

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental 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.

(na Dáil Éireann)

An Phoblacht

Iml. 9. Uimhir 2. 10p. Eanáir 11, 1978.

FACTS SHOW IRA WINNING THE WAR

Steep increase in enemy casualties

WHO IS winning the war in Ireland? The Crown's Gauleiter Mason protests too loud and too much but the facts are that 1977 was a disaster year for the enemy.

Cost of attacks on capital in the Six Counties (properties the Crown is pledged to cover financially) in 1977 was twice that of 1976. Even allowing for inflation the odds were on the side of the patriotic revolutionary forces.

Did the Crown manage to limit attacks to one or two areas? Again the answer is that the Crown failed. Last year Irish attacks on the Crown took place in each of the six counties consistently and over wide areas.

Did the Crown succeed in weakening the structure of Ogluigh na hÉireann? The opposite is true. Following steady recruiting and training orderly expansion took place and resistance was extended to new areas.

At present no potential recruit in the Six Counties has to walk farther than a mile or two to present himself to serve his or her country.

On the issue of casualties, however, the enemy has been most silent and with good reason for, last year, enemy casualties were the greatest in three years.

The fact, known widely in the Six Counties but which needs to be broadcast and documented to a greater extent abroad is that 1977 was a disastrous year for the Crown in Ireland and that to a considerable extent the Crown was responsible for this

disaster: Increased repression brought increased resistance.

Could supplied intelligence reports on the Crown's disastrous 1977 have been responsible for the remarks of Jack Lynch in the RTE radio interview last Sunday?

It is not so much what Lynch said that is intriguing people as why. And why just now?

Nothing new

Lynch's statements on the Six Counties were not new, just very soft echoes of traditional Fianna Fáil policy. This is to talk about Irish unity now and then (ignoring the issue of Irish freedom), to hope out loud for the best, to do nothing to help make history in favour of the Irish nation, but to do everything nasty possible to prevent others taking history by the horns.

The people of the Six Counties are suffering terribly from unemployment, the housing crisis and from the Crown jackboot at present in Belfast's Turf Lodge, in Derry's Seantalamh, and elsewhere; the prisoners of war are undergoing the tortures experienced by the Fenians 100 years ago in the jails; and Lynch has been under much pressure from incurable optimists to take the Crown sternly to task; to have the soldiers made behave themselves and to carry heavy complaint files to Strasbourg.

Lynch had to do something. He gave an interview. Thus, one view.

Kevin Boland's book, "Up Dev," is getting wide publicity and is selling well. It is being read widely even by Fianna Fáil readers who are demanding that Lynch, with the greatest Fianna Fáil majority in its history, should "do something about the North" from "this position of power," according to current party opinion, and "retrieve the Fianna Fáil republican image." Thus, another view.

These are two valid views based on long observation of the animal and its tired reactions to continued and determined prodding. But what about the chief and most determined prodder, James Callaghan? Is it likely that Jack Lynch would open his mouth without a cue from that source?

Vested interest in Border

Callaghan would like to think that Mason's figures are factual, that it is just a matter of mopping up operations and that some sympathetic noises from Lynch would be a possible amnesty might speed things.

Though Lynch talks about the desirability of Irish unity the political fact at present is that if Ireland were reunited tomorrow Fianna Fáil would lose power at the next general election. Jack Lynch knows this. Fianna Fáil has a vested interest in the Border, as have the other major status quo political parties, north and south.

None of them wants Ireland to be liberated. None of them favours the revolution. None of them seeks re-unification and reconciliation.

In a statement issued on January 9, Sinn Féin summarised the party programme for the next 12 months: "The ardeomhaire of Sinn Féin, at its first



meeting of the new year, held on Saturday last, considered the work programme for Sinn Féin for the coming year.

"The political struggle for a British withdrawal and the creation of a new federal Ireland based on the four provinces will be intensified," the statement continues. "Many other options and solutions have been tried and failed. Brits - out remains the prerequisite for a lasting peace in Ireland and Sinn Féin will direct its efforts towards accomplishing this.

Unemployment problem

"The question of full EEC membership, particularly in relation to fishing limits at the moment, is also of great importance. There is no prospect whatever of properly developing our resources and solving the unemployment problem within the EEC and Sinn Féin will seek to explain this to the Irish people.

"We are taking a keen interest in the forthcoming elections to the EEC Assembly and are considering how best we can use this occasion to organise strong opposition to full membership. We shall also be strengthening our links with freedom movements in other countries during 1978.

"Mr. Jack Lynch's latest pronouncements are of little consequence when one considers his record in 1969-72, when he failed on several occasions, much more propitiously than the present time, to lead the Irish people in completing the 800 years' struggle for freedom.

"Power-sharing, as envisaged at Sunningdale, is now a dead letter. Vague calls to Britain to think in terms of Irish unity are of little use without exerting some kind of pressure and without plans for the future such as our Aire Nua policy.

"Mr. Lynch's pseudo-Republican statements probably resulted from his being stung by Mr. Kevin Boland's latest book which accuses him of betraying Fianna Fáil's ideals and policy," the statement concludes.

Patricia Davidson, oifigeach chaidrimh phoiblí, Comhairle Chiuigh Uladh, Sinn Féin, in a statement, comments on the Roy Mason new-year statement that civilian deaths last year had been reduced to

two-thirds and that the poundage of explosives had decreased: "His speech was merely a clever distortion of the facts."

Regarding normality

As to the civilian fatality rate, "what Mason deliberately failed to convey was that this dramatic drop was due to the fact that no Catholic assassinations were carried out by Loyalist gangs for the major part of 1977.

"In stating that the poundage of explosives had decreased he left out the fact that the no-warning, 100-200 pub bombings carried out by Loyalist sectarian murder gangs had also ceased."

"There is nothing 'normal' about the north of Ireland. It has never been normal. There is nothing that any British minister can do or say that will make it normal. British-controlled totalitarian rule, British military repression, internment in every decade since partition, Special Powers Acts, Emergency Provisions Acts, torture of prisoners, the imprisonment of thousands, can never be classified as being part of a normal, healthy society.

"What is normal about a society the most lucrative industries of which are the police and prison service, with over 2,000 men and women in jail out of a population of 1,500,000, and some 250 men held naked and in solitary confinement in H-Block Long Kesh, and Crumlin Road Prison?"

Obstacle to peace

"Sinn Féin says 'yes' to peace and 'no' to violence but we do not make this statement in isolation of the situation we are in. We recognise that physical force has been forced upon our Movement by the British. It is they who brought violence to our shores and it is they who must in the first instance declare a halt.

"We now state publicly that if the British are interested in peace, it is they who must now realise that they alone are the main obstacle to the establishment of a just peace in Ireland. All violence can be brought speedily to an end when the British face the facts and get out of our country," the statement concludes.

FREE TRAVEL FOR WORKLESS

IN FURTHERANCE of the demand for free travel for the unemployed, by Dublin Fight Unemployment Committee, it was decided that to seek support from trade union branches and, in this way, attempt to get the trade union movement in general to raise the demand for free travel, according to a supplied statement.

Support from the following has been received, the statement adds: Dublin Trades Council; national executive, Workers' Union of Ireland; executive committee, A.G.E.M.O.U.; Unemployed Support Group, L.G.P.S.U.; Michael Mullen, general secretary, I.T.G.W.U.; Phil Flynn, assistant general secretary, I.G.P.S.U.; Charles Mooney, administrative secretary, A.G.E.M.O.U.; Dr Noel Browne, T.D.; and Ballyfermot Community Association.

The D.F.U.C. at a meeting last month passed a resolution calling for one united May Day parade next year, the main theme being the fight against unemployment and the social evils created by it.

An Phoblacht

Iml. 9. Eanáir 11, 1978. Uim. 2.
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Éire. Guthán: 47611.

A British 'Left'?

ONE OF the most successful public relations campaigns in the history of these islands was the projection of the Englishman as the soul of honour, the champion of the weak against the strong, the very father of democracy and the rule of law; in short, one of the finest examples of modern man. It was so successful that even some Englishmen believed it and, in positions of importance in Ireland, acted accordingly.

Unfortunately, such Englishmen in Ireland have been very few. In the post-1916 period members of Oglagh na hÉireann met and even captured some of them and were glad to be able to say of them that they were "officers and gentlemen".

There have been no such exceptions in the present war, which is entering its tenth year. During this campaign the English officers, NCOs and men have been uniformly ignorant and insensitive, conforming closely to what our songs, folklore and literature have taught us to expect from a barbaric enemy.

A very good example of the barbarian in question is the Gauleiter of the moment, Roy Mason, a lowly creature in every imaginable way and an acclaimed product of that school for atrocities which is the British army — a strong stomach for inflicting death, pain and general misery, guided by an intellect incapable of appreciating the arts and graces of any civilization.

In many ways Mason resembles Brian Faulkner — cunning, deceit, cowardice, treachery, bigotry, lack of imagination, selective ill-scholarship; the peculiar conviction that if one says something often enough it is bound to happen; and, of course, the limitless conceit that so often matches the inadequacies of tiny people. The resemblance to Faulkner may be no accident: Brian's objective throughout his life was to appear a typical "English gentleman".

Brian Faulkner, like so many bullies before him, had a violent death and there are far possibilities that Roy Mason may meet a similarly unexpected end if, indeed, he does not die by his own hand, directly or indirectly.

Really, it does not matter because the Irish people will outlive him, will win their freedom despite the evil that he administers, and will increase, multiply, flourish and propagate socialism when he and what he represents are forgotten.

The kings' and the queens' men are remembered today only in a handful of street names in a city of bellowing slaves for only such a city would retain them; Faulkner has not got even that sort of memorial nor will Mason; but Gaughan, Stagg, McVerry, Bryson, McCusker, Surgeon, Jamesie Hope, Connolly, Pearse, Ó Maoliosa, and our other heroes and heroines, will live forever in the hearts of patriotic Irish men and women and children.

That thought is not new. Nevertheless it may help those few, exceptional, honourable Englishmen who must exist even still to face the realities of the Irish war, to come forward, assert themselves and insist on an end to the madness of trying to dominate the Irish people.

Until such time as we witness a determined, relentless campaign in the parliament of British streets, backed by boycott, strike and sabotage, demanding an end to the torture of Ireland, we will be unable to believe that Christianity exists in Britain, or an effective opposition to imperialism or anything remotely resembling a "left", a basis for civilisation.

If whatever decency, courage and integrity as remains in Britain is not organised soon and used effectively against the queen and her men it will be too late for the British to save themselves, for they will be the next victims, as the firemen's sacrifice makes so abundantly clear. Where there is fight there is hope.

