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**PHOBLACHT**  
*Republican News*

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POLITICAL WEEKLY



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## PRICE INCREASE

AP/RN has managed to hold the price of the paper at 25p for 3½ years but rising print, production and distribution costs have forced us, reluctantly, to increase the price of the paper to 30p from next week (to 35p in Britain).

We are confident that our readers will gladly pay the extra 5p for the best, incredibly informative, highly-entertaining and, most of all, *only* republican weekly paper in the country!



# Reduced to rubble

ALL THAT REMAINS of the Lisburn Road RUC Barracks following Tuesday's IRA bomb attack is a smouldering, tangled mass of wire, bricks and timber. A large hole in the road in front of the building, from which a gas leak blazed for some time after the attack, marks the spot where the minibus containing the 600lb bomb was left.

The vehicle used in the attack had been commandeered in the West Belfast area on Monday evening before being driven to its target. A 20-minute warning was given to ensure the evacuation of civilians from around

the barracks and the device detonated at 12.30am.

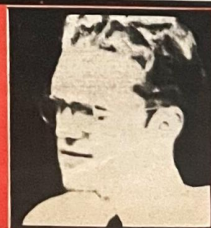
Seven hours later, at about 8am, the fire from the broken gas mains spread to the wrecked building, starting a huge blaze which eventually spread to the ammunition store within the barracks. Bullets could be heard exploding within the devastated building.

Tuesday's attack powerfully reaffirmed the IRA's determination to attack and isolate crown forces in the North, and through the destruction of their barracks reduce morale and inflict significant political and propaganda defeats on the British.

**SEAN SOUTH**

**COMMEMORATION**

2.45pm Sunday  
4th January  
Bedford Row  
**LIMERICK**



● SEAN SOUTH





## CAPITULATION ONCE AGAIN

BY MAIRTÍN Mac DIARMADA

THE PASSING of the new Extradition Act by Leinster House on Wednesday, December 17th, has opened the way for the wholesale extradition of Irish republicans into the hands of the RUC and the corrupt British judicial regime in the Six Counties and Britain.

In the dying days of its term of office, and by the narrowest of margins, the Coalition succeeded in making yet another major concession to the British government. Its latest surrender was delivered after several tied votes in Leinster House with the casting vote of the Ceann Comhairle which ensured the defeat of all amendments to the Extradition Bill.

The new law brings into operation in the 26 Counties the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism signed in Strasbourg by Alan Dukes on February 24th. The Convention and the Act list a wide range of offences which cannot be defined as political by the courts, regardless of the motives of those involved or the political circumstances in which they acted.

### DUKES' ADMISSION

When Alan Dukes signed the Convention in February he used the event to make a speech on the Hillsborough Agreement and openly admitted that his government's accession to the Convention was a concession to the British.

He repeated that in Leinster House on Tuesday when he said that the acceptance of any of the amendments would "amount to a public and unambiguous declaration to the people of the UK that we are abandoning the Anglo-Irish Agreement and all that it means for all of us".

The amendments which were rejected were designed to give some semblance of legal safeguards to potential victims of extradition. There are no such safeguards in the Act, which effectively allows extradition on demand.

Dukes announced that the implementation of the Act would be delayed until December 1987 to ensure that the legal machinery for extradition to the British was working smoothly. This is to make doubly sure that no loopholes can

be found and to avoid 'embarrassments' like those in the cases of Dominic McGlinchey, Seamus Shannon and Eibhlín Glenholmes.

### PRETENCE

The Dublin government is also using the delay as a means of maintaining the pretence that it is "concerned at the pace of reform" in the Six Counties. Whether or not there are any cosmetic reforms under the Hillsborough Agreement, the Extradition Act is on the statute books and is a measure long demanded of Dublin by the British government.

It is part of what Dukes described as "the legal advances being made in the battle against terrorism" (i.e. the collaboration of London and Dublin in their attempts to crush the Republican Movement).

As Garret FitzGerald said in his recent interview with the *Belfast Telegraph*:

"We have no desire to be involved in the process of Northern Ireland any more than is necessary to tackle the problem of the IRA and eliminate it."

Reacting to the passage of the Extradition Act, Sinn Féin said:

"The passing of the Extradition Bill shows the depths to which the Coalition government has sunk in its attempts to satisfy the British government. Indeed, its frenzied efforts to push this measure through Leinster House, without even the minimal qualifications which any government might reasonably apply to protect its own citizens, shows how far it has gone in abandoning all standards of national self-esteem and sovereignty."

"And for what? To placate the implacable — Margaret Thatcher on one side and loyalism on the other — by sacrificing Irish people to an internationally-discredited judicial regime. Such a betrayal will not be forgotten by any right-thinking Irish person."

# RUC Authority attacked

APART FROM direct attacks on barracks (such as Lisburn Road this week), a second element in the IRA's strategy of 'isolating the enemy' was also used this week with two parcel-bomb attacks on members of the RUC Authority.

Members of the Authority were warned to resign earlier this year or they would be targeted by the IRA as collaborators. Michael Murphy, chief officer of the Western Education Board, publicly resigned from the RUC Authority after being specifically named by the IRA.

Last Thursday, December 11th, and Friday, December 12th, the IRA sent parcel-bombs to two members of the Authority. Claiming responsibility, the IRA in a statement on Wednesday, December 17th, in which it names the two officials said:

"Peter Brand and Theodora Simmons are members of an authority which has responsibility for the RUC. In refusing to resign their posts they are actively collaborating and supporting a sectarian force which plays a vital role in physically defending and maintaining the British presence in Ireland."

"Members of the RUC Authority bear a heavy burden of responsibility for this armed paramilitary force and unless they publicly resign their positions they will continue to be viewed as an integral part of the British colonial war machine

and will remain legitimate targets."

### CONTRACTOR WITHDRAWS

A third part of the isolation strategy has been the denial to the crown forces of civilian back-up services such as building contractors, caterers, and so on.

On December 10th, the Belfast Brigade warned a Lisburn-based firm, George Barlow & Sons, of Moira, not to supply living accommodation to British troops billeted on top of the Divis Tower in West Belfast, or provide sectional building materials for crown forces in South Armagh and Omagh. The firm publicly withdrew within 48 hours from its contracts with the British crown forces.

### FRAUD SQUAD WARNED

On Monday, December 15th, the IRA in Belfast warned Department of Social Services 'fraud squad' personnel in nationalist parts of Belfast that, because of the clandestine manner in which they carry out their activities, they run the risk of being mistaken for

undercover British army and RUC units.

The IRA said: "Recently one of our units tracking a British army undercover squad almost went into action against a number of fraud squad personnel. To avoid a tragedy involving members of these DHSS undercover teams, we ask them to either withdraw from nationalist areas or clearly identify themselves if they do enter any of these areas."

### IRA REGRET

IRA Volunteers, on Friday, December 12th, attached a small bomb to a lorry parked outside the West Ulster Farmers' Creamery in the Tyrone village of Killen.

In a statement the IRA said:

"IRA Intelligence had confirmed that the lorry was driven by a member of the RUC Reserve and he was the intended target. Unfortunately, a civilian, Desmond Caldwell, who had been in the UDR 16 years ago, got into the lorry, detonated the device, and was killed in the resulting explosion."

The IRA said it regretted the incident.

Two days later, the intended target, the RUC Reservist, publicly resigned from the force.



● The smouldering ruin that was Lisburn Road RUC Barracks, on Tuesday December 16th

## CHICAGO PLEDGE

"ON BEHALF of the Chicago Chapter of Noraid, and on my own behalf, I wish to make it known that we of Chicago Noraid are 100% in agreement with the decision taken at the 1986 Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis to remove the ban on Sinn Féin entering Leinster House.

"We pledge our full support to the Republican Movement and to no other."

Alec Murphy,  
Chicago Chapter,  
Noraid.



# Hillsborough tactics at work

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE Hillsborough Agreement is nothing if not a concerted attempt to immobilise Northern nationalists. This week's events are a textbook example of the two-pronged tactic.

**Step one:** create media excitement around a few minor reforms and cosmetic moves.

Last Monday, for instance, leaks to the press revealed that the report about to be completed by the former Stalker (now Sampson) Inquiry would recommend the prosecution of eight RUC officers. Press reports hinted that such was the wish of the Dublin government. British officials denied that assurances had been given. But the drift was that, thanks to the London-Dublin Conference, the RUC was going to be brought to account for its murder of unarmed nationalists.

It is difficult to see how Sampson could do otherwise than recommend a few prosecutions. This is the price the British government and indeed the RUC will have to pay for the Stalker scandal. The last few years though have shown how far prosecutions are from convictions in the case of RUC or British army personnel. Meanwhile, the tape which M15 had installed in the hayshed where Michael Tighe was murdered by the RUC has 'disappeared'. And the Sampson Report will avoid disclosures on M15 activities "in the public interest".

## MORE LEAKS

The weekend saw more leaks to the press, this time concerning an "imminent" release of the six innocent Irishmen



● The scene of the killing of Volunteer Jim McKernan (inset) on September 14th in West Belfast. Volunteer McKernan, who was unarmed, was shot in the back at close range by a member of a heavily armed British army foot patrol



jailed in 1974 for the Birmingham bombings. And indeed many will rejoice when their release is announced, not a day too soon.

The Birmingham Six should never have been convicted in the first place. Their release, if release there is to be, will come after 12 years of campaigning, of lobbying, after the publication of books, and finally a British policeman's admission on TV that these men were brutally beaten while in custody. They, like the Maguire family, have already served life sentences. Their lives have been destroyed

by a racist and biased judicial system. There are hundreds like them rotting away in prisons in England and in Ireland.

## TINKERING

This week, British MPs voted for the renewal, for another six months, of the Emergency Provisions Act. Much will be made of the reforms such as the British government's proposed onus on the crown for bail applications and rights of people in custody.

But reputable human rights bodies

have already described the changes as "tinkering at the margins of the system". Last week the British National Council for Civil Liberties demanded that the entire EPA be repealed, and, in the interim, for a return to trial by jury, automatic bail after 110 days in custody and corroboration of 'supergrass' evidence. It is worth recalling that the revamped EPA contains a number of new repressive measures such as the right to seize radio equipment, a 28-day remand in custody, not to mention old ones such as internment without trial. And, of course, as British direct-ruler Tom King stressed yet again in Westminster on Tuesday: *one-judge Diplock Courts are here to stay!*

And this is **Step two** of the Hillsborough tactic: a gradual tightening of the repressive screw on the nationalist community.

Shoot-to-kill tactics are still in force, as shown by the murder of Jim McKernan in Andersonstown last September. Plastic bullets will still be used, and young nationalists will still be sentenced by Orange judges to many years in jail on the flimsiest of evidence. Strip-searching of women prisoners is to continue with the rubber-stamp of the British-government-funded Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights — the so-called human-rights watchdog. On Wednesday, December 10th, the commission published a report supporting the continuation of strip-searching "in the interest of prison security".

The list is long, as is the arsenal of repression which the British have built up in their effort to quash Irish resistance. But the spirit of Irish resistance is not so easily disarmed.

# Coalition targets Sinn Fein

BY MARTIN Mac DIARMADA

WITH NO WARNING or debate, the Dublin government pushed legislation through Leinster House last week with the stated intention of hampering Sinn Fein's electoral challenge in the 26 Counties.

