is obvious from the report that the financial irregularities which occurred cannot be dismissed as simple negligence. We believe the problems so far revealed and those officials involved, must be identified and exposed if we are to avoid a recurrence of these criminal practices. Above all, this affair backs up Sinn Fein's position that local politics must be made truly democratic. Only ordinary people actively organised to run their communities can effectively put a stop to corruption."

The auditor's report

THE REPORT by the local government auditor, John Buchanan, discloses a frightening level of misconduct and financial duplicity. In one section of his report, "accounts drawn to my attention", he examines a list of accounts supplied to him by Ivan Barr and accepts that the irregularities revealed did occur. In addition, Buchanan, in the course of his audit, discovered other areas of concern.

One of the many incidents raised by Ivan Barr dealt with a firm named Milltown Gravel. Buchanan's report shows that this firm was paid £80,000 for "the continuous hire of a 'dozer' for work at Spamount refuse tip" for four years from 1982. In July 1984, P.J. Doherty, the works manager, told the council that the Spamount tip would be closed within five months.

In fact, dumping continued for a further two years and only stopped in April of this year when the issue was raised by Ivan Barr.

Since then, the same service has been done at a major dump for almost half the original cost. Barr told AP/RN:

"Had the then works manager honoured his commitment, the council would have saved thousands of pounds."

Another account of concern to Barr was that of the Branch Road filling station which was largely used at the discretion of P.J. Doherty. The auditor expressed disquiet at the "casualness with which this expenditure was certified". Buchanan cites several examples, including a trip to Cork by the council chairperson, O'Kane, and another councillor, which cost £525 for a taxi. At the time O'Kane was in Cork, another taxi bill for £80 appeared in his name. This has since been repaid by the works manager who was in fact responsible for it.

GERMAN JUNKET

The auditor is also strongly critical of a 'town twinning' arrangement with Vogelsrath in West Germany and of "how lightly a decision was made which incurred considerable expenditure to ratepayers".

Six Strabane councillors travelled to Germany in March 1985 at a cost of over £3,000. A reciprocal visit in July 1985 by 11 Germans cost the council £8,500, including £1,800 for meals at restaurants and £2,265 for transport from the Branch Road filling station. Buchanan concluded:

"It would seem to me a strange twinning arrangement whereby councillors and officials going to Germany receive the benefit of travel and subsistence allowances, and when the German visitors are received they are accommodated in a hotel at the further expense of Strabane ratepayers."

Other dubious accounts included:

- Local doctors' receiving £184.40 per examination.
- A £23 per day hire for light vans which, when tenders were invited in May 1986, were hired at £14 per day.
- A supervisor who claimed for a total of 17,941 miles in 1984-85 and 17,160 in 1985-86 and earned £3,551 and £3,681 respectively for mileage allowance. (A light van should have been provided, said Buchanan, who caustically points out that "17,941 miles in one year would seem

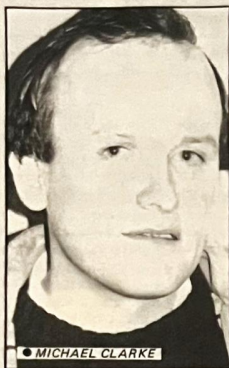
large for a council of Strabane's size".)

The works manager, P.J. Doherty, who has been on sick leave since the beginning of the year, certified two specific payments for which the auditor accuses him of 'negligence'. In September 1982, £4,884 was paid to a local contractor, William Doherty, for top soil. When investigated it was revealed that a docket signature had been forged and vehicle licences listed as having transported the soil were from private cars and not lorries. The second bill was £37,106 for work on Melvin Hall which independent surveyors estimated should have cost £16,500.

During the year, Tyrone Tiles received over £21,000 for the supply of stones, blocks and top soil. Approximately £12,500 was for an all-weather pitch being constructed at Newtownstewart. According to the auditor, the pitch appears to have been constructed without outside technical advice, is not yet completed, and has been flooded four times in 12 months.

Buchanan particularly criticised the failure of the council to seek annual tenders for supplies:

"A council has, in my view, a responsibility to show that good value for money is obtained in spending ratepayers' money and the present system where a considerable quantity of materials are obtained without competition does not give such assu-



• MICHAEL CLARKE

Special Branch bribe attempt

SPECIAL BRANCH gardai have offered a County Tyrone man living in Dublin a bribe of £10,000 from what they said was a "special fund we have for this purpose".

Michael Clarke, who is originally from Greencastle and now lives in Dublin's Gardiner Street, was arrested by the Special Branch on Tuesday, November 25th. This began an ordeal during which he was held and questioned intensively in the Bridewell Garda Barracks from 12 noon on Tuesday until 8pm on Wednesday.

Clarke had been arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act and after being held for the initial 24 hours allowed under the legislation, gardai received the formal order to hold him for a further day.

He told AP/RN that he was questioned for over 18 hours by up to five Branch men during which he was repeatedly asked was he a member of Sinn Féin. Clarke has never been a member of the party, his only connection with the Republican Movement being that he reads AP/RN.

'CAN WE TEMPT YOU?'

Late on Tuesday evening, one of the Special Branch men asked Clarke "Can we tempt you with money?" He said that they had a "special fund" and offered Clarke £10,000 for information on a list of named people, none of whom the prisoner knew.

Michael Clarke also told AP/RN that his life was threatened. At one stage a garda said to him: "Maybe you'll talk if you're in the back of a car with an Armalite stuck to your head."

The gardai finally released him on Wednesday evening without him being accused of or charged with any offence.

People such as Clarke who may come from republican areas but with no republican involvement themselves have been regular targets for such approaches both by the gardai and the RUC, particularly if they find themselves on 'the wrong side of the law'.

DRUG-PUSHER TOLD TO MOVE

ANOTHER community in Dublin has been forced to take direct action against the scourge of drug-pushing in their area.

People living in St Ronan's Estate in the Dublin suburb of Clondalkin marched on the house of Peadar Nolan on Monday, November 24th, and gave him a week to leave. Nolan has been recently charged with possession of drugs. Locals say that he is notorious as a pusher and has been seen peddling drugs in local public houses and betting shops and even outside the church.

A week later, when Concerned Parents activists from the estate and from around Dublin saw that the Nolans were still in their house, they decided to set up camp outside until they left. After a public meeting it was agreed that the locals would

remain until they were certain Nolan had moved out of the area.

"It will go on until this pusher is removed," local Concerned Parents activists Eddie Greene and Joe McCann told AP/RN on Tuesday, December 2nd. They said that it was essential that the drugs problem be stamped out before it became a major crisis in the Clondalkin community.

Nolan had not been seen on Tuesday and those camping outside the house told AP/RN that some of his furniture had been moved out the previous day. The vigil is being maintained.



• Anti-drug pusher vigil in Clondalkin, Dublin

Gardai refuse ambulance

SPECIAL BRANCH gardai who raided the home of a young Cork man refused to call an ambulance for his mother when she suffered a severe asthma attack brought on by the invasion of her home.

The raid happened on Wednesday, November 26th, when the Special Branch arrived at the home of the Duggan family of Cushing Place, Farranree, Cork city. They said they were looking for Matthew Duggan (a member of Sinn Féin) and proceeded to search the house, overturning fur-

niture and emptying cupboards and drawers onto the floor.

During the raid, which lasted nearly an hour, Mrs Duggan, who suffers from asthma, suffered an attack. The family asked one of the Branch men, James McCarthy, to call an ambulance on their car radio. McCarthy refused, saying:

"When Matthew is in the car we'll call one," Mrs Duggan later had to be sedated and was confined to bed for several days.

