

# AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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## STOP EXTRADITION

**protest**

**at the**

**Fianna Fail**

**Ard-Fheis**

Leafleting

2pm to 4pm

Picket

6.30pm to 8pm

During Haughey's speech

RDS

**DUBLIN**

**SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY**



**THE Parachute Regiment, regarded as one of the top fighting forces at the disposal of the British government, was shaken out of its complacency by the IRA in the early hours of Monday morning when the barracks of the regiment's 2nd Battalion in Shropshire was demolished.**

The attack came as a massive military and political embarrassment for the British government which had said that security around bases in Britain had been tightened after last year's IRA bombing of Mill Hill Barracks in North London. The latest attack was a rude reminder to Whitehall security chiefs that their problems are far from over. The IRA is still operating in Britain and is capable of delivering devastating blows to the enemy's morale.

The operation which left the Shropshire barracks in rubble was also a tribute to the

skill and bravery of IRA Volunteers. Despite having been spotted and challenged, Volunteers entered the large base, full of British soldiers, in the knowledge that the alarm was being raised, and planted the explosives. Scores of soldiers were lucky to escape with their lives.

### NOT REVENGE

It was a taste for the soldiers and their political masters of the daily disruption of lives that the British military is responsible for inflicting on the entire nationalist community in the North. But at the same time it was not a revenge attack, as much of the media claimed. The IRA is not looking for vengeance for the Bloody Sunday murders carried out by the Parachute Regiment or for any of the other crimes carried out by the numerous other forces the British government sends to occupy Ireland.

As the IRA has repeatedly said, its use of arms is directed at forcing the British government, in the only language that government understands, to leave Ireland. In claiming the attack the IRA said:

**'While Britain retains its colonial grip on the North of Ireland, the IRA will continue to strike at those who oversee and implement British government policy in our country.'**

# IRA blast Paras



# OPINION

## WHAT'S THEIRS IS MINE

THE Dublin government's decision to sell its 25 per cent holding in Tara Mines is the latest in a series of lunatic decisions that have handed over vast sums of money to foreign firms exploiting the latest zinc deposits in Europe. The subservience of Irish politicians has meant that the minimum possible benefits have been returned to the Irish people while the maximum possible profit has gone to the multinationals.

The discovery of a major zinc deposit near Navan in the 1960s raised hopes that a state-run mining and smelting operation would provide large numbers of jobs and equally large profits which could be ploughed back into the economy, benefiting the entire population. But the Coalition government of the period failed to set up either a state mining firm or a smelter. The smelting part of the operation is the most profitable and is highly labour-intensive, but the ore was simply ripped from the ground and processed elsewhere.

The state retained a 25 per cent share in the company and initially 1,000 jobs were provided, but in recent years there have been 250 redundancies. Ironically, since 1986, Tara Mines has actually become a state company — a Finnish state company. Outokumpu, Finland's nationalised mining corporation, took over three quarters of the shares in spring of that year.

The Finnish authorities are not burdened by the Thatcherite prejudices against state investment which are normal in Leinster House and their own smelters are hungry for ore.

The decision to sell off the Tara shares is part of a general policy to favour private industry and to reduce state involvement in public firms. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats seem bent on privatisation moves which will line the pockets of the rich at the expense of the PAYE taxpayers.

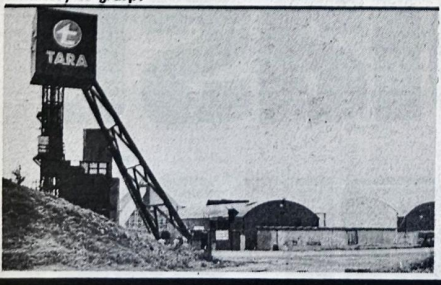
Zinc prices are very high at present and the government obviously hopes that it will make a short-term profit by selling off the shares. But the long-term effects will be to lose the profits made by the Navan mine and to leave the workforce more open to cut-cutting and possibly dangerous moves by management.

The story of Tara Mines is a very sorry one, filled with missed opportunities and spineless capitulation before foreign companies. But it exposes the madness of an economic policy which depends entirely on attracting multinational corporations to this country and has ministers and civil servants prostrating themselves and our economy before foreign capital.

International investors hate and fear 'interference in the market' such as investment in state companies or nationalisation. To attract these people to set up their factories in Ireland, governments have had to show that they will toe the line drawn by the multinationals.

But the Tara story also shows that it is possible for a small nation to depend on itself to make proper use of its national resources and to develop itself — as long as it is prepared to stand up against the multinationals.

Unfortunately, that's a message Leinster House is unlikely to grasp.



● Scene of Monday morning's IRA bomb attack on a Parachute Regiment barracks in England

# Pre-dawn raid on Paras

IN A PRE-DAWN RAID, IRA bombs ripped through a Parachute Regiment barracks in England on Monday, February 20th, demolishing buildings and rocking British complacency.

According to media reports, a sentry at the Paras' Tern Hill base near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, challenged two men wearing combat dress as they "penetrated the inner area" of Clive Camp just after 3am. Asked to produce identification, one of the IRA Volunteers put his hand inside his camouflage jacket and produced a short-arm. As the two Volunteers dashed past the sentry to plant a third bomb alongside sleeping quarters housing 60 paras, he "shot to kill" but they dodged the bullets and reached their objective before melting away into the morning.

## REDUCED TO RUBBLE

The alarm was raised at 3.06am and the target buildings were evacuated as panic swept the base and all military personnel were placed on full alert. At 3.30am, three explosions tore through the L-shaped accommodation block. One English newspaper reported: "A 75-foot-long gash was ripped through the corner of the building, which was reduced to smouldering timber frames and rubble. Another 40-foot section had its roof blown off while a similar stretch virtually disappeared.

"The explosives were so large that people a mile from the camp were wakened by the shockwaves.

At dawn, a plume of smoke reached high above the camp."

Fifteen hours after the attack, the paratroopers' quarters were still a smouldering wreck.

"The alarming feature is that the bombers could have penetrated so deeply into a large military base," observed BBC TV on Monday night.

## RAMMING THE POINT HOME

Britain's Armed Forces Minister, Archibald Hamilton, struggled to withstand a barrage of public criticism over something which he, quite rightly, pointed out he had not control over — the IRA's daring and ability.

In the space of a month, the IRA has shown that it can cut through British army security screens and evade capture in Derry's Bishop Street area and South Armagh, and ram the point home in England itself.

Both the elite Parachute Regiment and the warlords in Westminster got a rude awakening on Monday morning.

## BRITISH SOLDIER KILLED

The North's Education Board is being asked to explain if British

army personnel are being allowed to use the Board's civilian school buses with its knowledge. This follows an IRA ambush on a British soldier in plainclothes driving one of its buses in Derry on Wednesday afternoon, February 22nd.

The soldier, from the Royal Corps of Transport, was shot dead at close range in Bond Street, just 50 yards from Derry's largest barracks. IRA Intelligence had established that British troops were using civilian guises to ostensibly collect British army families but also to travel around the city freely.

The British army's use of Education Board transport as a cover for its activities has once more raised fears about the dangers posed to legitimate users of such services by crown forces activities.

## IVEAGH PATROL

An RUC/British army foot patrol came under fire from IRA Volunteers on active service in the Iveagh district of West Belfast just after 7pm on Wednesday, February 15th, but no hits were claimed.

## TWO RUC HIT

Two RUC officers were wounded in a gun attack by Derry Brigade as they entered the Spencer Road RUC Barracks in the Waterside on Sunday night, February 19th. Twenty rounds were fired at the base.

## RAIL-LINK

The Belfast to Dublin rail-link across the Kilnasagart Bridge in South Armagh was finally cleared by the British army on February 22nd after a 19-day search to locate IRA booby-traps planted in the heavily fortified border zone.

Two of the four bombs discovered were triggered by enemy soldiers, drawing an admission from officers of at least one casualty.

Kilnasagart Bridge has been attacked more than 20 times in the past ten years





● Councillor Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde presents the folded Tricolour to Mary Davey



● JOHN DAVEY

when he was murdered and had spent over half his life at the forefront of republican activity in this area."

Adams recalled John's important role throughout the '60s, '70s and '80s and his successful candidacy in elections in '83, '85 and '87.

"John bore no malice to anyone, and the callers to his home bear testimony to this."

Strongly rebutting the insult delivered to John's family and friends by Fr Maguire, he said:

"John Davey was a Catholic. I don't think I have ever said that in a funeral oration before. John was a quiet, devout Catholic, a man of simple faith. And I am saddened by the silence from the Catholic Church, from the bishops and from the priest at today's Requiem Mass." To loud applause, he said: "John Davey deserved better."

"John had a special affection for the prisoners and, on their behalf and in their absence, it may be a small comfort to know that they are joining with us in offering our deepest sympathy to the Davey family."

Gerry Adams went on to speak of the "concerted and protracted murder campaign" that has largely been ignored by the media and the British establishment.

"It is wrong to project this campaign as mindless violence fuelled by sectarian hatred. It is aimed at the leadership — legal, political or social — of the nationalist people. It is aimed at terrorising us. It is aimed at demoralising us. It will not succeed."

Citing his belief and that of local people that there was direct crown forces involvement in John Davey's death, the Sinn Féin president laid the blame firmly at the door of the British administration and government ministers:

"They are the catalysts for such terrorism. Tom King's vilification of Sinn Féin is creating a climate in which such attacks are inevitable."

In conclusion, he asked, in John's own words, that everybody "does a little" to bring about a just and peaceful Ireland:

"We cannot all do as much as John Davey but let us show his murderers that we Croppies will not lie down. In the 1960s he gave us a lead, he helped us rise off our knees. We're off them and we're going to stay off them."

# THE HEART OF SOUTH DERRY IS LAID TO REST

JOHN DAVEY was brought home on Wednesday, February 15th, in peace and dignity, accompanied by many hundreds of his friends. The RUC's attempts to disrupt his funeral failed.

His Tricolour-draped coffin left the Mid-Ulster Hospital on Wednesday night with a cortege more than a mile long on the way home to Gulladuff. At the Castledawson roundabout, a huge force of RUC in full riot gear blocked the road, halting the funeral.

The family was told that the cortege could not go through Castledawson or the fringes of Bellaghy, even though the longer route home was decided upon to avoid any confrontations or allegations that the displaying of the Tricolour would cause offence. Instead, they were "escorted" through the staunchly loyalist village of Knockloughrim by a convoy of RUC Land Rovers.

From then on, thousands of mourners from all over Ireland, young and old, Protestant and Catholic, walked up the stony laneway and past the wooden cross that marked where he was murdered to join with the Davey family in mourning their great loss.

## DIGNITY AND STRENGTH

Mary Davey and her three children, Eugene, Pauline and Maria, maintained a dignity and strength that touched all who called to the family home. And on Friday morning, they led several thousand mourners on the mile-long route to St Mary's Church, Lavey, to lay to rest their father and husband.

From early morning, the RUC moved in progressively closer to the Davey home which nestles in a hollow next to the local Gaelic Park. The RUC set up a video unit on the laneway where John was murdered to film everyone arriving. They contemptuously ignored the grief felt by the whole community

and the circumstances of the Sinn Féin councillor's murder by positioning dozens of riot-clad personnel along the route and at the graveyard.