Cúnnla

Nollaig i ndiaidh na féile?

DÚIRT bean linn (de chuid "Inniu") go ndúirt bean léi (de chuid "Hibernia") go ndúirt bean-sí léi gurb ionann Dèbè agus Cúnnla agus Dáithí Ó hÓgáin agus Seán Ó Brádaigh agus Antoine Ó Raghallaigh.

B'fhéidir, idir dhá Nollaig a tharla sé. Má bhíonn an freagra agbhí déanfaidh sibh freastal ar "Oisín", sa Phéacóg, pé acu óg nó sean sibh.

Céard is brí le Nollaig? Natalicia? Natus-est? I gCo. Luimnigh? Ach táimise im chodhlá is ná dúistear mé...

Teastaíonn uaim dhá rud a chur i gcrích an tsacaitín seo go foirmeálta sa pháipéar seo.

A haon, seasamh go hoscailte leis an PLO agus rábhadh a thabhairt do na hAraibaigh uile, go bhfaid muid cheana é, mar phlean Charter, mar atá an "Saor"-stát.

A dó, nach bhfuil i reiteirinn Pínochet ach. cacamas nó cur-i-geall.

Bhfuil biseach agat, anois, a Dhónall Uí Phoblacht, a Dick Walsh, a John Healy, a Douglas Gageby?

Bhfuil éinne díobh ar fheidir leis seasamh ar a dhá chois mar Éireannach neamhspleách, beag beann ar "shaor"-stát nó ar phionóiseanna?

Tá caint ar na nuachtáin go bhfuil rúnai, Comhdháil Náiseanta na Gaeilge, mar an Capt. Seán Ó Dunagáin, ag iarraidh ar rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath go ndéanfaid sé nudaí áirithe ar leas na Gaeilge nó chun nach bhfaighfeadh an Ghaeilge bás.

FOIGHID, a chairde. Cé iocann tuarastal an chaptáin?

D'éile ach rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Cén fáth go mbeadh giolla ag iarraidh bheith féicéilte ag cur brú ar a mhúistir?

Ceist mhór.

Cé tá taobh thiar den chaptáin?

An Niallach. Agus taobh thiar den Niallach? Donall Óg Ó Lubhalai.

Agus taobh thiar de theach Duinn? D'éile ach muintir an bháis. Pínoistas Mac an Bháis, Tarlach an Bháis, Maolsheachlainn an Bháis, Pádraig an Bháis, Tábhineach an Bháis, Loinséach an Bháis.

Tá dhá chluais asail ag Seán Ó Loinsigh. Ní cluais sionnagh a dúirt mé ach cluais asail.

Fioraítear sin agus tá an náisiún slán ach bearta dhéanamh de réir an traidisiúin.

Bhfuil coimsias ag Caoimhín Ó

Beolaigh? Bhfuil misneach ag Seamas Ó Tuathail? Bhfuil aon dínit fágha: ag Conradh na Gaeilge?

Leabhar-bhuama

TÁ AN leabhar úd, "Up Dev" le Caoimhín Ó Beoláin, léite agam. Tá cruthuithe ag Caoimhín nach bhfuil i bhFianna Fáil anois ach Cumann na nGaeilge agus mbreaghnacht agus nach raibh i Dev faoi dheireadh a ré ach fealltóir agus bréagadóir.

Is ait liom nach dtuigeanann Caoimhín nach raibh i Dev ón am a thosaigh sé ag labhairt faoi "Document No. Two" ach fealltóir agus bréagadóir agus nach raibh i bhFianna Fáil ó am a bhunaíthe ach Cumann na nGaeilge i mbreaghnacht.

B'fhéidir go bhfuil sin pas beag éagórach ar Cumann na nGaeilge. Eagrais ba ea é sin nár lig air a choiche go raibh sé poblachtach; ach bhí Fianna Fáil ag maíomh as a chuid poblachtais i gcónaí.

An amhlaidh atá dearmad déanta ag Caoimhín gur bhí Fianna Fáil a chuir tús leis na Offences Against the State Act?

Is fíor do Chaoimhín go raibh Jack Lynch an-suarach ar fad faoi chomhcheil na ngunnaí agus faoin triail a lean sin; ach níor éirigh leis an Loinséach Haughey ná Blaney ná Kelly ná eile a mháru.

An bhfuil scéal George Plant ar eolas ag Caoimhín? Mharraigh Dev agus athair Chaoimhín George Plant. Is beag nár mharraigh sé Harry White atá beo i gcónaí, buíochas le Dia.

Ar bhreaga ba ea a bunaidhm Cumann na nGaeilge agus Fianna Fáil agus, níos déanaí fós, Clann na Poblachta. Ar na bréaga sin bhí an chaint faoi 26 Chontae a bheith saor... agus níos saoire fós nuair a d'éirigh le Dev cumhacht a bhaint amach.

Fear é Caoimhín tá in ainm is a bheith go láidir ar son na Gaeilge. Cén fáth nár scríobh sé an leabhar seo i nGaeilge? Ina dhiaidh sin d'fhéadfadh sé é aistriú go Béarla. Buantú teanga i scríobh.

Tá abairtí Gaeilge sa saothar ach níl ról-chruinn.



Níl an Béarla ró-chruinn, ach oiread: Is fada ó chonaic mé an oiread sin botún chlo, gan na nuachtáin a chur sa chomórtas. Tá an phocaíocht go dona, leis.

Is maith ann don leabhar. Is fiú é cheannaíocht, é léamh agus é choineáil, in éindí le "Orders for the Captain" agus eile. Luath nó mall bhfaidh na leabhra seo i bhfeidhm ar an bpobal. Tá trombágh an eolais faoi thréas Theach Laighnean ar fáil anois i leabhar.

Níor mhiste scannán mór a dhéanamh faoin tréas úd. Chuirfeadh na Rúisigh agus na Síngih speis ina leithéid. Agus na hAraibaigh. Bob Quinn, Bhfuil in éindí linn go fóill?

Imní 'Inniu'

DÚIRT bean liom go ndúirt bean léi go mba mhaith le Fianna Fáil deontas aird thabhairt do Chomhar-chumann Chóis Fharráige le go mbeadh "Amáirach" ar fáil athuair.

Tá imní ar mhuintir "Inniu" go bhfaighidh "Amáirach" deontas ar aon dul lena bhfuil ar fáil ag Tarlach agus a chuid, teoranta.

B'hearr "Amáirach" bheith beo ar ghra an phobail agus é beag beann ar dheontais ach meassan an Comhar-chumann nach achmhainn dó maireachtáil dá dheasca.

Céard faoi sheirbhís an nuachtána a dhíol leis an Udarás nua, le Raidió na Gaeltachta agus eile?

Beidh ar an Udarás bheith ag brath ar nuachtáin agus ar iris chun é féin a mhíniú agus chun comhoibritr an phobail a mhealladh.

D'éadfaidh an Udarás iarraidh ar "Amáirach" na seirbhís sin a sholáthair agus íoc go cúis atá.

Maidir le Raidió na Gaeltachta, is iomaí clár trínúil ar chóir a bheith curtha i gcló agus b'fhíor don Raidió "Amáirach" a íoc as iad a chlío.

Ní dóigh liom go mbeadh sé ró-throm é féin a mhíniú agus chun comhoibritr an phobail a mhealladh. D'éadfaidh an Udarás iarraidh ar "Amáirach" na seirbhís sin a sholáthair agus íoc go cúis atá.

Maidir le Raidió na Gaeltachta, is iomaí clár trínúil ar chóir a bheith curtha i gcló agus b'fhíor don Raidió "Amáirach" a íoc as iad a chlío.

Ní dóigh liom go mbeadh sé ró-throm é féin a mhíniú agus chun comhoibritr an phobail a mhealladh. D'éadfaidh an Udarás iarraidh ar "Amáirach" na seirbhís sin a sholáthair agus íoc go cúis atá.

Maidir le Raidió na Gaeltachta, is iomaí clár trínúil ar chóir a bheith curtha i gcló agus b'fhíor don Raidió "Amáirach" a íoc as iad a chlío.

Ní dóigh liom go mbeadh sé ró-throm é féin a mhíniú agus chun comhoibritr an phobail a mhealladh. D'éadfaidh an Udarás iarraidh ar "Amáirach" na seirbhís sin a sholáthair agus íoc go cúis atá.

Maidir le Raidió na Gaeltachta, is iomaí clár trínúil ar chóir a bheith curtha i gcló agus b'fhíor don Raidió "Amáirach" a íoc as iad a chlío.

Ní dóigh liom go mbeadh sé ró-throm é féin a mhíniú agus chun comhoibritr an phobail a mhealladh. D'éadfaidh an Udarás iarraidh ar "Amáirach" na seirbhís sin a sholáthair agus íoc go cúis atá.

Maidir le Raidió na Gaeltachta, is iomaí clár trínúil ar chóir a bheith curtha i gcló agus b'fhíor don Raidió "Amáirach" a íoc as iad a chlío.

Ní dóigh liom go mbeadh sé ró-throm é féin a mhíniú agus chun comhoibritr an phobail a mhealladh. D'éadfaidh an Udarás iarraidh ar "Amáirach" na seirbhís sin a sholáthair agus íoc go cúis atá.

Muintir an bháis, Ó Ceallacháin agus Ó Nuadháin, i mBeal Féirste faoi Nollaig, ag bréagnú teachtair-eacht an tSlánaí theora.

ar an mbonn sin agus dearmad a dhéanamh faoin deontas mar a bhíodh (agus mar atá, i gcás "Inniu").

Gaeilge do na cimití

AR AGHAIDH chuig na bacáin forward to the barricades. The phrase is well known in Europe for at least 10 years. Bacán, a barricade.

But "Corra Cainte as Tír Chonailí", le Seán Mac Maoláin, points out: Bacán — An bata, nó an t-iarann, a sháitear ins an talamh le téad bó, Caorach agus eile a choinneáil. Bacán dó lámhe, i., an sciathán, ón uilinn go dtí ceann na lámhe.

In general, "bac" is an "impediment". Jenny Hope would appear to have known at least some Irish and in the little we have from his pen he says "ná bac", or "don't bother".

"Na bac le Mason", "Na bac leis an Loinséach", "Na bac leis an Saorstát", "Na bac leis an seafóid uile úd".

"Bacach" is a person with an impediment, a cripple.

"Bachall" is a crozier, the belt of which might impede one from following a certain course in the old days.