Environment Minister John Boland cynically used an Electoral Bill, designed to give disabled voters postal votes, as a means of carrying through the anti-Sinn Fein laws. Announcing them in Leinster House on Thursday, December 11th, Boland said that the names of non-registered political parties could no longer appear on ballot papers as part of candidates' names and that presiding officers at polling stations will be empowered to demand documentary proof of identification from certain voters.

Before the 1986 Ard-Fheis it was Sinn Fein policy not to register as a political party with the Leinster House registrar. As a result of not being registered, the name of the party did not appear on ballot papers. To overcome this it was the practice of Sinn Fein candidates to change their names by deed poll so that the party's title would appear as part of their own names.

At this year's Ard-Fheis it was agreed to register and on December 3rd the relevant papers (having been checked by legal advisors) were lodged with the Registrar of Political Parties.

law, Sinn Fein's Director of Elections, Pat Doherty, said:

"The prohibition of candidates changing their name by deed poll is particularly significant since it suggests that an attempt is being made to stop or delay Sinn Fein registering as a political party in the 26 Counties. It will be interesting to see if political pressure is exerted on the Registrar of Political Parties to block our application even though we have fulfilled the legal requirements for registration."

The second measure announced by Boland was allegedly to combat personation in elections. He said that it was being done specifically because of the decision of "an organisation with direct subversive links" (i.e. Sinn Fein) to put forward candidates in the next general election. The wording of the law is extremely vague in that it says the presiding officer can demand a "specific document" for identification from voters, but does not say what the document(s) will be.

Asked in an RTE interview what was meant, Boland said that "a credit card, cheque book or driver's licence" would do, thus confirming that the main victims of the measure would be young



● Sinn Fein election workers distributing literature outside the polling booth in Seville Place, in Dublin's North Inner City

working-class people, many of whom would be potential Sinn Fein voters.

Pat Doherty said that the party would unreservedly welcome the measure if it was a genuine attempt to end electoral malpractice but "John Boland's statement that this move is directed against Sinn Fein shows the true motive behind the amendment."

"In the first place, voter personation existed on a massive

scale, North and South, long before Sinn Fein's decision in 1981 to enter electoral politics. There is no evidence, as John Boland suggests, that personation increased because of Sinn Fein. In fact, despite changes in the law in the Six Counties which requires all voters to produce identification the Sinn Fein vote has not declined.

"In the 26 Counties, the O'Connor case and the systematic theft of votes in Dublin's flatland

suggest that the real masters of personation are those who sat smugly on the Leinster House benches while the measure was discussed.

"They have no need to worry about the change because the law is directed against 'certain' people. We can be quite sure that affluent people will be exempt from suspicion while the existing anti-youth and anti-working class bias of the electoral system will be reinforced."

## POLITICAL PRESSURE

Reacting to the name-change





## No grace before meals

WORKERS at Pat Grace's fried chicken and pizza cabins at Phibsboro, Dublin, are picketing the restaurant after eight of them were dismissed.

Liz McCouley, the strikers' spokesperson, says that Pat Grace has used abusive language in his attempts to intimidate the women workers. A number of the women were told by him that they were to report to Limerick the following day for work. When they refused they were dismissed.

The women are members of the ITGWU and are picketing the restaurants from 11am to 2am.

Thirty jobs have been lost in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, following the closure of Major Steel Products. The company, which manufactured farm machinery, had been in operation for 13 years.

Ten fitters and electricians at the B+I freight terminal, North Wall, Dublin, are on strike in support of a 7% wage increase. Other workers at the terminal refused to pass the picket and freight services to the Continent have been halted.

A large number of jobs are at risk following the Coalition's cut in funding

to the Agricultural Institute.

Twelve hundred people are employed by the Institute, which has been forced to sell three of its farms following the cut in grant aid.

Brenda Dean, general secretary of SOGAT '82, one of the unions representing 5,500 British printworkers sacked by newspaper magnate Rupert Murdoch, visited Dublin last Friday and told Irish trade unionists to be on their guard.

She warned people to watch the 26-County government carefully to ensure that it did not introduce industrial legislation similar to Britain's which

allowed employers to sack their workforce and seize union funds.

Dean thanked unions at the Irish Press for refusing to print 300,000 scab copies of Murdoch's *News of the World* earlier this year and said that the News International strike, which will be one-year-old next month, has cost SOGAT almost £5½ million. In Ireland at the invitation of the Dublin Printing Trades Group, she issued "a cry from the heart" for Irish trade unionists' support.

She also joined the picket of the Shelbourne Hotel where workers have been on official strike since October 14th for decent wages.

Thirty jobs could be lost in the Gresham and Berkeley Court Hotels in Dublin if the management succeeds in its rationalisation plans.

The No.4 Branch of the ITGWU, which represents hotel workers, is presently engaged in talks with management.

Two former shop-stewards at the Advance Tyre Centre of Townsend Street, Dublin, are picketing the premises after being dismissed. Advance Tyre is owned by Semperit, who tried to introduce new working methods by having workers use their own transport to ferry tyres between centres. When the workers refused they were sacked.

The Rights Commissioners ruled that they were unfairly dismissed and awarded them £2,000 after ten years' service and £4,000 after 13 years. The picketers, Christy McGuhan and Jimmy Hayes, are appealing the amounts they have been awarded.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions held a special consultative conference on Monday, December 15th, to review the progress of its policy on jobs, pay and taxation.

The conference reviewed the trend in pay settlements and attacked the Fine Gael/Labour government for its refusal to enter into a renewal of the policy of 'national understandings'.

## Health cuts protest

OVER 1,000 voluntary health workers and trade unionists from the North's three main health unions — NUPE, COHSE and NIPSA — mounted pickets at hospitals and disrupted a meeting of the Eastern Health & Social Services Board on Thursday, December 11th.

The protestors were objecting to proposals by the board to cut services by £15 million over the next five years, the bulk of the cuts coming from acute services. The Board was also proposing that resources be shifted from hospitals to 'community care'.

Criticising the Board's proposals, NUPE area organiser Lily Kerr said that one of the plan's objectives is "to remove 200 acute hospital beds from the Eastern Board area". She pointed out that hospital waiting lists showed a definite need for these beds. Other areas under threat

are back-up services for the mentally ill and the home-help service which caters largely for the elderly.

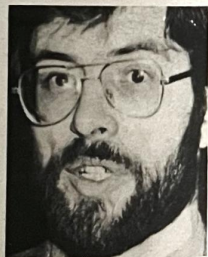
NIPSA has similarly condemned the cuts in the home-help service. The union revealed that a review of the service recently made in North and West Belfast showed that additional home-helps were needed, not fewer:

"Any cuts in the home-help service will have very serious effects because they would in-

volve removing facilities from people who are in great need."

Supporting the protestors, West Belfast MP Gerry Adams said:

"Today's turn-out clearly illustrates the depth of opposition to the cuts that exists in the communities most dramatically affected by them. There is an obvious determination to support the health workers and to defend the health service against further attack. The Eastern Health Board, rather than passively implementing British government restrictions, should take a lead from its own employees,



and those at today's pickets, start defending the health service."

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# Family wins new inquest

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE MOTHER AND SISTER of IRA Volunteer William Price have won their fight to get a new inquest into the controversial circumstances in which Price was shot dead by undercover British soldiers in Ardboe, County Tyrone, in July 1984.

This time, the Price family will have to be informed of the time and place of the hearing.

Price's mother has fought a legal battle to have the inquest, held last June, quashed because neither she nor Price's sister, Eileen Maye, with whom he had been living at the time of his death, had been given advance notice of the inquest by the RUC.

Last Friday, a High Court judge in

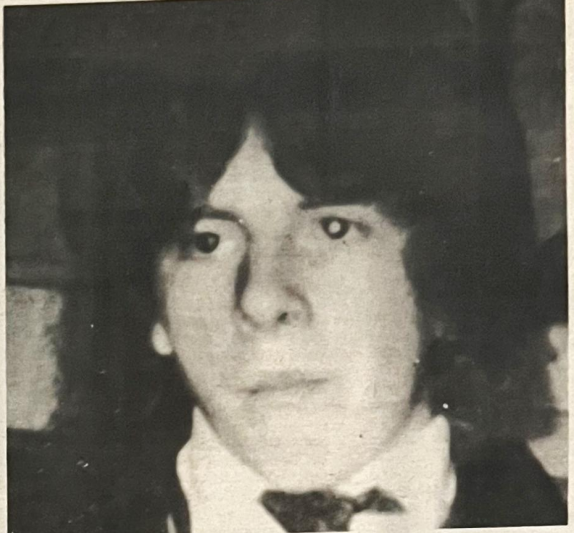
Belfast agreed that the failure to inform the relatives had been contrary to natural justice, and instructed that they be given "reasonable notice" of a future inquest.

As Judge Kelly pointed out, coroners' courts in England and Wales have a statutory obligation to notify the spouse or near relative. No such requirement exists in the Six Counties.

However, the judge refused to apportion blame for the failure to tell the Price family of the inquest or for the fact that the inquest proceeded despite their absence.

## CHALLENGE

The success of their application last Friday means that Mrs Price and her daughters will be present, with their lawyers, at the new inquest to challenge the crown forces' version of events.



● VOLUNTEER WILLIAM PRICE

At the previous inquest, inconsistencies emerged between the story of the RUC, who claimed they found two guns

behind Price's body, and British soldiers, who said they searched but found no weapons.

# Disabled man ill-treated

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

A YOUNG DERRY MAN was brutally ill-treated during five days of questioning in Castlereagh RUC Interrogation Centre recently.

Eddie McSheffrey (28) has a caliper on his leg since he was injured in an explosion two years ago and has been under constant medical supervision since.

He was arrested from his home in Abbey Park, Bogside, in the early hours of Monday, December 1st, and taken to Castlereagh where the RUC refused to allow him to wear his caliper. McSheffrey was therefore unable to walk or stand and was forced to undergo a daily routine of four-hour interrogation sessions.

## DRAGGED

Over the next five days, McSheffrey was interrogated by eight RUC detectives who continually used his injury to increase the stress he was under. On Monday

from under him on several occasions and he was ordered to stand up. When he couldn't, the RUC men then dragged him to his feet by his hair and ears.

The largest and heaviest of his interrogators (weighing around 18 stones) sat on top of his injured leg several times.

McSheffrey told AP/RN:

"For five minutes at a time, the RUC man crushed down upon my leg, causing me severe pain."

## 'SAS-A-CLAUS'

The RUC also repeatedly taunted their victim about his injury and the explosion which caused it. The RUC also warned him that he would be shot dead before Christmas, saying it would not be Santa Claus but 'SAS-A-CLAUS' who would be calling with him.



● Castlereagh Interrogation Centre, Belfast

After five days, McSheffrey was released without charge late on Friday night. Derry Sinn Fein

Councillor Mitchel McLaughlin said that the RUC's actions in Castlereagh were "ample demon-

stration that such RUC torture methods are still part of RUC policy".

# Loyalist abduction

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

TWO BELFAST nationalists suffered a terrifying ordeal last weekend when they were abducted by loyalists in the city centre, brought to a social club, and viciously beaten for several hours.

The men, one from Andersonstown, the other from the Markets (both of whom have asked not to be named) are still in hospital.