BLANK SHEET

Matthew Duggan was taken to the Bridewell and interrogated for seven hours. He was given a blank sheet of paper several times and told to "write a few names down and sign it". Just before he was released he was asked if he would like to "earn some money" by giving information on named members of Sinn Féin. He was given a codename to use ('Jim Donovan'), a phone number to contact McCarthy, and a rendezvous in the centre of Cork city. Cork Sinn Féin spokesperson Don O'Leary condemned the arrest and attempted bribery of Duggan and also the increased harassment



• MATTHEW DUGGAN

of Sinn Féin workers in the Sinn Féin centre in Barrack Street, Cork.

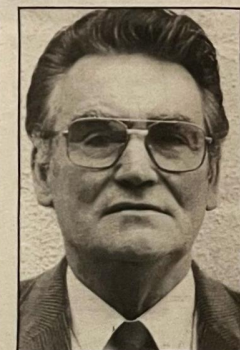
Electric fence danger

AN ELECTRIC FENCE beside houses in Passage West, County Cork, has already injured one child and is an obvious danger to children in the area.

Parents in the new Maulbawn council estate, which has a large number of young families, are

forced to keep their children indoors since the fence was erected five weeks ago. It runs round three sides of the estate, fencing off farm land leased from Cork County Council by local rancher Will Aherne.

Residents of the estate complained to council representative William Murphy when the electri-



• JIMMY MEE

fied fence was put up but, in spite of his assurances that power to the fence would be cut off, nothing has been done. One small child received a nasty burn on her neck when she accidentally ran into the fence.

ANGRY

Speaking to AP/RN, the chairperson of Maulbawn Residents'

Association, Martin McHenry, said:

"We are angry at the total disregard for the safety of our young children. We are very worried about the danger of young children running into the wire or falling on it from bicycles as it borders the roadway in front of the estate. The farmer's cattle seem to take precedence over our children."

Sinn Féin Town Commissioner Jimmy Mee will be raising the issue at this week's meeting of the Passage West/Monkstown Town Commission "as a matter of urgency". Jimmy Mee also commented:

"With the erection of this fence, the rights of children have been seriously interfered with. Every child has the right to play near his or her home without being subjected to this type of danger. These conditions would not be tolerated in any private housing estate and the people of Maulbawn should not have to tolerate them."

LOYALIST ARROGANCE

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A JOINT SINN FEIN/SDLP requisitioned special meeting of Cookstown District Council was held on Tuesday night, December 2nd, to discuss a motion calling on unionists to accept a High Court ruling of October.

This ruling ordered the council to cease the practice of dealing with council business through committee - which excluded the four Sinn Fein councillors - and to resume methods of discharging its responsibilities which are "consistent with the law".

A DUP amendment arrogantly stated that the joint motion was "unnecessary" as unionists were complying with the judgement when in fact this has yet to be put into effect. The amendment was carried by nine votes to seven and a counter motion to adjourn the meeting was carried. Sinn Fein and the SDLP are now considering taking legal action over the continuing unionist adjournment policy.

Sinn Fein's four councillors said that they welcomed the SDLP's decision to help "end this system of political apartheid by their declared intention of seeking court action". Formerly, the

SDLP had participated with unionists in these undemocratic committees since July 1985.

At the Newry & Mourne Council meeting on Monday night, a motion condemning last week's IRA attack on Newry RUC Barracks was vigorously opposed by Sinn Fein councillors.

While expressing Sinn Fein's total sympathy with the Newry residents who were injured, Jim McAllister rejected the opportunism of the SDLP and unionists and challenged them to "put the blame where it logically lies -- on the British presence". His colleague Brendan Curran said that he knew some of those injured but "even if it costs me friends and maybe votes, I will not be a hypocrite and condemn the IRA".

The SDLP-proposed motion was carried by 19 votes to 5.

The absence for a short time of one loyalist councillor allowed



nationalists on Dungannon District Council to adjourn the meeting on Monday night in protest at the selective, unionist-prepared agenda.

Nationalist councillors objected to this loyalist ploy which lets unionists off the hook on the adjournment policy but effectively cuts out any discussion or input on other council business.

DERRY

Sinn Fein efforts to have Derry City Council endorse the MacBride

anti-discrimination principles were thwarted by the SDLP at last week's monthly council meeting.

Proposing the motion, Sinn Fein's Gerry Doherty pointed out that discrimination in employment is as bad as it was in 1925 and that the Fair Employment Agency had failed to take effective action or achieve meaningful results. The adoption of the MacBride principles, he said, would be an affirmative action.

Following the SDLP's refusal to support the motion and an

attempt to focus attention on IRA attacks on businesses serving the crown forces, Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin challenged the SDLP to state its "unequivocal, unvarnished and unfudged view on Irish workers who build torture centres and fortresses for a foreign army".

At the same meeting, Sinn Fein Councillor Dodie McGuinness received council support to send a letter to the S.x-County Minister for Health urging him to provide additional resources to combat breast and cervical cancer. She also called for a thorough information and education programme and increased facilities for regular tests in workplaces, schools and local community centres.

MONAGHAN

A motion condemning the use of the British Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was passed at the Monday, December 1st, meeting of Monaghan County Council.

Proposed and seconded by Sinn Fein Councillors Caoimhghin O Caoilain and Pat Treanor, the motion read:

"This council condemns the continuing use of the PTA by the British government and calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to protest its ongoing selective application against the people of this country and other ethnic minorities entering Britain."

Taxi drivers threatened

BLACK-TAXI DRIVERS in Derry city have found themselves at the sharp end of a sustained campaign of harassment by the crown forces.

Within the past two weeks, two of the taxi drivers most consistently targeted, Roy Rodgers and Raymond Wray, have been threatened with death by members of RUC and British army patrols.

Late on Sunday night, November 23rd, Roy Rodgers was travelling towards Academy Road when his taxi was stopped by a British army foot patrol of eight soldiers. When Rodgers produced his licence on request, he was told to throw it out of the taxi or he would be shot. Rodgers recalls:

"Other members of the patrol surrounded the taxi pointing their rifles at the six passengers inside. Most of them were crouched on the floor, terrified that they were going to be shot. Another soldier loaded his plastic bullet gun."

Rodgers is convinced that the death threat is part of a calculated campaign to intimidate him out of his job purely



because he was an eye witness to a vicious beating meted out by the RUC to a Creggan youth several months ago.

Another taxi driver, Raymond Wray (brother of Bloody Sunday victim Jif Wray), has been subjected to similar

threats. Early on Friday morning, November 21st, Wray was followed on foot from Strand Road to Baronet Street garage by an RUC man who called him by name.

As Wray walked on, he heard the RUC

man cock his rifle behind him. Wray was followed to the garage where the RUC man searched him and told him: "The next time I see you on Strand Road I'm going to put a bullet through your head." The RUC man then searched the black taxi before leaving. "I genuinely thought I was going to be shot," Wray told AP/RN.

Several drivers, including Raymond Wray, have had their licences stolen by British soldiers and never returned.

DERRY HOUSE RAIDS

During a large-scale raiding operation in the early hours of Monday morning, five Derry men and one Derry woman were taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre on seven-day detention orders. During the raid on the McMenamin family home in Lisfannon Park, in the Bogside, Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin was physically assaulted by members of the raiding party and was refused entry to the house even though specifically asked by the McMenamin family to witness the raid.

Arson attacks

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

TWO ARSON ATTACKS on Catholic homes in the predominantly loyalist town of Ballymena, County Antrim, in the past fortnight have occurred with virtually no publicity about them.

The first attack took place on Saturday, November 22nd, at around 3am when a Catholic family were asleep in their Carniny Road home. Petrol was poured through the letterbox and set alight, causing damage to the front door and the inner hall.

Fortunately, none of the family was injured.

Another Catholic family, living in the Hillside Court area, had their lives placed at grave risk when petrol was poured over the front door and set alight by loyalists in the early hours of

Monday, November 24th. No one was injured but they were the second family in the area to be singled out for attack in the past month.

