



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

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'Peace' Train exposed

Secret report
reveals WP
creation

THE PUBLICATION this week of a Workers' Party document signed by Proinsias De Rossa and Seán Garland which seeks financial assistance of up to £1 million from the Soviet Communist Party and a plea to have some of its members trained by the KGB, has once again highlighted the issue of the Workers' Party's secret activities. It also draws attention to Proinsias De Rossa's and other Democratic Left TDs' knowledge of such activities during their time as key members of the party. Newspaper revelations this week also say that Seán Garland was in regular contact with a KGB agent at the Soviet Embassy in Dublin in the 1980s.

It is beyond the realms of belief that, as Proinsias De Rossa claims, he as Workers' Party President had no knowledge of his party's request for a sum of £1 million and that he knew nothing of Garland's Soviet contacts. What is even more unbelievable is his claim that he only remembers that he visited Moscow "some time in the '80s".

These revelations are but a tiny fraction of the multitude of clandestine activities in which the Workers' Party has engaged over the years and which directly involved the party leadership. Documentation, which has been supplied to AP/RN supports the contention that the Workers' Party sought financial assistance from the Soviets and other Eastern Bloc states where

they posed as a national liberation movement. Their projection of this false image of themselves and their widespread contacts in eastern states undoubtedly led to considerable financial support.

A letter from Betty Sinclair in Czechoslovakia in 1977 to Seán O Cionnaith regarding foreign aid, advises him to approach Michael O'Riordan of the Communist Party of Ireland for a list of contacts. There is also a 1976 letter from the Bulgarian state broadcasting service which agrees to help raise funds for the Workers' Party's International Affairs Bureau.

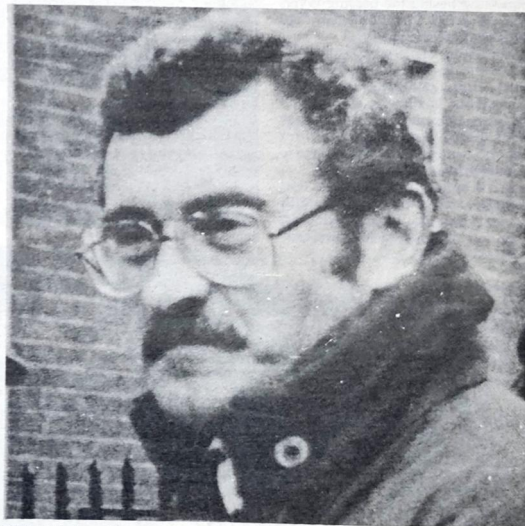
The maintenance of a secret army styling itself the Official IRA, which had direct links with the Workers' Par-

ty, and the reactionary activities of this armed group over the years have been well documented in the pages of AP/RN and other media organisations, including the BBC, on numerous occasions. But these activities and the party's shady financial dealings are not the only secret activities engaged in by the Workers' Party. Their opportunistic infiltration and manipulation of various organisations and their direct role in creating and controlling other ostensibly non-political organisations such as the Peace Train group, Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT) and New Consensus needs further investigation.

Since the appearance of the so-called Cross-party Peace Train Committee, Sinn Féin has consistently maintained that it is an anti-republican political exercise initiated and controlled by the Workers' Party for its own political ends. Internal documents which have been seen by AP/RN now prove this beyond any doubt.

A letter from prominent Workers' Party member, Seán O Cionnaith, to the party's Executive Management Committee says:

"Earlier this year when the Provos (continued on page 16)



● The Workers' Party's Seán O Cionnaith (above) and De Rossa advanced the 'Peace' Train idea

Sinn Féin National Women's Conference

SELF-DETERMINATION

— What choices for Irish women?

Derry, Saturday 7 November

EVERYONE WELCOME

(see page 10 for details)

News

Three IRA bombs per week in London

THE FOURTEENTH IRA BOMB in London since the beginning of the month exploded on Sunday, 25 October, at Morpeth Mansions near Victoria Railway station. This Edwardian block of apartments is the home of former British Secretary of State for the Six Counties Jim Prior and is popular with British political figures and military personnel from a nearby barracks.

The IRA statement released shortly after the explosion from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin and signed PO'Neill stated:

"Yesterday evening's blast at Westminster was carried out by Volunteers of the IRA."

Although on this occasion the device was a relatively small one at the luxury apartments of senior British political and military figures, including former secretary of state Lord Prior, it brings home to those who implement repressive legislation and those who enforce it in the occupied Six Counties, that they cannot sit in London in comfort and safety while nationalists suffer because of their policies."

This blast followed three other explosions on Wednesday evening, 21 October.

The first bomb exploded at a British Rail station at Edmonton, North London, throwing rail traffic into complete confusion. This was compounded when another bomb went off on the Piccadilly underground line between South Harrow and Rayners Lane in north-west London.

The IRA statement said that 40 minutes after its warning British transport police were still saying to the news media that "no security alerts were under way".

The repeated disregarding of adequate IRA warnings by both this police force and London's Metropolitan Police resulted in one of the bombs exploding beside the passing Liverpool Street to Cheshunt train. No injuries were reported.

Switching tactics and targets, the IRA moved to another part of London where it placed another bomb. This exploded on Wednesday evening at a British army barracks on the Hammer-smith Road. In this explosion three British Territorial Army soldiers were slightly injured.

As London ground to a halt because of massive disruption which resulted from the IRA's operations, London's Metropolitan Police Chief,

Sir Peter Imbert, flew out of the city and into the Six Counties to hear news of more IRA actions.

On the day after Wednesday's London explosions he was spotted in East Belfast at the RUC training barracks at Garnerville. It is believed he was involved in 'security' discussions with senior British army and RUC personnel. They themselves were left scratching their heads following the detonation of a huge IRA car bomb, which had exploded only hours earlier in Bangor, north Down.

The blast, which wrecked Bangor's main commercial centre, went off in Lower Main Street at 10.40pm and was heard 15 miles away. Massive cost in compensation claims will have been inflicted on the British exchequer by the blast. Bangor's commercial centre is frequently used by British military personnel from the nearby British army Palace barracks at Hollywood who are doing two-year 'tours' in the Six Counties. At present this barracks houses the Parachute Regiment.

In a supplied statement from the IRA's Belfast Brigade the IRA said Volunteers had earlier commandeered a Saab car and packed it with 250lbs of explosives.

After driving it into Bangor and avoiding several British checkpoints, they parked it outside Cawoods Coal Importers offices, set the timing mechanism and withdrew. This was the signal for another IRA Volunteer to give a 50-minute warning to the Samaritans and Downtown Radio to allow for civilians to clear the area.

After the explosion telephone links with the area, including RUC communications lines were badly disrupted for a considerable period.

Hard on the heels of the the Bangor blast the IRA's Belfast Brigade again defied concentrated British checkpoints and placed a 100lb car bomb beside the main railway station in the Six Counties, Belfast Central.

This IRA attack took place around 4am on Friday morning and was the

fourth such IRA attack in eight days.

