

An Phoblacht

Iml. 7. Uimhir 31. 8p. Lunasa 6, 1976.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland. (The Daily Eireann)

HELL HOLE

Joe O'Neill brings out the truth

IF AN Irishman is put on a spit over a blaze another Irishman always will be found to turn him on it. Thus, an old saying, aptly illustrating the results of more than 800 years of slavery. Portlaoise Jail is an up-to-date brutal illustration of the same saying.

Last week Councillor Joe O'Neill of Bundoran, Co. Donegal, gave details of how "Irishmen" had been found to turn patriotic Irishmen on the spit in Portlaoise, in an exclusive interview to "An Phoblacht".

He told how 97 political prisoners are locked up for 23 hours daily and kept in solitary confinement during that time. During the remaining hour, exercise is allowed to groups of 20 at a time.

He told of facilities denied to the political prisoners because of a protest they made recently at the barbaric conditions for political in the jail, the only means left to them to publicise their plight, according to the Sinn Féin leasachtaran Daithí O Conaill, himself a remand prisoner in the jail.

No letters are allowed in or out. No cigarettes or tobacco are permitted. All handicraft work has been stopped. In many cases, remission has been reduced.

EAT OFF FLOOR

Cells have been stripped bare. All prisoners are sleeping on mattresses only, on the floor, including remand prisoners. There are no tables or chairs. Prisoners are forced to eat off the floor.

Medical treatment has been banned and, as a result, the lives of some of the political prisoners are in danger from minute to minute.

Donal de Barra of Donegal had a minor stroke after being savagely beaten. No attempt was made to bring a doctor to his assistance. Donal nearly died in Mountjoy Jail on a hunger-strike in 1973 when he was operated on.

Two others with heart conditions imprisoned in Portlaoise and denied medical attention are Joe Little of Cavan and Pat Shanahan of Dublin.

Humiliating strip-searches have been taking place for nearly seven weeks. This dates their institution to a period prior to the Greene Street Courthouse escape. Thus, when the Dublin authorities allege that strip-searches were begun as a response to that episode they are lying.

CLOTHES TORN OFF

The political prisoners are adopting passive resistance to strip-searches, denying all co-operation, quietly, with dignity, but not resorting to physical force.

They are being forcibly stripped, the clothes being torn off them, a team of seven screws to each prisoner.

Joe O'Neill spoke of one man having been turned upside down and his legs having been forced apart to examine his anus for explosives, messages or whatever the prison staff say they are seeking.

"Sometimes," Joe O'Neill said, "they return within 10 minutes, having completed a strip-search, to start another."

Daithí O Conaill, he stated, to his knowledge, had been strip-searched five times within 24 hours. Joe said he had

been strip-searched six times within the same period.

During the last search of Joe, before his release, he said they had grabbed him by the cheeks of his bottom and had forced them apart.

"On one occasion," related Joe, "Daithí and I were strip-searched three times within 40 minutes, the intention obviously being to draw a reaction."

It is forbidden to wear or keep shoes or boots in a cell. No cleaning of cells is taking place. The floors are covered with creepers and insects, including cockroaches.

The unhygienic condition of the cells is a threat to the health of the political prisoners and could result at any time in an epidemic.

Materials to keep cells clean are not readily available. Apparently, compulsorily dirty cells are being used by the authorities in a bid to break the morale of the political prisoners.

After the protest-burning of mattresses the men were herded five and six to a tiny cell with no mattresses or blankets for about four days.

Joe O'Neill commented: "Daithí O Conaill made the point that the men had no option, if they wished to draw attention to the appalling conditions in Portlaoise, but to do something dramatic."

"Thus the burning of the mattresses. All their appeals for a public inquiry had been ignored. They had to resort to the burning even though well aware that such an action would result in great hardship to themselves."

What is happening in Portlaoise is being tried, without much success so far, in prisons and concentration camps in the Six Counties. Thus the frequent protests by both Republican and Loyalist prisoners who are objecting strenuously to the humiliating strip-searches, to the degradation which accompanies them and to the provocation involved.

SAVAGE BEATING

Political prisoners are no more than human and no more patient than most. When the limit is reached, following unreasonably frequent strip-searches, the most patient man is liable to react in protest and to receive a savage beating from which he may die.

This is the danger, admittedly at its most extreme, but still possible, if civilised treatment of prisoners, as laid down by the United Nations, is to be ignored.

The United Nations, in their model rules for prisoners, accepted by the Dublin regime as binding, order that there should be no discrimination in the treatment of prisoners.

In Portlaoise, however, discrimination has reached an extreme of brutality, in shock comparison with conditions obtaining in Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin, "Cockroache" Cooney's showpiece.

On Wednesday, July 28, Daithí O Conaill appeared in the



Special Criminal Court, Dublin, along with Joe O'Neill, charged with obstructing and assaulting a Garda. They were remanded for a week. Both already had been remanded on a "membership" charge.

SOLICITOR DENIED

Daithí O Conaill availed himself of the occasion to attempt to publicise the concentration camp conditions obtaining in Portlaoise: "It is known as Cooney's hell-hole," he said. "It will soon be known as Cooney's death-hole."

Daithí O Conaill, when arraigned on the obstruction and assault charge, stated that since he had been taken to Portlaoise Prison he had asked repeatedly for his solicitor, Mr. Myles Shevlin, but that, so far, he had not seen him.

He said that 97 men were in solitary confinement in the jail, lying on the floor, denied cigarettes. Conditions were brutal. They were being subjected to revolting body searches.

The previous Saturday he had seen a political prisoner being rushed in an unconscious condition into a basement and he had not yet received medical attention. Nine others were seriously ill and have received no medical attention.

The Prisoners Welfare Action Group in a supplied statement challenge Cooney's denial of ill-treatment.

"Mr. Cooney's denial in the papers of 28/7/76", they stated "that Donal de Barra is ill and has been denied medical attention. Due to Mr. Cooney's actions in suspending visits and letters however the truth is once again perverted by the Department of 'Justice'."

"While Mr. Cooney bothers to deny the illness of one prisoner he makes no comment on the daily beatings of the men by the prison staff. But as the warders have said themselves they have Mr. Cooney's expressed authority and approval to beat the men senseless as often and whenever the mood takes them," the statement concluded.

APOLOGY

Owing to the August Bank Holiday *An Phoblacht's* publication date had to be brought forward this week by three days.

We apologise to those contributors whose reports arrived on time but do not appear.

— Editor.

is Port Laoise Jail

An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 7. Lunasa 6, 1976. Uimhir 31.
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Eire. Guthán: 747611.

A dread of politics

that for hypocrisy? How's that for sheer dread of politics?

The Petain-state, however, must go one further, and the same party's vice-president, known widely for his political awareness, even among his most avowed enemies, Daithí O Connail, is allowed but 13 days free from jail only to be picked up again and tried on the same charge, and convicted, as seems inevitable as we go to press, even though the Dublin *de facto* authorities know, from their secret police, that he spent those same 13 days on political work and as openly as possible.

One of the political facts acknowledged by even the most biased over the past eight years at least is that there has been no real opposition in Leinster House, especially insofar as the national issues have been concerned. While an undisputable fact, this is not surprising, for the satellite state must work within the narrow confines set for it by the dominant power.

The only real and sustained political opposition to those who, with foreign aid, defeated and kept in subjection the democratically elected government of the Irish Republic of the entire island since 1921, has been Sinn Féin.

If there had not been a basic political truth behind the party, and the Republican Movement in general, namely, that Ireland is not free and must be freed before permanent peace can obtain, the entire Republican tradition would have withered long ago.

Republican Ireland would have died and have vanished as did Burgundy.

This, even the most biased and collaborationist historians cannot ignore, cannot explain, cannot excuse from the folk memory. The Irish instinct remains on the side of the men of force and this instinct is reinforced, rather than weakened, by the so obvious fear on the part of traitors and quishings of those politicians who advocate an independent Ireland, who speak from the logic of history and who are backed by the minds and the hearts of an unconquered people.

Thus is explained the exclusion of Ruairi O Bradaigh from an integral part of his own country and the denial of his right to address and convince honest, working people in the neighbouring island.

The boss class fears the truth that he can tell just as the servants of the "Free" State fear the logic and reasonableness of Daithí O Connail.

As we go to press there are rumours and semi-official "leaks" from the Dublin establishment of a recall of the Dublin assembly to pass new legislation in a hurry to yet another vain attempt to stop the march of history.

We do not know the details of what is proposed or what will be enacted but we are sure of one thing, that it has all happened before, that the same measures which failed before to extinguish the hope of Irish freedom will be used again.

They will try to kill the truth by banning and outlawing it. They will seek additional excuses to jail patriots. They may even re-introduce internment.

They may as well try to stop the tide or prevent the dawning of day. They will fail as they failed in every generation over more than 800 years. The struggle will continue until Ireland is free and permanent peace, based on justice, is established throughout this island.

INCREASINGLY, the Westminster regime and its satellites show a contempt for that dangerous commodity alleged to be a basic component of liberal democracy — common sense — and for the ordinary working people who best know what it means.

The exclusion of the Sinn Féin uachtarán, Ruairi O Bradaigh, from areas directly controlled by the Crown, under penalty of imprisonment, illustrates this very clearly, as does the imprisonment of the Sinn Féin leasuachtarán in the area indirectly controlled by the Crown.

The so-called liberals in control of the Westminster Parliament are on record for many years in their appeal to the Irish (and other subject people) to "go political," to seek remedies of alleged grievances by political action. Yet, when such action shows signs of political success, they are hounded and harassed and suppressed.

Leinster House, which echoes *ad nauseam* the "mother of parliaments," has been preaching the same sermon to Republican since the "Free" State was established with British guns in quivering Irish hands, backed by Oriel House terror, murder, torture, bombs, concentration camps, coercion laws and all the other weapons of state violence in the subversion of the legitimate government of Ireland, that of Pobhlacht na hÉireann.

Sinn Féin today, as in 1921 and in every decade since then, is the only Irish political party with a structure and elected representatives in every county and townland in the island. Ruairi O Bradaigh is the elected president of that all-Ireland party.