"Bacóg" is the amount of something which one might hope to carry gripped between hand and shoulder or, as the Irish has it, oiread móna agus d'iomphódh duine ar bhacán a lámhe.

"Na bac le Mason", "Na bac leis an Loinséach", "Na bac leis an Saorstát", "Na bac leis an seafóid uile úd".

"Bacach" is a person with an impediment, a cripple.

"Bachall" is a crozier, the belt of which might impede one from following a certain course in the old days.

"Bacóg" is the amount of something which one might hope to carry gripped between hand and shoulder or, as the Irish has it, oiread móna agus d'iomphódh duine ar bhacán a lámhe.

"Na bac le Mason", "Na bac leis an Loinséach", "Na bac leis an Saorstát", "Na bac leis an seafóid uile úd".

"Bacach" is a person with an impediment, a cripple.

"Bachall" is a crozier, the belt of which might impede one from following a certain course in the old days.

"Bacóg" is the amount of something which one might hope to carry gripped between hand and shoulder or, as the Irish has it, oiread móna agus d'iomphódh duine ar bhacán a lámhe.

"Na bac le Mason", "Na bac leis an Loinséach", "Na bac leis an Saorstát", "Na bac leis an seafóid uile úd".

Lyrecrompane and all that

SOME PEOPLE are not a bit "cracked" at all and you'd be sorry for them, while others are "cracked" in a variety of ways; and, indeed, others still are "cracked" in a number of ways at the same time.

When I use the word "cracked" I use it in the sense of "creacáilte" in Irish.

Some "cracked" people are "cross-words nuts" and if perchance they find an undone crossword in a

past issue of an evening paper in the toilet of a neighbour's house during the Christmas party, they are likely to cause impromptu dancing and damp-underwear because the devil himself wouldn't shift them until they had solved the last clue.

Others get short of "breath" with excitement at the sight or mention of steam-engines, rare stamps, 1927 Irish threepenny bits and a variety of other strange fascinations.

I too, am "cracked"! Frequently I get into lengthy and animated conversations with purists in public-houses and outside churches.

Once finding myself in a spirited discussion with an elderly woman at a bus-stop, I boarded the bus with her, paid her fare and, on bidding her "good-bye", found myself in the main street of Ballyragget, all because she happened to mention that her mother came from

Srahnooden near Ballybaw. What a lovely-sounding, mysterious, intriguing place name! And, indeed, what intriguing poetic, mysterious things are all "place names"!

And what excitement it is to try to discover their meaning, to trace their origin.

Yes, I'm a "place-names nut" and I hope that, in this column, in the future, I may be able to convert you into a "place-names nut" also!

—Lugum

Irish trade union man on hunger strike

PHILIP FLYNN, deputy general secretary, Irish Local Government and Public Servants' Union, until last October, when he resigned for personal reasons, was detained by Crown forces on December 29 when he, his wife and two children, Seán (14) and Sinéad (6), were boarding the Liverpool ferry to return home to Dublin.

Philip was held by police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and immediately went on hunger strike in protest at his detention.

Lawyer Peter Edwards who visited Flynn in detention said afterwards that his client had decided to go on hunger strike to draw attention to the numbers of people who were being held under the "anti-terror" laws.

Also, there were a number of facts about the case "that just didn't add up."

"Mr. Flynn was detained as he was getting on the boat to go back to Dublin. One would have thought that if he was wanted for a crime in Dublin the Irish police would be handling the case."

Most people, said Edwards, were held entering Britain, not leaving it.

"Mr. Flynn has no idea whatsoever why he is being detained. At the moment the police are asking him very vague



Philip Flynn

questions which deal with nothing specific."

Mrs. Eileen Flynn said the family had been taken to one side as they boarded the ferry.

They had been spending the Christmas holiday with her mother in Surrey.

"I wanted to stay with my husband but the children were upset, particularly my daughter, so I agreed to come home", she stated.

Following strong trade union pressure Philip Flynn was released without charge and returned to Dublin.

Máire tops the charts

A Belfast-produced record which commemorates Máire Drumm, martyred vice-president of Sinn Féin, is topping the charts in Republican areas of Belfast.

Issued on the Dáirde Records label, it features "Máire" on the one side and "Brave Frank Stage" on the other. Both ballads are written and sung by Belfast singer-songwriter Séamus Robinson, who will be remembered for the "Provie Birdie" and the evergreen "Michael Gaughan".

Although on sale only a few weeks ago, the record has sold very well in Belfast and already has exhausted its first pressing. Now Dáirde Records is to extend distribution throughout Ireland.

PoWs denied legal aid

EIGHT IRISH political prisoners, assaulted by screws while on remand in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, on the night of November 21, 1974, have been refused legal aid by the British Law Society.

This means that it will not be possible for them to sue the screws responsible and the Home Secretary for the injuries they received.

Although the Legal Aid Board admitted that the men had a good case, they said that "wider considerations" prevented them from granting legal aid.

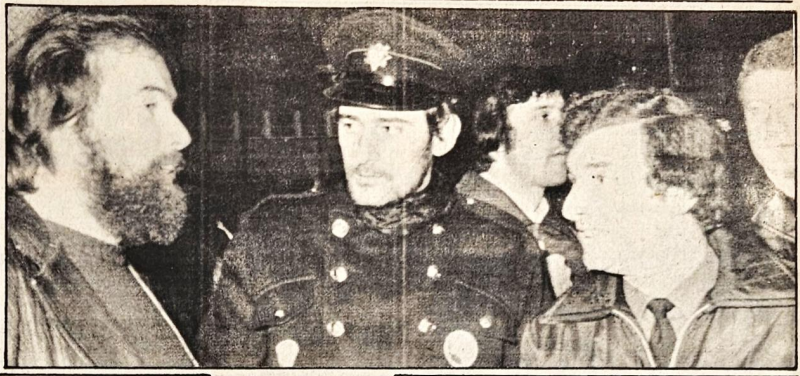
This means that the Crown authorities have decided on a policy of preventing Irish prisoners from having access to the courts.

Consequently, the cases of these men will be taken before the European Commission for Human Rights as a group action on the grounds that they are discriminated against because of their race and political beliefs, writes Jacqueline Kaye, on behalf of Prisoners' Aid Committee.

'Peace' women accused

MÁIRÉAD Corrigan and Betty Williams were accused in "The Sun" (Dec. 14 last) by columnist Jean Ritchie of "making a fortune out of the 'peace' movement" which "has degenerated into a bickering, divided, bureaucratic organisation that thinks peace... will be found on lecture tours of America and other prestige exercises".

Jean Ritchie was disappointed that the women decided to put the Nobel prizemoney into their own pockets.



For many British Socialists the moment of truth, as regards imperialism and, in general, worker interest, came with the Grunwick pickets. For others, the penny dropped somewhat later, with the firemen's strike.

Why did the TUC not force the issue by throwing everything into the Grunwick dispute? Why did the TUC not back the firemen? Mature workers know by now that the TUC leadership is as corrupt as the British Labour Government, which is as corrupt as the Tory opposition, which is as corrupt as the royal ruler (or Jack Lynch, her loyal collaborator in Dublin).

Our picture shows Jack Dromey (left), who helped organise the Grunwick picketing, in the crowd outside Congress House, London, in Dec. 21, when striking firemen took part in a mass lobby of the TUC general council in a bid to get the TUC to end its backing for the labour regime's 10 per cent. pay policy. But the TUC failed the firemen as it failed the Grunwick strikers.

War on a toddler

A BELFAST man, Mr. Adams, Westrock Drive, Whitecourt, collecting his four-year-old daughter from St. Bernadette's School on November 11 last was arrested by Crown forces (military) and held for four hours in Springfield Road Barracks.

The following morning his wife was arrested as she left the little girl to school, and taken to the barracks where she was made to stand against a wall for two hours, although her captors knew that she was pregnant.

When she visited the SF Falls Road Incident Centre, in a distressed condition after her release, BBC "Tonight" reporters filmed an interview with her.

Separate rooms

Mr. Adams and his daughter were kept in separate rooms during the detention.

Mrs. Adams had left her daughter in the school and as she left she was approached by soldiers who appeared to be waiting for her.

She refused to open her coat for them because of her pregnant condition. The soldiers took her to Springfield Barracks.

There she was spreadeagled against a wall for two hours. Just before her release she was approached by a plainclothes man who said he was a doctor and wished to examine her.

Mrs. Adams, however, said that she would prefer her own doctor.

Kerry honours her martyr

THE annual commemoration of the death of Lieut. Eddie Carmody, murdered by Crown forces on Nov. 22, 1920, took place in Ballylongford, the parade being led by a Cumann na mBan colour party, Cumann na gCaifín and Fianna Éireann.

A crowd of record strength marched from Carmody Memorial Hall to the Memorial Cross in Rusheen.

Tomás Ó Loinsigh presided. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Cumann na mBan, Cumann na gCaifín and the Republican Movement in general.

Michael Ó Loinsigh led the recitation of the Rosary and called on all to remember those associated with the Republican Movement in Kerry in the past.

Dáithí Ó Conaill was guest speaker.

Bundoran officers

The AGM of the Patrick Carty Cumann was held in Brady's, Cavan House, Bundoran, on Nov. 21. There the officers were elected: Cathaoirleach, Éamonn Melly; Leas-cathaoirleach, Séamus Fallon; rdnal, Gerry McKernan; Leas-rdnal, Jimmy Gallagher; Cisteoir, Joe O'Neill; Leas-histeoir, Conall Gallagher; O.C.P. (PRO), Michael McMahon; Oideacha, Séamus Fallon; Coiste an Airgid, Deta Melly, Patricia Travers, Maura Hutchinson and Rose Dolan.

People crowded into Wexford's County Hotel on the night of November 9, all with one thing in common: They were on Wexford Corporation's housing list. The meeting was organised by Cumann Phádraig Uí Fhearláin.

Some waited for two years for a house, other, six; many had been waiting for house repairs for well over a year. The meeting was told of 14 people living in a two-roomed house.

All Wexford councillors were invited. Only three arrived: John

Roche (Indpt.), Ald. Peter Roche (F.P.) and Joe Furlong (Soc. Lab.).

Sinn Féin intends pressing the issue of Wexford's housing scandal until it is resolved.

The Séamus Harvey Cumann, west Tír Eoghain, held a very successful buffet dance in Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey, on Nov. 4. More than 300 attended. Proceeds went to An Cumann Cabhrach.

The Cumann secretary writes to point out that these questions from the Crown forces at check points are illegal: Age, occupation, names of members of families. The reply to such questions is: "We are not legally obliged to answer such questions."

Irregularities of this nature should be reported to Sinn Féin.