On Wednesday afternoon IRA Volunteers, operating in the Lower Grosvenor Road area, fired 20 rounds at construction workers aiding British army engineers reinforcing their Grosvenor Road barracks. Both those engaging in the reinforcement work and crown forces in the 'security' perimeter took cover and there was no return fire.

■ NORTH ARMAGH

Following last Friday's operation against a well-known UVF leader in Portadown, the North Armagh Brigade Oglagh na hÉireann have claimed responsibility for the attack.

In their statement they named the known UVF leader whose long involvement in sectarian murders in the Armagh and Tyrone areas is well documented.

The IRA statement continued saying that while the UVF member's car was parked in front of a loyalist pub in Union Street in Portadown an IRA Volunteer placed a 2lb semtex bomb under the vehicle. This was done in view of the door staff at the front of the pub. The mechanism which was used to attach the device failed to hold and the bomb fell onto the road where it was spotted by a passerby. It was later disarmed by British army technicians.

■ CROSSMAGLEN

The IRA's South Armagh Brigade have claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a large British army patrol as they moved in fields around one of their largest watchtowers. The attack took place on Wednesday afternoon, 28 October, and one British soldier was seriously injured in the blast. He was seen to be thrown yards over the field and other badly-shaken members of the patrol gave him first aid. He was later flown out of the area in one of numerous British helicopters which touched down for a matter of minutes to collect this latest British casualty.

The watchtower is situated in the Glassdrummond area just outside Crossmaglen and the explosion happened less than 200 yards from the heavily-fortified British encampment. IRA Volunteers had earlier skillfully moved through the British position and placed the explosives.

IN BRIEF...

More pressure on Northern Bank

THE DISCRIMINATION in employment carried out by the Northern Bank was hit another blow last week in the United States. The Washington based Irish American Unity Conference (IAUC) passed resolutions at its annual convention last week urging members to boycott any financial institution in the US connected with the Northern Bank.

Dan O'Kennedy, national vice-president of the IAUC, attacked the bank for its "poor employment practices". Because of the disgracefully low level of Catholics employed at the Northern Bank, (18.5% in its total workforce and only 8% in managerial positions), O'Kennedy has said that the IAUC would now be writing to the banks' 'parent' corporation demanding action. The parent bank is the National Australia Bank, which also owns the Irish National Bank in the 26 Counties.

Included in the IAUC actions will be withdrawal of accounts, withholding of credit card purchases and a concentrated letter-writing campaign.

Bullick unrepentant at Queen's

QUEEN'S University Conservative Association blundered on its solitary path once again with its acting chairperson, Richard Bullick describing Student Union officers as republicans.

The students claimed that his remarks outraged members who felt particularly vulnerable after the UVF murder of Queen's law student Sheena Campbell.

The Tory was speaking at the union general meeting held last Wednesday 21 October. During the meeting he stood by claims he made at the beginning of this present term in a pamphlet handed out to students. This said that the union's 'republican' executive adopted extremist policies and was an embarrassment to the university. The Tory pamphlet also criticised the union's stance on bilingualism and the playing of the British national anthem at Queen's graduation ceremonies. This particular anthem is not even played in British universities during graduation ceremonies, and even English academic staff at Queen's find the playing of the British anthem as "quite strange".

Sinn Féin demands answer on Laganbank

SINN FEIN Councillor Máirtín O Muilleoir has demanded that Robert Atkins, British minister for the economy in the Six Counties, end the uncertainty over grant aid for the Laganbank conference and concert hall. The British government had promised £10.5m out of the £29.1m needed for the project.

O Muilleoir said that were the £10.5m not forthcoming he would argue for the £12m that has been put aside by the council for the project to be used to tackle "deprivation in the city".

"A council which insists on building a prestigious concert hall set to run at an annual loss of £1.5m while it is axing jobs and closing leisure centres has got its priorities seriously distorted", added O Muilleoir.

Ulster Unionist Councillor Fred Cobain, however, maintained that the project would go ahead despite the warnings of public expenditure cutbacks and claimed that the regeneration of the area depended on the project.



RIR soldier gives information to UVF

IN ANOTHER case of unionist judicial bias a Royal Irish Regiment (formerly UDR) soldier charged with passing on information to the loyalist death squad, the UVF, has been granted bail in Belfast High Court.

Rodney Davis from Ringhaddy Avenue, Newtownards admitted at his bail hearing on Thursday, 22 October that he gave names, addresses and car numbers of nationalists in the South Down area to the UVF. He would meet his UVF contact in a pub in Newtownards and give him the information copied from his official UDR notebook.

Citing evidence from the RUC that they did not think Davis was a member of an illegal organisation Lord Justice Murray granted him bail.



● Damage to Bangor's main street is worth well over £1 million

Dog bites PD tail

Coalition government under strain

"COOL IT" was the order from Justice Liam Hamilton, Chairperson of the Beef Tribunal this week. Reynolds had no intention of cooling it. He had used his first day of testimony to launch a stinging attack on PD leader, Des O'Malley.

Reynolds' calculated pre-emptive strike was yet another Fianna Fáil attempt to provoke the PDs into abandoning coalition and forcing an election. While giving evidence he had described O'Malley as being "reckless, irresponsible and dishonest".

There are now three cabinets in the Dublin government. First there is the

actual coalition government cabinet with PDs Bobby Molloy and Des O'Malley as senior ministers while Mary Harney has a junior cabinet post. More important and making the running over past months is the Fianna Fáil senior cabinet members who have been making the decisions and simply outwitting the PDs when the whole

cabinet meets. Lastly there are the five PD TDs who together with MEP Pat Cox and party chairperson, the unelected Michael McDowell, issue the PD ultimatums. The 'mighty' PDs have an impressive record of achievements based on the "give in or we walk out" method.

They forced Charlie Haughey to ditch Brian Lenihan in the presidential election. They forced the stepping down of Donegal deputy James McDaid whom Haughey had nominated to the post of minister of state at the Department of Defence. McDaid was witchhunted by Fine Gael and the Workers' Party because of his acquaintance with Donegal extradition victim Jim Clarke. The PDs put the knife in when the matter was raised in Leinster House.

■ BY NEIL FORDE

They forced Haughey to agree to the Beef Tribunal in the first place. They forced Fianna Fáil to implement PD policies on taxation, the economy and social legislation.

Finally they forced Fianna Fáil to abandon Haughey.

However the ascendancy of Reynolds has led to the cold shoulder being applied to the junior coalition partners. Reynolds' revamped cabinet has virtually ignored the PDs and a succession of government decisions have been taken without PD approval. The PDs were forced to admit that although they would vote for the bill on the upcoming referendum on travel, information and abortion in Leinster House, it was not the wording of their choice.

Reynolds' intense dislike of the PDs is well documented. He, more than any other minister under Haughey's tenure, found the 1989 coalition agree-

ment the hardest to take. He described the coalition government as a "temporary little arrangement" and looked on in disbelief as Haughey did deal after deal with the coalition ministers enjoying better relations with them than with some of his own ministers.