Now, a Crown decree ordains that Ruairi O Bradaigh, the elected head of a legitimate and legal political party, covering the entire island, may not enter part of that same island, to consult or address members, under penalty of imprisonment. How's that for democracy? How's that for liberalism? How's

Débe

ÍS MAITH ann, agus go mór, an ceangal idir Gaeilacht na Mí agus muintir Ghaelach Baile Muna, Baile Átha Cliath.

I láthair na huairte tá roinnt tuistí agus páistí as Baile Muna ag campáil i nDomhnaigh Phádraig agus as-praioir go deo acu agus ag muintir na hÉire. Tamall de sheachtain ó shin tháinig mic léinn ó na hollscoileanna le chéile, go háirithe iad siad na dtéannamh staidéir ar an nGaeilge, gur thóg siad na páistí ón scoil Ghaelach i mBaile Muna isteach i gGlaiste na Tríonóide agus gur chuir siamsa ar fáil dóibh.

Níos déanaí, chuaigh na mic léinn céanna amach leo ar thuras ina seibhte agus, ina dhiaidh sin, thug siad uilig cuairt ar Rath Cairn, Gaeilacht na Mí. Bhí sin ar na himreachtáir ba thábhachtacha a reachtáil bhí léinn na Gaeilge le tamall fada, nó riamh, b'fhéidir. Bhí barghas Dé i gceist. Bíonn i gceol nuair a bhíonn deobair ar siúl. Ach an cuspóir bhí roimh na mic léinn seo an teanga a neartú i mBaile Átha Cliath agus an chuid is measa den aicmeachas a laghdú nó deiradh a chur léi.

D'aithin na mic léinn an éacht a rinne muintir Baile Muna, rud nach bhféadfaid a shárú dá mba mhian leo. Ach d'fhéadfaid miniseach agus meann na bpáistí, na muinteoirí agus na doonáir a chur faoi phobal na Gaeilge san ardchathair, ag tosú leis an aicme a bhíofaí se de mhian ach inti seasamh leis an dúchas i gceol.

Nuair a bhí muintir Baile Muna ag comhlíonh le hEaglais agus le Stát chun a scoil Ghaelach féin a bhunú bhí muintir Dhomhnaigh Phádraig agus muintir Rath Cairn chun tosáil lena spreaghadh.

Bhí siad i gceol le feiscint nuair a bhí imeachtaí ar siúl ar son na scoile. Agus bhallágh muintir Ghaelach na Mí na damháid, na ceoltóirí agus na hamhránaigh le chéile, chun go mairfeadh an áit i mBaile Muna.

Drúthcheangal idir Baile Muna, Mic léinn agus an Mhí

Glóire an náisiúin

NÍ DEACAIR an chomhcheangal agus an chomhthuisct idir Baile Muna agus Gaeilacht na Mí a mhíniú. Dá chomhlundrad bheag a bhí i gceist agus ar scáth a chéile is ea a mhaireann na daoine.

Ní mé cé an duine i measc na mac léinn a chéad-smoinigh faoi chomhoibriú le muintir Baile Muna agus go háirithe leis na páistí iontach seo.

Éinne a chomair a bhíofaí curtha ar stáitse acu le blianta beaga, caithfidh sé a admháil gur páistí iontach iad. Is é-dé dom go raibh lámh mhór ag na muinteoirí agus ag na tuistí féin san obair sin; ach ní fhéadfaid an obair a chur chun críche gan an bunbhar, mar na páistí breathnaí se i mBaile Muna, atá ina ngóire don náisiúin.

Is minic a deirtear go bhfuil mic léinn na n-ollscoileanna leithleasach, léiscúil, achannach agus saorga, caint nach gceiridín féin, óir is dual don bheir óg, agus don chailín, a bheith idéalach.

Céif faoi sin, chruithigh na mic léinn Gaeilacha seo i gGlaiste na Tríonóide, i gGlaiste na hOllscoile agus i Scoil na nIrisoirí i Rath Maonais gur de bhláth na hÉireann iad, bail ó Dhia orthu, agus gur réadaí iad, gur mó a gceol, gur aicme a n-intinn na cuid mhaith de "Gluaiseacht" na Gaeilge.

Chuala mé caint i nDomhnaigh Phádraig ar na malláibh faoi pheallán tífhocta a bheas, le cúnaim Dé, faoi smacht an chomharchoimáin, agus a bhfuil de chuspóir aige pobal na Gaeilge a mbeadh siad aiti.

Chun go n-éireodh leis an bplean sin, is coisúil, beidh gá le lamhán óga (nó eile) a bheith sísta Baile Átha Cliath agus aiteanna eile a fhágáil agus lonnú sa nGaeilacht bheag seo.

Nuair a bheas an scéal ní ba léire scríobhfaid mé arís faoi ach molaim an pleán a chinnfidh go mairfeadh an Gaeilacht seo.

Caint Uí Chaollaí

BHÍOS AG ceapadh go mb'fhéidir go mbeadh fonn ar dhúine éicint eile bheith caideiseach faoi rún úd an Chomhairle i dtaobh fheachtas na teilifíse. Ach is coisúil nach bhfuil, go fóill.

Tá gach éine ar saoire, 'chúile sheans, agus cose ar nuachtán, ar iris agus ar son cheo eile a mbeadh an t-iarraichtin de mhíshuamhneas ag roinnt leis. Agus tá daoine ann tá ar saoire i gceol.

Níl deireadh ráite agamsa faoin rún, go fóill, ar aon chaoi. Tuigim go raibh an-chaint ag Maolbheachlaimh ó Gaillfa faoin rud agus é os comhair an Choiste Chéad an Satharn úd agus gurbh í an chaint chéanna a chuir an oiread sin daoine i gceinne an rúin.

Más crúinn an chaint a chualas, bhí Maolbheachlaimh ag lochtú in rún agus lucht an rúin as a bheith forleáil (nó úlra-chlé), agóint a chuireann i gcuimhne don cineál cainte a úsáideann Páis Ghairdeín ó am go chéile le námháid áirithe a dháimú (is fearr achasán nó loighe, ní airíom mianú).

Tá deartháir ag Maolbheachlaimh tá ina eagráil ag an bPáis céanna. B'fhéidir gur uaidh, nó óna chuid caipiste, a chuala Maolbheachlaimh na téarmaí sin.

Nuair a bhí na bacáin a n-árdú i bParas thart ar shé

bhláth ó shin ag na mic léinn ba shin an leithscéal bhí ag an bPáis Cúinnach as súl go te ar an gclár agus stá na France a neartú.

Chomh maith le sin, tá sé go mór faoi thionchar ag Antoine O Cocláin agus, measaim, ina bhláth den Irish Sovereignty Movement.

Ach, chun cothrom na hÉine a thabhairt dó, rud tá tuille aige as ucht a sheansam agus a chuid oibre ar son na teilifíse Gaelaí, fearaim éilte roimha a chuid argóintí uilig a thobairt ar na bpáipéar seo, chun go mbe deis cheart againn iad a mheas, na smaoiní a scagadh, cúrsaí a chioradh go mion, agus teacht ar chaoi chun anailís a dhéanamh agus breith (níl sé sin an focal uil) a thabhairt ar an rud uilig.

Níl aon amhras ann ach gur ábhar tífhoctaíocht bunúsach é seo. Tá an Conradh ar fí a phléascadh, rud a theastfaidh ón stát. Measaim go gcaithfidh an Conradh seasamh go dána nó scríofaigh an stát de réir a chéile é sa chaoi go mbeidh sé ifordheacair d'aon eagras eile Gaeilge an bhearna a líonadh.

Dá bhfí sin, ceapaim go mb'fhearr go dtroidfeadh an Conradh leis an stát anois difreac, gan fiacaíl a chur ann agus go féir, chun meas mhuintir na hÉireann a thuilleamh agus a cuid tacaíochta a tháil.

BHAIN AN ceannuideal ar an "Irish Times" geit asam. Dar le Oliver Maloney, stiúrthóir RTE, agus é ag labhairt leis an Irish-American Society in Ambasad S.A.M. i mBaile Átha Cliath, bhí dualgas ar an bpreas agus ar RTE "na caighdeán a ardaí".

Tagaim ar fad le hOliver. Ach aige atá an deis agus é ina cheannasaí ar RTE, eagrais a síonann na caighdeán níos minic ná iad a ardaí.

Ní gá éinne a inseacht don nach bhfuil Oliver saor chun na caighdeán a ardaí i gceol. An fhirinne iomlán faoi chursáil na tíre, mar shampla, go háirithe faoi Gluaiseacht na Poblaíochta, faoi bhrúidhíocht Gardáil áirithe, faoi chlocair na nGall thuaidh chun fola agus mar sin de.

Dá mbeadh Oliver ionraic, d'éireodh sé as an geluiche agus d'inseodh sé an fhirinne faoin geinsceacht, faoin gceol a bhíofaí an nualócht a chur as a riocht, faoi fhás thionchar Shasana agus Mheiricea ar chultúr na hÉireann, d'aon ghno, mar phléascáil an Aire.

Rinne Bob Quinn mar a dhéanfaid fear ionraic. Agus Lelia Dolan, agus doinnt bheag daoine eile. Ach, de réir cosúlachta, fanfaidh Oliver sa job go dtí go bhfaighidh sé ceann bhí nhearr nó go bhfaighidh na daoine os a chionn ábhar cheannasaí ar fearr é na Oliver, chun polasáil na mbanasaí a thabhairt chun críche.

In ainneoin sin uilig is fiú go mór caint Mhaloney a léamh agus machnamh a dhéanamh fúthi. Tá cuid mhaith den fhirinne inti. Deir sé,

MALONEY AGUS SAOIRSE AN PHREAS

mar shampla, go bhfuil an fhirianaise ann gur lu meas na ndaoine a bhfuil cumhacht acu in Éirinn ar nuachtán agus ar raidió agus ar theilifíse na hÉireann toise go bhfuil caighdeán na cumarsaíde ag síni.

Nó, a Oliver, toise go bhfuil droimheas na daoine móra céanna ar gach rud dúchasach? Nó toise go bhfuil sé chomh héasca sin tiseoirí a cheannach, a lúbadh, a thabhairt leo ar mhaith leis an mbas-áicme?

Comhairle an phreas?