Recently, a Cumann member, Mary Breslin, married Joe O'Neill, Bundoran. The Cumann congratulates Joe and wishes Mary God's blessing for a happy and fruitful married life.

Wexford draw

These are the results of the Wexford Christmas draw in aid of the prisoners' dependants: 1, handbag, Ann Ní Ríada, Mayflower, Wexford; 2, round tower, Mrs. J. Malone, 17 Barrack Street; 3, plaque picture, Mrs. Byrne, c/o St. Penan's Ennisicorthy; 4, Portlaine hankkerchief, R. Tobin, 9 Parnell Avenue, Ennisicorthy. All who contributed are thanked sincerely.

Gaige: essence of our nationality

JOIN SINN FÉIN

Another new cumann has been formed in London. If interested in joining write to Box Eight, 182 Upper Street, London, N.1.

For a Federal Socialist Democratic Republic based on Community Government

Ainm (Name):

Seoladh: Address:

Send this form to: Sinn Féin, Sraid Chaomhín, Baile Átha Cliath, Éire.

The martyrs remembered

ON DEC. 4 in New York memorial services were held in the Irish Institute for Rory O'Connor, Liam O' Maoláin, Dick Barrett and Joe McKelvey, executed by a "Free" State firing squad on December 8, 1922, for their allegiance to the Irish Republic, and for Charlie Kejins, former Chief of Staff, O'Leigh na hÉireann, hanged in the same sinister prison on December 1, 1944, on the orders of the then "Free" State Government for attempting to uphold the Republican ideal and make it a reality. A Mass was celebrated later for the repose of their souls.

Among the speakers, was Michael Flannery, a veteran of the fight for Irish independence, a member of the National Graves Association and a senior officer of Irish Northern Aid.

Mr. Chris McLoughlin, veteran Belfast Republican and chairman of the Irish American Legal Aid Society, spoke on the turbulent years of the forties.

The services were organised by a committee consisting of M. P. Higgins, Jack McCarthy, Frank Durkan, Paddy McMahon, Joe Bray, John Treacy, P. Kennedy, T. Falvey and George Harrison.

Brits out in Lambeth

BY 16 votes to 14 London's Lambeth Council majority Labour group carried a decision to ban Crown forces (military) from participating in any more council-sponsored events in the borough.

Councillor John Boyle, who moved the ban, said he regarded the armed services as the "militarised fist of the state". Troops were being used more and more in a political role which might one day lead to a confrontation with local youth.

Record spell in solitary

JOE DUFFY of Dublin, having completed 13 months in British Jail, England, in solitary for his part in the Hull disturbances last year, has been moved to Wormwood Scrubs, London.

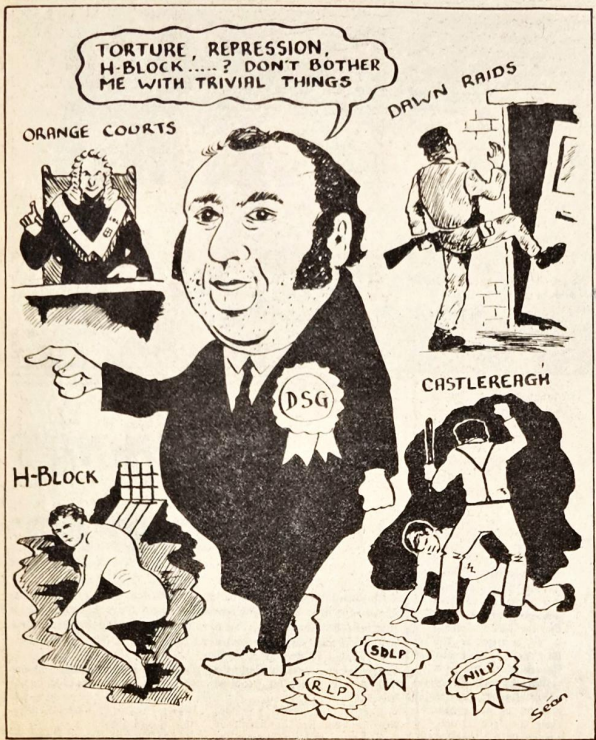
This is one of the longest terms spent by a POW in solitary and is contrary to the 90-day recommended limit. "Pow" points out.

Northern Relief Committee

URGENTLY REQUIRED - Blankets and bed linen, also cooking utensils, delph and cutlery. Can you donate any of these articles?

Collections can be arranged. Please send details or bring material to 5 Blessington St., Dublin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, or 2A Lower Kevin Street, Dublin. Tel: 308783

Ná clisteas ár ar muintir thuaidh!



WEST BELFAST, a stepping stone for more than one unscrupulous politician on his way to the corridors of Stormont, has been once again chosen as the birthplace of another right wing party.

Paddy Devlin, who has been operating as an "independent socialist" since his expulsion from the SDLP, announced the formation of the Democratic Socialist Group just before Christmas.

The new group is based in 527 Falls Road. It will be remembered that this terraced

BÉAL FEIRSTE

Another set of initials...

house was formerly the SDLP's West Belfast Advice Centre until Paddy changed the locks on the doors in a fit of pique and evicted his former colleagues.

The new grouping is comprised of a small band of Devlin's acquaintances who became disenchanted with the SDLP's "drift towards nationalism".

In its initial publicity blurb the DSG, as expected, failed to mention the reign of terror being waged against the heroic people of West Belfast by the Crown's military machine.

A paragraph is devoted to the problem of maintenance of housing. This will intrigue many thousands of tenants who have had their homes wrecked by Crown aggressors.

While Paddy crawls ever nearer to his former home in the ranks of the reactionary NILP the aura of Castlereagh Torture Centre will continue to surround his burly figure.

McGurk's Bar

The people of Andersonstown have been honoured by the new Crown GOC, Tim "Mad Dog" Creasey, whose first job after stepping on Irish soil was to order the "Royal Regiment" of Fusiliers into the greater Andersonstown area.

His deployment of the one of the most notorious of the Crown regiment to serve in Ireland, is seen as a clear indication that Creasey fears the revolutionary people of the area.

Fusiliers were stationed in north Belfast when a 50 lb. bomb exploded in McGurk's Bar, North Queen Street.

Within minutes of the explosion, on December 4, 1971, Republicans from the area were digging at the rubble with their bare hands trying to save the lives of people trapped there.

As the rescue work went on, many of the local people present were "on the run," with internment just four months old, and a heavy force of Fusiliers, commanded by Major Snow, surrounded the smouldering ruins of the public house and arrested several men.

Local people resisted the ghoulish behaviour of the regiment and fierce hand-to-hand fighting occurred before the Crown forces withdrew, carrying the dying body of Major Snow, shot through the head by an IRA ASU.

Fifteen people died in the McGurk's Bar explosion.

The following day a statement from the Fusiliers' PRO alleged that the bomb had gone off deep inside the bar, insinuating that it was an IRA bomb "in transit".

"Eyewitnesses came forward to say that two men had thrown the bomb through the front door of the bar and had made their escape in a red Cortina, driven by a third man."

Despite this most Loyalist groups, the British war machine and, inevitably, the Gardiner Place reformists, continued to point an accusing finger at O'Gallagher na hEireann, until a few weeks ago, when a UVF member from the Crumlin Road was charged with causing the blast.

The people of Andersonstown will not hesitate to confront, challenge and impede this murderous regiment at every opportunity.

The Fusiliers are in for a hard four months.

CUMANN UI RUAINIGH has been formed in the Twinbrook area of Belfast in honour of Lieut. John Rooney, killed in an accident in the estate in Nov. 1974.

The new cumann takes its membership from the Glasnevin and Cherry areas of the estate.

Sinne Iaoc

THE NATION was honoured in a simple but dignified ceremony in Dublin on January 6 in the Clare Manor Hotel at the testimonial dinner organised so smoothly by An Cumann Cabhrach. More than 600 sat down to dinner. More than 1,000 were present after the dinner.

The primary objective was to honour four veterans of the Republican Movement representing the four provinces. Secondary to that consideration was the need to raise funds for the prisoners' dependants. It was natural that, in the process, the legitimacy of the Republican Movement's leadership of the Movement, as the legal heirs of An Chead Dail and An Tarna Dail, and thus the lawful rulers of the Republic, should be re-affirmed by both the veterans and those who paid them honour in the name of the Movement.

This was accomplished in a very moving manner. It was an historic occasion as the Irish nation, fighting successfully her longest war in the struggle for freedom, approached her 10th successive year in the beanna bhaoil.

The pity of it was that this historic moment was not recorded on film for posterity.

Joe Cahill introduced Mrs. Ella Woods; Jimmie Drumm introduced Mrs. Patsy O'Hagan; Dailith O'Connell, Comdt. Tom Kelleher and Ruairi O'Bradaigh, Comdt. General Tom Maguire, the last surviving representative of those members of An Tarna Dail who remained faithful to their oaths of loyalty to the sovereign Republic declared in 1916 and reaffirmed by the majority of the Irish people in 1918.

Short biographies

Here are short biographies of the four veterans, as contained in the souvenir publication presented by An Cumann Cabhrach to every diner.

Ella O'Sullivan came from Beebane, Waterville, Co. Kerry, went to London in November 1916 to train as a nurse and spent seven years in the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, London, later working also in the Couthwood Road Nursing Home.

She married John Charles Woods in April, 1925, and they lived in Hampstead, Clapton and Wembley. Both were active in the Republican Movement. Ella was a member of the O'Donovan Rossa Sinn Féin Club and was also a founder-member of the Roger Casement Repatriation Committee set up in 1928.

To compel an evacuation of British administration and forces from Ireland, the O'Gallagher na hEireann, with Sean Russell as Chief-of-Staff, began a bombing campaign in England in 1939.

In September of that year Ella Woods was arrested and lodged in Holloway Jail, charged with conspiracy and possession of explosives. She served a 10-year sentence of penal servitude in Aylesbury Prison. While there she worked for an improvement in the prison conditions and succeeded in getting certain changes made.

In all, 96 people were sentenced for Republican activities in England between February 1939 and July 1940. These included 10 women. Sentences ranged up to 20 years and, in two cases - Peter Barnes and James McCormack - death.

Founder member

Ella Woods was one of the founder-members of the reorganised An Cumann Cabhrach in 1953 and has worked for it since. During the 50s and 60s Ella was an active member of Sinn Féin and for many years was one of the Trustees of the organisation. She and her husband have given a lifetime of service to the cause of Irish Freedom.

Patsy Boyd was born in 1899 in Newry, Co. Down, the home-town of John Mitchell. Her father died when she was still a baby. When her only brother and elder sister became involved in the Republican Movement she followed them.