At 8.30pm on Friday, December 12th, the Markets man was collecting a bicycle for his two-year-old child in King Street, which was packed with Christmas shoppers, when he was attacked by two loyalists. They bundled him into the back of a car

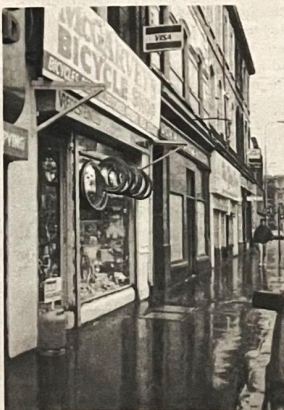
and he discovered to his horror, that he was along with another nationalist who had been abducted by the gang earlier that evening.

## BEATEN

In the car the loyalists held both men down on the floor of the vehicle with their feet until they reached the Liverpool Mountview Supporters' Social Club at Disraeli Street, in the heart of the loyalist Shankill Road. The terrified men were brought into the toilets in the club where they were beaten with batons, fists and kicked by up to ten loyalists.

Throughout the beatings they were asked if they were Catholics, which they denied, fearing that they would be murdered.

At around 2.30am, the men were taken outside. They thought they were going to be killed but instead they were put into a car. Shortly afterwards, the badly-injured men were thrown out at Tennent Street, off the Crumlin Road, where they were discovered by a passing RUC mobile patrol and taken to hospital.



● King Street, Belfast — scene of the abduction of two nationalists

One man's wife said:

"I didn't know what had happened

to him when he didn't come home from the town and the RUC didn't tell us either. It wasn't until Saturday that I heard from him when he telephoned my sister.

"When I saw him I didn't recognise him, his face was swollen and there were cuts and bruises all over him."

## 100 STITCHES

This man needed 100 stitches to lacerations on his face, has two, possibly three, broken fingers, chipped bones in his jaw and forehead, and bruising all over. The Andersonstown man needed stitches to his head and had his jaw broken in two places, for which he underwent surgery.

Although the RUC has been to the loyalist club and recovered one of the batons used by the assailants, no-one has so far been detained for questioning.

Belfast Sinn Fein Councillor Sean McKnight called on nationalists not to relax their vigilance over the Christmas period and said that "these two men are very lucky to be alive".



# MINISTER ACCUSED

BY BRENDAN KERR

**DUBLIN WEST DEPUTY** Jim Mitchell has been accused of "playing politics with people's lives" after refusing to reply to a Sinn Féin community activist's plea for the inadequate safety measures on the proposed Chapelized by-pass to be urgently upgraded.

Jimmy Delaney, a Ballyfermot Sinn Féin member, reluctantly resigned as secretary of the Chapelized By-pass Action Committee on Wednesday, December 17th, saying:

"Jim Mitchell may feel no guilt about using people's safety as a political football but Sinn Féin and I are certainly not going to stoop to his level."

"Mitchell's petty pursuit of a fragmented Coalition boycott of Sinn Féin members exposes his disregard for his constituents' needs and wishes. Environment

Minister John Boland has already written to me on the By-pass Action Committee's concern about safety, and only a fortnight ago Coalition Minister Nuala Fennell shared a platform with Sinn Féin in Rathfarnham at a meeting on social welfare cuts."

## DEMANDS

The By-pass Action Committee (which has the backing of both the Ballyfermot Community Association and the Chapelized Residents' Association) is demanding that a footbridge be provided

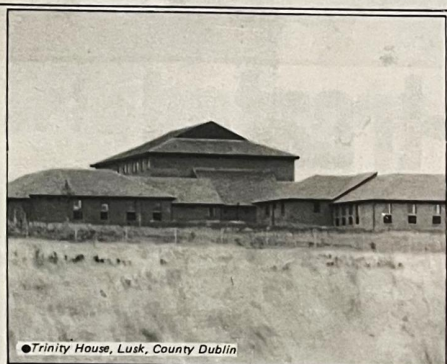


● Standing on the site for the proposed Chapelized by-pass, Jimmy Delaney indicates the houses which will be in danger due to inadequate safety measures

across the motorway as a subway would leave pedestrians more vulnerable to muggers. The proposed two-foot-high safety barriers

have been described by Delaney as "woefully inadequate on a road-way 30 feet above the ground". Although he has resigned as

secretary, Jimmy Delaney has defiantly said that he will remain an active member of the By-pass Action Committee.



● Trinity House, Lusk, County Dublin

## Homeless boy jailed

A HOMELESS CHILD was sentenced to two years' detention in Trinity House as the Dublin Children's Court on Friday, December 12th. His crime was breaking into a car to find somewhere warm to sleep.

In May, the 13-year-old boy's story was carried in AP/RN. 'Jim' (not his real name) has been in the care of the Eastern Health Board since he was six. He was taken into care through a court order brought by the Health Board and lived in a children's home in Wicklow until he was 11.

Although the Health Board has a legal responsibility to care for Jim, he was allowed to intermittently roam the streets of Dublin from the age of 11, uncared for and prey to all the dangers associated with a life on the streets. In May, Jim told AP/RN about "the rich men in posh cars" who offered him money for sex, and his feeling that it was "the end of the world" for him.

Now Jim is in Trinity House, "a secure unit for young offenders" — a prison. Fr Peter McVerry, a priest who befriended the boy, said the court case:

"The Board is dying for him to go to Trinity House — it will get them off the hook."

Jim will spend the next two years in a completely unsuitable environment. He is not a criminal, he is a young boy whose family cannot care for him. The

Eastern Health Board, which took him from his family, has dishonoured its responsibility to him.

## BACKGROUND

The background to this sad story is that the Health Board has a shortage of residential places for the children in their care. The Children's Homes are not prepared to take troublesome or unruly children and the Health Board is either unwilling or unable to make them. Although the vast majority of homes are 100% funded by the Board, they are very often managed by or associated with the Catholic Church and there is a marked unwillingness to force them to do anything they do not like.

The opening of a new hostel for homeless boys under the auspices of the Catholic Social Services Conference has been welcomed by everyone involved. However it must be said that the Minister is suddenly able to find between £160,000 and £180,000 to fund this new hostel but was unable to find £70,000 to keep the Hope Hostel which was closed last February due to lack of funds.

## Traders hit



**DUBLIN STREET-TRADERS** have been fighting a court battle in the past week to earn their traditional livelihood on the city's streets at Christmas.

Because the Department of Industry & Commerce refused licences to 14 traders, they have been unable to obtain Christmas trading permits and provide a badly-needed supplement to their family incomes. In the High Court on Wednesday, December 10th, the street-traders sought an injunction against the Minister for Industry & Commerce and challenged the constitutionality of the Casual Trading Act which, they said, was denying them their livelihood.

Despite the urgency of the case for the traders, Judge Murphy reserved his judgement on Wednesday and again the following Monday. This has meant that street-traders have had to run the gauntlet of continuous Garda harassment in the days up to Christmas as they attempt to earn their living on their traditional Henry Street trading sites.

On Monday, the High Court judge said he would finally rule on the case today (Thursday, December 18th).

## SUPPORT

Expressing his support for the 14 street-traders who have been continuously moved on both before and since their convictions for illegal trading in 1984/85, Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke described the Department and Corporation decisions as "another attack on low income families."

"These traders are totally dependent on this income for food and clothing for Christmas."

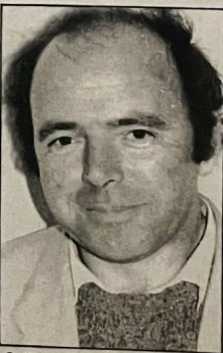
He pointed out that all the pressure against the traders was coming from big business people who refused to consider even a tiny proportion of the vast income from the Christmas shopping spree being shared with working people from disadvantaged areas of the city.

## KERRY INTIMIDATION ATTEMPT

**FIVE KERRY PEOPLE** were sentenced at a Tralee court on Wednesday, December 10th, to prison sentences and fines of up to £300 for "withholding names and addresses" and "obstruction".

On April 20th, the Special Branch raided several houses in Kerry. At the home of James and Carmel Sheehan in West Comons, Ardfert, they demanded that James give his name and address. When he pointed out that they were raiding his home and obviously knew his name and address, they became aggressive and both James and his wife were pushed about. The couple were then charged, James with withholding name and address and obstruction and Carmel with obstruction.

That same day, April 20th, Brian Ferris, of Churchill, County Kerry, was stopped by Special Branch men in Tralee. He was asked for his name and address by the same Branch men who had stopped him a score of times before. Ferris said: "I'd just had enough. They know my name and address; it is pure harassment." He too was charged with withholding



● BILLY LEEN

his name and address.

Also raided on April 20th was the Prendergast home in Castlemaine. When Marie Prendergast complained about the raiding of her home she too was charged

with obstruction. Two days later, on April 22nd, James Nagle of Tralee received similar treatment when he too was arrested and charged.

## SENTENCES

At the court case on Wednesday, December 10th, James Sheehan was sentenced to six months in prison and a £300 fine. Carmel Sheehan was fined £50. Brian Ferris was sentenced to six months in prison, Marie Prendergast was fined £200 and bound over for two years, and James Nagle was fined.

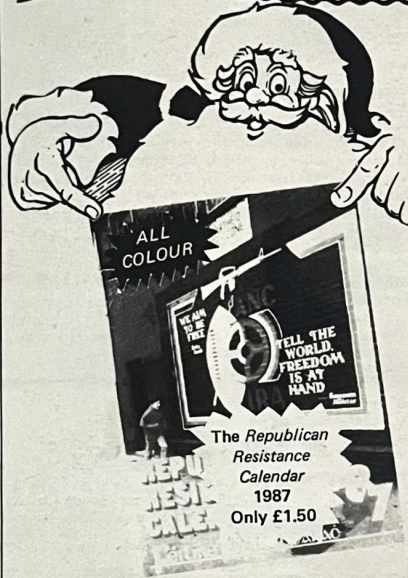
Tralee Sinn Féin Councillor Billy Leen, commenting on the sentences, said:

"There is a continuous campaign of deliberate harassment of republicans in this area. The savage sentences passed on these people are an attempt to intimidate not just them but all republican activists in Kerry. It won't work."

All five have appealed their cases and will appear in court again on January 22nd.



# The perfect Christmas presents



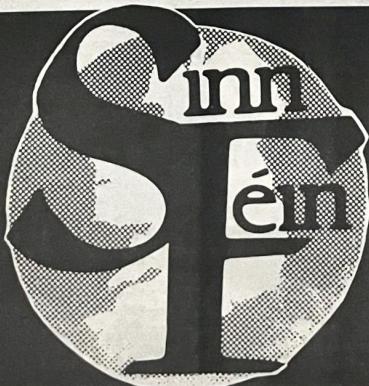
## The Politics of Revolution

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 Chomhairle motion), John Joe McGirl, 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.

All of the above are available from Republican Publications, 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast, and 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (Bulk orders can be arranged on demand).



A GENERAL ELECTION is expected in the 26 Counties within the next few months. Sinn Féin intends to contest seats across a wide area, offering a real change to the redundant policies of the establishment parties.

Elections cost money and if we are to fight on a professional basis against parties which are

supported by vested commercial interests then we must once again appeal for funding from our friends and supporters in Ireland and abroad.

Now is the time to start sending your donations, large or small, to the Sinn Féin Election Fund, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (Please send only cheques, postal orders or money orders — no cash.)



# ANOTHER BRITISH WHITEWASH

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A REPORT PUBLISHED in the North last Friday, December 12th, has rigidly endorsed British government policy on strip-searching women prisoners and feebly recommends that the practice should be kept under review.