BA CHÓIR, dar le hOliver, deirheadh ar gach le VAT ar na nuachtán, chun go mbeidís ní ba shaoire. Ach ní preas saor a dhíth ar na húdaráis ach a mialairt.

Deir Oliver go mba choir Comhairle an Phreas a bhunú chun sùil a choimeáil ar mhí-chruinneas, ar thaibhídhacht, ar bhreaga, ar leath-fhirinní, ar aibhéil agus ar mhaillí, agus chun labhairt amach ina n-éadan.

Tá gá eile leis an gComhairle, dar leis, mar atá saoirse an phreas a chosaint; le deardach cónaíocht a chosú; agus chun an pobal a

dhúiseacht faoin geantúir go dtiocfaidh preas na hÉireann faoi mhona-placht (an bhfuil sé ró-dheireannach agus cuid mhór, b'fhéidir an chuid is mó, den phreas faoi smacht ag Tony O'Reilly agus a chomhairleaithe in Independent Newspapers?).

B'fhéidir go mbeadh an Chomhairle tá molta aige chomh lag céanna leis an gcomhairle a bunaíodh le déanaí faoi chearta sibhíalta. Dá mbeadh féin, b'fhearr é bheith ann ná as óir bheif ag síni i gceol len í a theabhaí.

Níor luagh Oliver Maloney an éagór a dhéanamh teilifíse agus preas ar an teanga Ghaeilge ní an fágóir a dhéanamh an preas "náisiúnta" ar áiteanna lamuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath. Is dócha go mbeadh sé contúirteach aon tagairt a dhéanamh don Ghaeilge agus é ina cheannasaí ar RTE?

Public Centres Reactivated

IN RESPONSE to the call by the leadership of the Republican Movement at Easter for an increased expansionist policy; public centres have been reactivated in Counties Galway and Mayo.

Dundalk Sinn Féin News

IN OUR issue of July 16, we highlighted the lack of facilities for children in the Cox's Demense area and the work of the local Sinn Féin.

Further activities during the past week included members of the West Dundalk Cumann of Sinn Féin being engaged on a campaign of the collection of signatures of the tenants of the Cox's Demense and surrounding areas for a petition for playing facilities for the children of the area, which in turn when completed will be handed into members of the Dundalk Urban District Council.

The local Cumann has also called on the Sinn Féin Councillor Mr. Fra Browne to raise the issue of playing facilities for the children of the West Dundalk area at the next meeting of the local council.

At a well attended meeting which was held recently in the Quay Street area for the purpose of forming a Cumann of Sinn Féin in the East Dundalk area. The meeting was organised by the Louth Comhairle Ceannair P.R.O. Andrew Corbett and Organiser, Pat Duffy.

The following were elected as officers of the new cumann which is to be called the Peter Duffy Cumann, Chairman, John Coleman; Sec., Pat O'Brian; Tres, Richard McK. O'Quinn; P.R.O. Vincent Kirk. The new cumann pledged its allegiance to Sinn Féin, Kevin Street.

These centres serve a dual purpose; they cater for the ever increasing demand by the general public for Republican crafts and literature. They also fill the void in the areas for advice and political service clinics.

For the past 60 years the institutional politicians have pursued a policy of centralisation, thus annually subverting increasing amounts of jobs and consequently work forces from the western counties.

However belated it may be the western people are awakening to this dehumanisation of Connaught and are looking elsewhere for a way forward.

In ever increasing numbers the population of Connaught are turning to the Republican Movement for the assistance and advice that is to be found in our Centres. Not only will clients be received with a sympathetic ear but with constructive aid.

These centres are a focal point in each county where the public can contact the Movement more readily. With the present government doing such a wonderful P.R. job on just what the "Free" State acquired when England withdrew its military presence in 1921, many more people are becoming aware of the need of a total political and economical rebirth. This they find in the policies of the Republican Movement.

In these Centres men fully educated in these doctrines are willing to instruct and answer any questions the public may pose.

Craft sales help prisoners dependants

Siding with the aforementioned services is the sale of handicrafts. These crafts fashioned by the P.O.W.'s from goods all over the Thirty-Two Counties are not only an example of skill but a poignant reminder that while capitalism has imprisoned their bodies it has not broken their spirit and self respect.

The sale of these crafts supplies Comhairle Ceannair with the funds with which to support the prisoners dependants.

These two counties are not alone in their initiative to forge forward with a realistic bid to respond to the need of the Irish people.

Centres have been opened in other areas and many more counties hope to open their doors shortly.

WITHDRAWAL SIGNS

"THE WITHDRAWAL of the £35,000,000 subsidy to the Six Counties by the British Government comes as no surprise to Sinn Féin. It is part and parcel of the British Government's overall policy of economic and military withdrawal from Ireland.

Patricia Davidson, PRO, Clondarr Martyrs Cumann, Sinn Féin, Belfast, continues

"Sinn Féin has been reading these withdrawal signs over a long period of time. We have documented on previous occasions the numbers of firm closures and the downward trend of the economy of the Six Counties.

Withdrawal the only solution

"Our prophesy of the breakdown of the 'coalition talks' between the Official Unionists and the SDLP has come to pass. The British Government has now no other 'solutions' to impose and we fully believe that they are facing the reality of the real solution to the Irish question, withdrawal.

"The only things that remains to complete the scene is for the British Government to make public its declaration of withdrawal and on this they appear to be dragging their feet.

"We believe that once the British do declare their intention to leave the policies of the Republican Movement will take on a new dimension. The policy of Federalism at least offers all sections of the Irish people a chance to govern themselves in real terms. This policy is already being talked about by other parties, and it is a sensible and realistic solution to the problems surrounding our communities," she concluded.

Newry

Support for Political Prisoners

MARCH & RALLY

Monday, 9th August, 1976

Protest Against:-

- * Harsh conditions in the Prisons
- * Removal of Special Category Privileges
- * Forced segregation of prisoners
- * Forced wearing of prison garb by Political Prisoners
- * Forced prison labour for Political Prisoners
- * Confessions obtained by duress

Internment may have ended, but harassment and imprisonment of Irish patriots still goes on. Support your

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Assemble Camlough Road Roundabout at 7.30 p.m.
Rally at Margaret Square - Prominent Speakers.

Issued by Sinn Féin - Newry Prisoners' Action Committee.

Séan Doyle

Seán Doyle, Sinn Féin Councillor of the Enniscorthy Urban Council was elected, unanimously, Vice Chairman of the Council at its last meeting.



Joe Higgins, Tuam, manning Sinn Féin Service Centre in Eyre Square, Galway.

Sectarianism or just politics (2)

With the growth of manufacturing in and around Belfast and with the accompanying competition for employment, encouragement of religious rivalry and animosity again served a double purpose.

By granting "privilege" and priority to Protestant workers, the employers turned them into a docile and servile class, hampering the development of a militant trade union movement.

The Belfast employing class turned to accepting British rule and sectarian bigotry as their best assurance of social stability - for themselves.

Totally subservient

That explains the unique position of the Belfast working class as the only working class community in the history of European capitalism which has never produced an independent political movement of its own, and which is totally subservient to the politics and ideology of its own masters.

That also explains why the phenomenon of religious bigotry in north-east Ireland is inseparable from the political purpose of maintaining British rule and why no real steps can be made to eliminate it until the first steps are also taken to end British rule.

It explains also why religious bigotry, as a political doctrine, is the exclusive monopoly of the loyalist-Unionist side in the Six-Counties conflict and why all side aspects of it arise from the practice of sectarianism as an essential part of Unionist-British politics.

Because the "loyalist" movement has no political consciousness, apart from its obsession with "popery", its only idea of "political action" is to kill Catholics just because of their religion.

Even their "song books" glorify the killing of Catholics as an achievement in itself. Most purely sectarian murders in the Six Counties have been the work of "loyalist" killers.

In this sense, the Protestant working class "loyalists" could be compared with the poor whites of the southern United States, with their hatred of the blacks.

The Protestant working class,

to a large extent, has been poisoned with a type of racism that has reduced it to a confused, de-classed and disoriented community, the prey to the evil monster of sectarianism on which it was politically suckled.

Nationalist opportunists

That is not to deny that Nationalist politicians also have exploited the religious feelings of the Catholic people for opportunist reasons.

In conditions of extreme sectarian conflict, inevitably there occurs an occasional instance of reflex reaction in which a Protestant also is killed merely on account of his religion.

However, there is no political parallel on the Catholic side, in the way of anti-Protestant bigotry, to the predominant anti-Catholic ingredient that is the essence of Unionist doctrine, which is also linked inseparably with the cause of maintaining British rule.

The Republican Movement is a democratic one with the democratic aim of achieving self-determination for all the Irish people. Because it has a high degree of political consciousness and noble ideals, for which its volunteer members are willing to sacrifice their lives, it is opposed totally to sectarianism and deplores even "reflex reaction" instances of it.

Here, the most important fact of all must be recognised. Since the real nature of the sectarian conflict in the Six Counties cannot be understood apart from its relation to the system of British rule, only the Republican Movement offers a realistic path to eliminating that atrocious savagery and laying the foundations for reconciliation.

Guaranteed rights

While believing that much of the alleged "Protestant fears" of living in equality with their fellow countrymen are either irrational or based on ignorance, the Republican Movement believes that any religious minority in any independent state is entitled to built-in guarantees to protect its sectional interests as a religious

This is the final part of last week's article condensed from the Bulletin of the Irish Republican Information Service.

community. Although, following a British withdrawal, there would be little likelihood of a "Catholic ascendancy" replacing the "Protestant ascendancy" (because the ascendancy system itself was a device of imperial rule) the Protestant people would be justified in seeking firmer constitutional rights to protect them against any effort by any party in the future to discriminate against them as a religious minority.

The Republican programme, Éire Nua, provides the key to the ultimate elimination of sectarian conflict in the north-east, by simultaneously removing its two main sources.

The first and primary source is in the existence of British rule. With the withdrawal of British power from the area, the secondary and latent source, which may be said to lie in Protestant "fears", also can be overcome through the Republican proposal for the establishment of an Ulster regional government in a federated Ireland of four provinces.

This would guarantee a preponderance of Protestant influence in the Northern province and ensure that the Protestant people's rights as a religious minority always would be protected.