The cortege was led by a lone piper and an honour guard of Sinn Féin councillors which was followed by several dozen people carrying wreaths.

## THE CHURCH

More councillors and John's close friends flanked the coffin as mourners moved forward in rotation to carry their fallen friend and comrade on his final journey. The RUC once more moved in and used two video cameras and a photographer to film the proceedings. At St Mary's Church, the Brendan Convery Band from Bellaghy lined up on either side of the driveway to form a guard of honour as the coffin entered the church. Along the funeral route, the huge cortege paused twice, at the spot where John died and at the nearby Gulladuff Memorial Hall where a Tricolour was flying at half-mast.

St Mary's was overflowing

with mourners but the local priest, Fr Maguire, saw fit to pointedly insult them and the Davey family by giving no sermon and making no reference to John's murder. "Never was a people so ill-served by its so-called spiritual leaders," said one of the congregation. "He deserved better," remarked Gerry Adams in his poignant oration.

The only sound as the mourners waited for the Requiem Mass to end was the revving of RUC vehicles' engines as riot squads were deployed all around the windswept cemetery. At the graveside, John Hurl, the local Sinn Féin chairperson, announced

the tens of wreaths laid on behalf of all sections of the Republican Movement among the numerous personal tributes.

A piper's lament preceded the lowering of the Tricolour and the oration of Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP. He recalled the last time he had spoken to John, at the funeral of Kevin Agnew in December of last year. "None of us thought then that we would be gathered here so soon at John's graveside," he said.

## A BIG MAN WITH A BIG HEART

"John Davey was a big man with a big heart. He was 61



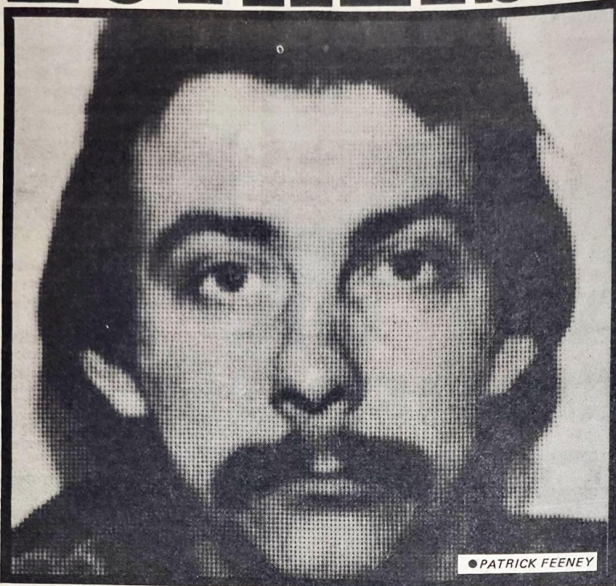
● The funeral procession pauses at the spot where John Davey was murdered



● A section of the mile-long funeral cortege



# LOYALISTS' SIXTH VICTIM



● PATRICK FEENEY

PATRICK FEENEY, the Catholic worker murdered on Monday evening, February 20th, at Liddle's linen factory in the County Down village of Donaghcloney has become the latest victim of loyalist murder squads operating throughout the Six Counties. His death, like that of the other five victims murdered in the first two months of this year, is part of one of the most concerted campaigns waged by pro-British assassins in recent years.

Feeney, a 32-year-old single man from Tullylish near Gilford, County Down, worked as a security guard on the factory's front gate one night a week. He was at the main factory entrance in the middle of Donaghcloney village at 9pm when his killers drove up in a stolen car and fired up to five shots from close range. He died instantly.

The fact that Feeney worked only one night a week on security indicates that this was not a random killing and that his murderers knew his routine. Patrick Feeney had no connections whatsoever with the Republican Movement.

His uncle, John Feeney, was also a victim of sectarian murderers. He was shot dead by loyalists in 1975.

Only seven weeks have passed this year and already five Catholics, and one Protestant (shot by mistake) have died at the hands of loyalists. There have also been over a dozen attempted murders.

Two such sectarian murder attempts happened in Belfast and Tyrone in the last week. On Friday evening, February 17th, a young Tyrone man who is a member of Sinn Féin was the target of loyalist assassins. Patrick Shanaghan, 25, a single man who lives on the outskirts of

## IRA ALARMS PRESS

WHEN the IRA gave the Parachute Regiment an early alarm call in Shropshire this week the British press rose to the occasion in its own inimitable style.

Most of the British papers managed to turn a security disaster into a heroic victory. As usual, *The Sun* led the pack with a banner headline "My Hero" and a picture of the sentry, Lance Corporal Alan Norris, who raised the alarm. "The Paras' Great Escape" said the inside pages, as if the regiment had just escaped *en masse* from Colditz. "Give him a gong" demanded the paper beside a piece headed "Cops name IRA devils".

*The Sun* quoted the civilian whose car was commandeered as saying: "The terrorist had got an Irish accent straight out of the bogs." It also said that the base was seen as a "soft target," but the *Daily Mirror* was more forthright:

"The attack wasn't on a soft and unexpected target. The barracks at Tern Hill, Shropshire, were occupied by a battalion of the crack Parachute Regiment against which the IRA has sworn unending revenge for the Bloody Sunday shootings in Ulster."

The *Mirror* described Norris as a "pint-sized para". On a more serious note, the lavish coverage given to one British soldier who happened to encounter the IRA Volunteers contrasted with British newspaper coverage of the death of the first British soldier killed in the Six Counties this year, Nicho-

las Peacock, from Prime Minister Thatcher's home town of Grant-ham.

### 'NOT CRICKET'

The *Daily Express* took a look at the 'history' of the Paras and gave us this gem about Bloody Sunday:

"In a few hours of running battles, stone throwing and sniper fire, 13 people were shot dead by the Paras."

Without a hint of irony the article went on to quote a senior officer of the regiment as he lashed the IRA's tactics as 'just not cricket':

"The difference is, we are better than they are. They run and hide. We do not. They obey no rules while we are, quite properly, governed by the law."

But the kind of law the troops are governed by was mentioned in *Today* in its issue of February 21st - the first anniversary of the shooting dead of Aidan McAneaspie by a British soldier in Aghnacloy:

"The army refused to disclose the exact rules laid down for allowing soldiers to open fire. But squaddies have been told they will be protected by the law and not charged with murder if they have good reason to believe that military property, their lives or the safety of those they are guarding are in danger."

### Daily Mail

Read John Edwards  
See Page Eight

## HERO WITH AN UNLOADED GUN

Bomb-blast Para foils IRA and saves lives of 50 fellow soldiers

THE courage of a young soldier stopped IRA bombers massacring paratroopers at an Army base yesterday.

The Parachute Regiment, fighting the scheduled attack, managed to save the lives of 50 fellow soldiers.

The young soldier, who is now being treated for his wounds, is being hailed as a hero.



### Daily Express

Jean Rook in Japan  
Sue Lawrie My new life



Iran envoy gets cold shoulder

The Bloody Sunday murders were dealt with elsewhere in the British media. The BBC TV lunchtime news carried a straight report of the Paras' history, saying they killed 13 demonstrators and showing film of Derry and of the

Warrenpoint ambush in which the bulk of the 18 British dead were paratroopers. While this film was repeated in the BBC Six-County bulletin later in the evening, it was dropped from the main evening news from London.

Throughout the British press the Dunkirk syndrome of making a British triumph out of a military fiasco reigned supreme. "It's the nearest I've ever come to having my backside singed," one soldier was quoted as saying.



# STATE USES RUC WITNESSES

Killen village was returning from feeding live-stock on the family farm beside their home at about 9.30pm. As he approached the house, loyalist gunmen opened fire with an automatic weapon.

Up to ten rounds were fired many of them striking the wall directly behind Shanaghan's head. Luckily he was able to escape into a field and take cover until he saw the gunmen's vehicle head back towards Killen.

Patrick Shanaghan, has been the target of constant harassment and intimidation from the crown forces and has on several occasions received death threats from members of the UDR.

Less than 24 hours after the Tyrone shooting, another sectarian attack took place in North Belfast.

Michael Campbell, from the Oldpark area, employed as a car-park attendant at the Dunmore Greyhound Stadium, was on duty on Saturday night when a loyalist murder squad drove into the car-park.

Two gunmen went to the hut where Campbell was, but he saw them in time and escaped though four shots were fired at him. One causing a slight wound to his thigh.

In initial media reports, an RUC statement portraying the attack as a punishment shooting was the only coverage given to the attack.

THE DUBLIN government called RUC witnesses including a former member of the notorious Mobile Support Unit to testify against Owen Carron in the High Court hearing of his appeal against extradition. As Carron described his treatment by the RUC after his arrest he pointed out Sergeant Peter Steele whom he said had threatened to kill him if he told anyone about his ordeal.

This confrontation came on the second day of Carron's appeal on Thursday, February 16th. The former Westminster MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone described the threat to his life and to his family from both the British forces and the loyalists since he was first elected. The first incident he described was when shots were fired at his father's house near Enniskillen where he was staying.

The shots were fired from a passing car and when Carron reported it, RUC Detective Inspector James Blair visited his house. The inspector later told Carron that two RUC men had fired the shots and "did it as a prank". Blair was called to the witness-box by the State and denied this but under cross-examination from Patrick McEntee admitted that the only car in the vicinity at the time of

the shooting was an RUC patrol car.

Two of Carron's election workers were fired on by an RUC reservist as they were putting up posters on another occasion. The shotgun-wielding reservist got off after a preliminary court accepted his story that he had not fired a gun but had held up a piece of tubing from a vacuum cleaner to "frighten off" the Sinn Féin workers.

## POLITICAL OFFENCE

Carron described his arrest in December 1985 after he gave a lift to Gerry Maguire who was later convicted of possession of a rifle and ammunition. Maguire is now serving a 14-year sentence in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The republican prisoner sent a statement to the court pointing out that his possession of the gun and ammunition was political and for the purpose of forcing British forces out of the Six Counties.

After his arrest Carron was taken to Gough Barracks in Armagh where he was held for six days and interrogated six times per day. He told the court that he was forced to sit in a crouched position for long periods and was hit on the chest. The RUC told him that people in similar situations had "ended up on slabs".

On Christmas Eve 1985 he was taken to court in Enniskillen. On the way they changed from cars into Land Rovers at Lisbellaw RUC barracks. While there, Carron said, an RUC man in Steele's charge put a gun to his head and said "This is what you deserve, you Fenian bastard". After the court hearing Carron was remanded to Crumlin Road Jail in Belfast.

## THREATENED

En route to Belfast Carron said that the RUC men he was handcuffed to opened the back

of the Land Rover and pushed him out as if to let him fall into oncoming traffic. When they reached North Queen Street Barracks Steele held out his revolver and threatened to have Carron or members of his family shot if he reported any of this treatment.

He got bail in January 1986 and campaigned in the Westminster by-election created by the resignation of unionist MPs in protest at the Hillsborough Agreement. He then came to the 26 Counties and was arrested last year in Sligo.