She joined Cumann na mBan in 1917 and Sinn Féin in 1918, and helped with carrying messages, feeding and looking after all who called to her mother's home on army business.

She worked in the 1918 general election campaign. She remembers meeting Father Michael O'Flanagan who was campaigning in Monaghan and they were firm friends until he died in 1942. She also remembers Noel Lemass, Harry Boland and Countess Markievicz calling to her home.

In 1919 Patsy married Owen O'Hagan and they set up home in Dundalk. For a time they lived opposite Anne St. Barracks and in 1922 three guns were mounted in the windows of this house and the Barracks were captured.

In 1923 they went to live at 31 Seatoun Place, Dundalk, and from that time to the present Patsy O'Hagan and No. 31 were known as a haven for all on the run.

Despite pressure to accept the Treaty she never at any time considered half measures or stepping stones.

Interned in Mountjoy

In 1941, while her daughter was serving a sentence in Mountjoy Jail, Patsy was arrested, taken from her husband and six other children and interned in Mountjoy for two-and-a-half years.

Even at the age of 70, Patsy O'Hagan was at work again in 1969. She was at Dundalk Station to meet the refugees coming from Belfast, arranging accommodation in Dundalk and Mullingar and, on one occasion, she fed 29 people at her own table in No. 31.

No sacrifice was ever too much for Patsy. She always gave of her best to the cause and to the numerous callers for shelter and food. Her life has been one long succession of kindness and help.

Tom Kelleher was born into a family with a strong Republican tradition at Crownhill, Upton, Co. Cork, at the turn of the century. His father, John Kelleher, was a renowned athlete from Limerick and his mother, Mary McCormack, was related to William Philip Allen, one of the famed Manchester Martyrs.

Famous ambush

The events of 1916, followed by the great Sinn Féin victory in 1918 had a tremendous influence on Tom. He enlisted as a member of the local Crossguard Company of the I.R.A. and much of his time for the next two years was spent devoted to procuring arms, drilling and training in the use of arms.

In the autumn of 1920 the first of the British Auxiliaries - who were to play the role of free-lance terrorists - were billeted at Macroom Castle. On the morning of October 9, 1920, the West Cork Flying Column, with Tom Barry in charge, lay in waiting at Farnaheen, near Duncannon, anticipating the arrival of a British cycling corps and three lorries of military who had been passing this place regularly on a Saturday morning but which did not turn up on this occasion.

At the end of that day a unit of the column under Sean Hales arrived at Newcestown and it was there that night that, as the song puts it,



Comdt. Tom Kelleher

the first "blow for Ireland and Sinn Féin" took place. The honour of firing the first shot at the first ambush in West Cork fell to none other than Tom Kelleher.

This was the beginning of an illustrious career with the famed West Cork Flying Column.

The next major engagement, that of ambushing a train carrying British military at Upton in February, 1921, was to be one which clearly stamped him as a man who possessed undoubted courage, ability and leadership qualities, exemplified by the gallant rescue of the injured Brigade O.C., Charlie Hurley, whom he carried on his back, amid heavy gunfire, to safety from the scene of the ambush.

It was, in Tom's own words, "the toughest gun-battle I experienced in my entire period with the Third West Cork Brigade."

He was promoted to the rank of Section Commander, No. 5 section, at the greatest encounter of the whole campaign, that at Crossbarry, where 100 I.R.A. men inflicted huge losses and a complete rout of the Crown forces.

The R.I.C. Barracks at Rossbarry, which the Crown garrison boasted could not be taken by the I.R.A., was next on the casualty list.

Column Commander Tom Barry named four men to take a mine to the front door of the barracks, with fuses already alight and spluttering.

The four were: Peter Kearney, Christy O. Connell, Jack Corkery and Tom Kelleher. Again, the operation was a complete success.

During the Truce, Comdt. Tom Kelleher took over Kinsale Barracks from Major Percival. This was the same Lieutenant-General Percival who, in 1942, surrendered 90,000 British troops to a much smaller Japanese force at Singapore.

Hunger strike

Tom Kelleher fought on the Republican side during the civil war. His claim to fame during this period was the capture of the Adj. General of the "Free" State Army, Liam Hayes.

At the end of the civil war period Tom was captured by "Free" State Forces, under the command of General Tom Ennis, and imprisoned in Tintern No. 2, where he spent 39 days on hunger strike.

At a later period, in 1936, he served a further period of imprisonment (As leannait ar leathanach a 8)



KEVIN COEN

Sinn Féin, Sligeach, has published a memorial card in proud and loving memory of Vol. Kevin Coen (above), Active Service Unit, South Fermanagh, killed in action for his country's freedom on Jan. 20, 1975.

As dear as is the Holy Grot where cedar forests wave is that twice blessed and glorious spot,

the Irish martyr's grave.

The memorial card to Kevin, who came from Riverstown, Co. Shighigh, also has this quotation from Canon Sheehan: "As the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the saints, so the blood of the patriot is the sacred seed from which alone can spring new forces and fresh life into a nation that is drifting towards decay."

As dheis Dé go raib sé i measc laochra eile ar bPoblachta. A Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 20, in Sooley Church at 20.00 hrs., and followed by a torchlight procession to his grave.

Phra Fáil...



Mrs. Ella Woods



Mrs. Patsy O'Hagan



Comdt.-Gen. Tom Maguire

Ómós do Sheán Sabhat

THE ANNUAL Sinn Féin Sabhat Commemoration was held in Limerick on Sunday, January 1. The parade formed up at Bedford Row and, led by a colour party, made its way to the Republican Plot at Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, where a decade of the Rosary was recited and a wreath laid on behalf of the Republican Movement.

An oration was delivered by Gearóid MacCarthaigh, Ard-chomhairle, Sinn Féin, in the course of which he recalled the events surrounding the deaths of Séan Sabhat and Fergal Ó

hAnnluain. He also called on the many people present to join the ranks of the Republican Movement.

Vote of sympathy

At a meeting of the Séamús Ó Dalaigh Sinn Féin Cumann, Westmeath, a vote of sympathy was passed with the wife and relatives of the late Tom Baker

of Knockecoser, Ballinagore, who died on December 9 last.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. When the late Father Smith, curate of Tyrrellspass, was recruiting the Volunteers in Westmeath, Tom Baker was one of the first to rally to Ireland's cause.

Father Smith will be remembered by the future generations of Ireland.

What a pity we have not got more Irishmen of his calibre. Then we wouldn't have to endure the pro-British propaganda hurled at us from some of the pulpits of today.

Traitors tried to sell the cause. Traitors they may be. For Pearse had only one in mind. Old Ireland's liberty.

New officers

At the AGM of the Listowel Comhairlecheantar the following officers were elected:

Cathaoirleach, R. Beasley; leas-do, M. Keane; runai, P. Campbell; cluisteoir, M. Higinis; airgead, P. Hayes; agraíocht, M. Lynch; PRO, D. O'Sullivan.

It was decided to organise a campaign over Christmas in support of the men on the Blanket in H-Block, Long Kesh, and PoWs in all other jails.

The Republican Movement in north Kerry expresses sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Mick Palvey who died recently in Listowel Hospital.

Mick was a life long Republican who died all he could do to promote the Republican ideals.

Pressing for withdrawal

A LABOUR Movement Conference on Ireland has been set up in Britain as an extension of the delegation that visited Ireland last year; to support the call for immediate troops withdrawal, as contained in the Delegation's conclusions; and to campaign for adoption of those conclusions in the organised working class in Britain.

It was agreed also to campaign for mass support for the Tribunal on British Crimes in Ireland, to be held next Spring and also to support the Bloody Sunday Commemoration demonstration in London on January 29 next.

Forced to drink his own urine

and would like, in addition, to inform the public about the history of our son and brother, Raymond, since his imprisonment in England.

Nov. 1974: In Winslow Green Prison, his injuries at the hands of Special Branch officers and prison warders include (i) the severing of a birth-mark consisting of loose skin from his back, (ii) bootmarks and bleeding on his back and shoulders.

March 1975-Summer 1976: His constant beatings in Gartree Prison resulted in the malfunction of his kidneys and bowels and a constant pain in his back.

Autumn 1976: He was transferred to Hull Prison where, along with the constant nightly beatings by National Front prison warders, he was forced to drink his own urine.

Sept. 1976 to May 1977: After the Hull Prison riots, protesting against the abominable conditions in this prison, Raymond was to spend the next nine months in solitary confinement in Wandsworth Prison.

Since May 1977: Raymond has been in Albany Prison in the Isle of Wight where we, his family, have reason to believe that he is now held in solitary confinement, and



where the quality of food is giving grave cause for concern.

As well as this, Albany Prison is the farthest possible from Raymond's family. His wife, Mary, must undergo a two-day journey from her home in Birmingham to see him. His father and brothers must undergo a three-day journey from Donegal, even by plane, to see him.

In conclusion, we would again like to express agreement with what Amnesty International's report has stated, and we express the hope that other families and friends of Donegal prisoners in England will come together to combat this injustice and all injustices suffered by all Irish political prisoners — our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters — in English prisons.

We express our solidarity with the families of all Irish political prisoners, here in Ireland, in England, Scotland and elsewhere.

Year of the political prisoner

end to that evil.

Thus we are not surprised but glad that normal and healthy human reactions have returned to all those who are now joining in protests on behalf of the political prisoners.

For too long only a virtual handful of people have been working on the prisoners' behalf while many have tried to close their eyes to the injustices and evil of the occupying power.

We rejoice that at last the people as a whole have struggled off their knees again and joined all those who are now joining in protests on behalf of the political prisoners. We welcome all these people back, and encourage them to persevere.

1,000 voices

Nearly 1,000 voices rang out in a pledge to make 1978 the Year of the Political Prisoner and get the truth about this situation out to the world.

Sinn Féin, whose members and supporters made up a large portion of this crowd, adds another pledge: Not only will 1978 be remembered as the Year of the Political Prisoner but as the last year that such an intolerable political situation — which allows these vile conditions to exist for political prisoners and even allows political prisoners to be a fact of life — will be tolerated by the Irish people.



Party for prisoners' children

These two pictures, above and below, show some of the children of the prisoners of war entertained in Dublin over the Christmas period by the Prisoners' Action Group Committee.



Cúrsaí eachtracha Foreign affairs

Bishop Lamont and the black guerrillas

BISHOP Donal Lamont, recently sentenced and deported by the Smith regime in Zimbabwe for refusing to inform on freedom fighters, spoke about his experiences to a United Nations Amnesty International meeting in Dublin.

