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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

PAY NO RENT PAY NO RATES

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 168 Saturday, 4th January (De Sathairn, 4 Eanáir), 1975

Prospects For Peace

IT is still too soon to speculate much on the prospects of lasting peace other than to say that the hope for a lasting peace, based as it must be on justice, is widespread.

As we go to press the expiry hour has not been reached; there is speculation, however, that the IRA, in a sincere effort to offer the British Government every opportunity to make possible a basis for negotiations, will continue the truce at least a little longer.

Though the eleven days are almost up no genuine move has come from the British side. True, a few internees have been released, with the promise of more in the future and an extended parole system. But the hopes of many were that ALL internees would have been released, as they should be; that is if the British are earnestly seeking an end to armed conflict.

At this point we would guard against over-optimism. Let us not lose sight of the objective as far as all honest and sincere people are concerned: England must leave Ireland before we can have peace, democracy, equality and full civil rights for all in Ireland. If Britain agrees to this and honours this agreement, a new situation has arrived here where all Irishmen can, without the influence of an oppressive force, work out an agreeable solution. A national referendum could be held to allow the people to decide certain points affecting administration and government.

The sincerity of the British must not be taken for granted. England has not become a democracy. The Empire mentality is still very much alive there in the mouthings of her Ministers. One clearly detects peace for them means surrender.

And English pride and English greed are not easy to satisfy. England holds no respect for treaties. Her violation and disrespect for such as the universal Declaration of Human Rights has been demonstrated often enough. How many treaties has she broken and violated with Ireland? Remember Limerick and the trusting, honourable Sarsfield, Home Rule and the fool she made of John Redmond? Griffith and Collins were promised one set of things while James Craig was being told the opposite. English policy has always been to divide and conquer. An old Irish saying is well worth recalling: "Beware of the hooves of the horse, the horns of the angry bull and the smile of the English." No set of Irishmen should realise this better than the present-day SDLP, for no group have been used more or fooled more. How many times have they returned from Wilson, Heath, Whitelaw and Rees with "guarantees"? Austin Currie introduced his penalty on anti-internment rent strikers and stooped to seizing his neighbours' cattle because he had got a "guarantee" that all internees would be released by 20th May last (or so he said).

Never before was it more essential for a united Irish demand for Britain to release her hold on Ireland. This will not come from the Dublin Government or from the so-called elected leaders of the Republican community here, for all of these, like the Loyalist and Unionist elected leaders, have a deep, vested interest in the status quo.

It is then left to the ordinary people to support the demands of those who have brought the situation to this point. If peace is not based on justice, then it is not peace.

INTERNEES BEING USED AS GUINEA PIGS

REPUBLICAN prisoners in Long Kesh Concentration Camp have now confirmed that they are being used as guinea pigs in medical experiments carried out by British chemical warfare experts.

The massive medical operation follows the dropping of of barrels of CR gas into the cages in October during the burning of the camp. At that time interned men reported the use of a new nerve gas which had been dropped from helicopters hovering over the cages.

Many of the prisoners fell unconscious and some reported symptoms like those of an epileptic fit.

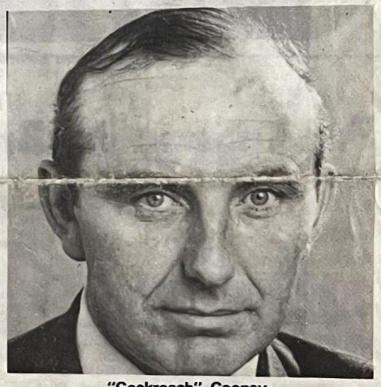
The blood tests carried out on the Long Kesh men are believed to be part of a probe to determine if CR gas causes leukemia in humans. The gas is said to have a high chemical stability and to form poisonous substances in the course of its passage through the body.

Meanwhile, Andersonstown Central Civil Resistance Committee has called for the immediate ending of medical experiments at Long Kesh and has called on Britain left-wing MPs to demand that criminal charges be brought against those who authorised the experiments and those scientists who have taken part in them.

"British jurists helped sentence to death Nazi war-criminals who had carried out similar experiments in German concentration camps during the war," said a Committee spokesman.

"We want a full-scale enquiry by independent medical men into the use of political hostages for barbarous experiments."