CENTRE DAUBED

The Sinn Fein centre in Enniskillen had its shutters daubed with the initials of the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force in the early hours of Friday, November 28th.

This follows the sending of a threatening letter to voluntary



staff at the centre and hoax parcel-bombs being delivered to

the homes of three Sinn Fein members.

SOCIAL WELFARE CUTS... RENT RISES... SOCIAL WELFARE CUTS...



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Anger on the streets

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

THE DUBLIN COALITION government remained in power last week to cut the Christmas 'bonus' for social welfare recipients and to complete their double attack on the estimated one million people directly or indirectly dependent on financial help from the state for their survival.

There is a certain irony in the fact that it was a discredited former leader of the Labour Party, Michael O'Leary, now a Fine Gael backbencher who momentarily

threatened to pull the plug on the Coalition over the 'bonus' cuts. No-one should have been surprised at O'Leary's treachery when he backed down and voted for the cut-back or at the fact that more attention was paid to his U-turn than to the collective guilt of his erstwhile colleagues in Labour.

Fianna Fail was also accusing Gemma Hussey of doing a U-turn by agreeing to partially compensate those who lost out as a result of the EEC equality directive.

It was undoubtedly due to backbench threats to the Coalition that the compensatory measures were announced. In reality, however, these measures are restrict-

ed and do not apply to all those who have lost out. Even those receiving them will still suffer substantial weekly losses.

In addition, new social welfare recipients will not benefit and the whole compensation measure will be dropped after a year.

Under the new directive, the combined income for a husband and wife claiming social welfare cannot be more than if the husband was claiming for his wife as a dependant. So, instead of ensuring the equal treatment of women, the Coalition's interpretation of the EEC directive has reaffirmed and actually strengthened

the discrimination against married women claiming social welfare.

And in an added piece of meanness, the Christmas 'bonus' to the thousands of families hit by the cuts is calculated on the new reduced payment. As the full extent of the effects of the EEC directive become clear, it is obvious that the Coalition has used it to sneak through added cuts in welfare payments.

Rising anger at the Coalition government's vicious cuts was demonstrated in Dublin on Saturday, November 29th, when over 1,500 people took part in a march against the social welfare cuts. The march was organised by the Dublin

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Housing action

OVER 500 RESIDENTS of Muine Bheag, County Carlow, have backed demands for more housing in the town. This follows a petition organised by the local Housing Action Group which has been presented to the county manager.

In an interview with AP/RN, Julie Ahern, the group's chairperson, outlined the problem:

"Some couples have been on the housing list for over four years. During that time they have been forced to live in Victorian squalor in converted sheds, garages and caravans to stand a chance of getting a house. Others are forced to pay rack rents for flats. What we want is a crash housing programme to house all on the list — and we want it immediately."

A planned scheme for 36 houses awaits approval from the Coalition's Department of the Environment and council officials privately admit that it could be two years before the houses materialise. "In the meantime,

the housing list continues to grow," said Julie Ahern.

ACUTE SHORTAGE

The acute shortage of housing, coupled with the large waiting list, forces people to compete in clientelism and even in having children in order to get houses. Couples have been told by housing officials that "it's a numbers game". The housing action group aims to change that, by organising the homeless to demand their rights.

The Muine Bheag Housing Action Group has been promised the full support of the local O'Doherty/Devine Sinn Féin Cumann. Its chairperson, John Bolger, castigated the Coalition's failure on housing:

"They claim to be building on reality, but the reality for the homeless is a lack of building and a shantytown existence. Sinn Féin fully supports the demand for immediate housing. Four years is long enough."

UNBEARABLE BURDEN

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

FOR MANY YEARS before the latest round of cut-backs hit low-income groups in the 26 Counties, local authority tenants were suffering hardship with city and county managers imposing rent increases.

Under the new system which was imposed by the Coalition without consultation with the National Association of Tenants' Organisations (which called a rent strike as a result), tenants' rents were assessed according to their incomes. Thousands of tenants had been assessed before the social welfare cuts were imposed and are now on lower incomes than when the new rises were imposed.

In a circular letter sent out from the Department of the Environment to local authorities last August, the terms of the scheme are laid out. One of the main factors which managers are told to take into account in setting rents is the cost of "maintenance and management of their estate of houses and the adequacy of the income therefrom".

In effect, local authorities are being asked to penalise tenants for maintenance work. In Dublin in particular, lack of government funding has meant that this work is not being carried out as no new workers can be employed. The predictable response has been to shift the financial burden onto tenants — first with water-rates and now with increased rents.

RENT STRIKE

Tenants throughout the 26 Counties are still organising against the rent increases and in support of the NATO rent strike. In many areas the rent rise has highlighted the urgent need for organisation of tenants in their housing estates.

In the vast suburb of Tallaght, in South-West Dublin, the rent rise has provoked increased militancy among tenants with public

meetings being held in five of the area's large estates.

Speaking at one of these meetings, in Killinarden, John Noonan (Sinn Féin) pointed out that the rent strike should not be seen as a single issue. He said that it was part of a whole range of impositions on working-class people, ranging from the water rates to the recent drastic welfare cuts. The rises have been disastrous for many families against this background. Noonan told the meeting that his own rent had risen from £2.20 to £10.90.

SAVAGE RISES

Since November 3rd, Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke has dealt with 70 cases per week on rent increases. Typical of the worst cases is a deserted wife with nine children in a two-bedroom flat in Hardwicke Street who now has to pay £17.40 in rent every week.

"The rises have been savage on low-income families and, combined with welfare cuts, are leading

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Council of Trade Unions and had contingents from unions, political parties and unemployment groups, including a group from the Social Welfare Rights Campaign who travelled all the way up from Cork.

The prevailing mood at Saturday's march was one of raw anger. From the platform the Coalition was described as "the worst government in the history of this country".

ICTU President John Carroll said that the social welfare cuts represented the commencement of a general election campaign. He repeated the trade union movement's demand for a long-term phasing-in of the social welfare equality directive and for the implementation of the report of the Commission on Social Welfare.

Community activist Mick Rafferty said that it was significant that trade unionists and unemployed groups were at last beginning to co-operate and unite against draconian economic policies:

"Gemma Hussey gets £200 a day and she is taking pounds out of our pockets."

The chairperson of the Dublin Unemployed Alliance, Mary Kearns, said that women on social welfare wanted equality, not poverty, and added that trade unions must organise the unemployed for the right to work.

Ending the rally, Sam Nolan, vice-president of the DCTU, said that Ireland had one of the most unequal societies in Europe. Banks and multinationals were free to make vast profits while the tax system was just as inequitable as in 1979 when there were huge trade union demonstrations on taxation.

Like those demonstrations recent protests on the social welfare cuts will remain no more than sporadic outbursts of anger if workers and the unemployed continue to be unorganised.

Much of the responsibility for that lack of organisation and the failure to truly represent working-class people rests with large sections of the trade union leadership — including some of those on Saturday's platform who are aligned with the right-wing Labour Party!

URDEN

of the to massive hardship," said Christy Burke.

He pointed out that the Dublin government had taken "the coward's way out by leaving it to the city manager to impose the increases". People have also been badly hit with the tightening of the winter fuel scheme for welfare recipients.

RENT REDUCTIONS CALL

Sinn Fein picketed a meeting of Dublin City Council on Monday, December 2nd, demanding that the rent rises be rejected and calling for rent reductions. The meeting in City Hall passed a resolution calling on the Minister for the Environment to recommence negotiations with the National Association of Tenants' Organisations and for the city manager to freeze all increases.

Such is the power of the city manager, however, that he remains free to ignore the council decision and to continue to impose the rent rises.

Christy Burke told AP/RN

Photo: Dave O'Connor



● Sinn Fein member Eric Montgomery is seized by gardai during a picket against Minister for Welfare Cuts, Gemma Hussey. Montgomery was one of five Sinn Fein members arrested by the gardai out of a crowd of over 50 protestors

UNPROVOKED ASSAULT

FIVE SINN FEIN MEMBERS were arrested by gardai as they protested outside the constituency clinic of Social Welfare Minister Gemma Hussey on Monday night.