It seems that the first cut is the deepest for Reynolds. Being thrown out of government by Haughey was forgotten when he took the stand on Tuesday 28 October. O'Malley was the target. The formation of the Progressive Democrats was the first unforgivable act, then the stream of allegations from O'Malley between 1987 and 1989 that led to the Beef Tribunal. Reynolds would never forget.

His accession to the highest office in Leinster House has been marred by the fact that O'Malley is along for the ride. He has consistently insulted the Progressive Democrats, the door is now permanently open. Yet they seem impervious to the abuse. No one wants to take the blame for calling the election that most of the parties in Leinster House want.

Reynolds is a rapidly sinking man. The hype over his new brush in government has worn off. Reynolds as Taoiseach has been abrasive, tough and continually contentious, falling out even with his own party.

Reynolds will fight everyone to prove he is right. His interviews and public statements have shown a man who will not tolerate dissent, who will attack journalists, and threaten litigation against their newspapers. He claims that he is "in control". Increasingly this is seen to mean that it is now Reynolds, not the PDs, who is issuing the ultimatums.

Government by ultimatum did not work for the PDs. Their position in the polls has not improved one point, despite their relative success in forcing FF to accept large sections from the PD policy factory. It will not work for Reynolds.

On the second day of his testimony Reynolds fought again, taking on anybody whose opinion differed from his. However silly it makes the PDs look it weakens and isolates Reynolds. Even Haughey at his most desperate would not have resorted to this.

When the election does come Reynolds might find that like Haughey. He cannot find a way back into government without another "temporary little arrangement". Maybe FF will have to learn to live without Reynolds because as the days go by, an increasingly large number find they cannot live with him.



● Like the PDs Reynolds found the Beef Tribunal more than a "temporary little arrangement"

House petrol-bombed in Lisburn

A SLEEPING 15-year-old Catholic youth was lucky to escape death or serious injury when one of two petrol bombs thrown at his home in Lisburn came through a bedroom window. Luckily the device failed to ignite.

The attack which occurred in the early hours of Monday morning 26 October, is the latest in a series of attacks on Catholics in the Lisburn area. A recent attack left a Catholic woman in hospital when she and her husband were fired on in their mobile home. The husband was able to force the loyalist death squad to flee using his legally held firearm.

In an attempt to gloss over the sectarian nature of the latest Lisburn petrol-bombing, the RUC's press office "informed" the media that the people attacked "had no connection with the security forces". The RUC is in effect manipulating the media and are

actively involved in a strategy of misinforming the public about the serious and widespread level of attacks on Catholics in and around the Lisburn area.

Subsequently, sectarian attacks on Catholics are written out of statistics. This message was reinforced by Séamus Close, an Alliance Party councillor from Lisburn, when commenting on the attempted murder. He said that "incidents such as this should not be taken out of proportion".

Although when pushed on the issue Close did concede that there was "a possibility that the attack was sectarian".



● The attempt by the RUC press office to gloss over the sectarian attack on a Catholic family in Lisburn misleads the public about the serious level of such attacks in the area

News



● UDA-backed Joe Hendron with former UDR Major Ken Maginnis

Mallon withdrew UDA ban motion Hendron-UDA scandal still brewing

WITH THE ADJOURNMENT of the special election court last week, the continuing controversy surrounding the election campaign of West Belfast MP Joe Hendron, shifted focus as allegations of a SDLP deal with the now illegal UDA gained ground.

Last month Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Joe Austin exposed the fact that a series of secret meetings had been held between the UDA and the SDLP in the run up to the Westminster elections in April. Last week it was revealed that shortly after the UDA publicly declared their support for Hendron, the SDLP's Seamus Mallon withdrew a motion he had tabled at Westminster calling for the banning of the UDA.

Reiterating the allegations, Sinn Féin's Joe Austin told AP/RN that his original statement was based on information provided to him by a former Belfast member of the SDLP. He came forward because of disquiet within the SDLP over UDA electoral support for Hendron. Describing his statement as vindicated by the sequence of events surrounding the meetings, Austin said that the response of the SDLP to the

secret meetings exposure, as 'telling' in itself.

The SDLP's first reaction was to deny that any meetings took place. The initial response came from SDLP Councillor Alex Attwood. He told the *Andersonstown News* that the allegation was a complete fabrication and he accused Austin of telling lies. (It later emerged that Attwood himself attended some of the meetings.) The same evening Dr. Alastair McDonnell, a senior member of the SDLP and city councillor, reiterated Attwood's response. He told the *Irish Times*: "I am unaware of any situation, any circumstances or any meeting that would justify Joe Austin's allegation."

Within a few hours the SDLP's response had shifted — the question was no longer whether meetings had taken place but with whom. Joe Hendron confirmed to the *Irish News* that

meetings had taken place but these were with, he claimed, "loyalist community leaders".

Within 24 hours, however, Joe Hendron admitted on Radio Ulster's *Talkback* show that he had indeed met Gary McMichael. Later it was also confirmed that he met with

Raymond Smallwoods. McMichael and Smallwoods were representing the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) which operates as a 'political party' but in reality has never had an identity distinct from the UDA. The UDP operated out of what was the UDA head office until they were banned and they still continue to operate out of that building. Earlier this year Raymond Smallwoods was featured on a *This Week* documentary lecturing UDA members on the ideology of UDA/UVF leader John McMichael.

As the facts emerged the focus of the SDLP's response was to shift once again. Unable to either dispute that secret meetings took place or to hide the political affiliations of loyalists present, the question moved to the basis of the meetings and the nature of the discussion. Clergy members were able to confirm that at two of the meetings the election was not discussed. What happened at the meetings at which the clerics were not present has yet to be established. Austin continues: "We now learn from the two clergymen that the two meetings which they arranged were formal meetings between the SDLP and the UDA, a fact which the SDLP have still not admitted. In their statement, Rev Alex Reid and the Rev Sam Birch said that they believed the two meetings for which they were responsible are the basis, and the only basis, for my statement."

"With all due respect the clergymen can speak with authority only about the meetings in which they were involved. Beyond that, as they accept, it is only their opinion. My source, who first exposed these meetings is adamant that a series of meetings involving Hendron, McMichael and Smallwoods took place up to the eve of the election and that these meetings were an important factor in convincing the UDA to support Hendron."

Reiterating his original allegations, the meetings and the events surrounding them, vindicates his original statement. These are the events as outlined by Joe Austin:

- Hendron, McMichael and Smallwoods hold a series of secret meetings.
- On 5 January, the UDA publicly calls for electoral support for Hendron in the forthcoming Westminster election.
- On 22 January, Seamus Mallon drew a motion he had tabled at Westminster calling for the banning of the UDA.
- In April the UDA campaign in support of Hendron contributes to the 3,500 loyalist votes which secured his election victory.
- After the election the UDA Inner Council said: "The UDA has no problem with Dr. Hendron representing West Belfast."