This is the only practical and realistic programme yet advanced during the present phase of the Northern conflict to guide the people of Ireland towards the elimination of the sectarian division for ever.

It is also an advanced and optimistic concept which contrasts sharply with the downright dishonesty of those Dublin politicians who talk endlessly about sectarianism and pretend to deplore it, while wilfully refusing to recognise its causes or advocate any move to eliminate them.

Support the fight for Political Status

OUTSIDE

Outside the clock strikes —
Half past the night.
Outside the wind moves between the
wire and wall,
The wall and wire —
blows higher.
Outside, heavy feet walk across the yard — the
guard.
Inside, like the butterfly in the cocoon,
the baby in the womb,
Body in the tomb — I am ...
Inside, a prisoner in the cell,
A very private well,
Outside, the clock strikes a quarter
to the rest of the night,
A quarter to the rest of my life.

—Dolours Price

Political Status in Armagh

I AM a 17-year-old Belfast girl at present being held on remand in 'A' Wing of Armagh Gaol — Altogether there are seven Republican prisoners in this wing of the gaol, we have the dubious honour of being the first Political Prisoners about to be tried, sentenced and categorised as "Criminals". On remand we are, in theory, "innocent until proven guilty" but British justice being what it is, and our conviction after a "fair" trial being an almost foregone conclusion, the screws are already taking delight in referring to us as "criminals".

When I first arrived in Armagh Gaol I was put into 'A' Wing with the Loyalist and Crims, (Special Category prisoners, our comrades, are now housed in 'B' Wing and we are segregated from them). I arrived confused and frightened, there was only one other Republican remand prisoner in 'A' Wing but at least two was a start and our mutual conditions together with our common ideals and principles forged a union from which we both drew strength. Gradually our numbers increased as other girls charged after March 1st came into the wing. After long discussions about the future and what it holds for us we decided that we must act now if we are to establish ourselves as "Political Prisoners" and gain our right to Special Category status after conviction. A stand had to be taken and we decided not to shrink from the fight no matter what hardship it may cost us. Naturally, our first action had to be a declaration that we would not associate with "criminals", this meant that we had to forgo the little comfort afforded by watching T.V. there being only one "association room" available in 'A' Wing and it being used by the criminals. Contact with the outside world being so restricted we allowed ourselves to use the association to watch the News only.

Having cut ourselves off from all other elements in the wing we found our own bands of comradeship strengthen and we realised that in unity we would always have strength — so far our determination to emphasise our difference from ordinary prisoners has won us an amount of segregation, we are now allowed the use of our "own" T.V. room between the hours of 5.30 p.m. — 8.30 p.m. each night, we have been moved "upstairs" to what is in effect our own "wing". Slowly but surely we are establishing the differences and the Authorities can do nothing else but recognise our status. As I have already said there are only seven of us on the wing but our comradeship is strong, our determination is unshakable and our endurance will see us through any hardship the British Government care to inflict on us.

Volunteer.

'A' Company, 'A' Wing, Armagh Gaol.

RELENTLESS STRUGGLE TO RETAIN

POL

Faoi ghlas

MICHAEL McLOUGHLIN is still in the hospital wing in Wormwood Scrubs, London, having ended his hunger-strike in early July. He and Paul Norney had been in solitary confinement since sent to the Scrubs, were not allowed to associate with anyone because they are Y.P.'s. They were allowed out of their cells for only three hours a day and had their radios taken off them because they refused to work.

Older P.O.W.'s fare even worse. They are locked up 23 hours a day and are allowed only half an hour exercise during the week. During the recent heat-wave the authorities condescended to give all the prisoners half an hour extra exercise to keep them cool.

McLoughlin has now been taken off the Cat. A list as he has only 18 more months left to serve and he has been promised that he will be moved to a prison where he can attend school and do examinations. Promises, promises ...

Long Lartin

Recently, when the screws decided to do their regular security-check (read wreck) of the cells, Roy Walsh objected to their

behaviour. As a result he was given seven days in the punishment-block. When the other political prisoners, including members of the Angry Brigade, heard about this they also kicked up a fuss and were given three days in the block for their insubordinate activities.

Winson Green

The date for the trial of the five held here has not been announced yet. The food continues to be inedible and the standards of the medical staff leaves much to be desired.

Most of them would not get a job sweeping the floor in any hospital outside not to mention a job in a medical capacity.

Letters in transit between the P.O.W.'s and their relatives in Ireland keep going "astray".

Brixton

Eddie Caughey, Birmingham, and John Higgins, Luton, are still remanded in custody. Police continue to oppose bail.

On the same day and in the same court as the two appeared recently a man was granted bail by the magistrates even though he was facing much more serious charges of armed robbery and attempted murder of policemen.

Being Irish, it seems, is a serious crime in this part of the world today.

The above's committal for trial was due to begin on July 21 at the Lambeth Magistrates Court.

Following publication of our recent report of the victimisation of Shane O'Docherty here by the warden he has been further victimised for it.

This has now become a regular occurrence for political prisoners in Britain. They are hauled over the coals for every expose in the Irish press of their ill-treatment by the British administration. Apparently one is not supposed to bite the hand that feeds (bites) them.

Here in Brixton P.O.W.'s are not allowed to go to the main chapel on Sundays to observe Mass. Instead they have to put up with a makeshift chapel in one of



Political Prisoners in Long Kesh doing their daily "Drill".



Some of the last "Internees" just before their release.



Sinn Féin Councillors Protest

The intimidatory and provocative tactics of Free State Authorities of late on members of the Sinn Féin organisation, as well as Republican prisoners in Portlaoise prison needs to be drawn to the attention of the general public. It is well known that the conditions in Portlaoise Jail are worse than in any prison since the Nazi Concentration Camps.

The intimidation of the prisons and those who try to visit them, wives, fathers, mothers and children, must be experienced to be believed. Every method of humiliation and provocation is used. The beatings, stripping naked, questioning and harassment of the prisoners is a continuous process. The limitation of visits, the need to make special application and the specification of the degree of kindness, could debar some prisoners from having any visits — and should a prisoner's family, through disagreement with the prisoner's national outlook, fail to apply for permission to visit him, then his best friend could not substitute as a visitor.

The stepping up of this persecution, following the recent bombings of the Special Criminal Court, brings back to the minds of older people "that leopards don't change their spots."

This punishment of prisoners has all the hallmarks of the old Cumann na nGael clique, the father and relations of the present young Fascists. Remember Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows, they were taken out of a Free State jail and shot as a reprisal, on instructions of the Cosgrave's Fitzgerald's and O'Higgins. The same tactics, short of the shootings, is carried today in the people's name, by the sons of those men with the concurrence of their so-called socialist bed-fellows.

The arrest and detention of members of the Sinn Féin organisation, the charging of Daithi O'Connell, vice-President of Sinn Féin, a second time with the same offence, to pacify the British, shows how low the Staters are prepared to go. With Joe O'Neill, an elected member of a Local Government Council, Daithi O'Connell, has been openly about Sinn Féin business up to the time of his arrest, and has not been interfered with.

It has also come to our notice, that untried Republican prisoners in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast, have been beaten up by the Authorities there. They are now following the lead of their Free State Gestapo counterparts, and Republican prisoners in England jails are also bearing the maltreatment of their hostile goalers.

This joint attack by the English and Free Staters show the determination of both regimes to strike at any Republican, whether he be political or physical force inclined. But let them remember that successive English and Free State Governments have tried these methods those who inflict most, but those who endure most, that eventually triumphs."

SIGNED: Paddy Ruane, member of Galway Co. Council; Frank Glynn, member of Galway Co. Council; Irene King, 58 Upper Newcastle, Galway; Jack Higgins, Tuam, Co. Galway; John Joe McGirl, member of Leitrim Co. Council; Tommie Gilroy, Cortober, Carrick-on-Shannon; Cathal Kelly, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim; Gerry Ginty, member of Ballina Urban Council; Liam Molloy, Bohola, Ballyhaunis; Peadar Murray, Newport, Co. Mayo; Aiden Tinsley, 9a, The Mall, Sligo; John Costelloe, Jayvee, Ballypheasant, Roscommon; and Dermot Mullooly, Kilturban, Strokestown; and Brian McHugh, 11 Temple Street, Sligo.

TICAL STATUS

ag Galaibh

From the prisoners in England

the cells, segregated from the non-political prisoners. A recent arrival here has been a serving British soldier, up for throwing a bomb into a pub in Portadown. Is it not a fact that one is supposed to be held near the scene of the crime for trial or is it that there is one law for the Brits and many laws against the Irish?

Wakefield

Things are very much the same with the regime here. P.O.W.s are penalised for every little infringement of the rules. Word is that der Kommandant, Deputy-Governor Gadd, is moving on to pastures new.

Some more information has come to light on the late, unwanted mercenaries, justly executed by the Angolans.

Both Costas Georgiou (Callan) and Ian McKenna, members of the psychopathic Paras, were on parole from Wakefield Jail for crimes committed whilst serving in Ireland. Justice is slow but it is sure.

There are several other members of their regiment also doing time here for similar offences. Future cannon-fodder for some African war, no doubt. All the British mercenaries in Angola had done time both in Ireland and in H.M. Prisons.

Promise by Jenkins

Roy Jenkins, at a meeting of a voluntary group concerned about prisoners, said that he had ordered a review of prison rules in an attempt to give prisoners greater self-respect, that they would respond to each prisoner's differing circumstances and needs.

We shan't hold our breath while waiting for this to happen. Such mouthing from the man responsible for the deaths of Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg is nauseating, to say the least.

Faoi Ghlas

H.M. Prison, Wakefield, Love Lane, Wakefield, York: A. Madigan, J. Mealey, R. Cunningham, M. Sheehan, E. Byrne, G. Conlon.

H.M. Prison, Hull, Hedon Rd., Hull, York: M. Brady, J. Duffy, P. Hill, G. Cunningham, R. McLoughlin.

H.M. Prison, Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs: J. Ashe, J. Coughlan, A. Lynch, E. O'Neill, R. Walsh, T. Rush, J. Kelly, P. Sheridan.

H.M. Prison, Gartree, Leicester Rd., Market Harborough, Leics: G. Young, S. Blake, P. Shortt, P. Mulryan, P. Holmes.