Blair next took the stand and testified that Michael Stone, currently on trial for the Milltown massacre, had confessed to conspiring to kill Carron and had visited Enniskillen and was shown the Sinn Féin centre and Carron's house by his fellow conspirators there.

## RUC DENIAL

In his testimony RUC Sergeant Peter Steele admitted that he had been a member of the Mobile Support Unit. This group was responsible for the shooting dead of IRA Volunteers and civilians in Armagh in 1982 which was the subject of the Stalker/Sampson inquiry. He denied Carron's version of events.

On Friday, the lawyers summed up their arguments with counsel for Carron arguing against his extradition on the grounds that his life would be in danger if handed over and that his offence was an offence connected with a political offence. Responding to the obviously hostile judges McEntee asked them to "come down from cloud cuckoo land" and said that it was "perfectly plain" that Maguire's purpose for having the rifle was "to discourage members of the British army from remaining in Northern Ireland".

Judgement is awaited.



● Owen Carron leaves 10 Downing Street after handing in the demands of the H-Block hunger-strikers



● Owen Carron, pictured in 1981, at a press conference after a visit with Bobby Sands



The Daily Express revealed that the car commandeered by the IRA was up for sale. A sign at the local pub says: "E-registered Montego for sale. One careful lady owner." But someone has added to the sign "...and IRA driver."



# BRITISH BUILDING SITES- IRISH GRAVEYARDS

BY  
MARTIN  
MAC DIARMADA

**IRISH PEOPLE** are taking their lives in their hands when they emigrate to Britain to work in the building industry. The horrific toll of death and injury on unsafe building sites is claiming the lives and limbs of a predominantly young Irish workforce in increasing numbers as forced emigration places them at the mercy of unscrupulous employers and sub-contractors.

Between April '87 and March '88, in London alone there were 36 deaths on building sites. The majority of these were Irish. Nine of those who died last year could not be identified. The last figure reflects the huge number of workers who are employed as 'casual' labour by sub-contractors who pay no tax or insurance contributions and whose workforce is therefore illegal. Workers mask their identity to avoid the risk of detection and often live in makeshift accommodation on the sites.

These shocking statistics have been highlighted by the Construction Safety Campaign in London which was represented at the Haringey Irish Working Group's seminar last weekend. Members of the campaign issued a warning to young Irish people contemplating emigration that the building sites of Britain are death-traps. The campaign is trying to organise the building workers to demand safe conditions and trade union recognition from their employers.

Many of the modern Irish emigrants pouring into Britain are joining previous generations of their fellow countrymen in the building industry. The collapse of that industry in Ireland and the huge level of unemployment for young people with trades as well as for labourers, makes London a natural attraction with its currently booming construction industry.

But under Thatcherism, which puts profits and the interests of employers before the lives of workers, a high price is being paid by the labour force.

## £400 PER LIFE

In the last ten years, 1,500 people died in construction accidents with fatal and major accidents up by over 65% since 1981, said the British government's Health & Safety Executive. This department is supposed to monitor safety standards in workplaces but is totally inadequate and the Construction Safety Campaign points out that the Tory government employs six times as many 'snoopers' as it does factory inspectors in London. (The term factory inspectors also covers officers who inspect building sites.)

"The numbers of factory inspectors are decreasing whilst accidents increase because safety is cut to increase profits", says the campaign. With 36 deaths and 413 major injuries in London in the '87/88 period there were only 18 prosecutions of employers by the Safety Executive for their negligence. No employer has ever been jailed for causing the death of a worker and the average fine is £400 — the same as that for fare evasion on London Transport.

"The amount of preventable fatal accidents in the construction industry is increasing. The

number of deaths is unacceptably high and the problem is getting worse," according to a Chief Factory Inspector quoted in a recent Safety Executive report. This is borne out by the now almost weekly reports of Irish people dying on sites.

It is not only on small and medium-sized projects that safety is neglected. Conditions in London's Docklands development and in the excavation of the Channel Tunnel are highly dangerous. A top engineer on the tunnel who was "transferred for disciplinary reasons" has attacked the project's management for its neglect of safety which resulted in the death of a young Irish worker recently. Andrew McKenna (19) was killed by a locomotive. The former engineer on the site, Michael Duggan, said that, under proper supervision, workers would not have been allowed to walk in the train tunnel.

## DEADLINES

Duggan has lashed the safety standards in the tunnel which is being built by a consortium including Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow, Costain, Balfour Beatty and Wimpey and which is collectively known as Transmanche Link. These top companies are working against a deadline with multi-million-pound penalties if they fail to meet it.

The result of this is the absence of safety for workers. Duggan said that none of the top management has any experience of tunnel excavation and construction and there were workers wandering in dangerous areas, stored tools blocking tunnel safety refuges where workers shelter to



Part of a Construction Safety Campaign picket

avoid trains, and debris scattered on the tracks.

Last week there was a three-day stoppage by support workers on the tunnel. Five hundred workers downed tools in protest at safety standards.

The Construction Safety Campaign's secretary, Tony O'Brien, told AP/RN that over 250 MPs in the British parliament have sponsored a motion seeking new safety legislation. "The employers are not going to act without a campaign on the ground," he said. The campaign has been attempting to organise workers, has picketed coroners' inquests on 'accident' victims, and is seeking

more action from the trade unions and the labour movement generally.

The lives and health of workers is jeopardised by the whole system in the building industry with casual labour employed by 'subbies' and with workers afraid to demand safety standards or to join a union for fear of dismissal or discovery of their illegal status. Nevertheless, the campaign is winning support and more workers are looking for change.

For more details or help, contact Tony O'Brien, Construction Safety Campaign, 72 Copeland Road, London SE15; telephone London 7323711.

# EEC RULES OUT IRISH SUGAR

**EEC REGULATIONS** which restrict the amount of sugar produced by Siuicre Eireann have forced the company to refuse a £12 million contract from India, just two weeks after its board of directors voted to close the Thurles plant, making up to 400 people redundant.

Brussels allows the semi-state sugar company to produce a quota of no more than 200,000 tonnes per year. The Indian contract for 60,000 tonnes, would have meant that the company went over its quota as all its produce is already committed to the Irish market and to Britain where it

sells 17,000 tonnes per year.

The EEC restrictions have already caused chaos in the Irish sugar industry. Two years ago the company closed its plant at Tuam County Galway 'for economic reasons' and earlier this month it decided to close the Thurles sugar factory for the same alleged

reasons. These plants were chopped, not because they didn't produce enough sugar or because they were uneconomic. Both were producing to quota and the Thurles factory was actually making a profit.

The reason for closure was that the plants were working too well, producing too much sugar in spite of the EEC rules.

The decision to close Thurles rather than one of the other two Siuicre Eireann PLC plants at Mallow and Carlow was clearly taken on political grounds by the Fianna Fail cabinet which pushed the board of directors to choose the Tipperary town because it could afford to lose some of its many voters in the area. In Mallow or Carlow, where the party's support is weaker, the effects of closure would be more serious for Fianna Fail.

## RESTRICTIONS

But not one plant needs to close. Irish sugar is of high quality and could be sold throughout the world if it was not for the restrictions



The Siuicre Eireann plant in Thurles

ions put on production by the EEC. The contract to provide sugar for India was set up by Richard Nagle, an Irish accountant who said he was "astounded" by the Sugar Company's decision. He was asked to provide the sugar by an Indian company and he chose Siuicre Eireann in order to provide jobs for Irish workers and to allow farmers in this country "to grow as much beet as possible".

The Indian contract, which has now gone to produc-

ers in Thailand and South America, was welcomed at first by Coras Trachtála, the Dublin government's export board.

Although the sugar company is closing factories, making workers redundant and ruining farmers, it has had to turn down a number of deals like the one proposed by Nagle. A statement from the company said that such proposals were "not unusual" but that the quota restrictions meant they had to be turned down. Without

realising how ridiculous it sounded, the company went on to claim it was working on 'commercial criteria'.

Sugar workers and farmers in Tuam and Thurles are now suffering from the absurd EEC logic which forbids the Irish sugar company from producing to its full capacity. Workers throughout Ireland face a similar fate when the EEC takes its gloves off in 1992 and the devastating effects of the Single European Act come into force.



# SINISTER ASPECT OF COOKSTOWN RAIDS

RUC SPECIAL BRANCHMEN took photographs inside the homes of nationalists in Cookstown during raids which started on Tuesday, February 14th. They also noted down details of any security locks or warning systems in the houses. The likelihood of this information being handed over to loyalist assassins has cast a shadow of fear over the whole community.

For two days, the Greenvale Estate in Cookstown was put under effective curfew. Two hundred British army soldiers and RUC sealed off all entrances to the estate, stopping everyone and subjecting residents to degrading bodysearches.

Damage was caused in the 12 homes raided, but much more serious was the presence of Special Branchmen who photographed and took written details of security measures in the homes of Joe

and Anna Bell and Dermot Coyle and their families.

In the Bell home, a British soldier drew a detailed sketch of the inside of the house and then handed it to a UDR man outside.

## ONSLAUGHT

In another onslaught on the Greenvale Estate the British army/RUC raiding parties arrived back and searched 30 houses on Tuesday of this week. Again they targeted the Bell and Coyle



● DERMOT COYLE

homes, lifting floor tiles, smashing holes in bedroom floors and in both houses using drills to cut blocks out of the chimney breasts in the roof spaces. The areas they damaged had only just been repaired from the previous raids. The large scale raiding parties searched numerous gardens and

● Dermot Coyle's son sits in his cot which was broken by a crown forces raiding party



sheds and lifted paving stones on several pathways.

The residents of the estate are infuriated at the continual searches and virtual curfew that the estate has been placed under. Anna Bell said:

"Just as you start getting back to normal they come again and

wreck everything. We have lost count of the number of raids."

Dermot Coyle recently won a case at the European Court against seven-day detentions. He has been the subject of unprecedented harassment over a 14-year period. In that time he and his wife Fionuala have had dozens of spurious charges leveled against them, mostly of resisting arrest and assault as they tried to defend themselves against the continual assaults.

## REVIEW SECURITY

Sinn Féin's Mid-Ulster representative Sean Begley urged nationalists in the area to review their security measures saying:

"In view of the past record of RUC collusion with loyalist killers, one can only view with utmost concern the events in Greenvale on Tuesday and Wednesday. Recent attacks in this area indicate that a loyalist murder squad acting in collusion or direct involvement with members of the crown forces has been reactivated in the area and is intent on a wave of sectarian terror equal to that which plagued Mid-Ulster in the 1970s."

# RUC TRIES ENTRAPMENT



● PADDY FOX

THE RUC'S ENTRAPMENT PLOY of offering either immunity from prosecution for minor offences or false promises of huge sums of money in a bid to recruit spies in nationalist areas has led to two young men 'going public' because they fear for their lives.

In Belfast three weeks ago, Joe Beckett, a 28-year-old motor mechanic from the Lower Ormeau Road, was approached by a uniformed RUC man who has been continually harassing him for months. The RUC man threatened to bring a number of motoring charges against Beckett. He was told to report to Musgrave Street RUC Barracks on Friday, February 17th, and not to tell anyone where he was going.