PORTLAOISE DISTURBANCES



"Cockroach" Cooney

THE recent occupation of a wing of Portlaoise Prison and seizure of a number of warders by the political hostages held there came as no surprise to those who had visited that vile place in recent weeks. An account of the conditions in the prison given by a priest who visited there just one week before revealed that an attempt was being made by so-called Minister for Justice Cooney to withdraw all privileges won by the prisoners by hunger strike and other self-sacrifice—privileges which by right are accorded to political prisoners evrywhere. But then Mr. "Cockroach" Cooney does not recognise the status of political prisoners; in fact Her Majesty's Minister for injustice in the Free State refutes any suggestion of an agreement on conditions with the men in Portlaoise. With a twisted grin similar to that of Brian Faulkner he stated that "No agreement was ever made and the prisoners are all telling lies". But Cooney fools no one—everybody knows he is the liar.

Of course, Mr. Cooney detests the political prisoners held in his jails: after all, they have on more than one occasion made life uncomfortable for him and spoiled his holiday in the sun. The recent breakout from Portlaoise by Republicans and the following search operation caused a heavy run on toilet paper in the Cooney and Donegan toilets, not to mention the high blood pressure caused by the helicopter flight from Mountjoy.

So far a news blackout has been enforced by the Freestate Government on the disturbances. As far as can be learned no one, prisoners or security officials, has been injured.



Sean McBride

Sean McBride: Nobel Prize-Winner

PROFILE

NEXT TUESDAY, December 10th, Sean MacBride, lawyer and statesman, controversial figure at home and abroad, will be presented in Oslo with the Nobel Prize for Peace.

When the award was announced, it did occur to some people that a former I.R.A. leader was hardly an appropriate subject for such an honour, and while it is pointless to criticise by comparison the aspirations of a boy in his teens with those of a man of seventy, it does seem an opportune moment to consider the reasons for which the Nobel Committee arrived at its decision.

MacBride's international reputation began in earnest while he was Minister for External Affairs in the Inter-Party Government of 1948-1951. He became involved in the setting up of the Council of Europe, and particularly in the drafting of the European Convention on Human Rights, and from those experiences developed a deep interest in international machinery for the protection of human rights. It was his work as a defence lawyer in Ireland, and his own first-hand experiences of imprisonment, summary executions and military tribunals, that made him realise the necessity to protect basic human rights by law both on a national and an international level.

He still has today a very real horror of capital punishment, torture and imprisonment without trial, and it was at the Council of Europe that he first was in a position to help establish the institutions which would make these horrors less possible. When the Convention of Human Rights became a reality, largely through his endeavours, he was the first lawyer to test the right of individual petition and the rights guaranteed to individuals in the Convention with the Lawless case. In more recent years, it was he, working behind the scenes, who instigated the case against Greece during the regime of the Colonels, and he has also had a hand in the initiation by Ireland of the case against Britain over the treatment of detainees in Northern Ireland. Lawyers making individual petitions in other cases regarding Northern Ireland detainees have also been advised by him.

MacBride moved into the non-governmental area of human rights protection when he became involved in Amnesty International. That organisation had been founded by an Englishman, Peter Benenson, but MacBride's advice had been sought at the planning stages, and he was soon to become its Chairman for a great many years. It is not easy to assess publicly the achievements of Amnesty, because political prisoners are a source of embarrassment to any government, and concessions regarding such prisoners are rarely publicised. Events have shown, however, that Amnesty's influence on totalitarian governments has been remarkable. There are numerous reports received by the Secretariat from people who attribute their release, and that of others, entirely to Amnesty, of trials at which the presence of an observer from Amnesty has clearly encouraged the proper application of the Rule of Law, of direct negotiations about prisoners between Amnesty representatives and governments. In all this MacBride has not been a mere figurehead on the Executive. He has used every opportunity to promote the aims of Amnesty and to better the lot of political prisoners as a spokesman for the organisation.