H.M. Prison, Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight: M. Murray, G. Small, K. Dunphy, A. Mulryan, C. McFadden.

H.M. Prison, Albany,

Newport, I.O.W. M. Coughlan, S. Campbell, J. McCuskey, W. Armstrong, L. McLarnon.

H.M. Prison, Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Rd., London W.12, P. Guilfoyle, J. Mella, R. McCartney, M. McLaughlin, P. Norrey.

H.M. Prison, Cambridge Road, Bristol: Rev. P. Fell, B. Dowd, N. Gibson.

H.M. Prison, Welford Road, Leicester: Sean Kinsella.

H.M. Prison, Walton, Liverpool: Stephen Nordone.

H.M. Prison, Durham, Old Elvet, Durham: Ann Gillespie, Eileen Gillespie.

On Remand

H.M. Prison, Winson Green, Birmingham: B. McLoughlin, P. Christie, D. Owen, M. O'Reilly, P. Toal.

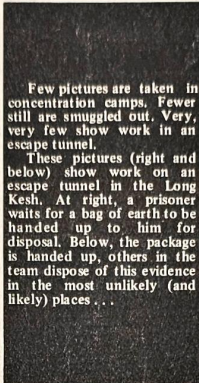
H.M. Prison, Brixton, London: E. Caughey, J. Higgins, S. O'Doherty, P. Hackett, J. Canavan, J. Murphy, J. Hayes, V. Donnelly, T. Cooper.

H.M. Prison, Wandsworth, London: E. Butler, H. Duggan, J. O'Connell, H. Doherty.

H.M. Prison, Holloway, London: Sarah Donnelly.

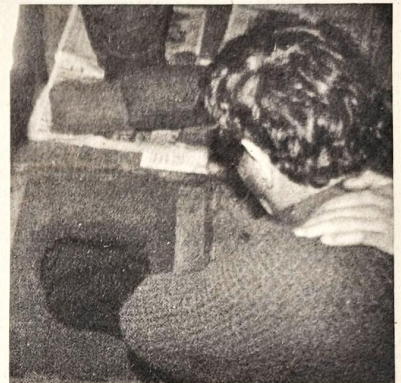
Birthdays

Jimmy Ashe (Long Lartin) birthday, July 30th; Stephen Nordone will be 21 on August 2 (Walton); Ray McLoughlin's birthday, August 8 (Hull).



Few pictures are taken in concentration camps. Fewer still are smuggled out. Very, very few show work in an escape tunnel.

These pictures (right and below) show work on an escape tunnel in the Long Kesh. At right, a prisoner waits for a bag of earth to be handed up to him for disposal. Below, the package is handed up, others in the team dispose of this evidence in the most unlikely (and likely) places...



Warders' attacks continue

AFTER the verdicts in the Birmingham warders trial, it must now be glaringly clear to everyone how much value there is in English justice, which has always claimed to be so fair and impartial.

Only the very naive would have returned such a verdict. After all, the bombs trial judge had already condemned these men and the prison doctor, whom he described as "not fit to practice".

As a relation of one of the men I suppose I couldn't expect anything else after past experience.

All these men have always claimed their innocence, but they still have to take savage beatings, such as that in Winson Green Prison.

My brother has been attacked twice since his first beating. I am now very concerned that these attacks will be stepped up, and indeed become frequent because of this verdict.

It is very obvious now that no Irish political prisoner is safe from beatings from any quarter. All we can do is pray for their protection.

—Relative,

Belfast, 11.

Motion

AT the July monthly meeting of the Thomas Gibson Cumann Sinn Féin, Portlargo, Co. Laois, a motion condemning the inhuman conditions in Portlargo Jail was unanimously passed.

The Cumann called for a Public Enquiry into present conditions of Republican Prisoners in Portlargo and Limerick jails.

Further, they called on the "Free" State authorities to restore visiting and all other facilities recently denied to the Prisoners in Portlargo.

—S. McCabe,

P.R.O.

Dates to be Remembered

THE history of the Irish people moreso than the history of any other Nation abounds with "dates to be remembered" — We could probably claim to have an event of significance for every day of the years, leap years and all, perhaps even two for Sundays but one date that takes pride of place amongst all others must be the 9th of August, '71, the day Internment came — The day it became a reality and the struggle became an open fight — A Revolution.

Sitting today as I do in Armagh Gaol and casting my mind and eye back over the past five years (can it really be so long ago?!), I cannot help but wonder what the next five or fifty, come to that, holds in store for us all, we the Republican Movement, you, the people of Ireland, and always in my moments of searching and philosophising I see the 9th of August as a marker on our weary road to freedom. — A personal marker as the day of total commitment to the Republican Movement and a National marker as the day the Irish people rose up en masse in spontaneous revulsion at the use of Internment without trial as a means to suppress the natural desire of a people for self-determination.

The folly that was Internment is now all too obvious, the aftermath of it's introduction, — the increase in recruitment to the Movement, and the stepping up of the

campaign, — were not what the British had hoped to achieve. They had hoped, by one fell swoop, to reduce the Republican Movement to it's knees, crush it, once and for all, and to intimidate the Irish people into subjection. Certainly they figured without the anger of the people. It was the combined forces of the Irish Republican Army and the ordinary people that eventually saw the downfall of Stormont and it is the same combination of people and Volunteers that will be needed to rid our country of the curse that is British Imperialism.

Slow to learn though the Brits are, learn they do, and from the disaster that was Internment they have learnt what is for them, a very important lesson — Separate the Republican Movement from the people by lies, by sabotage, by sectarian killing, by using S.A.S. murder gangs and you can begin to think about defeating the Irish people. Internment was ended not because the British Government suddenly became conscience struck, not even because they felt embarrassed in the eyes of the world but it was ended merely as a "New Tactic" — Too many people were protesting, too many people were lending their support to the struggle, too many people were angry — The corrupt system in any country exists in fear of the anger of the masses, a mass movement

can achieve all things, realising this the Brits ended Internment, like turning the valve off on a pressure cooker.

Internment did not empty the Gaols, although the Brits would like to give the impression it did, in fact there are many more political prisoners in British and Irish Gaols now than there ever were Interned.

In effect what has happened is that the British have turned to the old tactics of fake charges, fit-ups and false evidence in order to put Republicans in prison, much nearer for them to use the "legal" processes than the emotive method of Internment. Drawing confidence from the deflated mood of the people after Internment was "ended" they then proceed to tell us that special category status for Political Prisoners will go. — It remains to be seen whether or not their tactics will work, they depend on the people not reacting, not seeing through their sham of "legalised" Internment. If the British Government succeed in their policy of filling their Gaols with Republicans on any falsified pretext, while the mass of people remain silent, then it cannot be said that Internment was a complete failure as a tactic for the British Government. They will have learnt, at least, that to divide can mean to conquer. We must not be divided now because we refuse to be conquered.

By Political Prisoner, Armagh Jail.

Republican News Answers "Freeman"

Note that Freeman speculates on what he *could* say of our previous reply, and doesn't actually say it, hoping that the juxtaposition of suggestions is carried without him having to defend them.

Note that Freeman, despite a paternalistic attempt at reasonableness and the comment that we were merely "scolding" him for saying something, has changed his language and has dropped the terms, "Two Irish States", "Ulster Settlement", "Ulster British". He occasionally refers to "Northern Ireland" but more regularly interchanges the term "Northeastern Ireland". Had he not been corrected the use of reformist terms no doubt would have continued.

Note that Freeman argues in the first person but when it comes to persuasion he resorts to the mandate of the plural: "we know", "we meet them", "we here in Dublin (sic) accept this", "we don't complain".

What Freeman wrote about on June 25th of **THE IRISH TIMES** OF AN INDEPENDENT NORTH was remarkably similar to an "Opinion" column, signed Desmond Fennell, which appeared in the **IRISH TIMES** a few months ago. Similar partitionist views were propagated in that article, which in the pages of that paper quite naturally escaped the wrath of Republican journalists. But reformism cannot be tolerated in an official organ of the Republican Movement, and we shall spell out that it is only from an ideological reformist base that any talk of an independent North can find acceptability.

Freeman's reply, which doesn't answer at least half our original attack, is a selective re-hash of his Independence aberration.

Number 1. Second paragraph - "These people". This tone of grammar, this meaning of grammar, is written from an isolationist unrelated point of view. This should read "Our People", but to do that would make nonsense of the remainder of his logic since "Our People" would force him into an Irish Republican subactivity. Freeman couldn't labour under such a shackle from a non-Republican article.

Thus from Freeman's comment that one of the war aims is "recognition of their Irish nationality and the right to cultivate and display their Irishness" positively shows that 1. he hasn't a clue of what we're at (since all Irish Republicans in the country KNOW their Irish and aren't going to preoccupy themselves in a wasteful demand), and 2. he equates existence under the Free State regime as concomitant to Irish nationalist recognition.

His accusation that REPUBLICAN NEWS shows no interest in the affairs or struggles of Connacht and Munster rings a bit hollow when the pages of *An Phoblacht* (which physically is in a better position of reporting on these areas) aren't exactly excited with

provincial matters, apart from NOTEBOOK. However, since the Republican Movement claims to have an operative presence in the whole 32-Counties it is ultimately responsible for political activity, which we see as sadly lacking.

But that *Republican News* has done is to feature articles outlining strategies for the mobilisation of the working-class and peasant farmers in the Free State. In late May in an article entitled "Agitate, Educate, Liberate" we said:

"If the people involved in the armed struggle within the Northern war zone are not to be let down at the end of the day, Republican living in the Twenty-Six Counties must get themselves involved in arousing the national consciousness of our people in that part of our country. To do this we need to exploit the situation which has been created, at England's bidding, by the Free State Government".

Furthermore, and in answer to Freeman's naive question to have "these people" really been struggling for.

We cannot really expect Republicans from, for example, Wexford or Galway, to come north to shoot Brits on the Falls Road. That is for Republicans from the Falls to do; but we can expect them to go on active service in their own areas, in Galway or Wexford, showing a lead to people and linking the local problems where they belong - at the Government's door and as part of the National Question. We can expect them to agitate and to link their agitation with the struggle for National Freedom and liberation because we are intent on establishing a new society in Ireland and because we want a Socialist Republic, not a thirty-two County Free State.