The Sinn Fein members were among a crowd of more than 50 people which had gathered to picket the Royal Starlight Hotel in Bray where Hussey holds her fortnightly 'clinic'. They were protesting at the social welfare cut-backs until the minister emerged from the hotel.

There was a large presence of both Special Branch and uniformed gardai outside the hotel with the crowd. When Hussey had got into a waiting car, the gardai began to push and jostle the protestors. They moved in on the Sinn Fein members, one of whom, Joyce Thomas, was punched in the face by a Special Branch man.

Thomas and four other members of Bray Sinn Fein — Eric Montgomery, Dave Toher, Marie Gavighan and

Ken O'Connell — were then arrested and taken to the local barracks where they were charged with obstruction and ordered to appear in court this Friday, December 5th, at 11am.

BARRACKS PROTEST

After the arrests the remaining picketers marched to the Garda barracks to stage a protest despite the objections of members of the Workers' Party who encouraged the gardai in their harassment of the Sinn Fein members.

When the marchers arrived at the barracks they were confronted by uniformed gardai who drew their batons. The Sinn Fein members were eventually released after being charged with obstruction.

In a statement on Tuesday, December 2nd, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams described the arrests as an "attempt by the 26-County state to try and draw attention away from the reason behind the protest".

Eric Montgomery, one of those arrested, later described the incident as "an unprovoked assault by Special Branch and uniformed gardai on peaceful protestors against the Coalition's Scrooge-like attack on working-class people in the run-up to Christmas".

WOMEN'S MINISTER DEFENDS CUTS

Nuala Fennell, the 26-County Minister for Women's Affairs, broke the Coalition boycott of sharing platforms with Sinn Fein when she attended a meeting in Dublin on Tuesday night on the social welfare cuts — and she wishes she hadn't.

Fennell faced a barrage of anger from social welfare recipients when representatives of all the main political parties (except Labour, who didn't bother to turn up) attended a meeting which had been organised by the Mountview Residents' Association, Rathfarnham.

After defending the EEC 'equality' legislation and admitting that she knew nothing of the staggering rent increases inflicted on tenants, residents' association chairperson Paddy Currie reminded her that she had voted in favour of the rent increases in Leinster House. She declined to answer.

Sean Crowe (Sinn Fein) outlined just a few of the many hardship cases presented to Sinn Fein community workers recently and angrily rebutted the Progressive Democrats' pious platitude that, "If you take care of the pennies then the pounds will take care of themselves". Sean Crowe replied:

"As the only political party representative on the platform to be directly affected by the Coalition's cut in the Christmas 'bonus', like thousands of other unemployed people, I shall certainly be counting the pennies just to get through Christmas!"

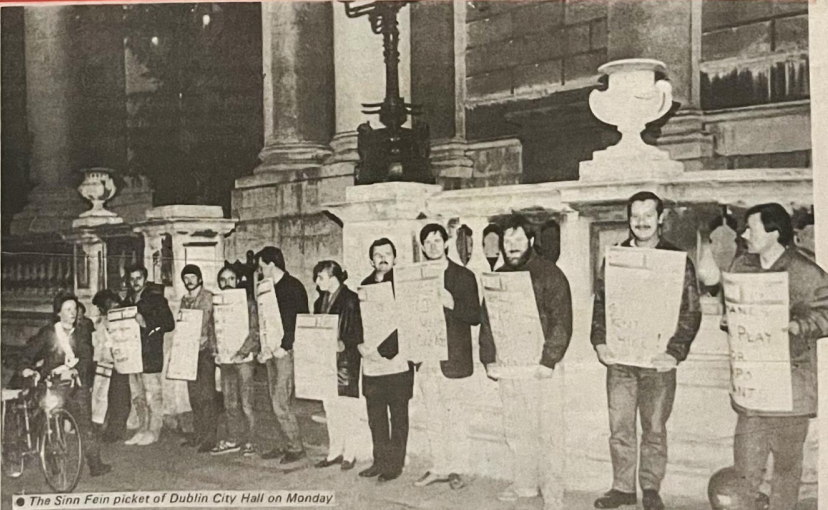


● CHRISTY BURKE

after the meeting that this meant families would "continue to be crucified".

"They are being driven to money-lenders and are selling things from their homes."

Such is the reality for thousands in a city now reminiscent of the era of slum tenements and pawn shops.



● The Sinn Fein picket of Dublin City Hall on Monday

'Tell them
I was
asking'

"Tell them I was asking."

End strip-searching

A PUBLIC MEETING on strip-searching organised by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) was held in the Regional Technical College in Sligo on November 12th.

Former prisoner Christine Beattie, who served a ten-year sentence in Armagh and Maghaberry jails, said that in spite of widespread condemnation, the practice was being continued.

The fact that it had not ended when the women prisoners were moved from Armagh to the top-security Maghaberry Prison proved the point that strip-searching was used as a form of torture and not for any security reasons.

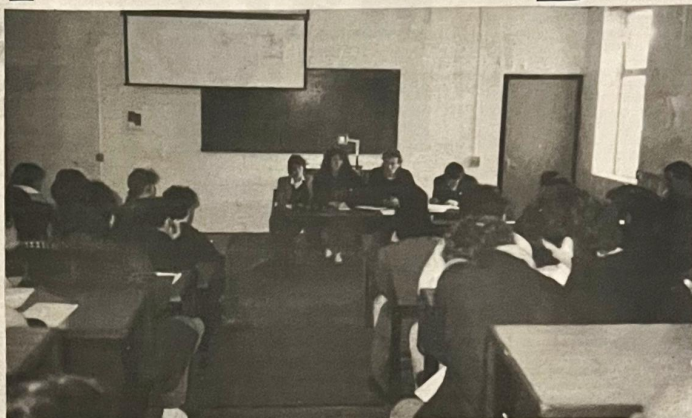
She called on everyone to make a special effort to put pressure on the British government to end strip-searching.

Paddy McPoland (USI national executive) said that the recent USI annual conference had come out in full support of the women in Maghaberry against strip-searching.

Twenty people attended an anti-strip-search meeting in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, last Thursday to hear former Armagh POW Briege Brownlee talk about the progress of the anti-strip-search campaign.

Letters of opposition to strip-searching from Deputy John Browne (Fianna Fail), Ivan Yates (Fine Gael), County Councillor Sean Doyle (Independent) and Gorey Town Commissioner John Sheehan (Sinn Féin) were received.

A motion calling for an end to strip-searching has been passed by Enniscorthy Urban Council and another has been tabled for discussion by Wexford County Council.



● Anti-strip-search meeting in the Regional Technical College, Sligo

Kevin Barry remembered

KEVIN BARRY's native town of Rathvilly in County Carlow was the venue of the commemoration of his execution by the British in Dublin 66 years ago.

The commemoration on Sunday, November 30th, was led by a Fianna Éireann colour party and 50 people took part. At the Kevin Barry monument the ceremony

was chaired by Tom Kenny, of Rathvilly Sinn Féin. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by veteran republican Willie Wall, from Baltinglass, County Wicklow.

Michael O Muireagain, of Dublin Sinn Féin, gave the oration. He said that while the objective of the republican struggle has not changed since Kevin Barry went to the scaffold "the nature,



● KEVIN BARRY

objectives and tactics of those who oppose the Republican Movement have changed immensely.

"Today, after 17 years of struggle, the IRA have made it clear that they have never been stronger, Sinn Féin in the Six Counties is well placed, and the way has been made clear for the building up of Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties.

"The abstentionist policy has been dropped for a reason — to facilitate the organising and creation of a political movement which will adequately articulate and represent the republican position in this part of Ireland."