One of the most interesting aspects of Sean MacBride as a person, is his single-mindedness. He has a one-track mind when he gets an idea into his head, and will pursue that idea with courage, determination and an utter lack of self-consciousness. Not only will he use every means and every opportunity at his disposal in a work situation, but he will also gear his social life towards achieving whatever goal he has set. He is in fact incapable of socialising in the accepted sense of the word, and prefers to use his moments of relaxation to entertain anyone with whom he can usefully promote his "idée fixe"—whatever it may be at the time. Thus, during his years at the International Commission of Jurists the idea of an international Ombudsman or a Commissioner for Human Rights was pushed on all fronts until it reached the stage of a motion before the General Assembly of the United Nations. The necessity for the revision of the Hague and Geneva Conventions occurred to him arising out of the bloodshed of the Vietnam war. He first sold the idea at the International Conference on Human Rights in Teheran in 1968, much to the embarrassment of the United States delegates there at the time, and there is now an international Commission working on the revision of the outdated "laws of war."

Torture, disarmament and an international tribunal for crimes against humanity — all these are subjects over which MacBride has initiated an international movement, and which he is still tackling at every opportunity. When he became Commissioner for Namibia he almost seemed to take it for granted that independence would be achieved in just a couple of years. A year and a half later, his optimism does not seem so crazy.

MacBride has a fantastic combination for success. He believes utterly in what he sets out to do and has an uncanny way of using his legal training and ability to make the impossible seem eminently feasible. He stretches the "dynamic aspects" of the Rule of Law to incredible lengths, but manages to bring enough opinion along with him to achieve results. In an argument with him about the status in international law of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he pointed out that if enough lawyers said that the Declaration now formed part of international law, then it would be true. In fact he has been largely responsible for the present status of the Universal Declaration and a great part of international legal opinion now follows his thinking on the matter.

He is also shameless when it comes to working or getting others to work for human rights. He will use charm and persuasion, or anger and intransigence, whatever mood or tactic is necessary to achieve a given end. Observers have quaked at an unexpected outburst of anger at a meeting or conference, convinced that all was now lost, only to see that the effect was quite the opposite. MacBride was always able to gauge the extent to which he could push, embarrass or shame his opponents, and invariably ended up with the desired result. In all this, he has never used his influence for his own self-advancement in any material way. He has never sought power for its own sake and has never been interested in financial gain.

His achievements for peace have not been of a spectacular kind which would be easily recognised by those outside the rather specialised world of international diplomacy. Rather they have been the gradual building up of the institutions and machinery to protect human rights in a concrete way, and the promotion of the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that concern for human beings becomes part of our daily lives. MacBride has held the view very firmly that public opinion can be the strongest opponent of any regime. His work has educated the international public to reject those actions of governments which are contrary to human rights and the Rule of Law. He has helped in a very individual way to provide this generation and future generations with the instruments for maintaining or restoring peace at national and international level. It is indeed fitting that Sean MacBride, a visionary of exceptional practical ability, boundless energy and unfailing courage, will receive international recognition for his work on December 10th —International Human Rights Day.

Muireann O Briain

Muireann O Briain worked as a Legal Officer at the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva while Sean MacBride was Secretary-General.

Cooney on teachers

RECENTLY from a privileged platform Free State Minister for Justice Mr. Cooney saw it to malign the Irish teaching profession in a calculatedly vague and cowardly fashion, acting at once as judge, jury and hangman, Mr. Cooney contends that "certain teachers" use the classroom to recruit, under well-known Home Office propaganda tags such as "men of violence," "gunmen," "subversives," not to mention Cruise O'Brien's famous "little I.R.A. men."

Does Paddy Cooney really believe that Irish parents are so divorced from the education of their children as to have to wait for him as spokesman? Does the Minister think we are "worthy of darkest Africa" and only just that? Is he fatuous enough to believe that there exists no parent-teacher relationship, that Irish parents are not aware of what is sacredly done in loco parentis?

No, Mr. Cooney, your attack was seen for what it really was — a pathetic form of McCarthyism, innuendo and vague accusations, being in the main your witch-hunting tools.

Mr. Cooney knows that State Departments keep files and the Department of Education is no exception. Let him, therefore, as a man of "law and order", produce book and verse, not behind closed doors, but in a sworn public inquiry. Let us have case and instance of alleged abuses not in Fine Gael cubby-holes, but right in the eye of the mass-media. This would help to set the record straight.