Speaking of the denial of human rights to the black majority of that country and his deep connection that "men are really free only when they work for the freedom of others", the Bishop declared: "One day or another I knew I would run up against the authorities."

"African people came to us in the Rhodesian Justice and Peace Commission about violations of justice. We investigated and published the findings. We challenged the regime to amend the situation or prosecute us."

"The Mission is 80 miles from the nearest telephone or tarred road", he explained, "One of the Sisters reported a request for anti-malaria pills and tablets for diarrhoea. 'It's probably for the boys', she said. The 'boys' are the freedom fighters."

"Give them", said Lamont, who knew they had been given medical supplies previously. "Say the Bishop told you to, if there is any trouble". That was April.

In August, an African priest was pulled from the altar by security forces" while celebrating Mass. The Bishop and him in a police cell, standing in his bare feet, deprived of his belt, watch and Rosary, given nothing except thick porridge morning and evening.

Letter of protest

Bishop Lamont wrote a letter of protest to Ian Smith. He was summoned to appear in court. The Churches, Amnesty and the International Commission of Jurists sent observers. Lamont was sentenced to 10 years hard labour, later changed to deportation and loss of citizenship.

The Pope expressed his "personal sorrow" at the outcome of Lamont's attempts to "defend the African majority against the European minority". Three years

Le Eldrida

previously, during an audience with the Pope, Lamont had been told: "Go back and keep it up and, if you have any problems, come to me".

The Bishop explained that when the Rhodesian forces "seek and destroy" it means precisely that, as the recent massacre in Mozambique, where the invaders killed thousands of men, women and children refugees, showed. They use the "equivalent of napalm", burn the houses to the ground, and attack with guns and albatross dogs.

In Rhodesia there is no equality before the law. Blacks outnumber whites 26 to one but the regime takes no responsibility for black education. Half the country is owned by whites.

"If I were to have a black visitor staying overnight - even if he were a cardinal - it would be illegal, and I'd get 12 months jail or £500 fine," he said.

Deaths of missionaries

"It is possible", he declared, "that the massacre of missionaries, widely reported as a 'terrorist' action, was done by the security forces themselves. I do not believe government versions of events. They are propaganda".

Evidence of this was the fact that the authorities claimed to have infiltrated the guerrilla groups. He had seen himself soldiers with blackened faces masquerading as blacks. One soldier had threatened one of his

priests with the words: "One dead missionary is as good as 100 dead terrorists!"

The armed forces are exempt by law from prosecution for acts of murder, etc., if these are done "in good faith".

The Bishop believes that Robert Mugabe, the guerrilla leader, had been misrepresented by the international press.

"He is a highly educated, highly civilised man", he said. "Any settlement will have to include Nkomo and Mugabe. They represent a considerable number of the population".

He criticised his fellow Irishmen who had emigrated to Rhodesia with fine ideas of freedom, only to become "part of the establishment".



Crown the worst offender

THE CONDITION of Irish political prisoners in Britain is "grievous", according to Cedric Thornberry, leading human rights lawyer, currently taking cases of their treatment to Strasbourg. At a recent civil liberty meeting in Dublin he pointed out that the European Convention on Human Rights imposes standards on governments and makes machinery available to ensure they comply.

Of a total of 1338 individual cases brought in the last three years under Article 25 against the 13 states party to the Convention, 529 were against Britain - by far the greatest offender. Strangely, only 13 were brought against the 26 Counties statelet. Mr. Thornberry considered that Irish lawyers may not yet have realised that the supreme courts are not state ones but the European courts.

"How a country treats its minorities is a fair test of its state of civilisation," he said. "Freedom of expression and publication is a good indicator of society's maturity, openness for change and potential for development," he added.

Governments which do not respect rights of individual citizens survive only at the cost of increased repression. He cited the Irish as an example. "As a Northerner myself," he said, "I do not personally see a very happy future for this country until it is unified."

Protection of human rights generally, and equality of rights for minorities he saw as a vital prerequisite.

London party for children

THE ANNUAL Christmas party for the children and dependants of Irish Republican prisoners in British jails was held in a church community hall off Euston Square, London, on Saturday, Dec. 17. A useful gift was presented to each family for Christmas by the organisers.

An Cumann Cabhrach (England) wishes to thank all the volunteers who turned up to help at the party, particularly Maureen Maguire, Annette Gonzales, Sue O'Halloran and Kevin Colfer.

Particular thanks go to the various Sinn Féin Cumann who financial contributions made the event possible.

Italian crisis

The Italian crisis has been explained during a series of meetings in Dublin, Cork and Galway, by a group of Revolutionary Struggle and Autonomia Operaia. The next meeting is scheduled for Workers' Resource Centre, 52 Broadway, Belfast 12.

Results of raffles

THE following is the result of the Monthly draw by An Cumann Cabhrach (Coiste Bhaile Atha Cliath) on December 13 last: First prize (blue), £100, won by ticket number 028. The other prizes (ticket number in brackets) were: £50 (057); £25 (037); £5 (064); £5 (293); £5 (152); £5 (102); £5 (263).

First prize (yellow), £100 (161); other prizes, £50 (176); £25 (189); £5 (181); £5 (059); £5 (030); £5 (072); £5 (215).

Bloody Sunday

Sinn Féin Bloody Sunday march in London: Assemble at Speakers' Corner at 14.00 hours on Sunday, January 29. March to Whitehall. All banners welcome.

KNOW YOUR ÉIRE NUA

Ní síocháin go saoirse

Le Crístín Ní Éilias

the spoils of their victories over those unsuspecting Brussels eurocrats.

The arguments can be very persuasive. We've entered a new age. We're "Europeans," now. We mustn't be unreasonable or ungrateful for the blessings bestowed on us by those kind-hearted and helpful foreigners.

We must be ready to make a few little sacrifices. It will all be worth it in the end. We must make an attempt to "grow up", to be "mature" and to "flexible".

Nagging guilt

We must wake up to the fact that things such as national pride, freedom and democracy, are just "unpractical remnants" of a bygone "idealistic age".

If we concentrate long enough, and hard enough on all the goodies being showered on us by benevolent Brussels, the terrible spectre of strife-torn Belfast will just fade away and that nagging guilt about the jobless and the deprived and the disinclined will be exorcised amid orgies of joyous goodwill and co-operation.

We must heed the advice of our betters who watch over us. We must listen when they tell us that only the meek shall inherit the fruits of the E.E.C. If we prove to be good and obedient and subservient, we shall receive our just rewards.

We must shun those fanatics who urge us to resist, in past

weakness we allowed them to encourage us into stubbornness and inflexibility. They led us astray and it is they who are responsible for all our punishments, for all our oppression, the hunger, the sectarian hate and the terrible partition of our country.

We must have faith in our leaders in Dublin and Westminster and Brussels. By following their lead, we will all prosper, even those lay-abouts on the dole or those inefficient small farmers who, no doubt, mismanaged their lands and should be grateful for the handouts or those selfish fishermen who refuse to share the wealth of our seas.

Not convinced

Our stubborn fellow countrymen in the Six Counties don't deserve our sympathy. We must save our tears for the pain and distress of those brave young soldiers sent over from England to protect us.

We must pray that London always will have an abundance of brave young men to send over to fight the "mindless" troublemakers in our midst who continue to rant and rave about things such as nationhood and sovereignty and the rights of the Irish people in such an unsophisticated manner.

It's true that the arguments can be persuasive but the Republican Movement is not convinced.

We refuse to accept that the Irish people will find prosperity and fulfilment by accommodating the interests of foreigners and

(Ar leannúin ar lch. a 8)

BLOODY SUNDAY

Make this year's commemoration the greatest demonstration for Irish freedom ever seen in any part of Ireland.

Write today to the Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee, 15 Cable Street, Derry, to say how many people from YOUR Cumann will be marching that day for liberty.

Bíodh an Ghaeilge i láthair, go feiceálach agus go tréan i gCathair Cholem Cille.

IF WRITING FOR US

HELP US to include your reports by making them short, concise, clearly written (preferably typed, three-line spacing, generous margins).

If you answer these questions your report will be covered adequately: What? Who? Where? When? Why? How? Full name and address; age if possible; married or single; and the 'when/should include the time, often vital.

Every report should be dated. Frequently, we get reports more than a week after the incident (we check the postmark to see if the post is to blame).

Your paper is weekly. You have complained in the past of our printing state news. Is it YOUR FAULT? Have you given it first to the local paper, or to some other Republican outlet, before sending it to us as an afterthought?

Date it

If you send us a newspaper cutting at least give us its publication date. Do try to bring the report more up to date than when seen some developments? Maybe even a picture would give it a new dimension to justify publication here.

Even when you believe you have done your best, given all the facts, something might be missing from our viewpoint. Give us a phone number, if only to check on the origin but also in case we want more facts.

Our aim is to give as complete a service as possible, within the limits of what YOU send us, our limited space, and the priorities, when we have to make a choice.

Blunt facts

Vague, generalised complaints about brutality or harassment and optimistic appeals for justice are no use to us or to YOU. The blunt facts, stated tersely, are more valuable.

Remember that we have an answer-phone after office hours. Keep your report as tight as possible, having prepared it from notes before calling.

● Be patient with us. We, too, are doing our best.

Opposing repression

All opposed to repression are invited to attend the one-day conference on January 22 in Coalisland, organised by the town's RAC.

Turf Lodge defiant

The message for 1978 from Turf Lodge RAC is that the struggle for political status will be intensified in the New Year until victory is gained.

We meet at the hut, Monagh Crescent, every Tuesday evening at 20.00 hours. Please come along and give us a hand.

NEW ADVICE CENTRE

A new Sinn Féin advice centre has been opened in Beechmount Avenue, Belfast, at the corner of Clowney Street, above the old Spar.

The centre will be open daily from Monday to Friday, from 14.00 - 16.00 hours and from 19.00 - 21.00 hours.

POSTMHÁLA • POSTBAG • POSTMHÁLA

POLITICIANS who encourage foreigners to this country to set up firms should be reminded that they are answerable to the people who elected them. New firms should be made aware of the strength of good labour relations and of the power trades union organisers hold on behalf of all Irish workers; and that under no condition will scab labour ever be tolerated here.

If such precautions were taken no such trouble as the Ferrenka closure would happen again.

The birth of trades union strength in Ireland was clearly earned in the early part of this century by James Connolly and 'Big Jim' Larkin. These great Irishmen organised the starving workers into resisting foreign oppression and slavery.