SORDID PACKAGE

Describing the Hillsborough Agreement as "a sordid little package designed to undermine and isolate the Republican Move-

ment", O Muireagain said that the most effective way for republicans to counter this conspiracy is to accelerate the expansion of our political base:

"Today we have an element in Ireland who would have the cheek to claim that the republic which Kevin Barry envisaged has been attained. How dare they!

"The only results of 60 years of Free Stateism and partition have been emigration boats, lengthening dole queues, social welfare cuts and the sinister spectre of EEC bureaucrats presiding over the demise of the Irish small farmer.

"Is this the republic that Kevin Barry died for?"

The ceremony concluded with a minute's silence in honour of fallen republicans.

Offaly commemoration

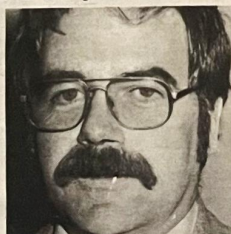
"WHICH are young Irishmen to respect, the law that murders and banishes their people or the means to restrict tyranny and ending their misery forever under a home government?"

Addressing the Manchester Martyrs commemoration in Birr, County Offaly, on Sunday, November 23rd, Jim McAllister said that this question posed by Michael O'Brien before his execution was just as relevant today as in 1867. He said that while Peter Barry was calling on nationalists to join the RUC, "the evil political police force", the banishment of Irish people continued with massive levels of emigration.

Urging republicans to intensify their work, McAllister continued:

"I do not believe one Irish person should die or go to prison or suffer just to hand six more counties over to the Haugheys or FitzGerald's so that they can sell them as they have already sold 26, so that they can bankrupt them as they have already bankrupted 26."

The Birr commemoration was chaired by Sinn Féin Urban District Councillor John Carroll. Among those present was veteran republican Dan Gleeson, of Tipperary.



● JIM McALLISTER

The ceremonies ended with the singing of *Amhrán na bhFiann* by Dan's granddaughter Neasa Mhic Mathúna.

KILKENNY

In Hugginstown, County Kilkenny, the Manchester Martyrs were remembered on November 14th. A lone piper led a torchlight procession through the town and the ceremony was chaired by Eddie O'Doherty, of Carrick-on-Suir. The oration was given by J. Phelan, of Fiddown.



● Sinn Féin Councillor Cormac McAleer gives the oration at the graveside of Volunteer Desmond Morgan

TYRONE MEMORIAL UNVEILED

ON SUNDAY, November 30th, 200 people gathered at the graveside of Volunteer Desmond Morgan in Coalisland Cemetery for the unveiling of a Tyrone National Graves Association Memorial.

Volunteer Morgan's sister

Mary carried out the unveiling and Felix McAteer (Tyrone NGA) chaired the proceedings.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Morgan family, O'Leigh na hÉireann, Coalisland Sinn Féin, Carrickmore Sinn Féin, the Mid-Ulster Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair, and Tyrone NGA. A

bugler sounded *The Last Post*.

Sinn Féin Councillor Cormac McAleer gave the bulk of his oration in Irish and he paid tribute to Volunteer Morgan, saying that he had given his young life in an attempt to win the reunification and freedom of our country.

IMEAGHTAÍ

REPEAL SECTION 31 PICKET
5pm to 6pm Every Friday
O'Connell Bridge
DUBLIN

CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION
Speaker: Seamus Twomey
7pm Friday 5th December
Denny Street
TRALEE
County Kerry
Organised by Sinn Féin

DONEGAL SINN FEIN FIRST ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
Music by Tuganor
Dinner at 8.30pm sharp
Friday 5th December
Mount Errigal Hotel
LETTERKENNY
County Donegal
Taille £10

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring Foggy Dew
Saturday 6th December
Welcome Wagon
CROSSAKIEL
County Meath
Taille £1
Organised by Sinn Féin

REPEAL SECTION 31 COMMITTEE SOCIAL NIGHT
Ceol, ol agus craic
8pm till late
Saturday 6th December
National raffia will be held
Connolly House
Essex Street
DUBLIN
Taille £2

LIAM MELLOWS COMMEMORATION
Prominent republican speaker
Assemble at the 1798 monument
1.30pm Sunday 7th December
GOREY
and
Assemble at Castletown Cemetery
2.30pm Sunday 7th December
CASTLETOWN
County Wexford

CONNACHT/NW LEINSTER COMHAIRLE LIMESTAR AGM
2pm Sunday 7th December
Percy French Hotel
STROKSTOWN
County Roscommon

ANTOINE Mac GIOLLA BHRIGHDE COMMEMORATION
(2nd Anniversary)
2.30pm Sunday 7th December
DESERTMARTIN CHURCHYARD
South Derry

LIAM MELLOWS SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN PUBLIC MEETING
Speaker: Pádraig O Maolain
8pm Monday 8th December
Atlanta Hotel
GALWAY
Organised by Galway Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN & THE REPUBLICAN STRUGGLE PUBLIC MEETING
Speaker: Martin McGuinness
7.30pm Thursday 11th December
Theatre O
Arts Building
University College
DUBLIN
Organised by UCD Sinn Féin

HUNGARIAN UPRISING 1956 30th ANNIVERSARY MEETING
Speaker: Peter Fryer (eyewitness)
8pm Thursday 11th December
IDATU Hall
9 Cavendish Row
DUBLIN
Organised by the Hungarian Workers' Solidarity Committee

PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND ANNUAL SOCIAL
8.30pm Friday 12th December
Faulkner's Lodge
CARRICKBEG
County Waterford
Organised by Portlaoigh Sinn Féin

Mála Poist

AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



● Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast

A CHRISTMAS STORY

A Chairde,
It will soon be Christmas, a time of joy in which all families share. It is also the loneliest time of the year for Irish POWs and their families.

This will be my 14th Christmas parted from my loved ones since 1969. Republicans in prison are vulnerable, being cut off from their loved ones on the outside. It is not an easy road for anyone and yet not one day has been wasted when you realise and recognise the continuous sacrifices people are prepared to make in this, the longest phase of the struggle for Irish freedom.

Everyone can make their own contributions in the most selfless and admirable way. This leads me to a story with a moral to it, one which I sincerely hope your readers will ponder over during the Christmas period.

A few weeks ago, my wife Briegre discovered a £10 note in a sealed envelope lying in the hall. A small note without a name said: "To help out with expenses for Martin."

Someone was making a gesture of support and solidarity, not only to our family, but to all POWs and the Republican Movement in general.

The next week, by sheer chance, my wife heard a noise in the hall and found another

envelope containing £10. Upon opening the door, she saw an old woman of over 70 years — a Mrs Hopkins — making her getaway!

The old lady explained that she wanted to help out a little because I was in jail. Let me say, from the bottom of my heart, thank you a million times over to this admirable woman on behalf of myself, my family and other people she has helped out over the years, especially the women in Armagh.

In the words of my dearest wife Briegre, people like Mrs Hopkins make all the pain and hassle so worthwhile. That, in fact, is the case and it should make everyone realise the enormous contribution women have made over the years and continue to make to the struggle.

Long may such acts of solidarity and support continue and on behalf of myself and my family, I wish everyone a happy Christmas and freedom soon.

Martin Meehan,
Crumlin Road Jail,
Belfast.



Challenge to SDLP

A Chairde,
Over the past number of months, many statements have

appeared in the *Irish News* regarding the Hillsborough Agreement (mostly from the SDLP) and editorialising in its praise. All these articles have been given prominence, thus misleading some people into believing that this Agreement has actually bettered the

lot of the nationalists living in the Six Counties.

I live in an area that has been described as having the worst housing in Western Europe and with an unemployment rate of over 80%. The Hillsborough Agreement has done nothing to better our lot — in fact, the opposite has happened. Maybe someone in the SDLP can answer the following questions. How has the Hillsborough Agreement helped:

1. The long-suffering women in Maghaberry Prison who have to undergo the degrading practice of strip-searching?
2. The Irish language, when people are arrested for giving their names in their native tongue?