Beckett went to the barracks where he was met by the RUC man and taken into an interrogation room. No further mention was made of motoring offences.

Instead, he was asked about a number of local people and told to watch their movements and note details of those they met.

The RUC promised him that he would be well paid and would not be in any danger. He was also told that there would be no further harassment. But if he refused to co-operate then he would be charged with offences which would result in him losing his driving licence.

## DUNGANNON

A second case came to light earlier this month when a 19-year-old Dungannon man made an

official complaint against the RUC through his solicitor.

Paddy Fox, from Listamlet, Moy was arrested on January 3rd and held for seven days before being released without charge. Since then he has been hounded by the RUC and says that he now fears for his life and that of his family.

On Friday, February 3rd, he was stopped by an RUC patrol at the Tamnamore roundabout on the M1. After his car was searched, two plainclothes RUC men arrived and told Fox to get into their car. They drove a short distance to the side of the River Blackwater. There he was offered money in return for information. When he refused he was threatened with more harassment.

Three days later, Monday, February 6th, he was travelling along

the Moygashel Road out of Dungannon when he was forced to pull into the side by an RUC car. Again his car was searched and, once more, another car drew alongside. He was told to get in and when he did he recognised one of the occupants as one of the two men who threatened him on February 3rd. Money was again offered if he agreed to supply information. When he refused, he was told that they would either put it out that he was an RUC informer or that he and his family would be set up for assassination by loyalist murder squads.

Fox has since made an official complaint through his solicitor against the RUC and states that he is "extremely concerned" about his own safety and that of his family.

# BLATANT POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION

BY JACK TAYLOR

THE REPORT of a public inquiry into the political vetting of community groups was launched at a press conference in the Conway Education Centre in Conway Mill in Belfast on Tuesday, February 20th.

The public inquiry, by an independent panel, was set up after funding was withdrawn from several community projects in the North, including creches and adult education programmes, in nationalist areas.

The panel consisting of Brice Dickson (Committee on Administration of Justice), Paul Hunt (National Council for Civil Liberties) and John Mitchell (Trade

Unionist) sat in May 1988 and produced an interim report shortly afterwards.

On Tuesday of this week they produced their full report which shows the extent of refusal of government funding for political reasons and the way in which such funding has been used to favour church organisations and British government schemes while refusing money to legitimate independent groups.



● John Mitchell, Paul Hunt and Brice Dickson at the recent press conference to launch the report of an inquiry into the political vetting of community groups

They heard evidence from ten groups who related how they had been denied government funding for their projects on the grounds that there was a 'grave risk' that such funding would directly or indirectly improve the standing and further the aims of 'paramilitary organisations'. Oliver Kearney, chairperson of the Fair Employment Trust, and an un-

named RTE journalist also gave evidence to the panel.

At the press conference it was stated that plans were being considered for taking legal action to challenge the British government's refusal of monies or funding on the basis that the group or project in question had particular political beliefs.

The comprehensive findings of

the panel were presented with an interim report containing a summary of the evidence gathered at the inquiry, along with the recommendations of the inquiry panel which strongly criticised the practice of political vetting and called for it to be ended forthwith. Copies of the report can be obtained from the Conway Education Centre, Conway Mill, Belfast.

The report concluded that they had found no evidence that government funding was being misused by community groups and that they had received no specific allegations by the British government that such funds were being 'siphoned off' to paramilitary organisations.

Fr Des Wilson also told the press conference that the blatant political discrimination which was at the root of funding refusal could be exposed by asking groups or individuals in America to challenge the procedure through Congressional courts as part of the money for community schemes came from there.



# THE LANDLORDS RETURN

LAND SPECULATORS from abroad are threatening to overturn the gains made in struggle by the Land League almost exactly a century ago and, as we draw nearer the completion of the EEC internal market in 1992, the influx of foreign buyers is set to become a flood. Already examples such as those on this page are commonplace in the property sections of the newspapers. Dublin-based estate agents such as Ganly Waters, Jackson-Stops & McCabe, and Hamilton, Osborne & King are joining forces with their international counterparts, to advertise prime Irish land abroad. There has been a huge increase in the price of property in South-East England and a related increase in Dublin house prices. Country property in Ireland offers good value for money and is being snapped up as a good long-term investment by foreign buyers and rich Dublin speculators.

Irish land prices are beginning to zoom up again for the first time in almost 20 years. In the east and south of the country they have risen by as much as 50 per cent, while in the

west the increase has been between 10 and 20 per cent. Good land now regularly goes at over £2,000 per acre.

Speaking of the recovery in farmland prices during the last

year, one *Irish Times* journalist had this to say: "A significant number of holdings in the eastern region are now being bought by business people. Many of these transactions are by private treaty, but several auctions were held in the dying months of 1988 at which not one farmer was in the running. They were squeezed out by Dublin-based solicitors acting on behalf of city clients who intend to sell on these farms within six months or a year — at a profit, of course."

Another important factor in the increased sale of land to foreign buyers is the fact that Ireland's sporting and leisure potential is second to none. We have the finest salmon fishing in Europe and, situated as we are on the western flank of

Europe, our air is relatively pollution free.

Two famous salmon fisheries, the Sheen Falls in Kerry and the Delphi fishery in South Mayo, were recently bought by speculators from Denmark and England respectively. They are being developed as "time-share schemes" to cater for

wealthy European and American anglers which offer a week's fishing for up to 30 years at prices between £1,500 and £3,000 per person.

The new owner of Sheen Falls is expected to invest a further £700,000 in upgrading the river and intends to close it down for a year in order to do

so. Around £450,000 has already been spent on the Delphi fishery for the same purpose. But this outlay is likely to treble the price of the fisheries, which are already charging rates which are totally prohibitive for most Irish people. The overall effect will be to drive up the price of fishing holidays.

## Just a little country retreat

THESE PROPERTIES are up for sale or have just been sold for prices that look like Dublin phone numbers. The vast majority of them have gone or will go to foreign land speculators,

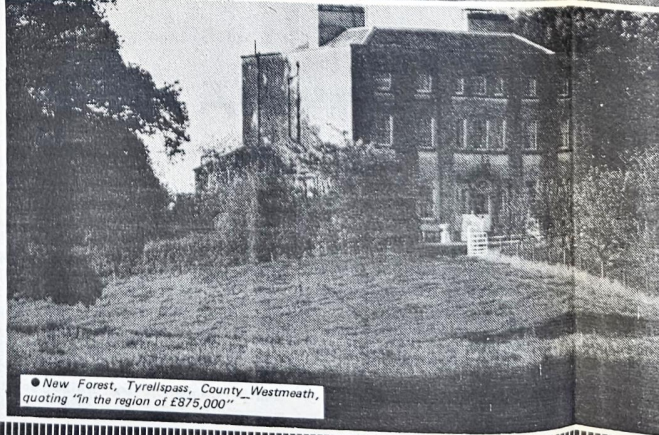
with English-based land companies in the forefront.

The prices being paid for these elite properties are bound to bump up the price of ordinary farming land.

County	Property	Land and Amenities	Price
Cork	The Priory, Great Island	Mansion in 5½ acres	£300,000
	Cork Harbour		
	Coolroe House, near Cork City	Mansion in 1 acre	£127,000
Donegal	Grianan Estate, Speenogue near Lifford	Dairy and tillage farm with large house 3,160 acres	£3,500,000
Galway	Doon House, Maam	Mansion in 60 acres on Lough Corrib	£500,000
Kerry	Sheen Falls, Kenmare	Valuable fishery with mansion house in 310 acres	£700,000
Kildare	Bert House, Athy	Mansion with stud farm in 80 acres	£600,000
Mayo	The Old Rectory, Cong	Mansion in 4 acres	£260,000
	Delphi Fishery, Glencullen	Valuable salmon fishery	£250,000
Meath	Glebe House, Slane	Mansion in own grounds	£162,000
	Sechnal House, Dunshaughlin	281-acre farm	£700,000
Westmeath	New Forest House Tyrellspass	Mansion with 600 acre farm	£875,000



● The Delphi fishery in Mayo — recently bought by an English speculator for £250,000



● New Forest, Tyrellspass, County Westmeath, quoting "in the region of £875,000"



so. Around £450,000 has already been spent on the Delphi fishery for the same purpose. But this outlay is likely to treble the price of the fisheries, which are already charging rates which are totally prohibitive for most Irish people. The overall effect will be to drive up the price of fish holidays.

At a time when 30,000 to 50,000 Irish people are emigrating each year — with 100,000 small farmers leaving the land since 1973 as a result of the Common Agricultural Policy which favoured the large farmer/rancher at the expense of the smallholder — the unrestricted movement of large tracts of Irish land into foreign ownership is obscene.

It is a direct contradiction of the 1916 Proclamation which declares "the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland". It also ignores an important proviso in the 1937 Constitution. Although that document facilitates the selling of Irish land in this way through its provisions on private ownership, it does say that such sales should be subject to "the common good". Blatant evidence that the common good has been interfered with has been wilfully ignored by successive Dublin governments which have pandered to

the whims of their rich benefactors.

The change in land prices caused by the influx of foreign buyers has been extraordinarily rapid. In 1987 the average cost of an acre was £1,168, with good land reaching less than £1,500. Now small parcels of land are being bought up at heavily-inflated prices. A 33-acre holding near Kinsale, without even a farmhouse, recently went for £83,000 — over £2,500 per acre!

In allowing these sales to go ahead without any check, the government is ignoring the recommendations of an Inter-departmental Committee on Land Structure and Reform in 1977. This body recommended the monitoring of all rural land sales by a 'National Land Agency' which would keep a register of qualified land applicants who would have priority entitlement to land coming on the market. Those included on this register would need to show their performance on existing farms, their farm plans and evidence of their agricultural training. Instead of following these recommendations, the government has abolished the Land Commission, giving the clear signal that it wants less rather than more control of the land market.

The implications of this for Ireland's small farmers are very serious. The National Economic & Social Council reported in 1978 that the Land Reform Committee's recommendations "would meet one of our principal requirements for land policy — the timely rescue of a category of potentially viable farmers from slipping into a cycle of decline and withdrawing from agricultural production".

The report, now over ten years old, speaks of the long-term social costs of the mass exodus from the land, especi-

ally the loss of young people from the farms, leaving rural areas "incapable of maintaining even the former moderate levels of agricultural output. Rural community facilities and services (e.g. hospitals) are downgraded or withdrawn altogether. The rural community itself as an institution has been severely disrupted. By contrast, urban areas must cope with congestion, overcrowding of facilities (such as in schools) and chronic shortages as exemplified by permanent housing lists."

In the years since this report, its findings have been proved time and again.