Freeman fails to see that the 1968 struggle has taken on much different proportions, embracing now the whole country. It is pointless continuing to debate with this reformist since fundamental differences divide us.

However, in respect of the Unionist numerical majority: their majority nor their consent isn't as decisive a factor as the resistance of the paramilitary right-wing which claims to be part of the dubious Unionist monolith. The sated middle-classes would accept our victory in the expectation of prosperity.

In answer to Freeman's question, *Republican News* does support and has promoted federalism. But as political observers we recognise the danger that an over-promotion of an Ulster Parliament without a corresponding promotion of the other Provinces would inevitably lead to a disparate Ulster/Free State division (as an apparent Republican aim) rather than the Federal position we seek.

Or perhaps to Freeman that is no danger but something discussible and well worth thinking about?

THE SOCIETY OF RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF POLITICAL HOSTAGES DERRY

IN view of the reaction in English circles to the result of the Angolan Mercenaries trial we would ask that they look inward at their "Home Situation" where Irish Political Hostages are concerned.

It has been fully documented that these prisoners exist under horrific conditions, both mental and physical whilst the effect on their immediate relatives is also of immense proportions.

Statistic Beatings by Warders, Solitary Confinement i.e. 23 hours per day in cells - Their jailers would have us believe this is for their own good.

Lack of sleep because of constant "Security Checks" throughout each and every night. Degrading strip searches when the spirit moves their jailers.

Degrading strip search going to and coming from the few visits which they are permitted to have.

This is prison life in England as experienced by Irish Prisoners. Knowing as they do, the conditions under which the prisoners exist, there is a constant strain imposed on their parents and friends, added to this is the tremendous problem for those and there are many domiciled in Ireland who wish to visit Father, brother, husband or daughter as

the case may be. In terms of time and money it is something of a nightmare for them. Again, if they manage to make this trip, the reception is extremely hostile and they too are subjected to the strip search law.

The fear is with these relatives, and many more besides, that others may feel compelled to follow the path to freedom from this unhuman tyranny chartered by Michael Gaughan and Frank Slagg.

Has this to be the way? We say no, that these prisoners must be repatriated at this moment in time. There can be no double talk from the English Home Office of refusing to howl to the blackmail of Hunger Strikers etc. as they have done previously. Dozens of precedents have been created in the two way transfer of prisoners. This is fully illustrated by written answer to questions on the subject in Westminster itself. Repatriate now.

We enclose a copy of the answer sent to a worried Derry woman who sought repatriation for her son. You readers can best judge this masterpiece of bureaucratic say-nothing, remembering that human beings are involved, with all that it implies.

-M. McLoughlin.

HOME OFFICE
89 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1PU
Telephone 01-828 9848

Mrs. M.M. McLoughlin
8 Sloans Terrace,
Derry
Northern Ireland

Our Reference
PDM 11412/1/1
18th May, 1976

Dear Mr. McLoughlin,

I am replying to your recent letter to the Home Secretary about your son.

I appreciate your concern about your son and sympathise with your difficulties in visiting him. Your request that he be transferred to a prison in Northern Ireland has been considered in the light of these and all other relevant factors, but I am afraid that it has not been found possible to grant it.

Yours sincerely,
J.C.G. Evans.



Derry City Picket in support of Political Status

Letter from Amagh

DEAR Sir, - May I use your columns to inform the public of the conditions we are subjected to each week in order to make an appearance at Belfast Magistrates court.

We leave Amagh Gaol at 9.00 a.m. to make the hour long journey to Belfast in a police transit. The numbers caged in the van vary from two to five girls going on our one day for appearance in court. The van we are transported in has no means of ventilation, the windows are completely blocked out and by

the end of our hour's endurance test the air in this confined space is putrid. To be sick in this semi-dark, airless tomb means the discomfort, not only of yourself, but also of the unfortunate fellow prisoners who may be travelling with you. The convoy stops for nothing and no-one! It is not unknown for a girl to be court to make an appearance in court at the end of this gruelling journey. The townhall street we are accommodated in bare, seatless cells, the other cells may be occupied by Loyalists, criminals or unfortunate drunks and prostitutes. There are as many as 150 male and female prisoners in the cells below court, the atmosphere has to be experienced to be believed! Verbal abuse is common place both from Loyalist prisoners and R.U.C. members, dirt and filth abounds and needless to say the toilet facilities are nothing short of a nightmare, three toilets to serve every prisoner, male or female, the risks to health from such conditions are all too obvious.

"Lunch" is given to us in unclean containers, usually cold chips and sausages, the surroundings are certainly not conducive to raising an appetite and we are reluctant to inflict our stomachs with such inedible fare. (We must remember we have the return journey still to make!) Our actual time spent "in court" may only be two minutes but in all we spend as much as six hours in the cells, (our escort from the gaol find it a pleasant excuse for a days shopping in Belfast).

Shopping completed, the screws and police escort take us from the cells at four-thirty for the return journey to Amagh. Mentally and physically exhausted, hungry because we have been unable to eat since eight o'clock in the morning we are presented with a piece of cold toast and a lump of cheese for our "tea" when we arrive back at the prison. Our request for a hot cooked-meal is always refused. We have made numerous complaints about these conditions, the Prison Governor tells us that once we leave the prison we are in "police custody" and therefore he has no power to act on our behalf concerning these conditions, yet he does experience some authority in his own kitchen it would be expected, why not allow us a hot meal after such a harrowing experience!! We have brought our complaints to the Medical staff, to the prison Visitors and to the R.U.C. at Townhall Street, all to no avail. We can expect this weekly nightmare for as long as nine months or more, "remand in process" being such a long drawn out process. To whom do we turn for help in improving these terrible conditions we must suffer, may we ask you to speak up on our behalf as we are constantly coming up against brick walls!

Volunteers,
"A" Company, "A" Wing, Amagh Gaol.

Cork Support

THE following protests were organised by the Comhairle Ceantair. On Friday the 18th June, a picket was placed on the Fine Gael rooms in Cork City. Liam Burke was in attendance at the time. The picket was well supported by the Tony Ahern and Dermot Crowley Cumann and the McSwiney Cumann of Sinn Féin. On Friday the 25th a picket was placed on the Fine Gael rooms where Peter Barry was in attendance. On Saturday the 26th June, a picket was also placed on the hall. These protests were supported by members of Ahern Crowley, McSwiney, McCurtain and Brian Dillon Cumann.

These protests were to highlight the very bad conditions in which our prisoners were forced to live under in Port Laoise, Limerick and Mountjoy.

Is mise,

Eilis de Barra

Kesh Support

We, the Republican Prisoners of War, LONG KESH, demand that not only Political Status, fought for and acknowledged by the British as a fact of life, be retained for our Comrades at present suffering intolerable indignities in Crumlin Road Prison and Armagh Jail, but that also our Comrades in English Prisons be repatriated to Ireland away from the brutalities heaped upon them by a corrupt establishment. Furthermore, we wish to express our solidarity with the protest action of our Comrades in Garret Prison, presently refusing visits because of the degrading treatment being meted out to themselves and their families.

CAMPAIGN OF REVENGE

THE LOUTH Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin view with grave concern the recent brutalities inflicted on defenceless and unarmed Republican Political Prisoners including the use of a bed and clothing and who are compelled to eat their uneatable meals on the floor of their cells like pigs in a pigsty which constitutes a health hazard.

The Sinn Féin Organisation in Co. Louth are of the opinion that the prison and Garda authorities have engaged on a campaign of revenge and hostilities against Republican Prisoners.

Following the weekly visits to Portlaoise by relatives of Republican prisoners on Saturday the 17th of July, they were shocked and horrified to see the conditions that their husbands and sons were in, whom appeared to be on the point of starvation and badly run down for the lack of proper food and sleep and had severe

facial body injuries inflicted on them.

Apart from the brutalities being inflicted on the Prisoners they are being deprived of all prison facilities including the use of a bed and clothing and who are

compelled to eat their uneatable meals on the floor of their cells like pigs in a pigsty which constitutes a health hazard.

The prisoners are also being subjected to a no-rest and sleep campaign by members of the prison and Garda staff who come on duty prisoners at all hours in the morning and night. Apart from this and other hostilities being inflicted on Republican Prisoners from Co. Louth and Armagh, they are being stripped naked and are being sexually assaulted by the prison authorities and prison doctors.

After the recent escape by Republicans from the Special Criminal Court, the escapees,

when caught were savagely beaten by members of the Special Branch and prison staff who also subjected them to Russian Roulette with blank bullets.

Following these reports to members of the Louth Comhairle Ceantair by relatives of the political prisoners in Port Laoise from Co. Louth, Sinn Féin placed pickets on the home of the Fine Gael Senator Markey in Ardee last Sunday, who called these men (who are in prison on the heresy evidence of a Garda, "murderers, thugs, gangsters, rapists, and unfit to mix with the general public).

The premises of the AOH hall Dundalk where Mr. Paddy Dundalk the Twenty-Six County Minister for Defence was in attendance was picketed by members of Sinn Féin and relatives of the Political Prisoners from Dundalk who are in Port Laoise Prison.

They later went on a deputa-tion to see Mr. Donegan, who has a good reputation for shooting at Travelling People who stray on his land, to highlight the recent conditions in Port Laoise, when a written reply was demanded to the conditions in Port Laoise.

Donegan was also asked why members of the clergy were refused admission to see the prisoners in Port Laoise and he replied and said "that many members of the clergy are as bad as the men in prison for carrying and using guns."

The Louth Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin demand that the Twenty-Six County Government be made responsible to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg for their actions against Republican Political Prisoners.

- Andrew Corbett.
P.R.O. Louth Comhairle Ceantair.

The tatters of Fianna Fail 'republicanism'

I AM writing to illustrate (or to attempt to illustrate) the political state of mind in the "Free" State of the average person, illustrated in three commonly held remarks.

First: "We don't need republicanism. We are all free. Fianna Fail are the republicans."

Second: "Who wants the North? Isn't it part of Britain?"

Third: "The Provos use violence. We're not violent here. If we get the North, we'll get it at the conference table."