Pointing out that Joe Hendron was, of course, the only SDLP candidate with UDA backing, Austin said:

"Not only is this an issue which I understand has caused considerable controversy within the SDLP, but Joe Hendron's attempts to dismiss my statement by claiming that the SDLP was responsible for having the UDA banned is clearly exposed as untrue."

APPEAL ON WEST BELFAST SEAT

“WE, the undersigned, are a group of West Belfast nationalists who have initiated legal action to have the result of the British general election in the West Belfast constituency overturned.

We have taken this action because we are concerned and angry at the tactics employed by the SDLP and their allies during the election campaign. We resent their negative campaigning and, most particularly, the assistance given to the SDLP by outside forces, including the British army, the RUC and the UDA. It was clear also that the SDLP had access to unlimited financial resources in their efforts to take the West Belfast seat.

We employed legal counsel to investigate numerous instances of electoral abuse and malpractice as a result of which we initiated legal action to have the election result declared invalid. A court case is now pending which will examine

our contention that the SDLP significantly over-spent in West Belfast.

This case will be heard in mid-October. In response to our initial appeal for financial assistance we have received some donations which we would like to acknowledge. In particular, we wish to express our gratitude for one major contribution from a Dublin contributor who wishes to remain anonymous. To her, and all other contributors, we are very grateful. However more money is still needed.

The people of West Belfast have the right to elect the representative of their choice, not one imposed through shady deals and electoral abuse.

Donations, all of which will be acknowledged, can be sent to Appeal Fund, Box 57, Conway Mill, Conway Street, Belfast 1.

Is sinne, Maura McCrory; Harry Burns; Christine Keenan; Rosaleen Russell; Elsie Best; Kate Murray; Mary Kennedy; John Fusco; Alfie Doherty.

Pressure forces jobs bias review from British

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has been forced into reviewing its fair employment legislation. This results from pressure from fair employment campaigners in the US and the Equality group in the Six Counties.

This review, outlined in a consultation document published by the Central Community Relations Unit, comes in the wake of repeated setbacks in the US for the British. Numerous state and city legislatures, such as New York and California, have passed legislation stating that only US companies with subsidiaries in the North that adhere to the MacBride Principles will receive state contracts.

Although the Northern Ireland

Office (NIO) has denied that the review is the result of pressure from fair employment campaigners recently-leaked Department of Economic Development (DED) papers revealed that its officials closely monitored the MacBride campaign in the US. That the British are feeling the effects of the campaigning of the MacBride and Equality groups is indicated by the range and scope of the review. Its remit is to examine all factors concerning

employment equality and covering a range of issues which are the responsibility of "several government departments". A steering group, that includes Fair Employment Commission officials and "senior departmental officials" from these government departments, has been set up to advise the CCRU.

Other groups that the CCRU has consulted for its review are the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, employers' organisations, trade unions and academics.

However, commenting on the review Equality group spokesper-

son, Oliver Kearney said that the review was, essentially, a holding exercise designed to divert pressure from the British government.

"The 1989 legislation is as flawed as the 1976 fair employment legislation was and the NIO is aware of this. This review is all about spinning out the game rather than introduce realistic measures to end the structured discrimination in employment in the North."

The NIO, in commissioning the CCRU to carry out this review, is attempting to put distance between itself and the structured discrimination in the Six Counties. Whereas before

direct rule the British could simply blame the unionists in Stormont for malpractice, now it is the British themselves which has been found wanting in dealing with the inherent discrimination in employment.

By putting the CCRU, a government body that was established to "build better community relations", to the forefront of a review of fair employment legislation it would seem that the British government is trying to reinforce their "divided communities" propaganda and blame the inequality in employment on people instead of on the structures of a corrupt state.



● Alex Maskey addressing last Saturday's historic meeting in Belfast's City Hall

"Bring them home" echoes in City Hall

IN AN HISTORIC MEETING in Belfast City Hall last weekend families of republican POWs in jail in England, many of whom had travelled hundreds of miles across Ireland. They met with Sinn Féin councillors as part of a day-long series of events to highlight the campaign to transfer Irish prisoners from jails in England to Ireland.

In the council chambers Sinn Féin councillors listened as relatives of the prisoners described the difficulty of maintaining contact with their loved ones and the hardship of travelling hundreds of miles for prison visits. The meeting, which caused consternation among some council staff who panicked and sent for the RUC, was chaired by Belfast City Councillor Alex Maskey and attended

by nine other Sinn Féin councillors.

Betty Anderson, whose daughter Martina is currently being held in Durham prison, described a recent incident in which her son and daughter were held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after visiting Martina in Durham jail.

Teresa McCombe, whose husband Damien is in jail in England, told the

meeting that setting aside the huge financial cost of travelling from the 26 Counties, there was the psychological stress of dragging children away from their father when they know it may be a year before they see him again.

A spokesperson for the Committee for the Transfer of Irish Prisoners, Carol Ann McAvoey pointed out that there was a wide range of professional bodies supporting their campaign for transfer.

"The National Association of Probation Officers, Irish Committee for Prisoners Overseas, Committee for the Administration of Justice, Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders and political parties across the spectrum support transfer. The moral and intellectual arguments have long since been won and it is only the British Home Office under cabi-

net control which is holding out and unnecessarily punishing the families."

A feature of the whole debate so far has been the lack of women's voices on the issue. Most of those pontificating on the issue have been male commentators, whether lawyers, doctors, journalists or politicians. Those who took the responsibility of drafting and deciding on the wordings were men, while Leinster House itself is dominated by males.

It is a sad comment on the position of women in Irish society that those who are most vociferous when it comes to this issue are the same people who, since 1983, have remained inactive on issues such as the sexual and physical abuse of women. Among those campaigning for legislation rather than an unwieldy and dangerous referendum on the 'substantive issue' are those women's groups who deal with women survivors on a daily

meeting that setting aside the huge financial cost of travelling from the 26 Counties, there was the psychological stress of dragging children away from their father when they know it may be a year before they see him again.

From the council chambers, the families reconvened in West Belfast for a meeting with a local solicitor who has lodged 14 cases on behalf of the families with the European Court on Human Rights. The cases are based on the alleged breach by the British government of Articles 8 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Relatives of the POWs are arguing that in refusing to transfer Irish prisoners to jails closer to their homes, the British are in breach of Article 8 which guarantees "respect for family life". They further argued that systematic discrimination against Irish POWs in refusing the right to transfer is in breach of Article 13.

In the evening, relatives, friends and ex-POWs gathered for a special function. Chairing the proceedings Sinn Féin Councillor Michael Ferguson welcomed the families, many of whom had travelled hundreds of miles to spend the day campaigning for the transfer of their loved ones.

Greetings were also extended to Tina Gaughan, the sister of Michael Gaughan who died on hunger strike in jail in England and Mary McLaughlin, whose husband Ray served a long sentence in England and died in a tragic accident shortly after being released.

Margaret Ryan, whose son Francis was tragically killed while on active service in England last year, was also welcomed.