There is strong suspicion that the Dutch Ferrenka company of Limerick had intended quitting Ireland and very probably tried to avoid having to pay workers compensation for loss of employment. By guile they appear to have in a way provoked unrest amongst the unions in their firm. Any decent employer would have foreseen what disturbance would follow the ordering of a union member to clean toilets. From that it seems evident that the Dutch firm held little esteem for the workers.

Foreign firms have been attracted to start business here due to government grants and tax-free concessions for lengthy periods. Many such firms concluded that Irish workers should not be entitled to the same standard of living as workers in their home countries. In my home town two American firms some years ago started production on non-union wages and, as soon as their tax-free period expired, left the country, throwing many workers on the dole.

Last year, Mr. Cosgrave boasted of his persuasive power to attract American companies to open up factories here shortly after his visit there. Such firms do not appear to have taken advantage of his promises. His pre-election remarks about 'how-ins' may have frightened them off!

If the government boosted Irish industry with the same tax-free concessions as those given to foreigners, employment in this country would flourish. If the riches of this country were used to benefit the Irish people there would be no necessity to cringe to the neighbours across the waters, as they are bankrupt and living on American and German-borrowed money.

—Una Toal (Mrs.),

Dún Dealgán.

FINAL PHASE

IRELAND is fighting the final phase of the final round of her complete freedom from the imperial yoke of England. The IRA will not be beaten. That is a sure reality.

It would need the entire English army pumped into the Ulster province, with martial law declared and even then the people would not be beaten or the Irish Republican soldiers knocked out.

Institutional or state violence breeds a counter-force. It breeds more support for the IRA and this, in turn, demands more state violence and, finally, an all-out war of conquest. Even if the last IRA soldier were caught and thrown into the concentration camp England still must face the situation where the minority has said: 'We will never again be governed by Stormont.' They won't and that's that.

—Henry de Vere,

1, Redcliffe Garden, London, S.W.10.

SEAMUS TWOMEY

ON EASTER Monday, 61 years ago, 13 men routed 1,500 English soldiers, the Sherwood Foresters, at Mount Street Bridge, Dublin.

On December 5 last 'Free' State traitors rammed a car without a thought about any person on foot or in the car and arrested Seamus Twomey, who fights for the same ideals as those 13 men.

Where did England's collaborators arrest this man but at Mount Street Bridge. Will they ever learn?

—A Republican and

Baile Átha Cliath.

LYNCH KEEPING BARGAIN

THE CHIEF organ of the Brit gutter-press ('The Sun') is again on an anti-Irish spree. Commenting on the so-called Brit forces it says: 'These are front-line against L.R.A. gangsters.'

How strange that only a few weeks ago the same rag was saying that 'no state of war exists' in the 'Six Counties, and that 'only a few disaffected people are involved'.

We all know who the gangsters and terrorists are, the successors of the Black and Tans, the murderers of little Magella O'Hare, the callous murderers on Bloody Sunday — need I go on?

'Close economic links with the Free State', and state that 'Minister' Jack Lynch 'is keeping his part of the bargain he made when he met Callaghan'.

So now we know what the great 'Republican Party', Fianna Fáil, is about. Brian na Banban summed it up one time in a speech relating to such collaborators:

'Says Johnny Bull Bulf. Come follow after me and a friend you'll surely find me. Your hand I'll hold and carry all your gold, And you can jog along behind me'.

The Brit fitted Begin, the Zionist leader, recently, in 1947 he was 'a terrorist'. They admit that it was due to Begin and his men that a Brit withdrawal was forced on them and that they quit Palestine.

Let us hope and pray that our own darling soldiers of the Provo Army will achieve the same results and force the oppressors from our land forever.

—Eddie Murphy,

Avon, Sasana.

FOR FIVE £1 NOTES

HOW MUCH is the English £5 note worth in the south of Ireland? If we just got ourselves disoriented, leaving Italy to Italy, England to England and our 32 counties to Orange and Green, perhaps the value of the sterling could be truly assessed.

Have workers learnt from Ferrenka?

Ever stand at the base of the Wellington monument and ask yourself what time it was? The truth is that it is 12 o'clock all day long. Governments come and governments go but Wellington and the Gárdai go on forever. Like a mated fist in a velvet glove.

You don't have to look closely at the English £5 note to notice that the queen is on one side and Wellington on the other.

How many sides are there to the Irish in the south? Robert Emmet's image is not on one side of the Irish £5 note and his epitaph is certainly not on the other.

Two-thirds of our political iceberg is in the south. Connolly referred to our being ruled through our pockets. The British Home Stores and the Wellington Monument are a fair indication of where the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street has her money in Ireland.

Let the Southern Command build a scaffold for Wellington in the Park. They have sufficient time on their hands. After that who knows what mountains can be moved.

—Seamus Ó Murchadha,

Baile Átha Cliath.

MASSSES FOR PRISONERS

PLEASE find enclosed two Mass Bouquet Cards as Christmas Gifts for the Republican Prisoners.

One Holy Mass is for all the Republican Prisoners in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, the other Holy Mass is offered for all the Republican prisoners in Crumlin Road Prison.

I wish all the prisoners a very happy Christmas.

—A well-Wisher,

Sligoach.

8776 The papers have been forwarded to the jails —

Eagartha na Litreacha.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

THE FOLLOWING is a statement of protest delivered to the German Embassy, Dublin, on Dec. 2 last: The trial opens today in Dortmund, West Germany, of a bookseller charged with distributing a magazine called 'Revolutionärer Zorn'. This is the first prosecution under a new law known as Paragraph 88a.

The Irish Writers' Co-operative protests against the implementation of this law on the basis that it sets an alarming precedent as an attack on freedom of expression.

Section 88a provides for penalties of a fine or up to three years' imprisonment for distributing, displaying, recommending, etc., anything that might lead to a number of vaguely defined violent breaches of the peace. As has been pointed out by a Social Democrat member of parliament, Manfred Coggie, this law can make it illegal even to discuss violence.

The prosecution arises out of a series of simultaneous raids on bookshops in Bogum, Hamburg, Cologne, Tübingen, Heidelberg, Berlin, Munich and Essen. Six copies of 'Revolutionärer Zorn' were confiscated from a bookshop in Bochum, and the manager, Thomas Kram, was charged with violation of Paragraph 88a.

The fact that Kram also is charged with violating Paragraph 129 introduces an even more sinister element in this case. Paragraph 129, which provides for penalties of up to five years in jail or a fine, deals with forming or supporting a criminal organisation; that this is being invoked demonstrates that the federal authorities are trying to establish that anyone who displays a publication supports the views expressed in it.

The effect of these laws and of this prosecution can only be to intimidate bookshop managers, writers, publishers and journalists. It is a situation with which we are unfortunately familiar. Ireland is notorious for suppressing freedom of expression, through the Censorship of Publications Act, Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, state prosecution such as that of 'Hibernia', and through the generally repressive political atmosphere.

Therefore, we express our solidarity with those experiencing intensified attacks on freedom of thought and expression in West Germany and call for the dropping of the charges against Thomas Kram.

—Steve MacDonald,

Chairperson, Irish Writers' Co-operative, 4 Victoria Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 8, Baile Átha Cliath, 3.

POLITICAL STATUS

AT LAST the Irish Republican Movement has the support of highly respected viewpoints of the medical and bar associations in the struggle to convince the general public that R.U.C. torture of suspects is a fact.

Independent witnesses of repute, such as those members of the medical and bar associations, are unwilling to certify good health or admit fair representation to patients and clients who, in their expert opinion, have been physically beaten by the R.U.C. in obtaining forced 'confessions'.

In the light of all this concern by general practitioners and lawyers, organisations of humanity such as Amnesty International are duty-bound to act immediately.

Once satisfied that the R.U.C. is guilty of crimes against defenceless people, they should, in accordance with the Human Rights Charter of the United Nations, order an independent inquiry to investigate the R.U.C.

During the inquiry all privileges of prisoners claiming political status should be restored to prevent a further macabre of justice.

—Brian Mac Giolla Aodáin,

Pádraig Pearse Cumann, Taobh an Bhogaidh, Doire Chóim Cille.

Crock of Gold

Sinn Féin's national Finance Committee wishes to thank all who responded so well to the Crock of Gold scheme.

How did your area respond? Raise it at your next meeting. Have a look through your cash books: There may be some money there for this committee.

If so, please send by return to Head Office. Please mark covering letter N.C.F.

Remember: The revolutionary struggle to build the democratic socialist Republic will be brought nearer reality if each plays his or her part NOW.

—George Lynch, Cathaoirleach agus Oifigeach Chaidrimh Phoiblí (PRO).

Crown brutality in Turf Lodge

A pamphlet, documenting Crown brutality in Belfast's Turf Lodge, has been published by the Campaign Against British Brutality in Ireland, 37 Middle Lane, London, N.8, England.

One copy costs 10p plus 7p postage; 14 copies, £1 plus 25p postage; 50 copies, £3.50, plus 60p postage; 100 copies, £7, plus £1.10 postage.

Hands off Ireland

'Hand Off Ireland': Number-three issue is now out. Articles include: Jackie Kaye — Irish Political Prisoners in British Jails; Michael Holden — Murder Most Foul; James Martin — The RUC and Torture.

Price: 20p plus 10p postage from RCG Publications (AP), 49 Raiton Road, London, SE24 0LN, England.

Self-determination for the Irish people

Ireland Socialist Review: Journal of analysis and discussion of British imperialism in Ireland, written by Troops Out supporters in London and Hemel.

Available from 60 Loughborough Road, London SW9, 20p + 15p postage (five or more copies, post free).

Solidarity with 'Republican News'

The Crown has tried hard to put 'Republican News' out of business. And failed.

The best way to show YOUR defiance of the Crown is to take out a subscription to this paper now.

Just fill in the form below and send it with your cheque or P.O. to 170a Falls Road, Belfast.

Ainm (Name) _____

Seoladh (Address) _____

Sum sent (cross cheques or money orders, payable to 'An Phoblacht' or 'Republican News').

Rates for 'Republican News' pro rata; elsewhere (US and for 'An Phoblacht': dollars or equivalent) \$20 (rest pro rata).

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS



Post Office engineers ban overtime

AT A branch committee meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 4, the Dublin No. Two Branch of the Irish Post Office Engineering Union (IPOEU) called an overtime ban in support of 22 brothers who have been under suspension by the Department for 10 weeks.

This decision was taken following a successful picket by the suspended men at the Distillery Road Engineering Depot and which was honoured by all 500 members involved.

The suspended technicians refused, 10 weeks ago, to occupy a new depot in Russell Street, Dublin, because the Department of Posts and Telegraphs had broken from normal procedure by not consulting the IPOEU before-hand.