The 36-page report was compiled by the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights whose chairperson and members are appointed by the British Secretary of State. It is therefore not surprisingly riddled with contradictions and reads, in most part, like so many other Northern Ireland Office cover-ups which

attempt to justify strip-searching on security grounds.

It accepts without qualification the NIO position that strip-searches are carried out with due regard for the individual's dignity. However, this has been consistently challenged by opponents who point out that many women have complained about the

degrading and humiliating effects and long-term psychological scars they have suffered as a consequence.

In considering whether the security of Maghaberry Prison, built at a cost of £5 million and acclaimed as the elite of top-security prisons in Europe, would be "seriously prejudiced by the complete cessation of strip-searching", the commission submits:

*"It seems reasonable to accept the view (put forward by the NIO and others) that modern technology has not yet reached the degree of sophistication required reliably to detect many small*

*non-metallic objects such as pieces of paper, drugs and paper money."*

Contradicting this assertion, it had earlier stated in the report that the few insignificant items discovered since November 1982 by rub-down searches, not strip-searches, have "not in themselves had any security significance".

## ABUSES

The commission considered the question of ending strip-searching, reducing it, and/or the prospect of additional safeguards being provided against abuses in the practice. But in essence the report again mimicked current NIO policy by concluding that there was "no realistic possibility of the practice being ended in the near future".

And in a comment that gives an insight into this body's political adherence to British government policy, the commission expressed concern that a subject as "politically sensitive" as strip-searching has not only generated "considerable antagonism in the community" but could have "far-reaching effects upon the perception abroad of the government's policies".

At the same time, some of the commission's conclusions — and indeed the very fact that the commission was asked to produce this report — confirms that the British government is coming under pressure generated by the anti-strip-search campaigners. The report says:

*"By definition, strip-searching is an emotive subject and public attitudes both within Northern Ireland and abroad have been coloured by the propaganda campaign conducted against the prison authorities."*

It urges the British government to present a more "detailed and concise" argument to the public even if this means providing "additional resources".

## CRITICISED

The commission's abject failure to demand the complete cessation of strip-searching was strongly criticised by anti-strip-search campaigner Breige Brownlee, who said that she was initially "shocked that any group which claims to stand for human rights has come out and in effect condoned strip-searching". However, she told AP/RN:

*"When we realised this was a government appointed body we expected nothing else. The whole report is a cosmetic gesture to counter publicity generated by the campaign and shows, as the NIO pamphlet defending strip-searching did, to what lengths the British will go to misrepresent the true facts about the issue."*

*"In a way, we see the commission's report as a success for the campaign as it proves beyond doubt that the British government is once again coming under pressure. That pressure will be maintained until this abhorrent and unjustifiable practice is ended."*

## WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

THE SINN FEIN Women's Department spokesperson, Belfast Councillor Lily Fitzsimmons, has said that the latest report from the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights gives *carte blanche* to the prison authorities at Maghaberry to continue degrading and humiliating women prisoners.

It might have appeared plausible in 1973 that a government which had been responsible for internment, Bloody Sunday, the ill-treatment of those in custody, and the use of rubber bullets, was mending its ways by appointing such a body as the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights. But, 13 years later, with rubber and plastic bullets deaths, with paid-perjurers, shoot-to-kill, and strip-searching, it is clear that the commission, in spite of its grand title, is meant only to

improve the British government's image abroad.

## CLOSENESS

The commission has done little since it was set up and examples of its findings over the years illustrate its closeness to the British government.

On the question of Diplock courts, it says: *"We feel unable to recommend that this procedure should lapse in the absence of a viable alternative."*

On the ill-treatment of prisoners, it suggests that this comes from "excesses" on the part of "over-zealous" interrogators.

On internment by remand, it says: *"There will always be anomalous or difficult cases where longer than average periods will be spent on remand."*

And on the whole question of the denial of human rights here, it says in its fifth annual report: *"Unfortunately,*

*full enjoyment of these rights must await an ending of violence."*

## RESCUE ATTEMPT

This current report is but the latest attempt to rescue the British government from its international critics — this time over the continued strip-searching of women prisoners — and shows the amount of pressure that is being brought to bear internationally for an end to strip-searching.

The commission, like the NIO, has been forced to admit that nothing of any security importance has been found in the 3,000+ strip-searches carried out since 1982, yet it still falls back on the well-worn excuse that security needs justify the continuation of this degrading practice. The report's conclusion that there is "no realistic possibility of the practice being ended in the near future" is an absolute disgrace.

## Anti-strip search meeting

A public meeting and video show on strip-searching was held in Dungan, County Wexford, recently with over 50 people in attendance.

Chairing the meeting, Matty Power said that strip-searching had nothing to do with security but was another attempt

to degrade, humiliate and break the will of women republican prisoners. He called on those present to lobby politicians and all groups to put pressure on the British to end all strip-searches. The principal speaker was Annie Campbell from the Central Stop the Strip-Searches Committee.

She outlined the progress of the campaign and gave an account of how the searches were affecting the women prisoners, in particular the brutal treatment of Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson in English prisons.

## BENEDICTINE OPPOSITION

In the United States, the Benedictine Sisters of St Mary Priory, Nauvoo, Illinois, have called for the ending of strip-searches:

*"We are opposed to these degrading and immoral strip-searches and we ask that this oppressive treatment of women be abolished."*



● Sinn Féin picket at Leinster House

## Symbol

FOR the third year in succession Political Prisoners erected outside Connolly Fein's headquarters.

The impressive 15-foot tree is decorative festive addition to the Road. It was erected on Monday with Prisoners' Week, a time of various events in their areas, a fact that there are almost 700 in Ireland, England and the United States.





## Public Christmas Tree

In succession an 'Irish Republic Christmas Tree' has been erected in the main Andersonstown, Belfast Sinn

tree is more than simply another on to the main Andersonstown Monday, December 15th, to coincide with the Christmas season, a time when republicans, through their public attention to the most 700 political prisoners in jails in the United States.

Instead of the usual decorations, this tree is hung with cards bearing the names of our prisoners.

The spectacle of so many cards, each bearing the name of one of those prisoners, is indeed an effective way of ensuring a thought is given not only to the prisoners but to the reason why they are incarcerated — the British presence in Ireland.

In the days leading up to Christmas, smaller trees will be erected in many social clubs where the names of prisoners from local areas will be placed. Several Sinn Féin cumann in Belfast will also be delivering presents to the children of republican prisoners.

## Week of extradition protests RTE studio occupied

BY MARTIN Mac DIARMADA

RTE's STUDIO in the newly-opened Virgin record store in Dublin was occupied by Sinn Féin last weekend in protest against extradition and to highlight the censorship of the organisation's opposition to the Extradition Bill through the use of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

Seven members of Ogra Sinn Féin gained access to the RTE 2 studio in the Virgin 'megastore' on Aston Quay. The large shop is owned by the English millionaire jetsetter and friend of Margaret Thatcher, Richard Branson. Virgin was thronged with Christmas shoppers on Saturday afternoon, December 13th, when the Sinn Féin members entered the studio through the unlocked door from the main floor of the shop.

### DISRUPTED

Although RTE 2's broadcast from the studio had ended earlier, the occupation disrupted internal broadcasting in the shop and with the picket of over 30 people inside and outside the building attracted

widespread attention. Many of the hundreds of mainly young shoppers congratulated the protestors and expressed opposition to extradition and Section 31.

Explaining the occupation, Ogra Sinn Féin said:

"We have been forced to occupy the RTE studio because Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act denies us access to the airwaves in the 26 Counties.

"If the Extradition Bill is passed, it will be:

"1. A major political victory for the British in Ireland.

"2. The total acceptance by the 26-County state of the RUC as an impartial 'police' force.

"3. The total acceptance by the 26-County state of Britain's attempts to criminalise the struggle to free the six North-Eastern counties of Ireland from British military occupation.

"4. The final fusion of a common London-Dublin policy on the Six Counties in approaching it first and foremost as a 'security' problem rather than a political one.

"5. The ultimate acceptance of Britain's presence as the unchallenged occupier of the Six Counties and the abandonment of the national objective

of reunification."

Despite the efforts of security personnel and gardai obviously frustrated at the ease with which the Sinn Féin members had entered the studio, the occupation continued for 20 minutes and ended peacefully. The picket outside the store was then resumed under the watchful eye of six carloads of Special Branch who later tried to seize the AP/RN photographer's film on two occasions.

### PETITION

Earlier on Saturday, several hundred people signed a petition calling for the withdrawal of the Extradition Bill by the Dublin government. Hundreds of leaflets on the plight of republican prisoners were also distributed at the Sinn Féin picket and public meeting opposite the GPO in O'Connell Street.

On Monday evening, December 15th, there was a torchlight vigil against extradition on O'Connell Bridge during rush-hour traffic despite biting winds and rain.

On Tuesday, as the committee stage of the Extradition Bill was being debated, a picket took place outside Leinster House.



# THE PLIGHT OF LIMERICK'S TRAVELLERS

BY PEADAR MOLLOY

**MEMBERS** of the Travelling community in Limerick picketed the recent meeting of the City Council's Housing Committee in protest at the continued delay by the council in deciding on the provision of halting sites in the city.

Last year, a working party consisting of representatives of the Travellers, Limerick Corporation, Limerick Trades Council, Southill Tenants' & Residents' Association, and the St Vincent de Paul Society issued a report outlining the living conditions of local Travellers and recommending the establishment of ten official halting sites at a number of designated locations throughout the city.

This report was rejected at a full meeting of the City Council which instead instructed the City Manager to bring forward alternative proposals.

## SITES

Over two months ago, the Manager put forward his proposals to establish eight sites, two in each of the four electoral wards. These proposals were vehemently opposed by some councillors who have made it clear that they do

not want any sites inside the city boundary. It was agreed, however, that a special meeting of the council would be held to decide on the proposals. It is the ongoing delay in calling this meeting which has angered local Travellers.

Their spokesperson, Willie Casey, has accused the council of deliberately stalling on the issue. In an interview with *AP/RN*, he accused certain councillors of "attempting to make a flame for themselves by stirring up anti-Traveller feeling".

Casey pointed out that most of the Travellers in Limerick were natives of the city and that they had been living in some areas long before the building of new houses.

## TOTALLY WRONG

He said that it was "totally wrong" for the Corporation to maintain that they had a good record of housing Travellers. Only a very few families had been



to live for one week the life of Limerick Travellers.

Casey was critical of the clergy who had failed to take any interest in the plight of Travellers. However, he praised many of the people living in working-class areas of the city for their good and friendly relations with Travellers. He also praised those councillors who support the provision of halting sites.

## CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS

On allegations of crime among Travellers, Casey said that "nobody has the right to judge us and say that we are worse than anyone else."

In the meantime, the campaign for halting sites is set to continue until Limerick City Council finally decides to grant Travellers their rights.

housed over the years; the majority continued to live by the roadside in unhealthy and primitive conditions:

"If some of those who are

most against us had to live in dirty, wet conditions with rats around them there would be uproar."

He challenged local councillors

# Travellers face eviction

**TRAVELLERS' FAMILIES** living in fields and along roadsides in Armagh city are facing the threat of imminent eviction without being provided with anywhere else to go.

In recent months, Armagh SDLP councillors have, in contradiction to their stated party policy, been vocal in demanding that the Travellers be evicted and have publicly attacked the Housing Executive for not taking "stern enough measures to deal with the problem". The Housing Executive recently sought and was awarded an 'order of possession' by the High Court which, it says, it will serve immediately the paperwork is completed.