3. The victims of plastic bullets? The British government totally refuses to ban these deadly weapons.

4. The hundreds of people who have gone through the Diplock courts since its signing? The British government refuses to hear of any changes to this system.

5. Those nationalists who have been intimidated and harassed since its signing? Over the past year, intimidation has increased dramatically all over the Six Counties.

6. The many Catholics murdered since its signing?

7. The farmers in South Armagh whose land has been seized to build the many observation posts now blotting the landscape?

We witnessed Seamus Mallon's crocodile tears when complaining about the amount of compensation paid — after which another 200 acres of land was seized, a direct result of Peter Barry's and Tom King's tactic of tightening border security as part of the Agreement which Mr Mallon and his party are defenders of.

8. The many people who are victims of the paid perjurer system? The trials continue. Will John Hume please tell me, when he says that these trials have finished as we know them, what does he mean? Will he accept smaller trials under the same system?

In the past few months the SDLP has also been claiming that the demolition of Divis Flats is a direct result of the Hillsborough Agreement even though both the Department of the Environment and Housing Executive have denied this.

Neither Peter Barry nor his Agreement had anything to do with Divis's demolition.

Fra McCann,
Divis Residents' Association,
Belfast.

Long Lartin letter

A Chairde,
We, the republican POWs in Long Lartin, England, would like to congratulate the delegates to both the Army Convention and Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis who have set the Republican Movement on a new and, what we feel will prove to be, significant course.

To those delegates who disagreed with the change but, nevertheless, abided by the democratic decision of their comrades, we extend our praise for the solidarity you've shown.

It is important at this time that we clearly reiterate our support for O'Leigh na hÉireann and point out that nobody other than the Republican Movement may represent our interests.

Finally, we urge our comrades in the 26 Counties to set about the new political struggle there with all the vigour they can muster. It may well be that success in that

struggle holds the key to the resolution of our age-old agony.

Andy Mulryan,
Liam Baker,
Eddie Butler,
Patrick Mulryan,
John McComb &
Gerry Cunningham,
Long Lartin Prison,
England.

Constructive criticism

A Chairde,
Short though it was, the letter from SR in *AP/RN*, November 20th, raised the shadow, if not exactly the substance, of several important issues.

It is an obvious, but nonetheless valid, point that the danger of changing or diluting progressive policies because of pressure about their supposed unpopularity has always been and must continue to be of concern to a revolutionary party such as Sinn Féin. This is no more nor less a fact since the dropping of abstentionism at this year's Ard-Fheis; and because it is important that all opinions on policy and direction be aired, criticism should aim to be constructive rather than emotive.

Among the arguments there were two points made by those who wished to have the phrase "right to choose" deleted from policy.

The first was that the adoption of this in 1985 had been "unrepresentative" because many delegates had already gone home when the women's section of the Clar was discussed. However, this change was put in perspective this year when a motion from Derry which called for acceptance of "the individual's right to make a conscientious decision for or against abortion without coercion from any other individual or group" stood in opposition to a contradictory Ard Comhairle motion and was defeated by 117 votes to 212. Certainly a significant difference, but given the direct opposition to the Ard Comhairle motion, such a high number of delegates voting in favour of choice can hardly be dismissed again as a "lunatic minority".

The second argument was that in adopting controversial policies we give our enemies a "propaganda present". As many people have pointed out, a revolutionary party cannot be lured into formulating policy according to the wishes and beliefs of our enemies.

Sinn Féin has a commitment to secularism and recognises that women are oppressed because of their sex. We are aware that we must continue to develop and expand our practical, progressive approach to the realities of life for people in Ireland, and our own experience makes the question of criminalising minorities, or those who hold minority viewpoints, unacceptable.

In the light of this, we must commit ourselves to a continuing process of education on controversial and emotive issues in order that we may develop progressive policies which can accommodate the views of all without imposing any one attitude or set of beliefs. On the matter of abortion, only an acceptance of the right of the individual to make their own choice can do this.

Janet Muller,
Belfast.

Crystal clear

A Chairde,
In your issue of November 6th, in the pledge of continued

ALL LETTERS should be clearly written or typed, double-spaced (one line of space between each line of writing), and on one side of the paper only.
Please try and keep your letters as short as possible.
Names and addresses must be included, even when not for publication.

loyalty of Australian Aid for Ireland to the Republican Movement received some prominence. In spite of this, I was surprised to receive a letter from a republican friend in Ireland asking where I personally stood on the matter of abstentionism.

Accordingly, I would like to make it crystal clear that the AAI statement of support was sent by our national publicity director, Gerard Steele, after full consultation with all state branch presidents and at my instigation. Subsequent discussions with numerous members throughout Australia have elicited enthusiastic endorsement for the decisions of the Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis. In fact, only one member of AAI throughout Australia has expressed opposition to my knowledge.

Our viewpoint was unequivocally stated in your issue of November 6th. We believe that Sinn Féin made the right decision; we respect the right of others to think differently; we admire the honesty and integrity of those who disagreed but accepted the majority decision like true democrats. However, we deeply regret to hear of disruptive tactics by a small minority and we appeal to them to pause and consider again the outcome of their actions which appear so inconsistent with past unstinted service.

Jack Magee,
National President,
Australian Aid
for Ireland.



● Wormwood Scrubs

'Lost' POWs

A Chairde,
I would like to point out to your readers that Vincent Donnelly is presently in Wormwood Scrubs Prison, West London not in Albany. He had been sent to Wormwood Scrubs from Albany for a 28-day "lie-down". Since then, his stay has been extended by a further 28 days, in the course of which he is to be "reeducated" to another prison entirely. In the last 12 months alone, Vincent Donnelly has been moved no less than ten times. This type of inhuman treatment is being meted out to many of our prisoners at present in Britain in the hope that they will become "lost" and therefore forgotten.

To prevent this happening, all the friends and relatives of prisoners in Britain should make known their present whereabouts immediately to the Sinn Féin POW Department and other interested people.

Colm P. O'Donnell,
Blackrock,
County Dublin.

THE BOX

Let's talk turkey

BY Z. HAMMETT

BEFORE I go any further, let me get one thing perfectly clear. I have been accused of many things in my life, and rightly so. Why, I've done things that would make a sailor blush, or turn a Branch man's hair white. But one thing could never be said about me. I have never... never watched Dallas. Not a single episode. Not even "Who Shot JR?"

Now, this may seem like quite a confession for a television reviewer. So while I'm at it, I'll make another confession. I made a solemn vow last week that I wouldn't watch the Box. No Gaybo, no Hill Street. Not even the nightly news.

So what happened? Well, as my aged grandmother always said, vows are for breaking. Coming home from a hard day's work at the local (that's known as a "dangling participle"), I succumbed. 'Flap' went me in the easy chair. 'Click' went the on/off switch. And what to my wondering eyes should appear? Ed Meese, the US Attorney General, answering questions.

Now, for the uninitiated, Ed Meese is not the plural of Ed Mouse. He is the legal genius who figured out how to give all his friends well-paying top federal appointments in return for political favours, admit it, and then successfully argue that he never broke any laws. That is why Ed Meese is Attorney General — because he is an expert at getting around the law.

So, I figure, if Ed Meese is answering questions, this must be something important. Particularly since Ronnie can't string three words together in front of the cameras these days.

As I continued watching, it all began to sink in. First, there was something about guns to Iran.

"Great, stick it to 'em!" I shouted encouragement to the Box.

Then, to my amazement, something about *contras* in Nicaragua. The smile on my face was getting wider. As admissions began flowing out about sums of money, Swiss bank accounts, and dismissed Rambo clones, the ecstasy was getting too great to bear. Could it be that the White House press corps was coming alive? That they were actually killing two birds with one stone... Reagan's disastrous middle east policy and his illegal terrorist activities in Nicaragua? A sobering thought!