Their voices should have been listened to before now and should be heeded by voters on polling day.

Those who claim to be "pro-life" have done nothing to improve the situation for women facing crisis pregnancies. Rather than attempting to impose an absolutist morality on what is a complex issue, these groups should think of the rights of Irish women and how to best protect them. Voting for a referendum which ignores the plight of a victim of rape or incest, which specifically excludes suicidal women and which contains an indecipherable differentiation between the life and the health of the woman will do nothing to improve the position of women in Irish society.

A new umbrella campaigning group, the Alliance For Choice, has been established this week to contest the forthcoming referendums. Eighteen organisations were represented at a

A message of solidarity from republican prisoners currently being held in Long Lartin prison was read by ex-POW Gerry Kelly who noted that while serving 28 years in a South African jail Nelson Mandela had gained international recognition, the plight of Roy Walsh, Paul Holmes and Billy Armstrong, all of whom are now entering their 20th year as hostages in jails in England, is relatively unknown.

In an impassioned speech, Sinn Féin General Secretary Lucilla Breathnach acknowledged the courage and resilience of the families of republican prisoners in jails in England. She went on to praise the work of the Committee for the Transfer of Irish Prisoners, highlighting the success of the public inquiry held at Queen's University by the group and the Spotlight programme. Breathnach pointed out that the only group opposed to transferring Irish POWs was the British Home Office. "It is clear," she concluded "that these prisoners are being held as political hostages by the British government."

The final address was given by ex-POW Paddy Hackett, whose record of personal endurance and courage continues to inspire all those who share his vision of Irish freedom. Despite sustaining serious injury in an accidental explosion while on active service in England, Paddy spent eleven years on the blanket and in solitary confinement in jails in England. Noting the hardship imposed on the families of Irish POWs in jails in England Paddy condemned the Dublin government's refusal to ratify the European Repatriation Treaty which would open the way for Irish POWs from the 26 Counties to return to Ireland to serve their sentences.

meeting in Dublin on Tuesday, 27 October, at which a strategy was drawn up for contesting the referendum in as many constituencies as possible to protect the rights of Irish women facing crisis pregnancies. The Alliance's campaign will be officially launched next week. It will be responsible for producing materials for the campaign that all its affiliated organisations can use, to ensure a uniformity of approach throughout the 26 Counties. The Alliance will coordinate publicity work and the sharing of resources for the campaign. It will concentrate on producing highly visual images to bring home its message, calling for a NO vote on the first referendum, dealing with the "substantive" issue, calling instead for this highly complex issue to be dealt with through legislation.

The Alliance will call for a YES vote on the travel and information referenda.

Women ignored and devalued

■ BY LIAM O COILEAIN

THE DECISION LAST WEEK by the Dublin government to stick by its controversial wording for the first section of the abortion referendum — that section dealing with the 'substantive' issue — was greeted with dismay by women's rights groups.

On Thursday 22 October, the Women's Coalition, in an open letter to Albert Reynolds, expressed its dismay and anger at Pádraig Flynn's assertion that "the more extreme views on the issue of abortion either side of the debate" should be rejected by the elec-

torate which should support the government's wording.

"Describing as extremists those of us who genuinely believe that the constitution is not the place to deal with the complex medical, legal, moral and social issues around the lives of Irish



● Stuart and Nathan O'Driscoll — terrorised by Special Branch

Branch terrorise children

THREE YOUNG CHILDREN were terrorised when a gang of Special Branch detectives invaded their home this week.

A total of seven Branch officers arrived at Sinn Féin member Pat O'Driscoll's home in Finglas at 10.30am on Wednesday, 28 October.

The children, Stuart (10), Nathan (7) and Amy (3) were alone in the house at the time as their father had to briefly slip out. The door was answered by ten-year-old Stuart, who informed the detectives that his mother had told him never to let strangers into the house. The obviously fearful child did not deter the officers though. One detective remained in a car while the other six stared into the house until the terrified

child eventually opened the door.

A concerned neighbour was told that they had a warrant but no warrant was shown. The detectives spent half an hour in the house, tearing apart a pouffe, taking something away in a plastic bag and pulling electric sockets from the walls. The friendliest comment directed at the children was "Have you any bangers?"

Finglas Sinn Féin's Harry Fleming said that "this particularly heartless raid may be the start of a renewed campaign of harassment and intimidation in the area".



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

29 OCTOBER 1992

Headcount politics must stop

THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS of the 1991 Six-County population figures were published last week. A census in a divided society is bound to be a politically sensitive subject. It can be a political weapon. The partition of Ireland was based on using census figures to ensure a unionist majority in the Stormont state.

After partition nationalists in the Six Counties became a political minority of second-class citizens. Census results since partition have become a snap shot of the status quo as unionist and British administrations tracked the changing demography of the nationalist population.

Their aim was to engineer the nationalist population trends through systematic discrimination, driven by the fear that their majority and its veto would be eroded. The nationalist population was growing at a faster rate than the unionists who controlled the state. To offset this growth, discrimination in every facet of economic and social life was the hallmark of the Stormont state, a state which from its inception subjected nationalists to unionist domination.

The figures have been purposely distorted over the past two censuses. In 1971 respondents were no longer obliged to fill out the question on religion. The ability to accurately estimate the nationalist population now lay with the unionist administration. The end of Stormont was used to perpetuate the myth that discrimination was now at an end and population profile was a non issue.

In 1971, 9.4% of respondents would not state their religion, in 1981 18.5% would not state a religion. In 1991 the combined Protestant total is 675,688 compared to 605,639 for Catholics. 7.3% would not state a religion.

In the Brooke/Mayhew Talks the London and Dublin governments are going through the motions of recreating Stormont, legitimising unionist domination, legitimising percentage politics. A new political structure that yet again caters only for an ever-shrinking unionist population should not be on the political agenda.

The real task is to create a process where all of these people could participate in all-Ireland democratic structures, where the aim would be participation and involvement for all. Headcount politics must stop.

Clinton's word

A US SPECIAL ENVOY to the Six Counties, criticism of British policy in Ireland and support for the MacBride principles. These are the themes of Democratic presidential candidate, Bill Clinton's proposed policy on resolving the conflict in Ireland. If Bill Clinton implements his pre-election promises it could have a beneficial impact on the conflict in the Six Counties. The need to internationalise our struggle has never been more necessary as Britain lies to the world on the situation in the Six Counties.

At the very least Clinton's support for the MacBride principles is a testament to the tireless work of MacBride activists in the United States. Their work has placed the Six Counties on the highest possible US agenda. Pressure must be maintained to hold Clinton to his word if he is elected.

SINN FÉIN NATIONAL DRAW

Week Number 4

1st Prize £500: Ticket No. 07930, Newry, County Down.

2nd Prize £250: Ticket No. 01476, Castledawson, County Derry.

3rd Prize £150: Ticket No. 07343, B O'Neill c/o S Ullally, Kilkenny City.