Several Travellers' families first moved into the city about 16 months ago. One family which is waiting for the local DHSS to process some problems is living on Housing Executive land beside the Mullacreevie Estate. A second group of families is camped about a quarter of a mile away, while two or three more families are living at Rock Road on the outskirts of Armagh.

## INFLAMMATORY

Paul Noonan, spokesperson for the Northern Ireland Council of Travelling People, visited Armagh at the end of November and last week slammed the actions of the SDLP councillors, accusing them of attempting to "stir up animosity" towards Travellers with a "series of inflammatory statements". Noonan described the SDLP attitude as "a disgraceful and shameful manipulation of the Travellers' plight" and as a "vote-getting exercise".

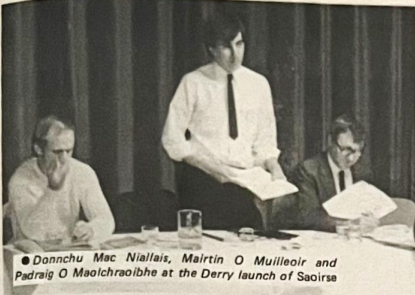


Sinn Féin's Armagh Councillor Tommy Carroll this week condemned the bigoted attitudes of many nationalist and unionist elected representatives:

"The Armagh Travellers are living without toilets and have no water or electricity supply or a rubbish collection service. It is in the urgent interests of both the settled community and the Travellers that a serviced site is provided."

Carroll called on the various statutory bodies — the Housing Executive, the Department of the Environment and the council — to get together and "produce an agreed plan which satisfactorily and permanently resolves this issue".





● Donnchu Mac Niallais, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and Pádraig Ó Maolchraoibhe at the Derry launch of Saoirse

# Saoirse seolta

LE CIAN MAC AOIDH

A MEETING in Derry's Guildhall has heard that even Cardinal O Fiaich recognised that republicans had been more devoted to the well-being of the Irish language than constitutionalists.

Lisburn Sinn Féin Councillor Pádraig Ó Maolchraoibhe made the comment at the special Guildhall lecture on Monday night to mark the Derry launch of the all-Irish magazine, *Saoirse*, published by Sinn Féin. He said:

"In his lecture *The Language & Political History*, Cardinal O Fiaich points out that the *United Irishmen*, *Young Irishmen*, *Fenians* and *IRB* did more for the promotion of Irish than their constitutional counterparts.

"That lesson in history holds true to this day as seen by the fact that at their Convention the IRA reaffirmed their commitment to the restoration of the Irish language as the main spoken language of this country."

Speaking at the same meeting, Sinn Féin Cultural Department head Máirtín Ó Muilleoir condemned the failure of the Hills-

borough Agreement to further the cause of the Irish cultural revival.

"The culture sub-committee on Derry Council set up at the instigation of Sinn Féin has, with a minimum of resources, achieved more for the Irish language in the last year than the London-Dublin Inter-Governmental Conferences."

## CAMLUGH

Pádraig Ó Maolchraoibhe also addressed a public meeting at the Camlough, County Armagh, launch of *Saoirse* on the previous Friday, while leading Northern Nationalists' Conference Group member Fergus O'Hare addressed the Belfast launch on Wednesday, December 17th.

O'Hare accused the SDLP and Dublin government of "having cast a web of confusion over the Hillsborough Agreement so as to mask its real aim: the defeat of the republican struggle and the creation of a devolved administration at Stormont — with SDLP participation."

The Dublin launch of *Saoirse* will take place in the Eccles Lounge, Dorset Street, on Saturday night, December 20th.



SINN FEIN and cultural activists have erected over a dozen more Irish street-signs in Armagh city.

One street-sign in Culdee, which was stolen by the RUC several months ago, has been replaced (seen above). John Nixon of Armagh Sinn Féin said:

"We will continue this work in the New Year until all areas of Armagh have Irish signs."

## BOOK REVIEW

# The Politics of Irish Freedom

BY EAMON O NUALLAIN  
PORTLAOISE PRISON

THIS BOOK, which Gerry Adams says "does not present itself as a definitive statement of present-day republican politics", is his analysis of the main issues facing anyone interested in the cause of Irish freedom.

A member of Sinn Féin since 1964, he looks at the development of the situation within and outside the Republican Movement from the mid-60s to the present day. Yet it is not a book of reminiscences; it is a statement of his political ideology.

That this book was written while he holds the position of president of Sinn Féin must make it unique. I can think of no other occasion when an Irish political leader, while still active in politics, has set out so clearly his thoughts on all aspects of his politics and the organisation which he leads.

## EASY TO READ

Unlike many books on politics, it is very easy to read. There are no long, convoluted passages to struggle through. There is no preaching. In fact, the tone is almost conversational at times. Early in the book he analyses the underlying causes of past events and how conditions were, in turn, changed by these events.

He speaks of his early involvement in street politics and his early realisation that, "We could not free the Irish people. We could only, with

their support, create conditions in which they would free themselves." Also, considering the wild claims being bandied about by supporters of the Hillsborough Agreement, it is interesting to be reminded of the agitation which went on against the building of the Divis Flats complex in Belfast.

Reading through the book I got the impression that each chapter could stand alone as an essay or discussion on some aspect of the situation, yet together they form a cohesive unit. One of the points stressed throughout is the importance of the economic, social and strategic forces which come into play in Ireland.

In chapter 6 he analyses British strategy over the years, how it has changed, and why. He states that:

"The strategic reasons behind the initial English conquest remain to some extent centuries later..." Britain is intent on keeping its foothold in Ireland, and the SDLP, the loyalists and the Dublin government fit into this strategy.

As regards politics in the 26 Counties, he sets out his views on the political scene and the necessity of greater

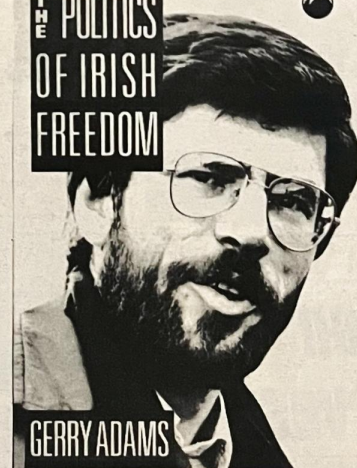
republican involvement though I felt that some of his remarks about particular Southern politicians could have been left out. They will provide people, especially in the media, with a focus and are not central to the main points he is making.

## REPUBLICANISM AND SOCIALISM

The chapter on the relationship between republicanism and socialism will be of particular interest to active republicans as this relationship is one much discussed within the Movement. The book not only discusses how socialist ideas have been part of republicanism almost from the beginning, but also discusses how the relationship stands today. To be a socialist means to be a republican, yet there must be room in republicanism for non-socialists. What is needed at present, he says, is an anti-imperialist movement embracing as wide a range of views as possible.

Many other areas are covered in the book, such as the role of the IRA, the prisoners and the importance of Irish culture. The book finishes with an assessment of the Movement today and his hopes for the future.

The *Politics of Irish Freedom* is not a book simply for republicans, nor is it a book about republicans. It doesn't claim to have all the answers, but it does set out clearly, in



everyday language, a republican analysis of the Irish situation. Nor is it some sort of ideological 'bible'.

"Irish republicanism is not and never has been a static concept; it is a living and developing ideology."

For those outside the Republican Movement, this book will give an insight into what motivates republicans and will

question some of their preconceived notions. For republicans, it provides a basis for discussion on the sort of questions which must be faced if we are to achieve victory.

● *The Politics of Irish Freedom*, by Gerry Adams, published by Brandon Books, Tralee, County Kerry. Price £3.95.

# FÁILLÍ NÁIREACH RTÉ

TÁ CÁSANNA CÚIRTE i gcoinne beirt Gaeilgeoir a dhíoltaigh ceadúnais teilifíse a íoc curtha siar go dtí Feabhra 1987. Bhí Íte Ní Chionnaith, uachtarán Conradh na Gaeilge agus Pádraig Ó Duibhir múinteoir, os comhair na Cúirte Dúiche i Rath Fearnáin ar an gCéad-ainn, 10 Nollaig.

Dhíoltaigh an bheirt na ceadúnais a íoc de bharr fhailí náireach teilifíse RTÉ sa Ghaeilge. Mhinigh an Breitheamh Seán Delap go raibh se ag tabhairt tréimhse ama breise do na cosantóirí chun an ceadúnas a fháil.

Ach dúirt Ní Chionnaith agus Ó Duibhir nach mbeidh aon cheadúnas faighte ag ceachtar díobh faoi dháta an dara éis-teachta. Éistíodh na cásanna trí Ghaeilge go hiomlán ar an gCéad-ainn.

Bhí picéad ag Conradh na Gaeilge ar an gcúirt chun tacú leis na cosantóirí.

## DUALGAISÍ

Dúirt Íte Ní Chionnaith tar éis an éisteachta:

"Tá RTÉ ag séanadh a gcearta teanga ar phobal na Gaeilge agus ar an bpobal leathan atá ag lorg cláracha teilifíse sa Gaeilge. Níl an stáisiún ag comhlíonadh a dhualgaísaí reachtúla féin."

"Fáiltimid roimh na cláracha ach ní leor iad chun freastal ar phobal leathan na Gaeilge. Seirbhís chuimsitheach inár dtéanga féin atá uainn, seirbhís a d'fheastaíodh ar riachtanaisí agus ar ilghnéitheacht phobal na Gaeilge."

Dúirt Pádraig Ó Duibhir go bhfuil "easpa tola in RTÉ feabhas a chur ar an scéal ó thaobh cláracha Gaeilge de agus go dtí go dtagann feabhas suntasach ní bheidh mé sásta ceadúnais teilifíse a fháil".





## LIAM MELLOWS COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

# Achieving the republic

FOLLOWING a wreath-laying ceremony at the Liam Mellows statue in Galway's Eyre Square, the first of a series of annual Liam Mellows Commemorative Lecture was held in the Atlanta Hotel on Monday, December 8th.

With Mary McGing in the chair, Padraig Malone (Limerick Sinn Féin) spoke at a well-attended meeting on the theme *Liam Mellows — Socialist Republican*.

Seeing the republic as "a living, tangible thing, something for which men gave their lives", Mellows was a nationalist in the traditional sense but, Malone asserted, he was also a socialist republican.

Mellows claimed that to accept the 1921 Treaty was "to participate in the Empire's shame — the crucifixion of Egypt and the degradation of India".

The relevance of these words for today, he said, lay in "the growing alignment of the Free State and imperialist EEC and NATO in the exploitation of



● MARY MCGING  
Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific."

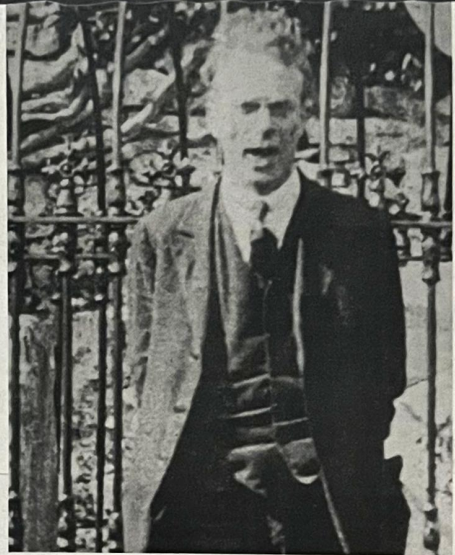
### ONLY ALTERNATIVE

In the final part of his lecture, Malone said that what Mellows called the "stake in the country

people" are "busily attempting to stabilise and maintain the partition set-up so as to ward off any threat to their own power and prestige. Just as in Mellows' day, the Republican Movement poses the only real and revolutionary alternative to the disastrous state into which imperialism and Free Stateism have plunged our country."