The technicians affected by the overtime ban are engaged in underground cable maintenance and installation.

Their ban will seriously effect major underground cable ruptures in the Dublin area, said M. Johnson, Secretary of the branch involved.

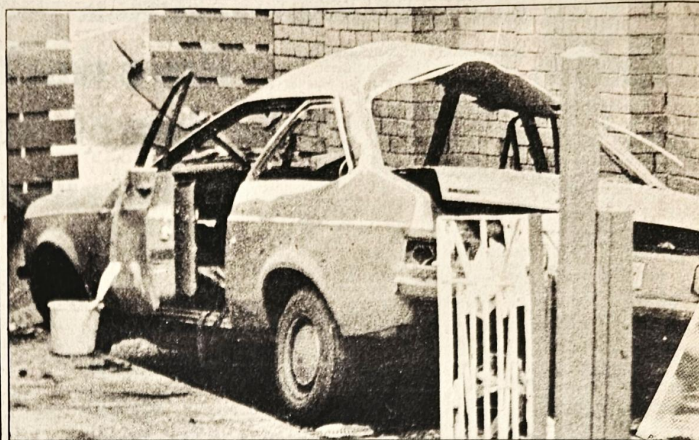
It was hoped, he added, that the industrial action being followed would result in the Department adopting a humane

attitude to its workers, thus ending the Victorian approach it has employed up to now and which has resulted in past years in a series of industrial trouble in the P.O. engineering branch.

Sinn Féin members should

view the Department's assaults on the minimal right of trade union recognition against the backdrop of Fianna Fáil's impending moves against the trade union movement as a whole.

This was what was left of the car after the booby-trap bomb exploded in Belfast on Dec. 20.



OPERATIONS against the enemy by Oglagh na hÉireann units continued throughout the Six Counties in the week under review, targets being found again in new areas. No Oglagh casualties were reported and all reportedly safely back to base. These are the details.

SATURDAY, Dec. 31.

Warrenpoint: The Crown Hotel

was badly damaged when three bombs exploded.

Craigavon: Fire engulfed the Country Club Hotel after a bomb, which had been planted, exploded.

Drumahoe: Crown forces carried out a controlled explosion on a bomb which had been planted at McClean's Garage. The premises were damaged in the blast.

Altnagelvin: A bomb discovered at an AA box was defused by enemy forces.

Derry: Two bombs planted in McVoy's Plastic, Strand Road, were defused by enemy forces.

Lurgan: A fire-bomb exploded,

causing extensive damage to Mc Murray's shop in the town centre.

SUNDAY, Jan. 1.

Dungannon: The Golf Club was damaged in a bomb attack.

MONDAY, Jan. 2.

Castlederg: Four bombs exploded in premises in the town causing extensive damage. They were: Connor's electrical shop, William Street; Lyons Brothers garage, Upper Strabane Road; Baskin's grocery shop nearby; and Harpur Bros., furniture store, Ferguson Crescent.

TUESDAY, JAN. 3.

Belfast: The Four Winds bar and restaurant, Knockbreda, were badly damaged when an incendiary device exploded. Another device went off in a draper's shop in Winetavern Street.

Jonesborough: Two armed men left a hoax bomb at the sub-post office.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4.

Belfast: Crown forces shot and wounded five teenagers in a car in Glen Road. A prison officer was injured when a bomb exploded in his car in Saintfield Road. Jennings electrical shop, Great Victoria Street, was extensively damaged when a bomb was planted and later exploded.

Three other shops in Upper Donegall Street were attacked by fire-bombs: Conlon's furniture shop (extensively damaged); Kennedy's florists; and Connolly's estate agents.

THURSDAY, JAN. 5.

Newcastle: A bomb was planted in Quinn's bar, Main Street, and later exploded, destroying the building.

Belfast: Two bombs were planted in Hobson's photographic shop, Great Victoria Street, and went off, destroying the premises. Another bomb was planted next door and destroyed the premises of the London Town clothing shop.

We are engaged in a struggle for survival, the survival of the Irish identity, the Irish spirit, the very essence of the historic Irish nation.

We cannot accept the intellectual theorising of those who would forfeit all that we hold dear in the name of profits, markets and increased productivity. The people of this island, with all their differences, their contradictions, their splits and their fears are still one nation.

We believe in the strength and spirit of the Irish people. We are confident that the Irish nation will refuse to die.

Sinne Iaochra Fáil...

(Ar leanúint ó lch. a 4)

ment, including six months solitary confinement, at the time that Sean Clynch died as a result of prison conditions.

In July, 1937, Tom Kelleher married Síle Crowley of "Belrose," Upton, she comes from another very staunch Republican family and they have three sons and a daughter.

The determination and sincerity with which he pursues the objective of Irish unity is as much alive today, in this man, as it was in any period of his life.

The major objective, still to be achieved, is the unification of this great country of ours. While we have people with the sincerity, ability, determination and will to achieve these objectives the life-long dedication of Tom Kelleher to Republicanism will not have been in vain.

Commandant-General Tom Maguire was born in Cross, Co. Mayo, into a family proud of having fought on the Irish side at Aughrim and in the '98 Rising from Castlebar to Ballinacross. He grew up in a home atmosphere that was intensely national separatist.

In 1917, without having affiliated to any volunteer unit, he organised a volunteer company in his immediate area and had several companies going in 1918 to resist conscription.

He worked actively for Sinn Féin candidates in the 1918

election and had sufficient strength to afford public meetings protection against Irish Party thugs and R.I.C.

He took a party of volunteers to East Mayo to protect voters going to poll on election day. There Tom Maguire first met Peadar O'Loughlin and Martin Devitt from Clare with their contingents from the West Clare Brigade.

Martin Devitt was later killed in an action with Crown forces in his own area and Peadar died early in the Civil War.

Historic encounter

Tom continued to be very active in the volunteer movement and was appointed O.C. South Mayo Brigade, in 1920. Up to then the whole county of Mayo was one unit and never got going properly. On March 7, 1921, South Mayo Active Service Unit successfully ambushed a British military detachment of the Border Regiment under Captain Chatfield and Lieutenant Clegg at Kilfaul on the Castlebar-Ballinrobe road.

The I.R.A. suffered no casualties. This was the first time since 1798 that a properly constituted Irish Army unit attacked the British army in Mayo or, maybe, in the West.

A short time later, on May 3, 1921, the South Mayo Active Service Unit and some volunteers attacked a mixed party of Black

and Tans and R.I.C. at the village of Tourmakeady. Here again the I.R.A., having inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, suffered none themselves.

On the same day shortly after the ambush the same party of I.R.A. was in action against a large party of British troops.

This fight, lasted the length of that summer day. The adjutant, Michael O'Brien, and Lieutenant Patrick Feeney, were killed, the Brigade O.C. and one man were wounded.

Some days later Tom Maguire was returned unopposed as T.D. to represent the combined constituencies of South Mayo and South Roscommon in the second Dail Éireann.

On the forming of I.R.A. Division that same year he was appointed O.C. second Western Division which took in South Mayo North Galway, South Roscommon and Castlereagh Brigades.

He opposed the Treaty and voted against it and still believes that in doing so, he was instrumental in the western units remaining staunch at that time.

He was associated with Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Ernie O'Malley and Liam Lynch in endeavouring to hold the army for the Republic, and was a member of the I.R.A. Executive in 1922.

He took an active part in the Civil War and was taken and imprisoned in Garrison Detention, Athlone. From there he escaped with some others in broad daylight in 1923.

He was present at the Sinn Féin Ardchóil that rejected De Valera's proposal to enter the "Free State" parliament and voted against it. Later, when the proposal was brought up again at a meeting of the faithful members of the Second Dail, he spoke and voted against it once more.

Tom was on the Dail Executive that delegated authority to the Army Council, Oglagh na hÉireann, in 1938. As the last serving member of the Dail Executive and of the faithful members he delegated authority to the Provisional Army Council in 1970.

Infrastructure crumbling

THE MEDICAL services in the Six Counties are steadily breaking down, according to a statement from Clonard-Colin Sinn Féin advice centre, Falls Road, Belfast.

From Sept. 1975 to last December, the statement points out, 36 general practitioners have resigned in the Six Counties, the latest being the only GP in Loughbrickland, Banbridge, early last month.

Some 78,000 people are now without medical care.

The situation in the various hospitals throughout the area is no better. A scandal situation has now been reached with the closure of many casualty departments and the proposed closure of many "coasting" hospitals, the latest one being Whiteabbey Hospital.

The reason for this decline in hospital and family doctor services is not clear. It may be related to poor pay and conditions or to emigration.

What is clear, however, is that resignations are taking place on a mass scale and that little or no new personnel are coming to fill the gaps. At present the average age of general practitioners is 45 years, an indication that no new blood is coming into the profession and an indication also that the situation can only continue to deteriorate. Statistics show that the medical profession has the highest single incidence of coronary artery disease.

All this points to a serious ineptitude on the part of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Sinn Féin in Omagh

Anyone wishing to join Sinn Féin in the Omagh, Co. Tyrone, area, is asked to contact the local paper seller.

COMBHRRÓN

Mrs. Julia Mooney

Deánann ceannasíocht Ghlaiseach na Poblaíoch comhbhrón le muintir Bhean Uí Mhaonaigh, Dún Laoghaire, a fuair bás an tséachtain seo caite. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.

The editor, manager and staff of "An Phoblacht" offer their condolences to Kathleen Knowles and other members of her family on the death of the lifelong Republican, Mrs. Julia Mooney.

I measc laochra na hÉireann go raibh sí.

Gaeilge: essence of our nationality

Éire Nua

(Ar leanúint ó lch. a 6)

turning our backs on the historic traditions of this nation.

Unless free, the Irish people will never find real peace.

Until the independence and dignity of our people is restored, there can be no New Ireland.

Until the intruders, whether benevolent or otherwise, are expelled, Éire Nua is but a hollow dream.

Cumann Cearta Sibhialta na hÉireann (Irish Civil Rights Association)

BALLAD SESSION

Baggot Inn

Friday Jan 20 at 20.30 hours.

Featuring Freewheelers and Gerry Crilly.

Taille: 60p.

Remember Bloody Sunday

Sinn Féin Rally and March to commemorate Bloody Sunday! Sunday, January 29, 1978.

Assemble: Speakers' Corner Hyde Park, London, 14.00 hours.

March to Whitehall for Rally, which is being Organised by Sinn Féin.

Further details can be had by contacting the Sinn Féin office in London, Box 8, 182, Upper St., London, N.1.