4th Prize £150: Ticket No. 09563, J Power, c/o F Burke, Blanchardstown.

5th Prize £100: Ticket No. 05327, Aodhain O Cormáin, An Uaimh, Co na Mí.

6th Prize £100: Ticket No. 02842, Eleanor Campbell, Anacalan, Carrickroe, Monaghan.

7th Prize £50: Ticket No. 05671, Dromintee, Newry, County Armagh.

8th Prize £50: Ticket No. 8409, M Regan, Kilbrauks, Ballaghacheen, County Roscommon.

NOTICE: To facilitate the return of some outstanding tickets the final draw shall now be held on Saturday 7 November.

News



MAIRE GEOGHEGAN QUINN

LOOK UP IT'S A DISASTER

BY NEIL FORDE

SHORT MEMORIES, vested interests, political maneuvering and sheer incompetence have brought Aer Lingus to the brink of financial disaster over the past week. Aer Lingus, the 26-County state airline, proposed last Thursday, 22 October to cut its service to continental Europe by 20% and floated the possibility of shedding up to 1,000 jobs from its 7,000 workers in Ireland.

So what's happening at Aer Lingus? When did it begin? Who was involved? Why is the situation so desperate now? Is there an alternative?

Back in the second oil crisis of 1979 Aer Lingus was struggling like many other international airlines. Fuel costs were high and passenger numbers were falling. Moving passengers and freight by air is a highly lucrative but risky business. Even the largest of companies can run into trouble. The industry is rife with collusion, cartels and price fixing, and at the opposite end of the spectrum price wars and intense competition for business.

Aer Lingus struck it lucky. The depressed Irish economy led to a mass exodus of people from the state every year, estimates vary but at least 50,000 a year. This boosted business. Internationally the punt sank against the dollar, eventually reaching parity briefly, and the US passenger traffic boomed.

Those who make the decisions in Aer Lingus reinvested in the airlines' fleet ordering a series of new jets to make the company "more competitive". They opened and expanded a

range of subsidiaries from Air Motive, an aircraft maintenance company to Aer Lingus Holidays (ALH). But no one in Aer Lingus seems to have considered that the economic circumstances that created this boom could end, leaving the company back in the position it was in 1980.

The Gulf War ended a decade of growing air traffic business, recession set in. It was only then that Aer Lingus which had been systematically falsified for five years and losses of £10 million had been hidden. In all Aer Lingus lost £17.3 million.

The Gulf War was hardly over when the Minister for Transport ordered ALH out of the holiday business. Accounts at ALH had been systematically falsified for five years and losses of £10 million had been hidden. In all Aer Lingus lost £17.3 million.

This was the time for the government to intervene but they stayed strangely silent and the Aer Lingus board carried on.

The chairperson of Aer Lingus is Bernie Cahill, also chair of Greenore the scandal-ridden state sugar company. The

Dublin government refused to censure Cahill over Greenore and Aer Lingus. Instead they let Aer Lingus engage in a campaign against the Shannon stopover. All trans-Atlantic flights must stop at Shannon Airport. This has created an economic core in the region, around which the regional economy has developed, through the aeronautics industry.

Aer Lingus are now crippled with a £580 million debt and requires £300 million to finance new investment. This will be all the more practical, they claim, if the Shannon stopover is dropped. Aer Lingus have been prepared to leak reports to the press, to politicise the Shannon issue but no one on the board has been prepared to tackle the obvious internal problems within the company.

We were told that Maire Geoghegan-Quinn gave the board an earbashing at the Thursday board meeting. Albert Reynolds' contribution to the debacle was to propose that Aer Lingus find themselves a partner and sell 49% of the company saying that the government had not got the money. Albert seems to have forgotten that Aer Lingus, despite making a loss of £11.8 million last year, was able to pay an £58 million interest bill last year.

Or maybe he knows that under the new EC competition laws any new government investment in the airline could be challenged by other airlines.

Aer Lingus has substantial assets, shares in GPA worth over £100 million, hotels and maintenance companies. This can generate money and jobs if run properly. This is the nub of the issue — Aer Lingus has not been run properly and as long as the present board remains in charge it will not be.

McGahon extends censorship of Sinn Féin

PARTY DENIED DUNDALK TOWN HALL

THE MCCARTHYITE anti-Sinn Féin campaign which resulted in the party's ard sheis being barred from Dublin's Mansion House last year has this week been extended to Dundalk. The town hall which had been properly booked was denied to Sinn Féin after a motion was railroaded through the town council. The instigator of the censorship was the notoriously right-wing Fine Gael TD Brendan McGahon.

The booking for Dundalk Town Hall was made at the offices of the urban district council by Sinn Féin Councillors Seán Kenna, Fra Browne and Frank Duffy. The deposit for the hire of the hall was accepted. When he learned of the booking McGahon raised a hue and cry and put down a motion for the October meeting of Dundalk Urban District Council.

When the motion came before the council on Tuesday 27 October, the UDC members Fra Browne and Frank Duffy called for the matter to be adjourned to the next meeting as four of the 12 council members were absent. This was refused. The motion was then proposed by Brendan McGahon and seconded by Jim Cousins of the Progressive Democrats. It was voted on without debate being allowed. Three Fine Gael councillors, one Fianna Fáil, one PD and one independent voted for and the two Sinn Féin members voted against. The motion read:

"That the booking of the town hall given to Sinn Féin for 19/20/21 February 1993 be cancelled on the basis that this organisation publicly supports the use of violence in our country and that the town hall and its public rooms not

be available in any way at any time to any person or organisation who advocates or uses violence or supports violence towards political ends, or for any other purpose."

The wording of the motion is deeply ironic given McGahon's repeated calls for the return of hanging and flogging. Pinpointing McGahon's hypocrisy Sinn Féin Councillors Duffy, Browne and Kenna in a joint statement said:

"Councillor McGahon has never spoken out about the murder of Sinn Féin councillors or members, yet by his actions he is party to the creation of the atmosphere in which they are targeted."

Dundalk Sinn Féin had gathered hundreds of names to a petition supporting the hiring of the hall to the party. In a phone-in to the local LM/FM Radio on the issue, the overwhelming majority of callers also supported the hiring of the venue.