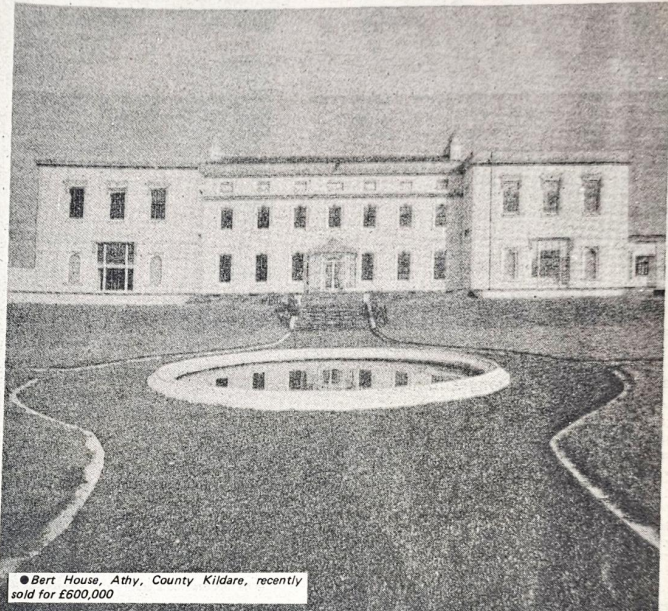
The sheer madness of the present EEC agricultural policy, underwritten by successive Dublin governments, can be

seen most clearly in the case of the Grianan Estate, near Lifford, County Donegal, where 3,160 acres are up for sale in what an auctioneer describes as "probably one of the best all-round dairy and tillage farms to come on the market in recent times". The farm has a 314,000-gallon milk quota and 30-point rotary dairy system. The land is said to be among the best drained flatland in the northern part of the country and even contains a facility for drainage pipe cleaning. But a price tag of £3.5 million means that it will almost certainly be snapped up by some wealthy foreign investor.

Donegal Sinn Féin's Pat Doherty says: "These 3,000 acres should be given over to

20 families who could work it on a co-operative basis, each farmer with a holding of 150 acres and with the knowledge that any profits would stay at home and be reinvested here instead of finding their way to foreign banks and private institutions.

"Today the achievements of Michael Davitt and the Land League are being reversed. Sinn Féin demands the creation of a Land Agency to replace the former Land Commission. This would monitor the sale of all land ensuring that those small farmers in need of land would get top priority. Its objective would be to place the maximum number of farming families on the land and to guarantee their livelihood."



● Bert House, Athy, County Kildare, recently sold for £600,000

## THE LAND LEAGUE

THE LAND LEAGUE was formed in Dublin in October 1879 by Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell. It emerged out of mass meetings earlier that year in Westport and Irish town, County Mayo, and it had the support of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Fenians in America and of the Irish Parliamentary Party. It grew into a powerful mass movement which forced the British government to grant tenants the right to own the land they worked.

Its Declaration of Principles stated that the "land of Ireland belongs to the people of Ireland" and should therefore be used to feed those who live upon it, rather than simply

be a means of gaining profit for its owners:

"Land being created to supply mankind with the necessities of existence, those who cultivate it to that end have a higher claim to its absolute possession than those who make it an article of barter to be used or disposed of for purposes of profit or pleasure."

### LAND WAR

The League announced a *Land War Manifesto* and demanded equal distribution of the land among the tenant farmers, but it concentrated on gaining what became known as the 'Three Fs': Fair Rent, Free Sale, and Fixity of Tenure. Rack-renting landlords were able to set rents at exorbitant rates and tenants who did not have the right to buy the land they worked on, could

easily be thrown off their holdings.

The main tactic used by the Land League was the boycott, named after a rack-renting estate manager in Mayo, Captain Boycott. Local people refused to have any dealings whatsoever with Boycott and simply treated him as if he did not exist. The tactic was widely

used and so successful that some landlords were even boycotted after their deaths and their families found great difficulty in getting them buried.

The land agitation finally forced the British government to grant concessions in 1881, 1891 and in 1903. Under this

legislation, the British government bought out large numbers of the landlords and tenants were allowed buy the land back from the British on the payment of land annuities — yearly sums of money which were largely within the means of the small farmers.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE IRISH NATIONAL LAND LEAGUE

THE Irish National Land League was formed for the following objects:

To put an end to rack-renting, eviction and landlord oppression.

To effect such a radical change in the land system of Ireland as will put it in the power of every Irish farmer to become the owner, on fair terms, of the land he tills.

The means proposed to effect these objects

are:-

1. Organisation amongst the people and tenant farmers for the purpose of self-defence, and inculcating the absolute necessity of their refusing to take any farm from which another may be evicted, or from purchasing any cattle or goods which may be seized on for non-payment of impossible rent.

2. The cultivation of

public opinion by persistent exposure, in the press and by public meetings, of the monstrous injustice of the present system, and of its ruinous results.

3. A resolute demand for the reduction of the excessive rents which have brought the Irish people to a state of starvation.

4. Temperate but firm resistance to oppression and injustice.



# UNIONIST STUDENT PLOT SPIKED

BY HARRY CARSON

QUEEN'S University Ulster Group has been forced into an embarrassing but unashamed public admission by one of its officers that he tried to pack a students' meeting with loyalist supporters in a bid to take decision-making powers away from general meetings and transfer them to the unionist-dominated Student Union Council.

The Belfast Unionist Group's assistant secretary, Peter Weir, has resigned in the face of stu-

dent anger, but he remains unrepentant.

## CONTROL

Weir tried to ensure loyalist control of the meeting by sending a written appeal to his followers to turn out in strength. But the letter found its way into the hands of a nationalist student who exposed the unionist plot at the general meeting on February 8th. The letter, actually signed by Weir himself, said:

"It is essential that every unionist possible turns up. The meeting will be over in less than five

minutes. It is part of our strategy to get the meeting started promptly and get it over as quickly as possible to ensure that the decision is taken before the majority of republicans arrive."

Weir ended his letter with a piece of advice that he would have been better taking himself: "Be discreet as we don't want the republicans to know what we are planning."

On announcing his resignation Weir, in true unionist style, expressed only qualified remorse:

"I simply regret getting caught."

# REMEMBERING THE PAST BUTCHER MAXWELL

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE METHODS used by General Sir John Maxwell, (remembered in Ireland as the "Butcher" Maxwell); to crush the Easter Rising, shocked the Irish people.

Maxwell was born near Liverpool in 1859 and at the age of 20 he was commissioned in the 42nd Highlanders Regiment of the British army. During the following years he was stationed in Africa and when the Boer War broke out in 1899, he was transferred to South Africa, where he helped to crush the revolt with ruthless severity.

Following the outbreak of the European war in August 1914, he fought in Egypt but was back in England when the Easter Rising began.

On Friday, April 28th 1916, the fifth day of the Rising, Maxwell arrived in Dublin from England as commander-in-chief of the British forces in Ireland with complete control over the country under martial law.

## SURRENDER

He was sent to crush the Rising by any means necessary and had no intention of sparing the insurgents, the citizens on the city. In his proclamation he

declared, "If necessary I shall not hesitate to destroy all buildings within any area occupied by the rebels."

Within 24 hours of his arrival he had exacted the unconditional surrender of the republican forces.

His summary execution of the 1916 leaders shocked the country, his most outspoken critic being the Bishop of Limerick, Dr Edward O'Dwyer. In a famous letter to Maxwell on May 17th condemning his action in executing the leaders, Dr O'Dwyer wrote:

"You took care that no plea of mercy should interpose on behalf of the poor young fellows who surrendered to you in Dublin. The first information we got of their fate was the announcement that they had been shot in cold blood. Personally, I regard your action with horror, and I believe it as outraged the conscience of the country."

He condemned the deporta-



● General Sir John Maxwell (or Butcher Maxwell as he was known to people in Ireland) and his staff

tion of thousands of prisoners without trial as an "abuse of power, as fatuous as it is arbitrary." "Altogether," he concluded, "your regiment has been one of the worst and blackest chapters in the history of the misgovernment of the country."

Fourteen prisoners were executed in Dublin on the orders of Maxwell and he had planned to shoot many more. It was said that he had ordered a grave large

enough to hold a hundred to be dug in the yard of the military prison in Arbour Hill.

At the inquest on one of the civilians murdered by British soldiers in the North King Street area of the city during Easter week, the coroner's jury demanded that the officer responsible be produced. Maxwell refused the request and no official inquiry was held into the shootings. As Maxwell explained,

in a letter to the *Daily Mail*, a revolt of this kind "could not be suppressed by velvet glove methods."

## REVULSION

The revulsion, bitterness and anger felt throughout the country at the brutal actions of Maxwell contributed to a shift in public opinion and increased support for Sinn Féin during the following year.

On November 3rd, 1916, after seven months in Ireland, the hated Maxwell was recalled and was given an insignificant command in the north of England. He never held an active command again and was retired shortly afterwards.

The "Butcher" Maxwell, whose name in Ireland has become a byword for repression, died on February 21st 1929, 60 years ago this week.

# JUDICIAL CRIMES EXPOSED

THE CRIMINALS who have kept the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four unjustly in prison for 14 years were exposed on Friday, February 17th, when Richard Harvey, a British lawyer, told a 300-strong meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin:

"There was no mistake in the cases of the Guildford Four or the Birmingham Six. What was done was a callous, cold, calculated crime against justice, and governments don't plead guilty to their crimes, let alone apologise for them."

Harvey represented the 'Balcombe Street' IRA unit which was actually responsible for the Guildford bombings. The unit stated publicly that the four people sentenced over Guildford had nothing to do with the bombings, but the evidence was ignored.

Dublin solicitor Garret Sheehan, who chaired the meeting, pointed to "the rigid attitudes that pervade both in the Home Office and among senior members of the judiciary. When we see that rigidity confronted by the reality of the Birmingham Six case, we see that reality is the loser."

Eadaoin Hauffe, a member of the Birmingham Six Committee,

described her visit to Moscow with Paddy McKenny on behalf of the Birmingham Six Campaign, during which important contacts were made with the government of the Soviet Union. She called for greater international pressure on the British to release the Six. Senator Paschal Mooney made a similar point when he committed himself to raising the issue with members of the British parliament during the coming meetings of delegates from both institutions.

## NO BRITISH JUSTICE

Fr Raymond Murray of Armagh pointed to the erosion of support for the Hillsborough Agreement among nationalists which he believed was partly due to the absence of justice in the British courts. He argued that both church and state had the international influence to put heavy pressure on the British government, but he was sharply critical



● (Above) Mike Mansfield addresses the crowd (below) the packed public meeting in the Mansion House



of both the British and the Dublin governments:

"The Irish government is intransigent towards long-term prisoners and has adopted a never-never policy towards their release. When the Irish government starts releas-

ing prisoners in Portlaoise, they can then preach to the British to release the Birmingham Six."

He also noted the plans to hold a major human rights conference in Moscow in the near future:

"We have listened to the condi-

tions Britain was laying down on the holding of the Peace Convention in Moscow. My advice to the Soviet Union is that it should press for the release of the Birmingham Six as a precondition for representation from Britain at the convention."

Mike Mansfield, the British civil rights lawyer who recently defended the Wiltshire Three, described the atmosphere of fear and censorship created by the Thatcher government and its manipulation of both thought and speech. "Firstly, it will be an offence to speak out of court, under the new censorship laws; secondly, it will be an offence not to speak in court," he said referring to the removal of the defendant's right of silence.