It is very easy to accuse, it is easier still and more sinister to accuse a group of people without specification. Mud thrown may well stick, doing in this case serious damage to the morale and integrity of a very seminal and basic profession. What if the legal profession suffered a like attack: what if its members were accused of aiding and abetting their clients in the evasion of income tax, in failing to prosecute without fear or favour certain Crown agents out to sabotage, and by espionage and treason bring down the institutions of the State?

What if a law chamber be used for receiving, holding and transferring revolvers to criminal alien agents? Mr. Cooney should think again and take a sober look at his next compulsive monthly ranting. He might be man enough to practise what he preaches and make an "act of reparation". He might even head with Mrs. Cosgrave's blessing for Lough Derg.

Dearmaid O Suilleabhain,
Guaire,
Co. Loch Garman.

Provos: soldiers or murderers?

DR. CONOR Cruise O'Brien (*Irish Press*, Nov. 26), demanded a straight answer to the question: Are the IRA activists, soldiers or murderers?

This question, however, he had prefaced with the dogmatic assertion that there are "only two unequivocal attitudes" that can be taken to the activities of the Provisional I.R.A.

The first, the IRA's own attitude that they are soldiers fighting a war for Ireland's sake, he attempts to counter with the "other unequivocal attitude" that, as they have no mandate from the people, North or South, their activities are not war but an armed conspiracy, and they themselves are not soldiers.

The only two unequivocal attitudes, as defined by Dr. O'Brien, have become the only two permissible answers. And, seemingly, reply must be made only in the simplistic terms of his A or B.

Your correspondent Justin Morahan has already stated a third unequivocal attitude, the pacifist attitude. And the past 50 years' existence of an IRA in lineal descent through army councils headed by such patriots as Sean Russell is testimony to the fact that the IRA is sustained by several sympathetic attitudes held by Irish people on both sides of the Border.

Daithi O Conaill stated his authoritative attitude last weekend that the IRA has been created by "the people of the North" (*Irish Press*, Dec. 2), and claims a "mandate from history and from reality". He pointed out how an IRA of no real strength in 1969 became a reality due to the naked aggression of loyalist, Stormont and British forces.

"Therefore," he said, "it can rightfully claim to have a mandate from the people which has been underlined by their own suffering". Upper-class academics of Labour's careerist Left and comfortable, moralising Pharisees, of course, cannot grasp such dialectics. Pogrom and psycho-terror will never be their experience as they waffle and wallow in a bog of liberal platitudes, boring all to death with their collegiate debating skills.

The learned Dr. O'Brien must have noticed, also, the attitude of the British authorities when leading IRA activists are captured. Once in custody they are given full military titles, and press and TV reports describe them as Brigade or Battalion Commanders, Lieutenants and so forth. On BBC television Daithi O Conaill is captioned as Chief of Staff, Provisional IRA. The German authorities gave no such recognition to the Baader-Meinhof "gang" or Red Army fraction.

Nor do churchmen, bishops and moral theologians seem to give the straight answer sought by Dr. O'Brien. It would seem that the IRA (like the poor) we shall have always with us, earning the bishops' disapproval but never quite their complete disapproval.

Whichever attitude one may hold, be it sympathetic, condemnatory, ambivalent or mixed, the motivations of the IRA, their courageous service freely given to the achievement of the national aspiration, under military discipline, authenticates their claim to be soldiers. With Thomas McDonagh, 1916 martyr, they can claim to represent the "mind and soul" of Ireland, transcending "the inert and sluggish mass".

Mandated or not, elitist if you like, one thing is certain—it will never be overcome by the Dr. O'Briens of this world. Enclosed in their study circles, the ineffectual intellectuals of the Left that was never right about anything, will fail the Irish people and the sound waves they transmit find no responsive throb in the Irish heartland.

M. O CALLANAIN
London W.9.

Well There You Are Now

"We are at war in this province with the Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. The Jesuits are the Gestapo of the Vatican. Their purpose is to undo the reformation, and bring Protestantism and all other religions in the world under the jackboot of the Papacy. The hatred of all things British and Protestant is but the product of the diabolic, soul destroying doctrines of the Church of Rome. The system that produced Hitler and Mussolini has given birth in this country to the hatemongers of Bogside . . . The IRA is the armed wing of the Roman Catholic Church . . . The age long dream of that Church is an Ireland Romanised from end to end, the people of God in chains or driven from the lands of their birth forever.