Referring to ongoing establishment attempts to dehumanise Sinn Féin, vice-president Pat Doherty said:

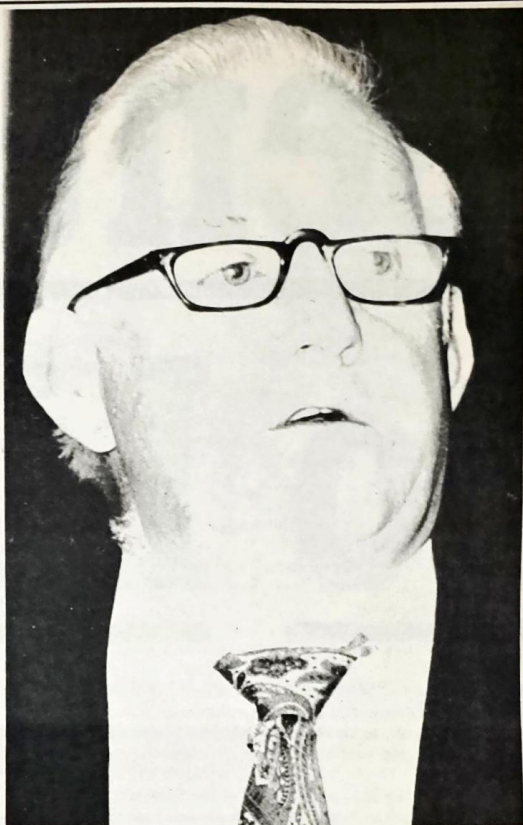
"That this party can survive such a campaign and retain a respectable



● Pat Doherty — "we are not going away"

level of support is a credit to its members and supporters whose lives are being increasingly put on the line with the upsurge of assassinations. These killings are only an extension of the campaign against Sinn Féin by elements of the church, the media and political opponents.

"The motion to deny Sinn Féin the use of Dundalk Town Hall doesn't reflect accurately on the feelings of the people of Dundalk. As an open, democratic and legally registered political party with elected representatives throughout the country we are not going to go away just because the likes of Brendan McGahon does not agree with what we say."



● Brendan McGahon — his motion was railroaded through with no debate permitted

A month in the life of the Diplock courts Donald Doak goes to Butlin's

IN THIS WEEK'S AP/RN we present for our readers a compilation of decisions doled out by senior Six-County judicial figures over the month of October. That they all relate to activities carried out by loyalist killer gangs reflects the high level of sectarian attacks being inflicted upon nationalists across the Six Counties.

It is clear from this list, the leniency with which the Orange judiciary deals with loyalist paramilitaries who come before their courts. In glaring contrast people from the nationalist community have routinely received sentences from Diplock judges, varying from 10, 15 to 20 years for possession charges.

1 OCTOBER

We begin with the case of Derek Howard Duncan, Forthriver Crescent, Belfast. After being found guilty of the possession of two rifles and a quantity of ammunition he was given a suspended sentence. Sentencing him Judge Peter Gibson took account of the favourable evidence given by an RUC detective sergeant in Duncan's defence. Judge Gibson said, "it was a wholly exceptional case".

1 OCTOBER

Another judgement given by

Judge Gibson was in the case of James Gibson, (no relation) of Bracken Street, Belfast. Gibson's car was used by the UDA in the sectarian shooting death of nationalist Eamon Quinn in March 1990. It was used again in the killing of another nationalist, Séamus Sullivan in September 1991.

After hearing from an RUC detective who spoke on Gibson's behalf, Judge Gibson sentenced him to two years, even though the accused knew the people who used his car in the year and a half between the killings.

1 OCTOBER

A Belfast member of the UDA was given three years for possession of arms and ammunition. Ronald Kernaghan of Bray Street, Belfast left the UDA after his arrest.

7 OCTOBER

Two Dunmurray brothers who admitted their role in a UDA mur-

der bid on two nationalist workers shot while driving to work, were described in court by the crown as "not likely to commit further offences".

John Bell was granted bail by Judge Murray after admitting hiring the car used in the attack, having been asked to do so by a known UDA member who regularly came into his shop in the Highfield estate. It emerged in his bail hearing that Bell knew it would be used by the UDA. His brother, Robert Bell, was charged with collecting vehicle registration numbers and withholding information on the attempted murder in Ligoniel.

8 OCTOBER

Five loyalists who gave five fingered gestures and who chanted "five nil" during an Orange Order march on the Mini-Twelfth outside Sean Graham's bookmakers shop where five nationalists were shot dead, were dealt with severely by Judge Thomas Travers. Despite saying that the loyalists were guilty of offences based on sectarianism and that they were the "most serious offences to come before him for some time" Travers later reduced the sentences of them. All the five nationalists were given community service orders, while a nationalist resident of the Lower Ormeau Road was given a six-month prison sentence.

16 OCTOBER

Judge Peter Gibson again fea-

tures in our column. While handing out a six-year sentence to a young nationalist woman for possession in one court, later the same day he felt better and in a more generous mood. 'Coincidentally' this was during a loyalist case.

Handing out another severe suspended sentence to UDA member Donald Doak for possession of a sizeable quantity of 9mm ammunition, Gibson said that he "believed an immediate custodial sentence would be counter-productive and might turn him into a 'life of crime' or drive him into the arms of paramilitaries". Gibson was very impressed during the hearing that Doak had got a job waiting for him in a Butlin's camp in Scotland, and thus released him.

Earlier in the case Peter Gibson had described the UDA as being a "dangerous and sinister organisation".

23 OCTOBER

A "former" UDR member got bail in Lord Justice Murray's court.

Rodney Davis of Ringaddy Avenue, Newtownards had admitted copying names, addresses and car numbers from his official UDR notebook as well as illegal possession of a firearm. He passed the information to "men he met" by arrangement in a Newtownards pub.

One of the main reasons Davis got bail was that the RUC told the judge that they did not believe he was a member of any illegal organisation. He had already "done a UDR" — left

the regiment after his arrest so that his conviction would not be recorded as that of a serving UDR member.

24 OCTOBER

The brutal killings of three young nationalists at a mobile shop in Craigavon last year by the UVF death squad was the subject of another case before the Diplock courts.

William Robert Abbott, from Down Royal, Maze and Anthony Clarke of Manor Park were identified as being the two men who hijacked the van used in the killings.

The van was found on fire half an hour after the killings, about a mile from the scene. However according to Judge Carswell there was "no evidence that Clarke knew that the van would be used by the UVF or for what purpose".

Carswell continued: "There must be a material degree of suspicion with such a hijacking that Clarke may well have known a great deal more about the plan." However Carswell went on to say, "It would be an undesirable stretching of the law to hold that he (Clarke) contemplated the use of the van for murder."

Clarke was cleared in court by Carswell of the murders.

So in conclusion, AP/RN would like to hear of similar generous decisions being granted to their loyalist allies. Please forward them to

LORD DIPLOCK,
51/53 Falls Road,
Belfast.

Sentenced to Life

■ BY IRENE SHERRY, Sinn Féin POW Department

MARCH 1972 saw the arrest of what was to be the first republican prisoner to be sentenced to life since the 1950s. Since then, and in particular since the 'conveyor-belt' system of Castlereagh-Diplock-H-Blocks/Armagh the number of prisoners serving life or detained "at the Secretary of State's Pleasure" (SOSP) in British and Irish prisons rose to over 200. Due to the blanket protest and hunger strikes and the massive determinate sentences of 20 to 30 years, the issue of release dates for lifers was not given a lot of consideration. It was only when prisoners had served more than ten years that the question of release dates arose. The only release mechanism available to lifers and SOSP's was the Life Sentence Review Board (LSRB).

This body was established to assess 'domestic' cases under normal circumstances. It was obvious that those people convicted of "scheduled offences" in the Diplock courts were not convicted "under normal circumstances".