Mansfield argued that the removal of this right would result in many more cases like those of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four and he demanded an end to convictions based only on the 'confession' of the defendant, extracted through prolonged interrogation.



**IMEACHTAÍ**

**ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET**  
5pm to 6pm  
Every Friday during February  
O'Connell Bridge  
DUBLIN

**SOCIAL EVENING**  
Featuring Slane  
8pm 'till late Friday 24th February  
Merrill Forsythe's Social Club  
BELFAST

**FORTHCOMING EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS**

February 24th to 26th  
General Seminar  
March 3rd to 5th  
New Members  
March 11th to 12th  
Dublin Seminar (Chair/Secretary EEC)  
March 11th to 12th  
Shannon Seminar (Chair/Secretary EEC)  
Seminars to be held in Cavan unless otherwise specified.  
Bring sleeping bag

**STOP EXTRADITION PROTEST**

at Fianne Fall Ard-Fheis  
2pm to 4pm: Leafletting  
6.30pm to 8pm:  
Picket during Haughey's address  
Saturday 26th February  
RDS

**BALLAD SESSION**

Featuring: Tinkers Fancy  
8pm Saturday 25th February  
CAMELOT HOTEL  
Malahide Road  
Taille £2.00  
Organised by North Dublin Sinn Féin

**FUNCTION**

In aid of An Cumann Cabhrach  
Saturday 25th February  
Music - no cover charge  
Dundalk Bar  
DUNDALK  
Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach, Dundalk

**FUNCTION**

Featuring The Irish Brigade  
Saturday 25th February  
Clubhouse  
Finglas  
DUBLIN  
Taille £2

**CAMPAIGN FOR LIFERS**

Meeting for friends and relatives of life/SOSP prisoners  
2.30pm Sunday 26th February  
Conway Mill  
Conway Street  
BELFAST

**NORTH LEINSTER EEC CONVENTION**

Meath/Louth/W Meath/Longford  
2.30pm Sunday 26th February  
Forrester's Hotel  
Navan

**COUNTY MEATH**

All Sinn Féin members and supporters to attend

**ANNUAL EASTER FUNCTION**

Featuring The Irish Brigade  
Monday 27th March  
Wexford Inn  
DUBLIN  
Taille £2.00

**RANGANNA GAELIGE**

8pm gach Mairt  
100 Sraid Proinsias  
Na Saoirs  
BAILE ATHA CLAIH

**PUBLIC MEETING**

'Against strip-searching'  
7.30pm Tuesday 28th February  
Sheshade Hall  
OLD MARKET  
Prominent speaker and video.  
Organised by Bristol Troops Out Movement

(Continued on page 13)

**VICTORY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

"AN IMPORTANT VICTORY has been won" said a statement from 170 South African detainees as they ended their hunger-strike on February 16th. The detainees at Johannesburg's Diepkloof Prison had been without food for 24 days and were persuaded to end their fast when the South African Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok promised their lawyers that up to 500 people imprisoned without trial for up to three years, would be released.

There are about 1,000 detainees in South African prisons and police barracks. In the last three weeks 300 of these joined a mass hunger-strike demanding their freedom. Hope was beginning to run out for the hunger-strikers when last week anti-apartheid leader

Rev Allan Boesak of the United Democratic Front (the broad coalition which includes the ANC, the South African liberation movement) joined their protest.

Suddenly the government's hard line towards the hunger-strike melted and when Boe-

sak and Cape Town Archbishop Desmond Tutu met with Adriaan Vlok on Thursday, February 16th, they were told that "a substantial number of detainees" would be released within two weeks. Vlok allowed Rev Frank Chikane, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches to visit hunger-strikers in hospital to explain the move.

Vlok's promise was not enough to dissuade a further 200 hunger-strikers, many of them in Natal province, from starting a second wave of hunger-strikes. On Tuesday he



● ALLAN BOESAK

announced that he had signed release warrants for 50 detainees, bringing the total of



those freed through the hunger-strike to 70. But in East London a further 16 were admitted to hospital after five days without food. Despite the victory, lives still hang in the balance as the detainees await their freedom.

**INJUSTICE—THE PRICE OF BRITAIN'S RULE**

FIFTY DELEGATES gathered in Haringey, North London, last Saturday to plan and co-ordinate work leading up to the 20th anniversary of British troops returning to the streets of the North of Ireland.

The day was opened with speeches from Pat Reynolds (IBRG) who spoke of the discrimination facing the Irish community in Haringey in employment, housing and lack of recognition of the stress caused by anti-Irish racism and emigration. He cited the PTA as a major prevention to people in expressing their political demands.

Janet Clarke from Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign spoke of the injustices facing Black people in Haringey and in particular spoke of the three people framed for the killing of PC Blakelock. She particularly welcomed joint work between the Irish and Black communities and called on people to strengthen the links already developed. A joint rally for justice between Broadwater Farm and IBRG will be held on March 18th, a positive development in this direction.

Michael MacDonncha from Sinn Féin then traced events over the last 20 years in Ireland. He spoke of the recent widespread raids in Belfast and the need to build effective campaigns in Britain calling for British withdrawal.

Workshops on the Guildford Four and the Construction Safety



● Michael MacDonncha speaking at a seminar on 'The Irish war in British Politics' in London on Saturday, February 18th

Campaign followed where we were told of the hundreds of deaths each year on building sites of which a very large number are Irish people.

The videos *Off Our Knees* and *Mother Ireland* ended the educational and information part of the day.

Practical planning workshops brought a host of ideas for action needed to educate and build a local movement. Setting up a PTA Defence Committee, speaking and showing videos to local community and women's groups, pickets of the local press against racist

news articles, taking up employment discrimination in the North of Ireland in local trade union branches and the Trades Council were a few of the ideas.

Michael MacDonncha closed the day by welcoming every principled initiative on withdrawal and self determination. He called on people to work together in a unified way to co-ordinate action and stressed that "there is a role for everybody".

**SEMINAR**

The Sinn Féin speaker also addressed a seminar on 'The Irish

War in British Politics' called by the Irish Freedom Movement the same day. The platform included Tim Gopsill, editor of the NUJ's newspaper *Journalist*, Errol Small-ey of the Guildford Four campaign, Tony Jennings, author of *Justice Under Fire* and representatives of the Broadwater Farm and Holloway Road Defence Committees. During the course of his address MacDonncha said:

"The political climate is now more receptive than ever to the message of Irish freedom. It is up to all those working in solidarity with Ireland to work together and get that message across."

for half an hour was John Davey's sister and her family. The route went through Carness Drive, where the Volunteers were shot dead, with its green, white and orange kerb stones, lamp posts and road signs. Tricolours and black flags had been removed by the RUC the day before, when they raided houses on the road, including the Hogan house.

British soldiers and RUC men closed in on the ceremony as John Hurl began chairing the proceedings by calling for a minute's silence. Bernie Hogan, sister of the dead Volunteer read a statement from her brother Mickey who is imprisoned in Portlaoise Prison.

He recalled how February 1984 "hit us in the face with the nightmare world of cold callous death." He also said that the years since then had made him realise the effects of historic revisionism, censorship and repression.

Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Carroll of Armagh called on people to remember the dead Volunteers and reminded those assembled of the two republicans buried that week. Volunteer Josie Connolly and John Davey, despite being separated by forty years, had a commonality of purpose and ideals in that they both in their own ways were fighting for an Irish socialist republic devoid of British interference.

Carroll called on those present to give whatever assistance possible to Sinn Féin in the forthcoming elections. In echoing a call made often by John Davey he asked those gathered to disperse in peace and with the dignity befitting republicans despite the provocative and intimidatory presence of the crown forces.

The proceedings were closed by the Hogan/Martin Band playing *Amhran na bhFiann*.



● Section of the 1,000-strong crowd at the commemoration of Volunteers Hogan and Martin

**Volunteers remembered**

THE THOUSAND or so people who gathered for the fifth anniversary commemoration of Volunteers Henry Hogan and Declan Martin, shot dead by the SAS, were also paying tribute to Sinn Féin Councillor John Davey who was executed that week and who had chaired the commemoration for the last four years.

Despite the harassment and delays by RUC at checkpoints on the routes into the village of Dunloy, County Antrim, seven bands, a colour party and hundreds

of republicans young and old marched to the garden of remembrance recently erected in memory of the dead Volunteers. Among those stopped and held



# Wala Poist

AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

## BROADCASTING RIGHTS

A Chairde,

The right to broadcast has been the subject of controversy for 20 or more years now. The illegal radio stations, who became known, incorrectly I believe, as the "pirates" have been attempting to exercise that right. The matter came to a head last year, when the Dail enacted legislation empowering the minister for communications to regulate their airwaves. We have seen the unfortunate result of this crude instrument in the columns of the newspapers lately.

The authorities have known for 20 years that they were on dubious ground in attempting to control the pirates because of the right which overrides our Constitution, namely the European Communities, to regulate the airwaves to some extent. The government may now feel confident that it can tackle the so-called pirates, with the backing of this super-national state.

In the Constitution, both the press and the radio are specifically referred to, and no distinction is made:

"The State guarantees liberty for the exercise of the following rights, subject to public order and morality:

The right of citizens to express freely their convictions and opinions. The education of public opinion being, however, a matter of such grave import to the common good, the State shall endeavour to ensure that organs of public opinion, such as the radio, the press, the cinema, while preserving their rightful liberty of expression, including criticism of government policy, shall not be used to undermine public order or morality or the authority of the State." (Article 40.6).

As we know there are no regulatory controls on the press in advance of publication, while any breach of libel, censorship etc is punished after publication. Yet in broadcasting we have a situation where the State, and in reality the party in power, can choose those who will have a licence to broadcast.

The numbers are restricted (eg. two in Dublin, where 24 pirates once survived) so as to ensure profitability — a glaring opportunity for political patronage.

But ultimately the question is more serious than that. Do we want the State to control our diet of news and current affairs? We all have grave misgivings about our political masters, so why should we allow them to control our thought, especially when our Constitution guarantees freedom to broadcast and publish. The alternative seems to be an endless diet of pop-music, although I suspect that, having been given the legal status guaranteed by the constitution, some broadcasters would move 'up-market', as they have done elsewhere. And then we would get some real debate, directed at the real problems in Ireland.

Many argue that there would be 'chaos on the airwaves'. The pirates did operate some 'dirty' signals, but in general the wave bands were tidy. There is room on the airwaves for an estimated 100 stations in Dublin alone — more than enough for everyone.

In summary, it is not the role of the State to allocate licences to broadcasters, but to ensure that those who wish to broadcast can do so, without interference from others. It must then 'endeavour to ensure' that those broadcasters do not use the airwaves to 'undermine public order, morality or the State' as implied by the Constitution. Questions of economic viability are not within the State's remit, no more than for any other business.

The broadcast media are too powerful to be left in the hands of the State.

Grattan C. Healy  
Dublin 4.

## BRITISH SOLDIER

A Chairde,

In the February 2nd edition of AP/RN the content of the front page covered the death of a British soldier killed in an IRA ambush. It explained how he died in a war that was not of his making, in a country he



knew probably little about apart from what his superiors told him. I think this tends to imply that British soldiers do not understand what is happening in the Six Counties.