No telling how far the US press and the Democratic party will be willing to take this "crisis turned into a scandal". Reagan has done all of these things before, and the press and Congress have known about them, and nothing has been done.

Just remember. A few hours later a leading senator was saying: "It'll be a cold day in Washington DC before any

more money goes to the *contras*."

Outside, the frost was on the ground. The temperature hovered around five degrees.

The most entertaining part of Ronnie's new slapstick act came the next day, on Wednesday. He was about to leave for the "Western White House" to celebrate many Yanks' favourite holiday: Thanksgiving. This day's work at the local (that's known as the US) thank the Lord that the native Americans were naive enough to help them through that first hard winter some three centuries ago, so that future generations of white Europeans could drive them off their land and annihilate them. Everybody else ignores all that, eats turkey and watches football.

The Pres eats turkey, too. But not just any turkey. He gets to eat the turkey of the year.

This makes for great television. The Pres talks turkey. The press watches and laughs. The turkey says "gobble, gobble."

But nothing goes according to plan these days. As Ronnie and Nancy (God bless 'er) walked out to greet their feathered friends, I swore he was singing Paul Simon's latest hit song:

"I need a photo opportunity... I need a shot of redemption."

Then Vice-Pres Bush joined in.

"I need a new role model... now that my role model is gone... gone."

Then the press, who were supposed to talk turkey, started firing the questions at Ronnie, who only wanted to prod his bird's gullets.

"Did you know about the money going to the *contras*, and if not, why not?" said one reporter.

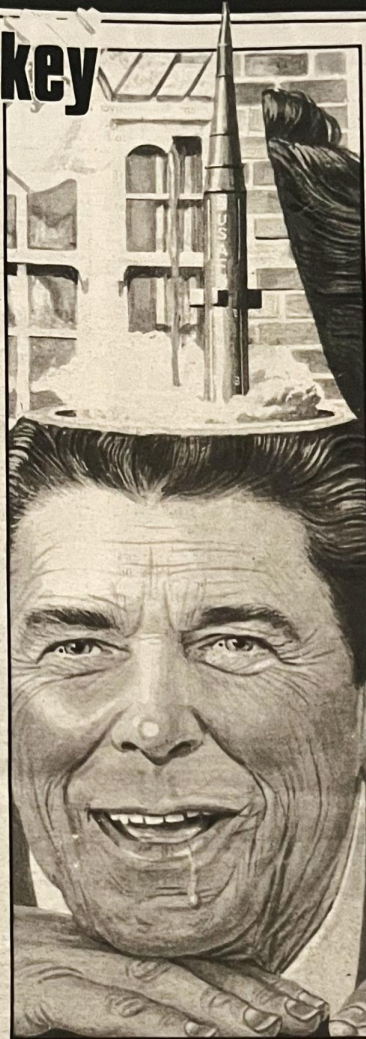
"Did I hear somebody ask a question?" Ronnie whispered into the turkey's ear. He felt the turkey's thigh.

"Are you going to fire Secretary of State Shultz?" "When are you going to admit that your Iran policy was wrong?"

Ronnie got a terrible case of the flusters and started backing off. He was glancing back and forth between the ground and the turkey.

Back in the shadows, George Bush was hiding. He was trying to pretend he was invisible. But ABC correspondent Sam Donaldson rooted him out:

"What did you know about



illegal aid to the *contras*, Vice-President Bush?"

George slinked further back into the shadows, and you could see him thinking about what might have been. Wondering why Reagan sent the guns, but he'll never be Pres because of it.

Monday's *World in Action* was a fine piece of journalism. People in Britain should be shocked at what it revealed about their system of injustice.

The meat of the programme was the new revelations by Birmingham policeman Tom Clarke, who was in the Queen's Road Police Station while the Birmingham Six

were being interrogated. In fact, he was on duty in an office next to the interrogation cells, and he saw and heard everything that happened.

Tom Clarke's words were even more stunning because they were interspersed with a tape of one of the Birmingham Six, who was describing what happened during those two days in police custody. The tape had not been aired before, so Tom Clarke had never heard it.

The prisoner described how the police threatened him with shotguns and made him stand to attention and sit alternately. Then the tape of Clarke was played, and he said

the same thing, in his own words.

The prisoner described how they were not allowed to sleep.

Then we heard Clarke: "During the course of my period of 16 hours that I was there... they were not allowed to sleep for one second."

The prisoner described how dogs were used to intimidate him.

Then Clarke:

"The dog went to the entrance of the cell and started barking viciously at the prisoner in that cell. Personally, I would have been petrified beyond belief. I wouldn't have thought for one moment that I was in this country."

Clarke told *World in Action* that he was "100% sure" that the men were assaulted in police custody. As for any policeman that testified that the beatings and the tortures did not take place, "I would call him a liar to his face. And if I stand alone against all those police officers that gave evidence at that trial, then I shall stand alone."

He summed up with chilling words:

"How much can one man take, how much can another man take, you know, before one reaches the point where one can take no more and will admit to anything? It's not uncommon, I believe that's what happened."

As *World in Action* went on the air on Monday, the Birmingham Six began their 13th year in prison. There is no indication that the Home Office will make any move to review their case. In fact, the Home Office has begun issuing a series of lies about the forensic tests in the case to try and cast doubt on ITV's own forensic tests. But even their own people, like former Chief Inspector of Explosives Dr Hugh Black, are now calling the Home Office liars.

Will it be another 12 years of revelations and television testimony before anything is done?

There are a few hopeful programmes on the Box this week. On Friday, try *Arma* (Beb 2, 9.30pm). This week's programme is about Somer May, a survivor of the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea, who escaped and travelled to Britain with the help of British journalist and poet James Fenton (obviously before Maggie introduced her racist visa regulations).

On Monday, be sure to watch *Born in the RSA* (CA 8.30pm). The RSA in question is the so-called Republic of South Africa, and this is a special television adaptation of a play from the Market Theatre of Johannesburg about the first state of emergency in 1985.

No more solemn vows for this week... I'll be watching these two programmes.

IMEACHTAÍ

(continued from page 12)

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AGAINST STRIP SEARCHES
4.30pm to 6.30pm
Friday 12th December
O'Connell Street (GPO)
DUBLIN
Bringing placards

SINN FEIN FUND-RAISING SOCIAL
Friday 12th December
Teach Mhic Léid
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taithe €1
Organised by
Dublin West Sinn Fein

SOLIDARITY WITH MAGHERRY POWS
Leafletting and petitioning
2.30pm to 5pm Saturday
19th December
O'Connell Street (GPO)
DUBLIN

SEAN SOUTH COMMEMORATION
Prominent speaker
2.45pm Sunday 4th January
Bedford Row
LIMERICK
Organised by Sinn Fein

Sinn Fein AGMs

AT THE recent AGMs of the following branches of Sinn Fein, new officer boards were elected.