We do need republicanism. It was republicanism that got even the limited freedom of the 26 Counties. We are not free. We are being slung on the dole by Ryan and his crowd. Anybody who proposes an alternative to the fascist system is persecuted by Cooney and Donegan. Fianna Fail proved its 'republicanism' in 1969.

Who wants the North? Comolly did. So did Barry, Tone, Emmet and others praised in the drunken songs of free-staters. Saying the North is part of Britain is like saying that Mozambique is part of Portugal.

So Republicans use violence? If somebody has a suggestion for a more effective way of getting the Brits out of Ireland, let us hear from him.

—Bemused onlooker (name and address supplied), Rinn Mhig Choighligh, Tir Chonail.

ALL WANT PEACE

BRITAIN, let us remember, had one-fifth of the globe under her apron lash, once. Now, the remaining part of that mighty one-time Empire is nearing an end and none too soon. The pound continues to decline. Yet the Dublin government is hanging on to Mother England like a child hanging on to its mother's apron.

COMHBHON

The Enright-O'Sullivan Sinn Féin Cumann, Lios Tuathail, Co. Ciarraí, wishes to express sincere sympathy with the father, mother and sister of Patrick (Paid) Galvin, Lhanes, Lisselton, Co. Chiarraí, who died recently, following an accident.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Seamas O Fiannuachain, Rural.

Comhairle Chuipe Commacht wishes to express deep sympathy with the wife, and family of the late Mr. Derek Highted, don, R.J.P.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

East Mayo Comhairlecheantar Sinn Féin extends deep sympathy to the wife, and family of the late Mr. Derek Highted, London, R.J.P.

Brendan and Frances Magill and family, extend their deepest sympathy to the wife and family of their beloved comrade, Derek Highted.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Please keep your letters as short as possible. Write (or, preferably, type) on one side of paper, leaving space between lines and a generous margin left and right. Full names and addresses should be given in most cases, though not necessarily for publication. The most effective letter is brief, making just one point.

strings.

Mother England has no strings to hold on to now. She got one-fifth of the globe through violence. Men of violence are holding on to the Six North-Eastern counties by force (or, if you wish, by violence).

They are holding on by the might of thousands of troops ("peace-keepers"); they have no right to do so and never had. The people of Ireland (32 Counties), Protestants and Catholics, can and will live in peace when allowed to create a 32-counties government.

The Catholic clergy tell us to pray for peace. Why not tell us to pray for the ousting of the root of the trouble, the British army?

For one, and thousands like me, don't want to see killings or civil war. I was only a schoolboy during the last civil war but I remember what it was like and, to this day, there is a certain amount of hatred amongst neighbours, even families.

This we do not want. The O'Duffy movement also caused bad feelings. When that movement failed he got young Irishmen to go to Spain to fight on the side of Franco, another dictator.

During the last world war and in others before it men who fought bravely on Britain's side were given medals. Why then does Britain look on others who are fighting for their country as criminals?

I was sorry to hear of children getting killed. But, during the last war, British, German, French, Russian, and many other children were slaughtered. That's war, unfortunately, for those not involved.

Even in a brawl an innocent person can get hurt, even killed. As I write this the 26 Counties are being crippled by a bank strike and, as anyone who followed it up a few weeks prior to the strike could see, the Dublin Government didn't do enough to avert it.

Now, people, especially parents of young families are on the verge of starvation because no one is willing to cash their cheques, little though they are.

It was the government's duty to bring a settlement; but I suppose it was a case of "I'm alright Jack".

No thought for the electorate who voted them into office. I'm sure they won't want to worry about getting their cheques cashed.

—Sean Shaw, Corseigh.

THE REFORMIST

I FEEL compelled to address your readers in regard to some of the recent statements made by the Republican Club ("Official I.R.A.") groupings. They seem to be reaching a new height in their hypocrisy.

In these statements they have gone to great lengths to condemn

the alleged sectarianism of the Provos, yet a self confessed "volunteer" in their organisation was convicted of the murder of a mentally retarded 16-year-old Protestant hardly an enemy of the working class.

They condemn the Provo campaign in Britain as directed against the working class, yet an operation, sanctioned and claimed by their leadership, killed several women cleaners and a priest at Aldershot. Were these cleaners not a part of the working class they claim solidarity with?

They endlessly denounce the Provos, as (to use their own monotonous cliché) "mindless reactionaries"; yet those who were their comrades one day were enemies the next and some of these former comrades paid with their lives because of a desire to pursue the policies which the "Officials" were unwilling to follow.

They claim and have convinced themselves that they are revolutionaries, voicing support for armed revolution throughout the world yet refusing to recognise it on their own doorstep.

The call, in their statements, for a reformed six-counties police force, a reformed system of local government, a reformed constitution for the fake state of "Northern Ireland", incorporating a Bill of Rights, and express allegiance to the middle class Alliance Party.

Are these the desires of true revolutionaries or the begging pleas of reformist quinkings? It is, perhaps, best to let everyone answer this question himself.

—Aiden McAteer, Cage Nine, Campa Cluain Cheis.

SCOT'S GRIEF

I HAVE just read of the untimely death of Derek Highted and would like to convey my condolences, through you, to the Republican Movement and to Derek's relatives.

I had an opportunity to work with Derek just over two years ago, in the Irish Political Hostages campaign in London. I got to like him very much and to admire his quiet, steady character, and the hard work he devoted to the cause of Ireland.

As a Scotsman and a Marxist I came to learn that his Irish Republicanism was based on a broad sympathy for the cause of oppressed humanity.

Humanity can ill afford the loss of men such as Derek.

—Bob Purdie, Fife, Albain.

SDLP HYPOCRISY

LAST WEEK, with the forced abduction of two men from the 26 Counties area, to the Six Counties, by members of the British armed forces, an interesting thought not unexpected fact emerged.

In "The Irish Times" of July 14, it states quite clearly that for over a year and until very recently, members of the S.D.L.P. sat on the local so-called "Security Committee".

Here we have in black and white yet another example of the double-talk, back-starring, hypocritical actions of this politically bankrupt party.

While they have in public tried to retain a policy of non-acceptance of and hostility to the R.U.C. and British army, they

have been, in reality, actively helping in their oppression of the nationalist people of Newry.

It seems only like yesterday when Sean Hollywood used to make up sarcastic tunes about the sectarian R.U.C. yet here we have irrefutable evidence that this local organisation has collaborated actually with the same forces which now harass, terrorise and, in many instances, have murdered the nationalist community.

The S.D.L.P. has once again proven conclusively its willingness to accept power and prestige rather than stand up for the rights of these people whom they claim to represent.

They have become institutionalised, totally swallowed up by the processes they espoused originally.

Collaboration with the forces which oppress will result only in their destruction as a political group. As with Redmond and his party in 1918 they are doomed to virtual extinction.

—Brendan Curran, On behalf of Newry POWs, Campa Cluain Cheis.

WHO LOVES YOW?

HERE, the press is muffled. All liberties are lost. Freedom of assembly in peaceful demonstration which commemorated the Easter Rising on its jubilee draws threats of imprisonment, with further outlook being "free lodgings at the tax-payers' expense".

Cringe to Cosgrave's dictates or Cooney will have you beaten into the ground. You well know when you are put behind the thick wired meshes of Portlaoise's notorious dungeons you will get daily reminders that Republican prisoners have no rights.

Leinster House and the T.D.'s are on a four months' holiday spree. Where are they likely to cash their cheques during the bank strike?

I'm forgetting: haven't they sidelines such as stud farms? Executive positions and fingers in so many pies.

The Irish workers' wages increases have been frozen. VAT on essentials is to be increased. There are so many charms such as these to endear people to keep the drones in office in Leinster House. People get a government which they deserve.

In a police state you grin and bear it. You knuckle under. Live horse and you will get grass. But, as for food, an artificial shortage is being created by a government which is committed to cherish all its children equally. Slavery stalks this island and you accept it silently.

The British lion still dominates this land and quinkings quake. The poison is more deadly ere the beast dies. Be silent. Old Britannia loves us still.

—Una Toal, Dún Dealgan.

I NOTED with disgust that Mr. Cosgrave ordered our National Flag to be flown at half mast from all Government buildings following the death of the British Ambassador. He also was first to sign the book of condolence.

When the SAS owned up to

murdering the late Peter Cery, and Seamus Ludlow's body was found in a ditch, also when volunteer Thomas Smith was shot by Free State soldiers in Portlaoise prison, Mr. Cosgrave did not then order our National Flag Down at half mast nor did he send any message of condolence to their families or offer a £20,000 reward for the apprehension of these murderers.

It is quite evident that there exists in this Country separate laws for the rich and the poor.

When the Irish people elected Mr. Cosgrave to power they were of the opinion that he was interested only in the welfare of this nation, and not grovelling to the dictates of the British crown.

—P.R.O., High Wycombe.

Our special thanks to Maurice Breen for Hemel Hempstead who donated a gent's watch for the raffle.

It was also great to welcome so many people from Wycombe itself.

We look forward to our next dance in the not-too-distant future.

—P.R.O., High Wycombe.

Another successful dance was held in High Wycombe recently and as a result, a substantial cheque was forwarded to Green Cross.

Coaches and mini-buses brought friends from all over the Home Counties as well as Harrow and Hayes.

We would like to thank them all ver sincerely for travelling so far to support us.

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The official policy of the Republican Movement is expressed in statements issued by Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau and the Leadership of Republican Movement. Views expressed here, by letter writers, by regular columnists and in other signed contributions, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the publishers.

Variety Ballad Session

in Greyhound Bar

Balivor Co. Meath

on Friday, August 6.

featuring The Fenian Folk

in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach

Admission 50p

9p.m. - 11.30p.m.

JOIN SINN FEIN

Those in the Finglas South area wishing to join Sinn Féin, please contact:

Bernard Keating
10 Valeview Drive,
Finglas South,
Baile Átha Cliath.

TOMMY McDAID

OF STRABANE

Tastee-Eats Cafe
2, Marlborough Tce., Bray,
Co. Wicklow.

When near Dublin visit the Tastee-Eats Cafe, Bray
Good Irish Food - Customs
Irish - Feeling - Like the old
Ireland we knew.