This must never happen We must hold Ulster by whatever means God puts in our hands. Protestants must not be deceived by their soft words, they are but a devils lullaby to chloroform Protestantism in order that this Romanist sponsored rebellion might succeed.

Ulster is betrayed . . . If the forces of the British Crown are going to support the I.R.A. to destroy Ulster, then we are prepared to fight as our fathers did, and fight for our freedom. A section of a speech by Ian Paisley.

From the book unholy Smoke by G. W. Target.

Another quote by the Demon Doctor I have never made an inflammatory statement in my life.

Internees reject parole

A statement yesterday from the republican internees in Long Kesh rejected Mr. Rees's offer of a three day New Year parole to 50 detainees in the camp. It is understood that loyalist prisoners, to whom the parole was also offered, have accepted it, as have two republican prisoners for "compassionate reasons".

The republican statement described the offer as a "despicable" political device.

Three women are the first of more than 100 convicted prisoners to be freed as part of the Royal prerogative of mercy. The rest are expected to be released before the weekend. They are all short term prisoners whose sentences would have expired between now and March 31.

O Conaill moved over to politics

FOLLOWING our report of last Tuesday that several top members of the Provisional IRA were being transferred to the political wing of the movement — Sinn Fein (Kevin St.) — it was learned last night that Daithi O Conaill has for the past several weeks been concentrating on political work in readiness for possible negotiations with the British Government.

Leadership of the Provisionals is now believed to rest with Seamus Twomey, former O.C. of the Belfast Brigade, with Kevin Mallon acting as his right-hand man.

O Conaill has been concentrating his energies on working out political strategies for any any possible negotiations towards a permanent truce in the North and marshalling the team to represent the Provisional Republican viewpoint in any talks.

Both Twomey and O Conaill were active in negoiating the IRA truce with the Heath Government in June, 1972, which ended after a fortnight when Catholics clashed with British soldiers at the Lenadoon housing estate in Belfast.

Big welcome for Cllr. Joe McGirl

PROVISIONAL Sinn Fein in Louth, Cavan and Monaghan staged a big welcome yesterday for Leitrim Co. Councilor Mr. John Joe McGirl, following his release from Long Kesh, where he has been held without trial since last Easter.

In Dundalk, where he stayed overnight, he was given a send-off in the morning by local Sinn Fein members headed by Cllr. F. Browne. He was met in Castleblayney by a party of Sinn Fein members headed by Cllr. Patsy McGinn, and in Monaghan town, in the afternoon, he attended the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Fergal O'Hanlon.

Mr. McGirl was later met outside Clones by a motorcade and was welcomed by Cllrs. Frank McCaughey and Frank McGuire. He then travelled to Belturbet, where a public meeting was held.

Bands and bonfiers in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, last night greeted Mr. McGirl when he was reunited with his wife and family. He received an enthusiastic reception when he addressed a large crowd from a platform opposite his home.

A special meeting of Leitrim Co. Council is being held today to consider the peace initiative of the Irish Council of Churches.

Law of Asylum

THE internationally honoured law of asylum for political offences is to be circumvented by special legislation allegedly to honour our commitment under "Sunningdale" which has long since been unilaterally denounced by Britain. We would do well to take note that not alone are we being led deeper and further into collaboration with the British army of occupation, but we are collaborating with torture and internment without trial.

H. V. FLINN,
Greystones,
Co. Wicklow.

Bias

The biased reporting in the British Press on events in Northern Ireland leaves a lot to be desired.

This reminds me of a jingle by Humbert Wolfe, written some time ago which went:

One cannot hope to bribe or twist,
Thank God, the British journalist,
But seeing what the man will do,
Unbribed, there is no occasion to.

Things have not changed much since then.