DONEGAL
Buncrana: McDaid/Gaughan/
McLaughlin Cumann
Cathaoirleach: George Cadwell
Leasathaoirleach: Mary McLaughlin
Runai: Paul Carvane
Cisteoir: Maurice Bowe
Oideachas: Liam Adams
OCP: John Curran
Cimi: Mary McLaughlin/
Francis Doherty
Milford: Seamus McElwain Cumann
Cathaoirleach: Pat Murphy
Leasathaoirleach: Michael Harkin
Runai: Una McIvor
Cisteoir: Pat Doherty
Oideachas: Jockies Coll

KERRY
Mid-Kerry
Comhairle Ceantair
Cathaoirleach: Michael McCarthy
Leasathaoirleach: Billy Leen
Runaith: Tom Devaney/
Marie Ferris/Martin Regan
Cisteoir: Danny O'Sullivan/
Noel Murtagh
Aigeadais: Mary Moore
Oideachas: Danny O'Sullivan
OCP: Marie Ferris
Cultúr: Ned Loneragan
Talamhaíocht: Con Daly
Jascaireacht: Brian Ferris

LIMERICK
Limerick city
Comhairle Ceantair
Cathaoirleach: Niamh Rattigan
Leasathaoirleach: OCP
Richard Neill
Runai: Anita Malone
Cisteoir: Alec Murphy/Benny Ryan

WATERFORD
Waterford city: Paul Fox/
Laura Crawford Cumann
Cathaoirleach: Noel Ryan
Runai/mna: Mary Shanahan
Cisteoir: David English
Aigeadais: John Dunphy
Oideachas: Donal Barry
Cimi: Danny O'Connell/
John Houlihan
Cultúr: Sean Bourke
Ceardchumann: Joe Kelly
Oige: James Foley
Teachtai don CC: Noel McLawrence/
Maurice Shanahan

National Graves Association
Mid-Kerry NGA
Cathaoirleach: Jack O'Callaghan
Coiste: Eddie Riordan/
Martin Corridan/Mick Counihan

The Politics of Revolution

Republican Publications has produced a 48-page illustrated book on the 1986 Ard-Fheis — *The Politics of Revolution*.

The book contains most of the major speeches from the abstentionist debate at the Ard-Fheis, including the text of speeches by Pat Doherty (proposing the Ard Comhairle motion), John Joe McGil, Joe Cahill and Martin McGuinness.

The Politics of Revolution also includes the full text of Sean Manus's address and Gerry Adams' presidential address. All of these important speeches were previously unpublished.

This historic document is available from Republican Publications at the price of £1.50. It can be obtained from the usual republican outlets including:

Republican Publications
51/53 Falls Road
Belfast
or
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining your copy, contact your local AP/RN seller or Sinn Fein cumann.

Keep up with republican debate, get *The Politics of Revolution*.

The politics of revolution

The main speeches and debates from the 1986 Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis including the presidential address of Gerry Adams

NOT EVERYONE can commit regicide (the murder of a monarch) and get away with it. So consider the death of the English king, George V, in January 1936, and the actions of his doctor, Lord Dawson, the then president of the Royal College of Physicians.

According to Dawson's notes, which have been verified by royal archivists at Windsor Castle, he agreed with Queen Mary and the then Prince of Wales that the King's life should not be prolonged if his illness was mortal and he "hastened" the king's death by administering a euthanasia injection of morphia and cocaine. Furthermore, and even more bizarre, the eminent Dawson's notes say:

"The determination of the time of death of the king's body [sic] had another object in view, viz the importance of the death receiving its first announcement in the morning papers rather than



● De Rossa (left) with card-marking Stick (second from right)

a question on British imperialism that "the Provisionals are the only racists in this country".

A DUNGANNON WOMAN who suffered a miscarriage when British soldiers

Garrison, North Yorkshire, in June.

The girl, who was the daughter of an army captain, was attacked by Private John Hardie while he was supposed to be on guard duty. He dragged her into a field and strangled her with the strap of her shoulder bag. After her death he filled her mouth with grass and sexually abused her body.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

On Tuesday, November 25th, Patrick McLaughlin was found guilty by an Old Bailey jury of 'conspiring to cause explosions'. Forensic evidence allegedly connected McLaughlin to a bomb but it was defused and no-one was injured.

McLaughlin was jailed for life.

Two days later, on Thursday, November 27th, Anthony Lecomber was found guilty by an Old Bailey jury of making two improvised grenades, two petrol bombs, one other highly explosive substance and seven improvised detona-

One of the shop's best-selling publications is *AP/RN*, which it stocks in its extensive Irish section, and the women's co-operative has been the subject of a number of fascist and loyalist assaults, including several arson attempts.

Ian Sloan has previously stood for elections on a 'Smash the IRA - proud to be a racist' ticket.

CONGRATULATIONS to the University College Dublin Sinn Féin Cumann for finishing a strong second in the annual debate between the campus branches of the various political parties. The debate this year was against the motion "That political parties are a waste of time."

Trailing behind Sinn Féin and the Progressive Democrats were Fianna Fáil, who were late runners because head office advised them to withdraw (obviously thought they couldn't handle the motion), and Labour. Bringing up the rear were Fine Gael.



the less appropriate field of the evening journals. The papers knew that the end might come before their going to press and I told my wife on the telephone to advise The Times to hold back the publication.!!!

Euphemistic comments on Dawson's act of euthanasia abound. The immediate past president of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor Sir Douglas Black, thinks, professionally, that Dawson "did something which to me is evil in order that good should come of it, but the particular aspect of the good - hitting the morning papers - that seems to me rather a marginal aspect of good to the point of being unworthy". Indeed,

And the official historian of The Times, Iverach McDonald, said:

"I don't see the palace bending any rules to accommodate The Times."

Regicidal readers of *AP/RN* should note that we go to publication on Thursday mornings. However, don't let our deadline interfere with your deadline, if you see what I mean.

PROINSIAS DE ROSSA, the Workers' Party deputy and company director, accompanied by Seamus 'The More Eloquent' Lynch, Belfast chairstick, attended a political meeting at Queen's University Students' Union last Friday. And they weren't the only Sticks that crawl out from under their stones that day.

Half a dozen non-student heavies tried to force their way into the students-only meeting in Mandela Hall, claiming that they were there "to stop you students abusing our people". (A clear reference to the previous week's meeting during which another leading Stick, Dessie 'The Devil' O'Hagan became visibly flustered and hot under the collar when asked some poignant questions about the more unsavoury activities of his 'comrades'.)

The students' executive member on the door was taking a lot of stick when who should arrive on the scene but 'The Devil' himself. A posse of students' union security staff appeared hot on his heels, forcing 'The Devil' to lead his gang in hasty retreat. Before they left, one Stick (see photo) threatened the union representative, saying:

"Your cards are marked. Watch out!" Lynch and de Rossa were asked about this and other incidents of Sticky intimidation during question time but they refused to answer any 'military questions'!

The tension was relieved, however, by the incredulous laughter which engulfed the hall when de Rossa replied to

created a disturbance at her home in April 1982 has been awarded £5,000 damages against the Ministry of Defence at Belfast High Court.

The soldiers surrounded the house at 8.30am, they shouted abuse at the woman, and kicked the front and back doors, causing her to become distressed, frightened and in fear for her personal safety. Because of their actions, she lost her baby.

A 76-YEAR-OLD Belfast man has also been awarded £5,000 agreed damages against the British army by Belfast High Court.

John Smith, from Andersonstown Park, suffered from a heart disease following a heart attack 20 years ago. When he stopped at the foot of a hill two years ago to catch his breath, he was approached by a British soldier who asked what he was doing and then punched him to the ground and left him for a passing motorist to discover.

A BRITISH SOLDIER has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the brutal murder of a 16-year-old girl at Catterick

tors. Lecomber was arrested after the 'highly explosive substance' detonated in a busy South London street in his car. Miraculously, no-one was injured, except for Lecomber who escaped with burns.

Lecomber was jailed for three years.

Spot the difference?

McLaughlin is Irish. The bomb he was alleged to have planted was aimed at the British army's Chelsea Barracks.

Lecomber is English. He is a member of the neo-Nazi British National Party and his bomb was intended for the headquarters of the left-wing Workers' Revolutionary Party.

ANOTHER NEO-NAZI THUG of the British National Party has benefited from the impartiality of British justice recently.

Ian Sloan, of Halstead Road, Walton, Liverpool, was cleared by Liverpool Crown Court on Monday, November 24th, of an attack on the city's News from Nowhere bookshop despite being positively identified as one of the hammer-wielding gang involved in the daylight attack.

NOTES