GOOD WISHES

Wishing the Barney Casey Commemoration, Longford, on August 1st, and the Kevin Cohen Commemoration, Riverstown, on August 29th every success, from the National Graves Association, Co. Leitrim.

LOW PRICES ALL WELCOME

SINN FEIN

August for our prisoners

ACT EVERY DAY IN EVERY PARISH
AND LET THE NATION KNOW THE TRUTH

Your Weapons: Pickets, demonstrations, morality plays, letters, lobbies, leaflets, booklets, journals, poems, posters, songs, ballads, music, cartoons, humour.

INVOLVE PEOPLE AT EVERY LEVEL
IN THIS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Ó Bradaigh defies Rees ban

RUAIRÍ Ó Brádaigh, uachtarán, Sinn Féin, was served with an expulsion order from the Northern Gaultier, Mervyn Rees, on Friday last, July 30, taken to the border at Aghnacloy by a contingent of R.U.C. and handed over to a military escort.

His car had been held in Aghnacloy since his arrest 10 days earlier and it was waiting him at the British checkpoint. He got into it and crossed into the Twenty-Six Counties.

He told newsmen in Monaghan town later that a RUC inspector who had accompanied him to the border had warned him that if he crossed the border into the Six Counties again, and was caught, he could face up to five years in jail.

"I will not be kept out of the Six Counties," he told newspapermen in Monaghan. "Neither Mr. Rees nor the British government will keep me out of any part of my own country. I intend to defy the expulsion order."

Pre-exdates Border

"I am president of Sinn Féin," he added, "a political organisation which pre-dates

the Border and there are more than 100 Sinn Féin cummáin in the Six Counties.

"As an Irishman, I do not accept the right of Mr. Rees to expel from any part of my own country."

The Sinn Féin leader declined to go into details of how he had been treated by the military and the RUC during his detention. Such details would be given at a news conference this week.

He did disclose, however, that he had been subjected to three interrogation sessions in Lisnakea, where he was arrested, and five in Castlereagh, to which he was taken by helicopter.

Did not sign

The expulsion order had been served on him at 16.00 hours the previous Monday. He had had 96 hours to sign his acceptance of it or to appeal against it.

He had refused to sign or appeal as he did not recognise the right of the British to decide who should or should not visit any part of Ireland, including the Six Counties.

"Laws and institutions the world over," he said, "change before the progress of mankind and English laws and institutions in Ireland will not escape that change."

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh was arrested on July 21, after attending a funeral in Raheny, Dublin, and on his way to another, that of Derek Highstead. With him at the time was Sean Ó Ciaráin, who was released when Ruairí was taken away by helicopter to Castlereagh.

The Sinn Féin president is the second person to be excluded by Rees from the Six Counties. The first was an ex-internee.

Church and State Hypocrisy

POLITICIANS were to the forefront last week in the spate of sought-for condemnations on the assassination of the British Ambassador, followed right on the heels by the "Establishment is right at all times" Princes of the Church!

And how the State-run RTE made use of them. Their words were drummed in our ears by the hour in a massive attempt to brain-wash the Irish people into a sense of shame few of them really felt.

No mention, of course, that nobody in the British media called for shame by the British people after the massacre of 13 innocent people in Derry. In the words of one Bishop, that was in the past and should be forgotten.

Politicians did not like to be reminded that not one of them had the guts to object when Frank Stagg was cruelly murdered in a British prison cell or call for a nation's shame for the hounding to death of a man over a long period of agony.

Nor did one Prince of the church condemn the vandalism of Frank Stagg's body by the Leinster House politicians and the disgraceful and unchristian scenes attending his burial.

The blood of Irishmen, women and children has been let in the Six Counties and in Britain by the British Establishment without a word of protest from the aristocracy of the Church or State of the Twenty-Six Counties.

So how can one believe the sincerity of their outpourings last week? Were they really concerned about violence or was it only because it was one of their own class that was one of the victims?

Reluctantly, because one is speaking about the representatives of God on earth in the case of the Bishops, one can only come to the conclusion that the latter was the motivation.

Otherwise there would be an outcry from these very same people when the inhabitant of a Six County city ghetto dies violently, regardless of whose hand perpetrated the deed.

But there is no blanket condemnation, no widow of such a victim gets prime viewing time on RTE to pronounce her grief to the nation and the politicians and Bishops avert their eyes and pretend it didn't happen.

Our society is sick - yes! But the sickness is more evident in the well-appointed homes of our politicians and the palaces of the Princes of the Church than it is in houses of the ordinary people.

Violence is being used by the Establishment against helpless Irish prisoners in Britain, the Six Counties and the Twenty-Six Counties even as this article is being written.

Arrogant politicians tell anyone who dares to complain or seek a public inquiry into this brutality to go to hell.

Show me one Establishment Minister or Church Bishop who has condemned this and I will gladly devote a whole article to his praise and say a dozen Hail Marys for him into the bargain.

And don't tell me they have condemned these practices in Russia - I'm talking about here, Ireland circa 1976!

The daughter of a friend of mine is going abroad and qualifies for both a British and Irish passport. Although she has no love for the Brits she chose a British passport.

Asked why, she answered: "Well, when you look at what has happened to Irish citizens in England and Europe and the fact that the Irish Government has abandoned them and you look at the British reaction even to proven Mercenary murderers, what would you do? I want a passport that will give me some protection when I'm abroad."

What a verdict by a teenager on the politicians of the Twenty-Six Counties - and on the standing our country has among the nations of the world!

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

SUNDAY, JULY 25.

Derry: A Brit patrol was engaged by an A.S.U. of Oghlin and a prolonged burst of automatic gun fire forced the Brits to drive for cover.

Belfast: A fierce gun battle took place at Ardoyne. Over 20 shots were fired at the Brits and fire was returned.

In Belfast firemen spent more than six hours fighting a huge blaze started in the building yard of H. & J. Martin Ltd. on the Ormeau Road.

Shortly before dawn yesterday five youths were arrested after a crowd attacked a Brit patrol near the city centre when troops tried to check the identity of two people.

Newry: There were angry exchanges between residents of

O'Neill Avenue and a Brit Patrol.

Later a woman was admitted to hospital suffering from shock and her son received treatment for a cut on the head.

A fire caused by an incendiary device, swept through the Plain and Pretty boutique in Hill Street, causing damage to the interior.

Shortly afterwards a second fire was reported at the London Mantle clothing warehouse in Margaret Square. The building was gutted, but there was no structural damage.

MONDAY, JULY 26.

Portadown: A 50 year old Catholic became the latest victim in the now infamous "Murder Triangle". Local sources were in no doubt that it was the work of a Loyalist Assassination Squad. The dead was named as Francis McNeice.

Derry: Infuriated Brits at Ebrington Barracks had hardly got over the shock of Derry Provos breaking their top security network and planting a bomb, which caused the death of a Brit soldier, when the Provos did it again!!!

They planted it right smack in the middle of the main administration block. Whilst embarrassed Brit Chiefs blamed each other over these latest "security flops", bomb experts defused the device.

Belfast: Smyth and McClure's Supermarket on the Lisburn Road was damaged after a bomb exploded. The bomb was delivered by a man and a woman.

A shop in Wellington Place was badly damaged after an incendiary device exploded.

TUESDAY, JULY 27.

Newcastle: A bomb placed on the front window ledge of the Brook Cottage Hotel, Bryansford Ave., exploded shortly after midnight.

There were no injuries as the area had been cleared following an anonymous phone call, but the police say the hotel was extensively damaged.

Derry: After two youths were arrested by Brits in the Creggan area, over a hundred people took to the streets in protest. Barri-

cades were erected. After several hours the two youths were released.

A Brit foot patrol came under sniper attack in the Eastway area of the City.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28.

Derry: A Brit was shot and seriously injured at Melmore Drive in the Creggan area.

Brits fired rubber bullets at people in Fanad Drive.

Two youth and a girl planted two bombs at a Supermarket in Strand Road. A fire took place after the explosion.

Belfast: A bomb exploded late last night at Gillespie and Wilson's furniture shop, Albertbridge Rd. The area was cleared shortly before the blast which caused minor damage.

THURSDAY, JULY 29.

Armagh: A Brit soldier shot dead an RUC man at a security checkpoint near Besbrook. Embarrassed RUC headquarters said they were "investigating" the matter.

A police inspector was seriously injured in a booby trap explosion. A sergeant with him was slightly hurt. The incident occurred on waste ground near the Antrim Road, Lurgan.

Belfast: In a no warning bomb explosion at the White Fort Inn, two men were killed, 30 injured, 6 seriously. The dead were named as Dennis (Dinjo) Mc Grogan and Joseph Watson.

The Stage Coach Inn at Dunmurry was wrecked after 4 men left a bomb. A warning was given and the area cleared.

South Down Provisional IRA in a statement claimed responsibility for several explosions in Newry recently.

EXCLUSIVE

On pages 4 and 5 we reproduce for the first time pictures smuggled out of Long Kesh.

Animals treated better

THE Relatives' Action Committee protested against the "atrocious conditions" under which remand prisoners are taken to and from court in Belfast.

The RAC claimed that prisoners are "handcuffed and caged like animals in minute cubicles which are unventilated and are totally inadequate to transport pigs never mind human beings".

The statement added: "If such a vehicle were used to transport any animal the USPCA would have a case for condemnation."

"This treatment of prisoners is only one of Mr. Rees' measures aimed at demoralising the prisoners. The committee calls on all right-thinking people to show their condemnation of such action by actively supporting the prisoners in their struggle for basic human rights".



The scene in Dunganon last week as Brits stand by.

FREE DERRY LIVES!

Barricades were once again seen blocking streets in the Creggan area of Derry, as a result of severe B.A. harassment of the youth of the area. This action taken by both young people and many previously uninvolved respected residents of the area came after young boys had been dragged by the hair along the streets and an old lady injured in the ankle by the Brits plastic bullets.

One of the young boys was seriously injured in his face by these so called protectors of the people, and had to have seven stitches in the wound, this is seen by the residents to be just another phase in British terror tactics that will never deter the people from their ultimate goal PEACE WITH JUSTICE.

-P.R.O.

Eamonn Lafferty, Sinn Féin Cumann, Doire.