Consisting as it does primarily of working-class people and small farmers "the Republican Movement of today seeks to develop its policies very much in line with the thinking of Mellows."

"We too affirm the social content of the Proclamation of 1916 and that the resources of the nation should be used for the common good. But we realise that we have to deal with the realities of our time and that we must adopt the tactics and strategies which are most likely to achieve Mellows' republic."



● Commandant Liam Mellows, Quartermaster-General to the Irish Republican Army and secretary to the Army Council, at the Wolfe Tone Commemoration at Bodinstown, County Kildare, in June 1922

"Our enemies would dearly love to see republicanism as a quaint piece of history — a museum piece. We must make sure that republicanism is seen to be a living vibrant revolutionary philosophy — one that

Mellows would be proud of."

A lively and provocative question-and-answer session followed with many suggestions on the format and preparation of next year's commemorative meeting.

## IN MEMORY OF A FALLEN SOLDIER Sean McIlvenna commemoration



● Alex Maskey addresses the commemoration at the Volunteer Sean McIlvenna memorial

THE DEATH two years ago of IRA Volunteer Sean McIlvenna while on active service was a great loss to the struggle for national liberation.

Last Sunday, December 14th, over 300 people gathered at the memorial erected in his honour to pay their respects to the memory of a fallen soldier of Ogligha na hEireann.

The commemoration for Sean McIlvenna started at 2.30pm when the several-hundred-strong crowd, led by a colour party, walked from the centre of the North Armagh village of Portmora to the spot where, on December 17th 1984, he was shot dead.

Gathered around the memorial, which was erected last year, his family, friends and comrades

heard Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Alex Maskey describe Sean McIlvenna as a "highly-experienced planner and organiser, who demanded total commitment from those around him and this, and much more, he gave in return". Maskey continued:

"We are committed to the struggle for national self-determination, committed to the overthrow of British rule in our country, and to the ending of partition. The reconquest of Ireland for the Irish people is what this struggle is all about."

"To make this reconquest a

reality requires imagination, it requires hard work, it requires courage and determination. Above all, it requires the people behind us. We must work in the coming year to broaden the base of our struggle — to involve more people in our struggle."

"The road to the republic is still a hard road. Yet Volunteers like Sean McIlvenna have shown us that no problem is insurmountable, that if we apply ourselves in a committed fashion to the job at hand we can and will be successful."

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the family, Ogligha na hEireann, Sinn Féin, and the National Graves Association.

ed targets in all Six Counties. The long-awaited border campaign had begun.

### INTERMENT

The Stormont regime responded by introducing internment without trial on December 21st. In July 1957, following the return to power of Fianna Fáil, internment was introduced in the 26 Counties and a large number of republicans were arrested and interned in the Curragh Camp.

Attacks on the border continued throughout 1957 and during the early months of '58, but by the summer, oppression on both sides of the border was having its effect and IRA attacks slowed down and had petered out by the end of the year.

Three years later, the campaign was officially ended with an order to all Volunteers to dump arms. Eleven IRA Volunteers were killed in action during the campaign.

The IRA's border campaign *Operation Harvest*, began on December 11th 1956, 30 years ago this month.

## REMEMBERING THE PAST

# Operation Harvest

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN THE LATE 1940s, following years of internment and oppression the Republican Movement was at rock bottom — Sinn Féin was non-existent and the IRA was threatened with extinction.

In 1948, the republican leadership of Michael Traynor, Paddy MacLogan, Tony Magan and Tomas Mac Curtain set about rebuilding the Movement. Magan, as Chief of Staff, reorganised the IRA while Traynor was mainly responsible for setting up Sinn Féin cumann throughout the country.

Republican policy in the early 1950s underwent a radical change. The IRA leadership issued an order prohibiting military action against the 26-County forces and attacks were now to be directed against the British forces of occupation in the Six Counties.

By 1952, IRA recruitment was being carried out openly in the 26 Counties and the organisation was being reformed in the North. In centres of strength, training was carried out in preparation for an attack on the North.

### ARMS HAUL

In June 1954, in an operation to procure arms, an IRA raiding party captured Gough Barracks in Armagh and escaped with a massive haul of 250 rifles, 37 sten guns and nine Bren guns. IRA recruiting increased dramatically.

An attempted repeat of the Gough raid backfired at Omagh, County Tyrone, in October and eight Volunteers were caught and sentenced to long terms for "treason felony".

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin was gaining wide support. In the Westminster election of May 1955, the constitutional nationalists went over completely to Sinn Féin which, with an abstentionist policy, won two of the 12 seats in the Six Counties. Tom Mitchell and

Philip Clarke, both imprisoned for the Omagh raid, were elected for Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh/South Tyrone. They were later disqualified and their seats awarded to the defeated unionist candidates.

By mid-1955, the Republican Movement enjoyed unprecedented support in the North, but the IRA had still not begun its campaign.

### BREAKAWAY

In November, a breakaway group, Saor Uladh, attacked customs posts along the border. The main effect of this was to force the IRA into action.

In January 1956, a recent recruit, Sean Cronin had presented the IRA with a plan codenamed *Operation Harvest*. It aimed to drive the crown forces out of entire areas in the North, thereby creating liberated zones. It was agreed to launch the attack that winter. However, the action of the dissidents forced the Army into action sooner than planned.

On the night of December 11th/12th 1956, 150 IRA Volunteers attack-



# Kiss of the Spiderperson

BY Z. HAMMETT

THIS WEEK, *The Box* begins its campaign to stop our readers from frying their brains with cathode rays. I intend to do this by showing you all of the mind-expanding things that are available in the fine arts. Think of it: literature, drama, opera, ballet. We'll begin with literature.

There are lots of good books to read. The best of them combine an exciting plot-line with interesting characters and a well-researched historical setting. This week, I will review just one of them.

*Web of Spiderman* (Marvel Comics, Stg40p, Ir59p) is a series of adventure stories that combines sympathetic and interesting characters with intelligent dialogue and colourful illustrations.

"Hold on a minute!" someone shouts from the back of the room. "I thought there was a book review."

Of course, so I don't read so fast. You can do *War and Peace* next week.

Beginning with the October issue, *Web of Spiderman* has been running a story about the old sud, shore 'n' begorrah, top o' the mornin' to ye, bloody 'ell. Now, as you all remember, some months ago we brought you the Z. Hammett primer on creative writing - *How to write your own Irish novel*. Well, the folks at Spiderman obviously read *AP/RN*, because they've been following my advice to the letter.

The story begins in New York, where photo-journalist Peter Parker (aka Spiderman) is given his new assignment, along with his sidekick, ace reporter Joy Mercado. He's exhausted from his recent encounter with his latest arch-enemy, Humbug, who has been terrorising New York by amplifying the screams of the cowpex weevil and the salt-marsh mosquito. Strong stuff, but just the kind of mayhem we expect our superheroes to be up against.

The first indication that something different is about to happen is when Pete's editor, Jonah, tells him that he has to go to London to catch a big speech by Maggie Thatcher on terrorism in the North of Ireland.

"Terrorism is a hot topic," the editor tells his superhero photo-journalist. And, of course, if you want to know about Ireland, the best thing to do is hop off to London for a while, hit a few of the clubs, shoot the shit with a few Tory lords, and drink a few gin and tonics. So, with his passport and his fat expense account in his hand ("first class all the way... it's important to make a good impression"), our hero is off to foggy London town to tussle with the terrorists.

Of course, good adventure literature must keep up the action, keep the readers on their toes. So, of course, before ace reporter Mercado and our web-fingered friend even get to immigration, the fur starts flying.

...

*Paboom!* The November issue starts with bodies flying everywhere. The little box at the top of the page carries the first verse of the *Patriot Game*, by Billy Behan! I know, you thought it was Dominic, but the folks at Spiderman are on the ball, and they know all of his good friends called him Billy. It's just one of the amazing facts they have uncovered about Irish history.

The bomb, of course, is aimed at top terrorist-catcher Brit Inspector Bartlett, who just happens to have arrived on the same flight as the

dynamic duo from *Now* magazine.

Before you can say "Paisley's a Pope-lover", our heroic ace reporter bounds through the cross-fire toward the inspector, shouting to Spiderman (only she doesn't know he's Spiderman):

"Come on! This could be a story!"

More brilliant reasoning. Half of Heathrow Airport has been reduced to rubble, thousands of bodies are lying around, Provo terrorists with Ammalites are shouting, "Up the rebels!", while they blast all around them. And this could be a story. Sounds like Joy Mercado was trained in the Benny Hill School of Journalism.

Well, for you budding writers out there, I'm sure you are beginning to get the picture. This is a fine example of literature at its best. Note the suspense, the action, the intelligent dialogue, liberally dosed with a selection of "bloodies", "blinkin's" and "death to the Brits!" And the exclamation mark after each sentence!

Anyhow, back to our story. It seems that the bloody terrorists have been plotting in the "wee hours of the mornin'" in one of the seediest houses in one of the seediest sections of London. They intend to blow up the British parliament and literally bring down the government by setting off an explosion in the sewers beneath Westminster.

"What better place for these terrorist sewer rats," I can hear ten thousand American and British children thinking.

Meanwhile, on their way to Maggie Thatcher's speech, ace reporter Joy Mercado tells Spiderman (only she doesn't know he's Spiderman, remember) the history of the Irish struggle. Now be sure and catch this part, because it's a piece of literary genius.

First, notice how the author cleverly introduces a bit of Irish history into his story, by allowing us to listen in while Joy explains things to Spiderman (only she doesn't... oh, that's enough! - Ed).

"I feel a little guilty riding in luxury, with all that pain and horror back there at Heathrow," photo-journalist Pete says to ace reporter Joy as he climbs into their Lincoln Continental limousine (funny, I never saw a Lincoln in London).

"I know what you mean," replies Ace. "Especially when it's all based on a fear of Spain invading England!"



"What?!" exclaims Pete.

"What?!" exclaims the chauffeur.

"What?!" exclaims all the Spiderman readers, in disbelief.

So Joy begins to tell the history of 'the Troubles'. All about how the Spanish missionaries converted the Irish natives from paganism to Catholicism, how England was afraid that Spain would use Ireland as a base to attack England. "So they colonized Northern Ireland with Protestants."

"Ever since, the Republic of Ireland has tried to unify the country by taking over Northern Ireland... which resists and is backed by England!" Ace concludes.

Pete butts in: "You mean... that's why innocent people are being killed every day? Because of a threat that hasn't existed for hundreds of years?"

"Welcome to the real world, Pete."

And we return to the funny farm, Ace. She'd do just fine on the *Sun* or the *News of the World*.

A couple of shoot-outs later, the Provos are placing their charges to blow up parliament. Little bundles of dynamite sticks are taped to London's sewer walls. Outside the man-

"HIT 'EM QUICK BEFORE THEY RECOVER!"



As their car proceeds up the Falls, we see the shells that once were houses, all around. Acrid, black smoke is billowing from the ruins into the grey Ulster sky. Not surprisingly, our heroes think this wreckage is the result of IRA bombs. They don't realise it's all part of the Housing Executive's urban renewal plan.