British soldiers are not that stupid that they don't realise what is going on in Ireland, as in the same edition the *Flying Column* reported about ten British soldiers who armed to the teeth went to the Republican plot in Milltown Cemetery and posed with their guns pointed to the ground at Bobby Sands' graveside. It was quite obvious what they were doing, mocking the dead IRA Volunteers who are laid to rest there.

The dead British soldier got ample coverage in that issue without having to be mentioned yet again on the front page of the following issue on February 9th. This article was very sympathetic with the dead British soldier, repeating his family's quotes to British newspapers. "He had no comprehension of what he was involved in, he was simply following orders."

Again I say highly trained British soldiers are not stupid, he knew he was not going to a tea-party when he made his way into Belfast. Most British soldiers come from working class backgrounds and join the army because of unemployment but I would rather be unemployed than dead!

When a British soldier is killed I do not gloat or rejoice nor do I try to justify their presence by saying "they probably don't understand, it's all really their political masters fault." British soldiers are 100% part of the British war machine. When they are let off the leash, they are the ones who do the harassing, spying, maiming, torturing and killing. The Paratroopers were only

following orders when they shot 14 people dead on Bloody Sunday. When British soldiers are told to kill, they kill and they are every bit as guilty as their political masters.

Jimmy Kelly  
Tyrone.

## BRITISH PROPAGANDA

A Chairde,

Surely to help counter British propaganda abroad and worldwide regarding Ireland (because many people abroad, ie outside Ireland don't know what the groupings are and are totally confused) organisations like the loyalists, Orangemen, UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force), UDA (Ulster Defence Association), UFF (Ulster Freedom Fighters) etc should be called the British UDA, the British UFF, the British UVF etc which is what they are and their actions etc should be referred to as British statements and actions.

This would clear up a lot of confusion and misunderstanding for people abroad and so help to counter British world propaganda about what's happening in Ireland.

S. Dillon  
London

## LEGAL OR ILLEGAL

A Chairde,

I just want to pose the question. I'm English, but when I was at school many years ago I was taught that the IRA who won back the 26 Counties were made legal by recognition and they founded the Free State.

How come the Irish are doing a U-turn and calling them an illegal organisation now?

Teresa Dowdall.

## CLEAN IT UP

A Chairde,

At some stage we must begin to analyse exactly where we are heading on the situation of our environment. The majority of people do care about the environment but do not know how to go about cleaning it up.

Ireland's economy mostly depends on a clean environment for example, tourism, fisheries and agriculture.

Tourism: While the government states that it is doing everything to bring the tourist to Ireland it allows industries to dump waste in an unsightly manner. Also they allow people to dump vehicles and other non-perishable articles in the countryside without any real means of stopping them.

Fisheries: The waters around Ireland are noted as the most polluted in the world. This is due mainly to the dumping of plutonium off the Irish coast by nuclear plants. Plutonium is a poison that remains lethal for hundreds of thousands of years. Contrary to general belief the barrels in which they are dumped are not water-tight. The Irish government should do more than pay lip service to the right for a clean Irish Sea.

Agriculture: Again here the government has failed in its duty to the people. While the government tells farmers how to improve their livelihood on the land, it allows government departments to dump dangerous waste in a totally disregardful manner, for example, the dumping of asbestos waste from the ESB power station at Portlanning.

The blame for our unsightly environment must be laid exactly where it should be, at the doorstep of the government. It is they that were

elected to represent the voice of the people and successive governments have done little or nothing since they took over the 26-County state for the environment. It is time that the government realised that the people no longer want to hear their hollow words nor empty promises. Only when we achieve a clean environment can anyone set about putting this country on the road to recovery again.

Michael Rooney  
Castlebar  
County Mayo

## IRISH CULTURE COURSES

A Chairde,

Since 1983 Oideas Gael has been offering activity holidays involving various aspects of Irish culture and the Irish language. Our programme attracts people of diverse ages, backgrounds and nationalities who participate in language classes, singing, dancing, as well as workshops in folklore and literature and tours of places of historical and contemporary interest, such as Glenveagh National Park.

The accommodation options (which are included in the advertised fees of £70 upwards) consist of either full board and hospitality in the welcoming atmosphere of a local family home or, alternatively, the freedom and flexibility of sharing a small well-equipped house with other course participants and catering for their own food and other requirements.

The daily schedule is a demanding one but our participants, enjoy both the formal learning and social and recreational elements of our courses. This year's schedule features new foundation courses; one in the increasingly popular national pastime of set-dancing and including tuition from expert practitioners in the major dances of the country; while the other is a multi-faceted foundation Heritage Course, each segment under the direction of acknowledged experts, designed to provide participants with an essential grounding in the main elements of Irish culture, including folklore, archaeology, literature and music.

Language Course, 15-22 July, Glenconville;  
Language and Culture, 22-29 July, Glenconville;  
Language Course, 29 July-5 August, Commeen, Glenfin;  
Language and Culture, 5-12 August, Commeen, Glenfin;  
Set-Dancing, 8-15 July, Glenconville;  
Irish Heritage, 8-15 July, Glenconville.

Oideas Gael,  
2 Isle Harlech,  
Baile Atha Cliath 14,  
Fon: (01) 213566/984774.

# HOOKED

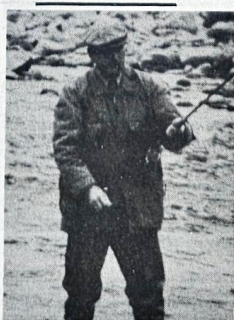
"THERE IS NO doubt whatever", said Mr Brendan Daly, 26-County Minister for the Marine, and I heard him myself with my own two little ears, "we do have an element of subversion here." And do you know what the man was referring to? No, it was not guns or bombs or ships anchoring offshore in the dark of the moon, decks laden with sinister wooden boxes bearing that awful stencil, 'Libya'. Oh, much worse — much, much worse and it is plain to see that the whole bloody country is gone to hell and given up to lawlessness!

The Minister, my dear friends and comrades in misfortune, was in fact referring to that desperate crowd of terrorists — hold your breath now and wait for it — The Anti-Rod Licence Anglers!

Subversion, by God, that is what he said. And of course as we

all know, subversion and terrorism are one and the same word as far as politicians and media scribes of this fair free land of Eire are concerned.

Now I have a confession to make and I can see Mr Daly leaping to his hot-line 'phone' with a



few words for the very secret ear of our new secret police chief Eugene the man from God-knows

where. Well I suppose you could be a "spoil-sport" and say, West Cork. Ahem.

Oh yes, the confession. I nearly forgot that and Brendan and your man Eugene almost unconscious from holding the breath. Well, the fact is that I have in my possession and under my sole control — now hear this, not one, not two, but three rods. Oh, deadly dangerous rods and (God preserve us from all harm) I have had them for years and years — since I was a young chap in fact.

I have to confess also that I have all the other gear to go with the rods (fishing rods that is). I have an assortment of reels — one of these is silent in operation and deadly! Dear Lord, when I think of the stuff I have stashed away. I

have a box — a whole box mind you, full of the most deadly hooks and sinkers ever conceived by the fiendish mind of man. And, Oh Lord forgive me again, I have a most devilish selection of mock flies and insects made most cunningly from little bits of feathers and tinsel — withal, each tempting siren concealing in its feather skirt a most deadly and dreadful hook!

Now that Brendan has Eugene on his side I will have to build a bunker for my rods, hooks and sinkers — deep, deep down under the dung-heap so Eugene and his sniffer-dogs and of course, Brendan, Minister Daly, won't be able to smell them out!

And light a candle before the shrine of Walton and like Dick Willis wait for better times...



## REVIEWS



## FIANNA FAIL DELUSION

BY CON CARNEY

**UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY** is the third in a series of books by ex-Fianna Fail minister, Kevin Boland, in his "self-imposed task of recording the process of the degeneration of Fianna Fail". As such it is aimed primarily at the rank and file of that party and documents its leadership's brazen U-turns on the London-Dublin agreement, extradition, and the Single European Act - all three of which were bitterly opposed by Fianna Fail in opposition only to be enthusiastically implemented by them when in power.

Boland's central message - since the documentation speaks for itself - is that the Fianna Fail party is irredeemable. A party whose leadership can act against the wishes of not only its rank and file, but also only its national executive and within its parliamentary party, "cannot be regenerated from within". Fianna Fail are no different to Fine Gael. In fact, given the establishment consensus, there is not the slightest need for three or four parties.

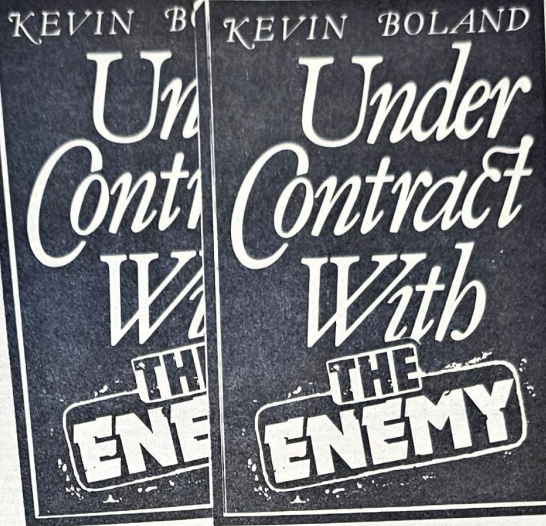
## CULPABLE

Accordingly, those rank and file members still "trapped" in by "the need to keep the Blueshirts out", are deluding themselves. They need finally to top themselves on; to

"secede now or be forever culpable in the national treachery of the Anglo-Irish Agreement".

Boland believes that the destruction of Fianna Fail is a necessary condition for a British withdrawal. This is because that demand can only be convincingly and effectively pursued, in his view, by an Irish government - following republican policy. Sinn Féin cannot, Boland argues, fulfill that role; Fianna Fail will not; therefore what is required he says, is a new movement, one that is both republican and capable of becoming the party of government.

● *Under Contract With the Enemy*, by Kevin Boland, is published by Mercier Press, price £4.95.



● Geraldine Quigley, wife of Thomas Quigley, a prisoner in an English jail, with their daughter Seanin

## SENTENCED

WHEN A JUDGE passes sentence on a prisoner he is also passing sentence on their family, a point often either forgotten or taken for granted by some of us who don't have immediate members of our family imprisoned. A new video, *Sentenced*, seeks to tell the story of those with relatives serving their time in England.

Commissioned by the Committee for the Transfer of Irish Prisoners, which is campaigning for repatriation, the video relates the experiences of families who visit English jails and interviews a number of professional people with experience of the British penal system and its treatment of Irish people.

*Sentenced* is a story of fear, hardship, isolation, humiliation and political manipulation. It is a clear indictment of the attitude which prevails

"I've been to the various prisons, backwards and forwards. We're not getting any younger now. My husband's on the pension and I'm coming up to the pension so it doesn't make it easy for us to go."

One of the most harrowing moments in the video is when a young mother relates how she suffered three strip-searches within a few hours when she went to visit her husband.