D. F. CONLAN,
Withdean Close,
Sparkhill,
Birmingham 11.

DEIRTEAR gurb é an tAthair **Leon O Móracháin** is dóighí a bhéas ina Easpag ar Ghaillimh nuair éireoidh an Dr. **Micheál de Brún** as a phost go luath san athbhliain. Má tharlaíonn sin beidh áthas ar Ghaeilgeoirí agus ar an gCumann Lúithchleas Gael go háirithe. Ach is beag áthas a chuirfidh an ceapachán ar óstóirí na cathrach, nach mbíonn ro-chúramach faoi aois a gcuid cuistiméaraí, ná ar rannóg na fógraíochta in R.T.E., lena raibh sé i ngleic cheana faoina gcuid fógraíochta óil. Tá an-tAthair O Móracháin an-láidir faoi fhadhb an ólacháin agus ní hí cathair na Gaillimhe an chathair is "trioma" in Eirinn, mar is eol do chách.

Bring Them Back



Dolours and Marion Price

PORTLAOISE PRISONERS' STATEMENT

ON Wednesday, 11th December, 1974, the following list of demands was presented to the Governor of Portlaoise Jail on behalf of the political prisoners imprisoned there. This list has been the subject of constant negotiations between the authorities and the prison staff, but to no avail at the time of writing. In the paragraphs below are listed our major demands with a brief comment on each:

SEGREGATION—This was won after a long hunger strike in Mountjoy Prison from September-October, 1973. Since then the authorities have consistently attempted to renege on this issue. At present they have imprisoned here people who have no association or affiliation with the Republican Movement.

MEDICAL FACILITIES—These are non-existent in Portlaoise Jail. Even Long Kesh Concentration Camp and Magilligan Camp have hospital units within their confines. This is the only prison in Ireland that has no hospitalisation facilities whatsoever.

DIET—We demand the introduction of a proper, nutritionally sound diet. At least two thirds of the food presently served ends up in rubbish bins. It is inedible, without variation and poorly presented.

PARCELS—We demand the right to receive food parcels. Parcels have been a right of political prisoners and we recognise it as a universal right of all prisoners to receive food parcels. That they are a security risk is negated by the fact that they were admitted at Halloween.

HANDICRAFTS—We demand the right to receive handicraft materials. Security is once more the excuse forwarded by the authorities for the banning of certain handicraft materials and the curtailment of others.

PAROLE—The system as operated here is completely unsatisfactory. We believe the authorities are using parole as a psychological weapon by releasing one man on parole and refusing another, though the case history be the same in each case. We will not tolerate our men being played off one against the other.

TUCK SHOP—Despite Department statements to the contrary, no tuck shop exists within Portlaoise Jail. Therefore, apart from cigarettes, no items are supplied to us at cost price, as stated by Mr. Cooney.

EDUCATION—No facilities exist except our own self-instituted classes.

RELIGION—No church or chapel exists within Portlaoise Jail. Indeed, what was the chapel is barred to us and is instead used as a billet for Free State Army personnel (shades of Cromwell). Thus proper facilities for the practice of religion are being denied. Security is the reason forwarded.

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .
FRANK'S BAR
Home of Traditional Song and Music
MAIN STREET · LISNASKEA

JAMES CAREY
Select Grocers and General Hardware Merchants
Crown Paint and Wallpaper Specialist
PHONE: LISNASKEA 337

DEPENDANTS' FUND FUNCTIONS

KINAWLEY

A Dance in aid of the Prisoners' Dependants will take place in St. Nial's Hall, Kinawley, on Monday night, 6th January. Music by The Blossoms from Ballyconnell. Draw for £100 takes place during Dance.

EDERNEY

A very enjoyable Ceili was held in St. Joseph's Hall, Ederney, on Sunday, 22nd December in aid of Prisoners' Dependants. The draw for a harp was won by Mrs. Ann Cox, Cavnacross, and a wallet was won by her son, Anthony.

THE 1916 "LUNATICS"

OF all the journalistic attacks made on the leaders of the Easter Rising—which blew into flame 59 years ago—none was more venomous than that of the "Irish Catholic".

"Partially socialist and partially alien" was its first comment. The participants were "idiots or lunatics", their action was "traitorous and treacherous".

Having drawn its breath for a week, it returned to the fray before the list of executions was complete. "All the signatories of the document proclaiming the Sinn Fein Republic", it declared, "having been executed . . . with the exception of James Connolly. Among these was the self-nominated President, Pearse, a nominal barrister and founder of a school at Rathfarnham, which proved a complete failure—a failure accelerated by his intimacy with James Larkin and his admission to the institution of that firebrand's son. Pearse was a man of ill-balanced mind, if not actually insane, and the idea of selecting him as Chief Magistrate of an Irish Republic is quite enough to create serious doubts as to the sanity of those who approved it. Among others of the insurgents executed was Maj or MacBride, whose previous career in the service of the Boers made his fate inevitable."