Of course, while Provo terrorists are off killing babies in London and running for Leinster House, something else is going on in our lovely Lagan home. The town has been taken over by the *Black Hoods*. No, not the cider-swilling, joy-riding type. This is a gang of professionals. And they are causing murder and mayhem everywhere, hitting all the "counter-productive targets" in sight.

"Ever since these *Black Hoods* showed up, nobody's been safe," a local confides in our American heroes over a pint at the Rock Bar. "It don't make no sense... They're always killin', Catholic, Protestants, police, soldiers... it doesn't make any difference to them."

Sounds like the Marine Commandos are back.

Outside the Rock Bar, Joy and Spiderman get lifted by a group of the *Hoods*, who are going to take these Yank reporters didn't buy them a round.

Well, to cut a long story short, the *Hoods* are in the employ of a ruthless American entrepreneur with beady eyes. I think maybe his name is De...DeLor...uh, DeLonnigan or something like that. This man's company has set up a factory in Belfast to produce their atomic "AKX anti-personnel particle beam cannon". It's a big green and blue effort that goes "whmmmm" and "frakowl" not to mention "browmm" and "skupoom".

It also blows up anything within 30 miles. Rumour has it that this sophisticated weapon could even bring down a Brit helicopter at 50 yards (just joking, fellas). Things are getting more realistic in this Spiderman story.

Only problem is, the AKX gets overheated sometimes and explodes, incinerating everything within a 500-foot radius. So the Pentagon have decided they don't want it. That's the unrealistic bit.

So De-what's-is-name has hired a top spy from MI5 (I think you call him Wright, or something like that) to organise this group of *Black Hoods* and cause mayhem and panic. Then Maggie will realise that she's on a sticky wicket and she will buy the AKX-etc, even if it does overheat and blow up a few King's Own Scottish Borderers along the way. That's the realistic bit again.

And, of course, Spiderman stops them all, once he figures out a way to sneak away from Joy and put on his Spiderman suit so he won't be found out. That's the way it is with these Clark Kent and Peter Parker types - everything is on a "need to know" basis.

...

So there you have it. I'm betting that amateurs like Joyce and O'Flaherty will be consigned to the slime-bucket of history by this brilliant leap forward in literary creativity. Maybe you get nostalgic for the old days, when our superheroes fought Jokers and men in catsuits and hunks of green stone from outer space. But with today's sophisticated youth, brought up on Rambo and *Night Rider*, it was inevitable that Spiderman would join the war against the international terrorist conspiracy.

The movie's coming out next year, and it stars Clint Eastwood, Charles Bronson, and Sly Stallone (as Joy Mercado).

## IMEAGHTAÍ

### ELECTION FUND-RAISER

Music by Inner City Folk & Tommo (rock 'n' roll)  
Thursday 18th December  
Jettifol

North Wall  
DUBLIN

Taille £1.50 (£1 unwaged)

Organised by

North Inner City Sinn Fein

### SOLIDARITY WITH MAGHABERRY POWs

Leafletting and petitioning  
2.30pm to 5pm Friday  
19th December

O'Connell Street (GPO)

DUBLIN

### ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET

4.30 to 5.30pm

Friday 19th December

Newlands Cross

TALLAGHT

County Dublin

### ANTI-STRIP-SEARCHES CAMPAIGN

LEAFLETING & PETITIONING

19.30am to 5pm

Saturday 20th November

NENAGH

County Tipperary

Organised by Sinn Fein

### ANTI-STRIP-SEARCH PICKET

3pm to 4pm

Saturday 20th December

By-pass

TALLAGHT

County Dublin

### FLEA SAOIRE

LE SAOIRE 7 A LANSAIL

Speaker: Mairin O Muilleoir

Traditional music

8pm Saturday 20th December

The Eccles Lounge

Dorset Street

DUBLIN

### AN CUMANN CABHRACH

CABARET NIGHT

Music by Mattie & The Freeman

8pm Saturday 20th December

Comerford Lounge

MOONCOIN

County Kilkenny

Taille £1

### ANTI-STRIP-SEARCH LEAFLETING

Sunday 21st December

Various churches

TALLAGHT

County Dublin

Phone 516110 for details

### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Music by guest artists

8pm to 2am

Monday 22nd December

Park Lodge Hotel

North Circular Road

DUBLIN

Taille £5

Bar extension & chicken 'n' chips

### CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM

(In aid of the POWs and their dependants)

11am Christmas Day

Ninth Lock

Grand Canal

Clondalkin

and

11.30am Christmas Day

Third Lock

Grand Canal

Inchicore

DUBLIN

Organised by Sinn Fein

### KERRY SINN FEIN CONVENTION

3pm Sunday 28th December

Benners Hotel

TRALEE

County Kerry

### DUBLIN BUS TO SEAN SOUTH COMMEMORATION

Leaves at 5pm

Saturday 3rd January

Eccles/Dorset Street

Returning from Limerick

at 4.30pm Sunday

DUBLIN

Taille £4.50 (bring sleeping bags)

Bookings: 5 Blessington Street



# OBITUARIES

## Miriam James

MIRIAM JAMES, a much-loved and tireless campaigner for Irish freedom, died in London on Sunday, December 14th. She was taken seriously ill three months ago on her 69th birthday.

When she was 14 she joined Cumann na mBan in Dublin and later helped set up Cumann na gCailini. In 1934, she joined the newly-formed Republican Congress. "I felt," she said later, "that the Republican Movement had to begin with the poorest people... whether they were living in a republic, an empire or a 'Free State' didn't mean anything to those people unless they had somewhere decent to live and enough money to live on."

During the Second World War she was interned in Mountjoy with 13 other republican women for nearly three years.

**LONDON**  
In 1949, she went to London, where she worked until she retired in 1980.

In 1977, spurred initially by anger at racist treatment of black people in the working-class district of North Kensington, where she lived, she became involved in community politics.

She joined the Labour Party in 1981 and in June 1983 she joined the Labour Committee on Ireland and became secretary of its London Region Committee.

### RESOLUTION

In 1985, she was a delegate to the Labour Party Conference and moved a resolution calling for British withdrawal from Ireland. She was also the secretary of the committee organising the Bloody Sunday anniversary demonstration this year, and during her years in the LCI she organised many other



events. When she fell ill, in September, she was helping to organise the recent Sinn Féin councillors' visit to England. She would have been delighted by its success.

Miriam James was cremated in London on Wednesday, December 17th, and her ashes will be brought to Ireland for burial in Glasnevin Cemetery.

The Republican Movement expresses deepest sympathy to Miriam's many friends in Ireland and England.

## Jack O'Sullivan

JACK O'SULLIVAN, one of the last two survivors of the famous 1920 Kilmichael ambush, died on Tuesday, December 9th, at his home in Kealkil, County Cork, aged 88.

A huge gathering attended the funeral on Thursday evening and again on Friday morning from Kilmichael Church to Kilmacomoque Cemetery. The funeral cortege was escorted the two miles to the cemetery by a guard of honour from the Kilmichael Commemoration Committee and Sinn Féin. The lone piper who led the cortege, Peadar O'Leary, tragically collapsed and died along the route.

At the graveside, Sean Kellher of the Kilmichael Commemoration Committee gave a short oration in which he praised the courage of Jack O'Sullivan "in taking up arms against the terrorist British forces and his life's commitment to the 32-County Irish Republic".

Earlier, at the funeral Mass, Fr. Michael O'Dalaigh described Jack O'Sullivan as essentially a man of



peace and said it was hard to imagine that he had been labelled a terror-

ist and condemned by the ministers of his own religion.

### CONTROVERSY

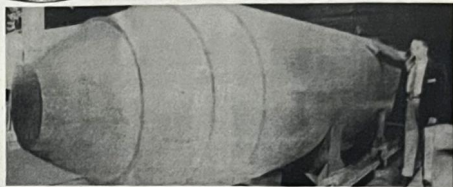
In 1983, when Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams gave the oration at the annual Kilmichael commemoration, there was a controversy contrived by the Dublin government and the withdrawal of the Free State army rifles which were normally lent for a volley of shots. Jack O'Sullivan, along with the Kilmichael Committee and the hundreds who attended, ignored the controversy and contributed to the success of the event. He was also present at last month's 66th Kilmichael commemoration.

Jack O'Sullivan's last wishes were that he wanted no Free State presence at his funeral and that the Kilmichael Commemoration Committee was to organise it accordingly to his wishes.

His headstone bears the simple inscription which sums up his life: "Jack O'Sullivan — freedom fighter."

The Republican Movement extends deepest sympathy to the family, friends and comrades of Jack O'Sullivan.

# WORLD VIEW



## H-bomb cover-up

IT HAS RECENTLY been revealed that 29 years ago the United States Air Force (USAF) came within a hair's breadth of reducing the state of New Mexico to rubble.

This event occurred on May 22nd 1957 when a B-36 bomber 'accidentally' dropped an H-bomb on land belonging to the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque. The bomb, a Mark 17 weighing 42,000 pounds and described by the Pentagon as the "first droppable thermonuclear bomb to be tested", had a payload of ten thousand kilotons — a massive 625 times more powerful than that which reduced Hiroshima to ashes.

A Pentagon spokesperson 'explained' that "the safety mechanism was apparently moved to the wrong position, causing the weapon to fall out, taking the bomb-bay doors with it". The same glib spokesperson said that the non-nuclear explosives in the bomb "detonated when it hit the ground, but the nuclear material in the weapon failed to attain critical mass".

### 'LOST'

The US government deliberately covered up this near-disaster until 1981 when it announced that a nuclear bomb had "temporarily been lost in the '50s near Kirtland Air Force Base". The USAF refused to comment on what it described as "this event".

It was not until the latter part of this year that a statement was issued to the Associated Press news agency, confirming that the USAF had nearly obliterated New Mexico and its surrounding states in 1957.

The question that must be asked is: How many armed nuclear bombs are still being carried in our skies, and how safe are the safety mechanisms (especially as the USAF, with the permission of the Dublin government, overflies Ireland on a regular basis)?

Another USAF disaster that is causing considerable concern was that of a B52 nuclear-armed bomber's crash in Greenland on January 1st 1968. Over 500 workers have become sick, with 98 suffering from cancer as a result of exposure to plutonium released in the accident. There are also reports of an as yet unknown number of deaths, including military personnel, as a result of that accident.

### CRASHED

The B52, with four H-bombs on board, got into trouble five hours into flight and the crew was unable to make an emergency landing. The crew then ejected and the aircraft crashed into ice eight miles west of Thule USAF base. The non-nuclear explosives detonated, dispersing the plutonium inside the bombs, and contaminated the ice.

US military personnel were dispatched to 'collect' the contaminated ice, which they then brought back to Thule where 800 Danes were working. None of the military or civilians wore protective masks because this would have made it impossible to breathe in the intense cold.

The US and Danish governments issued a joint statement declaring:

"A major disaster was turned into a classic example of international co-operation. The radioactivity spread in the area is not a hazard to people or biological species, nor is any hazard foreseen in the future."

## Tony Murray

TONY MURRAY, of North Strand, Dublin, died suddenly on Saturday, December 6th. He had survived a massive heart operation earlier this year and his death, after courageously coming through the operation, is particularly sad.