She was arrested outside Victoria train station in London under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and brought to the top-security Paddington Green Police Station.

"I took sick but I was

trying to catch the airplane I had used a bit of toilet roll for protection. There were no men in the room, only two women. I had said to the girl, 'Look I'm unwell.' And she says to me, 'Strip!' She was going through my hair, running her hands down my arms and down my neck and shoulders. She looked in my ears, my mouth and my nose and lifted my breasts up."

She was then taken to another room where a man who said he was a doctor supervised another strip-search. He told her, 'Get up on the couch. I want you to bend your legs and lie on your side. I'll be giving you an 'internal'. The doctor then roughly probed her anus.

## BRING THEM HOME

Fr Des Wilson, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, Harry Flet-

cher of the National Association of Probation Officers, Nuala Kelly of the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, Gareth Pierce, solicitor for the Guildford Four, all articulate strong arguments for the transfer of Irish POWs.

The video hammers home the truth of political manipulation and vindicates the arguments that Irish POWs and their families are political hostages. As part of that strategy, Harry Fletcher, NAPO, said:

"The British Home Office has put forward a number of arguments against the transfer of Irish POWs. But the ground continually shifts as campaigning organisations manage to knock the arguments down."

The frustration of the families dominates the video. This frustration is further increased because, legally, it is the duty of the prison to ensure that a prisoner is housed as near to the family as possible. Gareth Pierce believes that the failure to do so has led to a violation of international human rights. The clergy, politicians and penal reform groups are all aware that the British and 26-County governments signed the European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons but the 26-County government has refused to ratify this treaty.

So where does the campaign for the transfer of Irish POWs go from here? The video makes two suggestions: to push the 26-County government into ratifying the transfer treaty and for the families of the POWs to bring their cases to the European Court.

"The important thing," Fr Des Wilson says, "is that you see what the problem is, you sympathise with it and together we can all do something to ensure that the prisoners who are in England are brought home."

● *Sentenced* is available from the Transfer Video Project, Conway Education Centre, Conway Mill, Conway Street, Belfast 12. Price Stg £21.50 including postage.

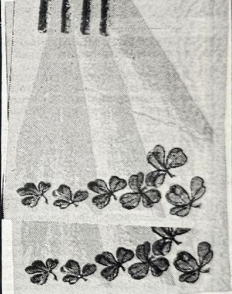
## IMEACHTAÍ

**COMMEMORATION VIGIL**  
First anniversary of the killing of the Gibraltar Three  
5.30pm to 7.00pm  
Monday, March 6th  
Kilburn Square, Kilburn High Road  
LONDON NW6  
Sinn Féin speaker  
Organised by the Committee for British withdrawal from Ireland.

**CAVAN COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR AGM**  
8.30pm Monday 6th March  
Belturbet  
CAVAN

**WOMEN'S YEAR OF ACTION ON IRELAND GROUP VIGIL**  
5pm to 7pm Wednesday 8th March  
to commemorate the death of Mairead Farrell  
Waterloo Bridge  
London  
(and in major towns and cities)  
**NATIONALIST WOMEN'S SPEAKING TOUR**  
Tuesday 7th March: Liverpool  
Wednesday 8th March: Leeds  
Thursday 9th March: Oxford  
Friday 10th March: Birmingham  
Saturday 11th March: London  
Sunday 12th March: Brighton  
Details: 01 609 1743

THE BIRMINGHAM SIX  
FIFTEENTH  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
DENIED JUSTICE



**ST PATRICK'S DAY CARDS**  
produced by the  
Birmingham Six Committee  
from  
Jarlah House  
Brackish Place  
Dublin 2  
£1.00 for 4/£2.00 for 10  
information Joe Colgan 01-772212.

## AGMs

Clancy O'Callaghan Sinn Féin Cumann, Limerick  
Cathaoirleach: Niamh Rattigan;  
Rural: Padraic Malone; Cisteoir: Mick Morrissey; O.C.P.: Maurice Quinlan; Organiser: Tony O'Connor.

Maurice McGrath Sinn Féin Cumann Carrick-on-Suir  
Honorary presidents: Jerry Donovan, Michael O'Doherty; Chaplain: Liam Walsh; Secretary: Eddie O'Doherty; Treasurer: John O'Shea; PRO: Michael Burns.

## BEANNACHTAÍ

McCOMB, John (Long Lartin). Happy birthday John Boy mo chara. At the top of the hill now. All the best from Ned, Armin Tank and wee Snooks.  
McCOMB, John (Long Lartin). All the best John Boy. From all your muckers in the Strand.  
McCOMB, John (Long Lartin). All the best John Boy. From all the former POWs especially John.

McCOMB, John (Long Lartin). Birthday greetings and best wishes. From Sinn Féin Bun na bhFál.  
TUITE, Gerry (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy birthday Gerry. Best wishes. O do chara Eileen.













# THE FLYING COLUMN

**HAVE YOU SEEN** tyres with legs, batteries with wheels or lightbulbs with wings in the last number of years?

If you have the 26-County Auditor-General might be interested in hearing from you because the gardai have 'lost' over £10 million worth from their headquarters stores in the Phoenix Park. The secretary of the Department of Justice told the Leinster House Committee on Public Accounts last week that these stores have been "protected by honourable gardai" and in an attempt to dispel rumours the committee was also told that "there is very little risk of stuff being misappropriated".

It was admitted, though, that the department or the gardai "cannot answer fully for the transport stores". This particular trove, worth over £750,000 annually, consists of car parts, batteries, tyres etc. which the Auditor-General described as "attractive" before he suggested that there might possibly be pilfering going on. Pilfering, if it were you or me, would be robbery or larceny in a court of law.

It seems that "loss or wastage" is up to £10 million from the dubious depot. On top of all this it has also emerged that more taxpayers' money to the tune of £1,667,000 has been poured into the Garda's Black Hole. In December 1983 a 13.5 acre site "with extensive industrial buildings and office accommodation" was bought for £1.3 million and £367,000 has been spent doing the place up. But three years after work started on the new stores the leaking Phoenix Park depot has still not transferred and a full stocktaking has not been carried out there for 15 years.

★★★

A COUPLE of spotlights have been thrown on what goes on behind closed doors in Dublin Castle and Iveagh House when EEC heads of government have their meetings in our fair capital city. Britain's former EEC Commissioner Roy Jenkins is publishing his diaries in the *Observer* newspaper and last Sunday he told of Thatcher's visit to Dublin in November 1979.

Jenkins describes how Thatcher behaved like a spoiled brat "being far too demanding" and constantly repeating: "It's my money, I want it back". This prompted the Belgian Foreign Minister Simonet to comment "Voilà parle la vraie fille de l'épicière" (There speaks the true grocer's daughter). As well as alternately boring and infuriating everyone else at the meetings Thatcher didn't get on too well with her own officials either. According to Jenkins:

"She had an explosive row with her senior officials on the way over in the plane so that it nearly blew up over St George's Channel."

Formal 'working' dinners are part of such EEC summits and Iveagh House, headquarters of the 26

Counties' Department of Foreign Affairs, was the venue where they dined in November '79. Jenkins revealed that among the items they discussed was "nuclear defence" with Thatcher "upbraiding, in a rather uncomprehending way, the little countries". We are not told how the Fianna Fail government delegation reacted to these NATO discussions in its 'neutral' Foreign Affairs headquarters.

The next day Jenkins was summoned by Thatcher to Dublin Castle "where she was installed, or incarcerated is perhaps the right word, because the Irish felt that nowhere else would be satisfactory from the security point of view". Jenkins continues:

"It was an unforgettable scene. Those two important knights, Sir Michael Palliser (Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office) and Sir Robert Armstrong (Cabinet Secretary), were sitting in insipidated" gloom. The atmosphere was enlivened, if that is the right word, by a plaque upon the wall saying: 'In this room James Connolly, signatory to the proclamation of the Irish Republic, lay a wounded prisoner prior to his execution by the British military force at Kilmainham Jail and his interment at Arbour Hill, 12 May, 1916.' She wasted half the time on a harangue, which embarrassed her two knights and bored me..."

\* Footnote. The dictionary tells me that insipidated means "the action of making or process of becoming thick and dense" which is a suitable enough description of the qualifications Thatcher demands from her flunkies.

★★★

IMAGINE how traumatic it must have been for Margaret Von Battenburg, one of Britain's leading dole recipients. There she was, off on a little jaunt to the Caribbean paradise island of Mustique on Concorde, when the bad news came. Just before she boarded the supersonic jet the princess and the other passengers were informed that there would be a slight delay. In the end they had to wait for more than three hours.

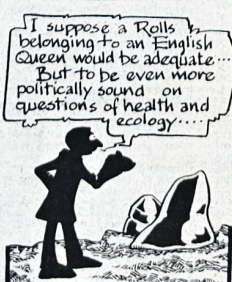
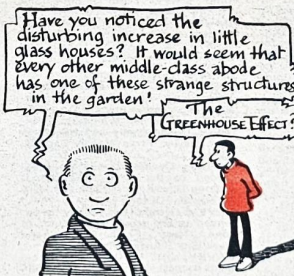
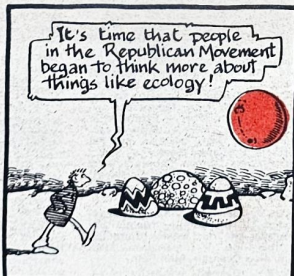
But stop your sobbing, Ms Von Battenburg was compensated for the catastrophe by British Airways to the tune of £500. She made straight for the duty free shop and stocked up on Silk Cut cigarettes.

★★★

I GOT a telephone call the other day from a Garda of my acquaintance, a regular contributor to *The Flying Column*. But the poor man could hardly talk, he was laughing so much. Between his guffaws he revealed the awful truth about the 'trade union' to which he belongs, the notorious Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors.

The AGSI's official organ, *Garda News*, is published in Dublin, he told me, by a company with an appropriate name: Britmark Ltd.

NOTES



## DUIRT SIAD

The withdrawal is a great tribute to the resistance who never let up the fight in their own country.

— Margaret Thatcher speaking about Afghanistan, not Ireland.

\*\*\*

I would support a higher military presence in the areas that provide a refuge for the IRA. It is an unfortunate possibility that civilians would be hurt, but who are the civilians? Terrorists are only civilians in another guise.

— Omagh Presbyterian minister Bill Clarke at the funeral of RUCman Stephen Montgomery, killed by IRA in Sion Mills, County Tyrone.

\*\*\*

Socialism is filthy, disgusting, perverted. We are the pure.

— Not Adolf Hitler but close. Delegate at the British Young Conservatives' Conference.

\*\*\*

They [people feeling somewhat superior] might ponder whether the Ayatollah fingering a writer is all that removed from a politician fingering a solicitor.

— Gene Kerrigan, *Sunday Tribune*, February 19th.

\*\*\*

Standard protocol for junior minister in Conservative governments, Rule 1 — it is necessary for ministers with egg all over their face to resign; this is not required if all they have is blood all over their hands.

— *Sunday Tribune*.

\*\*\*

Are we gullible or what?

— Musician Phillip King on the South's electorate.