And a poem by the gentle Thomas MacDonagh was published with the comment that some of the verses were "indicative of unbelief in any place of future reward or punishment".

Little wonder that General Maxwell considered himself perfectly safe in executing his prisoners. And little wonder that he was taken aback a week later by Bishop Dwyer's manly denunciation of his butchery.

GREAT REVELATIONS

ONLY last week the Fermanagh Herald came out with a great revelation. It revealed to its readers that its editor or manager, the former Senator O'Hare, and his Anti-Partition League friends were on the threshold of Irish freedom only for IRA intervention.

From the revelation it seems the Brits were subdued by fine speeches made against partition at home and abroad, so much so that they were about to hand over the Six Counties—but then an IRA campaign started and it seems the Brits got thick and held on.

So there it is, the IRA are to blame. As in our own day, Gerry Fitt, John Hume and Austin Currie would have freed Ireland only for those villains. Aren't they responsible for Long Kesh and internment. Didn't the good Dublin Government blame them for the Dublin and Monaghan bombs.

Even the good Father Keaney from Kinawley was able to lay blame on them for the bombing of the Catholic church at Swanlinbar, and the Herald also informed us that we would have full civil rights here today only for them.

Now we know who to blame for all our failures. How wonderful!

PIPER "RUINED" FOR PLAYING LAMENT

IRISH-BORN Thomas Hickey (39), who played a lament for James McDaid said recently: "I have lost everything."

He had received threatening letters, his home had been damaged, he had lost his job and he had spent 12 days in custody before getting bail.

He was speaking after being found guilty at Birmingham of causing criminal damage to a police car and being drunk and disorderly.

Hickey, of Summer Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, was fined £10 and ordered to pay £19 compensation.

The offences were alleged to have happened the day he was suspended from his £37 a week job with Joseph Lucas Limited because the management feared for his safety after playing the lament.

Asked after the hearing about the lament, he said: "I was simply asked to play the pipes. I have no connection with any political organisation and I am asked to play the pipes for all kinds of occasions. I will play the pipes for anyone."

Police had told the court that when he was arrested in Sparkbrook Hickey smelled of drink and his speech was slurred. He became very violent.

Hickey denied being drunk and said that when the policemen approached them he kicked out because he was being "roughed up".

EXCITEMENT AT KINAWLEY

ON Saturday night, 21st December excitement ran high once again in Kinawley. The local dungeon which houses the UDR, BA and RUC came under heavy mortar and rifle fire. As usual all the able-bodied men in the dungeon dived for the safety of the "shelter" in the cellar, where they remained for almost two hours after the gunfire ended.

At the same time some two miles away at Cassidy's Cross an Army foot patrol came under fire. Spotting what they took to be a gunman in a nearby public telephone kiosk, they fired three bursts into his back, but when this gent refused to fall the Brits took to their feet and on reaching the cover of the nearest ditch remained there till they spotted a car approaching. The car driver was halted and forced at gunpoint to drive his car at walking pace to the Kinawley dungeon while the brave Brits used the shelter of the car and the occupants for their own protection.

It was later discovered that the "man" in the kiosk was nothing more than a harmless dummy. He was dragged out and exploded by a BA explosives expert.

ANTI-INTERNMENT VIGIL IN ENNISKILLEN

AN anti-internment vigil was held again this year on Christmas Eve on the Diamond, Enniskillen.

The numbers attending, however, were greatly down on past years, especially those of 1971 and 1972.

Before the participants dispersed they were thanked by Mr. Tom Flatley for their attendance. He also thanked all who had contributed to their collection for the dependants of the internees and political prisoners. Expressing regret at the small attendance, he said he hoped this did not reflect the degree of concern in Fermanagh for the men in Long Kesh and other prisons. Concluding, he said he hoped that this would be their last anti-internment vigil and that all prisoners would be released before 1975 ended. A collection taken during the vigil realised £53.