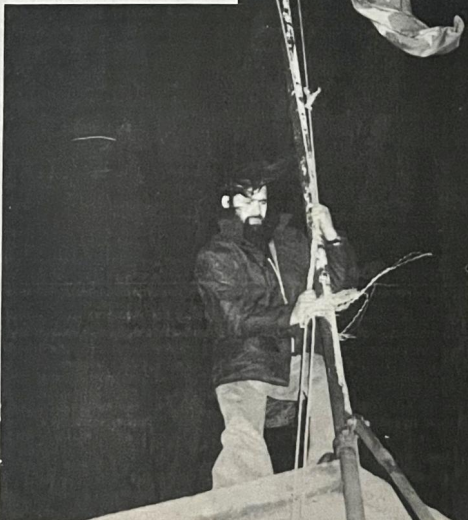
Tony Murray was well-known in both Belfast and Dublin where he had lived since the early '60s. He was born in Belfast into a republican family and joined Fianna Éireann in 1948. He later joined the IRA and was interned during the '56 campaign. After 4½ years he was released and was one of the last internees to get out of Crumlin Road. He came to Dublin and during the 50th anniversary commemorations for the 1916 Rising he was arrested and imprisoned. He went on hunger-strike in Mountjoy Jail in protest and was released when he was on the verge of death. He recovered although the hunger-strike had a serious effect on his health.

### FAMOUS

He had a diverse circle of friends and his house in North Strand was the venue for many a famous 'session'. In 1979, Tony was again imprisoned, this time for his part in the occupation of the Liffey Dockyard during the strike there. He was an active and committed trade unionist for many years.

Tony Murray was a big character of great kindness. He will be sadly missed.

The Republican Movement expresses sincere sympathy to Dymphna, Dara, Malachy, Fergus and Sorcha, his family in Belfast and his friends.



● Tony Murray raises the Starry Plough over Liffey Dockyard during the workers' occupation in 1979

## Guatemala

THE HUMAN RIGHTS situation in Guatemala has been described as "appalling" by two separate European delegations which visited the country last month.

The two groups, representing the European Parliament and human rights organisations, visited Guatemala as part of a general tour of Central and Latin America. The leader of the European parliamentarian group, Alf Lomas, said that, despite the change-over from a military dictatorship to a civilian administration, "the kidnappings and disappearances have continued and the death squads are still active". Lomas went on to say:

"No-one is in a position to know exactly how many people are dying... but I would say that it puts Guatemala outside the realm of civilized countries."

Whilst the delegation was in Guatemala City, a leading trade union activist, Juan Vasquez, was kidnapped by a terror gang and nearly beaten to death. Vasquez is a member of the Municipal Workers' Union, which has been on all-out strike for some time.

The Catholic Church in Guatemala is planning to open a human rights office in the city, modelled on the El Salvadorian Tutela Legal. Human rights groups have so far only been able to operate clandestinely, with the exception of the Mutual Support Group (GAM).

GAM was organised by the wives and mothers of the 'disappeared' and have been demonstrating on a regular basis. But recently the government of President Cerezo has decided to use the iron fist against the women with any public appearance being met with vicious repression by the

military and riot police.

The Guatemala regime only survives because it receives massive injections of capital, material and military hardware from the United States. Eighty per cent of Guatemala's seven and a half million people are descendants of the Maya-Toltec Indians. These Indians, since the colonisation of Spain in 1821 and the subsequent interference of various US administrations, have lived a life of grinding poverty and massive repression. Since 1954, nearly 150,000 have been murdered, whilst another 1½ million have become refugees both inside and outside the country.

Resistance against the Guatemalan regimes has been constant, with a number of guerrilla groups being organised to fight for liberation and self-determination. These include the EGP (Guerrilla Army of the Poor), FAR (Rebel Armed Forces), FP-31 (Popular Front 31), MLN (Movement for National Liberation), ORPA (Organisation of People in Arms), and the FOCR (Democratic Front Against Repression).

These groups have substantially increased their activity since 1983. For example, in 1983, between them they killed nearly 300 soldiers, wounded nearly 1,000 and caused millions of dollars worth of damage to both the military and government infrastructure.

The guerrilla groups have strong support from the Indian population and from various civilian organisations such as the Committee for Campesino Unity and National Front for Indigenous People.









# THE FLYING COLUMN

**Up, Demented, on a Roof.** It was *Jackanory* time in Omagh Court-house last week at the trial of Sergeant-Major Andrew John Hempton, 6th UDR, Rockwood, Castlederg.

According to Hempton, he was driving along the Derry Road, Omagh, in the early hours of May 7th with a bottle of whiskey in his pocket. He swerved suddenly to avoid a cat(!), hit a parked car, and went through his windshield.

Because he was "dizzy and needed a rest", he quickly drove back to the local UDR barracks. He "vaguely remembered drinking from a whiskey bottle at one stage". However, his frenzied flight to the safety of the rathole was witnessed by the owner of the other car, who informed the RUC.

According to them, when they arrived at the barracks to interview Hempton he ran into a guardroom, locked the door behind him, escaped out another door and climbed up on to the roof where he was found "lying in the gutter, apparently unconscious. His eyes were glazed, his breath smelt of alcohol and his hair was very ruffled. Other constables helped to lift him off the roof into the police car." He was taken to the RUC barracks where he fell off a chair, appeared to have a 'fit' and began writhing about on the floor.

Happily, justice was dispensed without fear or favour, and in the manner to which we have become accustomed. After

the lunch recess, counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions withdrew the charges of drunken driving.

For failure to report, stop and remain at the scene of the accident, Hempton was fined £195. Resident Magistrate Terry Gibson did not impose a driving ban as he accepted the defence's claim that "loss of the defendant's licence would be a hardship because he travels to work".

He who wears the crown... dances on the roof!

"FROM pit boy to minister, night school student to president of the Board of Trade, and from Air Training Corps cadet to Secretary of State for Defence - all dreams of aspiring politicians. Mine came true." The words of Roy Mason, British Labour MP for Barnsley, South Yorkshire, as he announced his intention to stand down from parliament at the next election. "I shall retire without recrimination or remorse," he stated. Indeed.

Roy Mason, the political dwarf who became direct-ruler of the North; Roy Mason, the incompetent who handed over millions of pounds to business charlatan John de Lorean, the car and cocaine dealer; Roy Mason, the iron fist of British imperialism who encouraged the use of torture in Castlereagh Barracks as part of the conveyor-belt system of 'justice'; Roy Mason, the braggart who

threatened to "squeeze the IRA like a tube of toothpaste"; Roy Mason, the swaggering little bully who now skulks behind his 24-hours-a-day armed bodyguard; Roy Mason, whose dreams became a nightmare for Northern nationalists.

THE SELF-STYLED 'Old IRA' has been given its marching orders by the Free State army and has been barred from holding its 1986 annual dinner in Dublin's Collins Barracks.

The outbreak of hostilities occurred after the 1916-21 Club, showing remarkable good taste, refused to invite the then Defence Minister Paddy 'Cockroach' Cooney to the 1984 nosh-up, and then in 1985 refused to toast Free State President 'Hi, I'm Paddy, Fly Me' Hillery (crumbs, no toast?).

One of the speakers at last year's event, Sean Mac Bride, attributed the Free State army's belligerency to "part of the campaign to recognise Poppy Day", something which is being opposed by IRA veterans.

WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT.. Bent cop-pers at Hendon, Britain's top police College, are having their collars felt after a police sergeant blew the whistle on widespread bribery and cheating in promotion exams when he flunked his in-

spector's test (it was holding the pen with just one hand that he couldn't get the hang of).

The defective detectives are mainly from the elite Royalty & Diplomatic Protection Squad, two of whom have admitted some of the allegations.

They're unfair cops, guv.

JIM CAMPBELL, Northern editor of the salacious *Sunday World* scandal-sheet, last week reported that the IRA had tried to assassinate unionist MP John Taylor in 1972.

Tut! Tut! As someone who has long espoused the politics of the Workers' Party, Little Jimmy knows full well that the Workers' Party's military and fund-raising wing was responsible for the failed attempt.

AFTER THE anti-Sinn Fein amendments to the 26-County Electoral Bill last week, a Dublin government spokesperson declared in the *Irish Press*:

"Our view is that Sinn Fein is a front for the IRA and not a democratic party. The government dislikes them intensely."

Just for the record, *The Flying Column* thinks that the Coalition is a front for the exploitation of the Irish people by capitalism, British imperialism, and pro-NATO forces, so we don't care for you too much either - nah, nah, nah, nah!

## DUIRT SIAD

The root cause of all the trouble, the British presence, has now been legitimised by Dr FitzGerald's Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Every ill in the Six Counties stems from this presence, and until this fact is grasped, no crumbs of British concessions will influence the situation...

The correct Irish response to the British is [as demonstrated by the County Louth farmer who captured a British soldier]: when you have the opportunity, grab them by the rifle barrel or any other appropriate extremity and hold on till it hurts.

— Retired Free State army Commandant J. Lavery, *Irish Press*, December 12th.

★★★★

Mr Hume was also tempted into listing reforms achieved and subjects currently on the agenda: of the issues dealt with, four had already been in the pipeline prior to the (Hillsborough) Agreement.

— Fionnuala O'Connor, *New Statesman*.

★★★★

I hear increasing comment in the SDLP, below leadership level, that the party as an organisation has no more prospect now than last year of any direct role in Northern Ireland, and that this time, after 16 years of survival by the skin of their teeth, they are perhaps closer than ever to going under.

— Fionnuala O'Connor.

★★★★

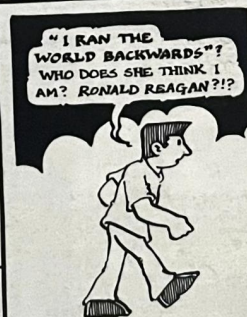
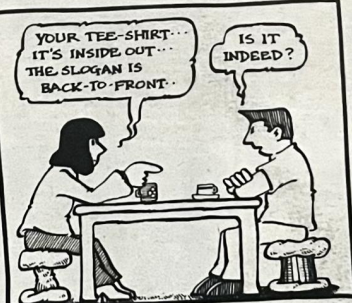
The Taoiseach's dealings with another leader, Margaret Thatcher, have been purely political.

"I would not describe it as a friendship as we have never had the opportu-

## NOTES



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ity to become close enough for that," he explains.

— The Fitzwilliam Post, Dublin.

★★★★

"From the Forum and the Anglo-Irish Agreement I got the results I had hoped for."

— Garret FitzGerald, in *The Fitzwilliam Post*.

★★★★

Is there a secret sub-clause to the Anglo-Irish Agreement which explains why every time Mrs Thatcher says,

"Jump", Garret replies: "How high?"

— Mary McAleese, *Sunday Tribune*.

The new [Extradition] Bill, if passed by the Dail, will bring many such dilemmas [as the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, Maguire, etc] to our own doorsteps.

Without having to offer the slightest shred of evidence against a person, the British can demand their extradition to a jurisdiction which is clearly incapable of filtering hysterical, racist prejudice out of its police, its juries or its judges.

— Mary McAleese.

★★★★

Baloney.

— Australia's Judge Powell's 'descrip-

tion of the British government's arguments for suppressing the memoirs of former MI5 agent Peter Wright.

★★★★

He finds it strange that I don't spend my time on the streets of Belfast, machine-gunning every Englishman in sight.

He knows all about the IRA and would like to visit Bobby Sands' grave.

— Author Mary Russell speaking about Bashir, "a Polisario soldier" fighting for the freedom of his Sahara Desert homeland against Moroccan rule.