The fact that the prisoners had been arrested and interrogated under special laws, tried in special courts and held in special conditions reinforced the view that the usual review and report procedure would not be applied to those sentenced on political charges. A special politically-motivated procedure and criteria was adopted by the NIO, hence republican Life and SOSP prisoners saw no purpose in actively participating in these review and report procedures. The prison administration worked on the same premise, no republican prisoner from the special category cages was summoned to a review interview for assessment from the mid-70s until January 1985.

In the period following the withdrawal of special category status in 1976 and the subsequent blanket protest and hunger strikes, the issue of Life sentences and long-term imprisonment received little attention in comparison to much more immediate and ultimately more significant struggles taking place in the prisons. After the hunger strike, life in prison was dominated by the ongoing struggles for segregation

and the right not to have to do menial prison work.

Throughout this period republican POWs maintained their position of not actively participating in the Life Review and Report Procedure. Not until 1984 were the issues of life sentences and long-term imprisonment able to be given the attention which was needed. By this time some life and SOSP prisoners had already served 11 to 12 years.

Discussions centred around whether or not participation in the review and report procedure would result in release. A previous lack of discussion had left the issue unclear for the prisoners.

By 1984, pressure on the NIO to do something about the plight of SOSP prisoners was mounting and as a result the NIO published a booklet entitled *Life Sentence Prisoners in Northern Ireland*, an explanatory Memorandum. This booklet informed prisoners that two changes had occurred in the LSRB procedure. These were;

● Life and SOSP prisoners would now be allowed to enter a written submission to the LSRB on points they wished the LSRB to take into consideration when outlining whether or not to recommend the fixing of a release date.

● Life and SOSP prisoners would now be informed of the date of their

next review if the LSRB did not recommend the fixing of a date.

The booklet failed to provide explanation on what the exact criteria for release were, as well as failing to explain what a prisoner was doing wrong if he/she could not obtain a release date. It also failed to provide a channel for a prisoner to challenge the truthfulness or accuracy of a secret report, submitted to the LSRB by prison staff.

All of the groups and individuals who had been exerting pressure for change during 1984 criticised the book as meaningless. The two changes mentioned in it were purely cosmetic as neither touched on the core of the problem with indeterminate sentences, namely, the potential for political manipulation in the release or holding of Life or SOSP prisoners.

In response to this criticism and in the face of genuine pressure the then minister in charge of prisons staved off the criticisms with assurances that changes would be forthcoming. Indeed changes of a sort did come about as is witnessed from the increase in the number of Life and SOSP prisoners given provisional release dates and entering into the "working-out scheme" (a pre-release programme). 1984 saw seven releases, 1985 saw ten and 1986 saw 40 prisoners released.

The above figures show an increase in releases from 1985-1986. Unfortunately this improvement and other subsequent improvements are much less impressive when one considers the way in which releases had been carried out. Before this point is explained in depth it is important to understand the working and mechanics of the LSRB.

It should be stated that the only clear point which did emerge was that all of those who had been given release dates had been participating in the review and report procedure. When questioned on this point the NIO replied;

"Attendance at these interviews



● Pat Livingstone — knocked back after 16 years

is not compulsory, it obviously enables senior prisons' staff and the review boards to assess a prisoner's case in the light of all relevant facts including current attitudes to violence and paramilitaries."

In other words, a prisoner does not necessarily have to attend an interview to be released, but if it is decided not to release a prisoner whose case was reviewed (and she or he did not attend) then non-participation could be a reason for non-release.

It was felt by a large number of prisoners that non-participation was an obstacle in exposing the review and report procedure for what it really was.

Consequently the position was changed by the prisoners to one of participation.

Let us now look at how the review procedure works; Life and SOSP prisoners are subject to two distinct types of review.

The first type is carried out within the life sentence unit of prison regimes in the NIO, after three years and then again after six years. No one is ever informed of these reviews nor of their outcome and they are in reality nothing more than internal "paper" exercises.

The second type is carried out by the LSRB. An SOSP prisoner can expect a review after having served eight years of his or her sentence. In the case of a lifer the period served before a review is permitted is ten years. Further reviews are determined by the LSRB and can range between one to five years. The LSRB is chaired by the permanent under-secretary of the NIO and includes among its members senior NIO officials, senior members of the prison regime departments, a principal medical officer of the Department of Health and Social Services, a consultant psychiatrist and the chief probation officer — six to eight people in all.

A new development in the LSRB has occurred whereby the number

one governor, or his appointed deputy, may sit in as an observer.

The governor can then relate to the prisoners the reasons why the prisoner has not been given a date for release. When challenged on some of the reasons for the "knock-back" the governor has stated that it is 'only his opinion' and not the real reason. He furthermore refuses to put his opinion in writing. This is only one small piece of ambiguity that prisoners and their families face when dealing with the LSRB.

However, in theory, these people sit collectively in order to consider the following factors;

- (1) External Factors
 - a. The nature of the offence.
 - b. The alleged part played by the prisoner.
 - c. Age at time of offence.
 - d. Judge's remarks.
 - e. RUC remarks.
- (2) Internal Factors
 - a. Prison Doctor's reports.
 - b. Prison Education Officer's report.
 - c. Class Officer's report.
 - d. Principal Officer's report.
 - e. Assistant Governor's report.
 - f. Probation report if requested by Prisoner.

With the exception of the probation report all other reports are not seen by the prisoner.

Since 1985, prisoners may, if they wish, submit written submissions on their own behalf. The entire procedure is carried out behind closed doors and all reports are compiled in secret. At no time is a prisoner afforded the opportunity to challenge the accuracy or truthfulness of these reports. Nor is a prisoner permitted to have a legal representative present to scrutinise the procedure or put forward a case for release.

From this information and reports the LSRB then make a decision whether or not to recommend the setting of a release date. If they decide against they then set a date for the next review. Reasons are never given as to why a recommendation for a release date was not made. The prisoner is left to guess about what he or she is doing wrong. If they do recommend setting a release date the case is then referred to the judiciary.

If this happens, the release must be rubber-stamped by the British secretary of state. Up until the Spring of this year this procedure had been a formality but since then the direct ruler has taken an almost personal interest in the cases of those referred to the judiciary — this once again exposes the claim of independence made by the LSRB and places the prisoner and his/her family under yet more pressure and concern as to when a release date would be available.

If the judiciary decide to uphold

● Indications are preparing again for a

the LSRB recommended oner is moved to a pr in Maghaberry Jail. this period of working oner is then released this licence lasts for his/her life and can "Where there are believing that the li again be a danger to

In other words, the state has the authority recall a license at any

January 1988 began can POW's participate review procedure first time. This decision with the setting up of for Lifers (CFL) a group of families and friends ers themselves. This gely set about listing indeterminate sentence political agenda.

The Campaign for all interested groups, ties and church bodies tion with the prisoner introduce six proposals which had been drawn prisoners themselves. These six proposals

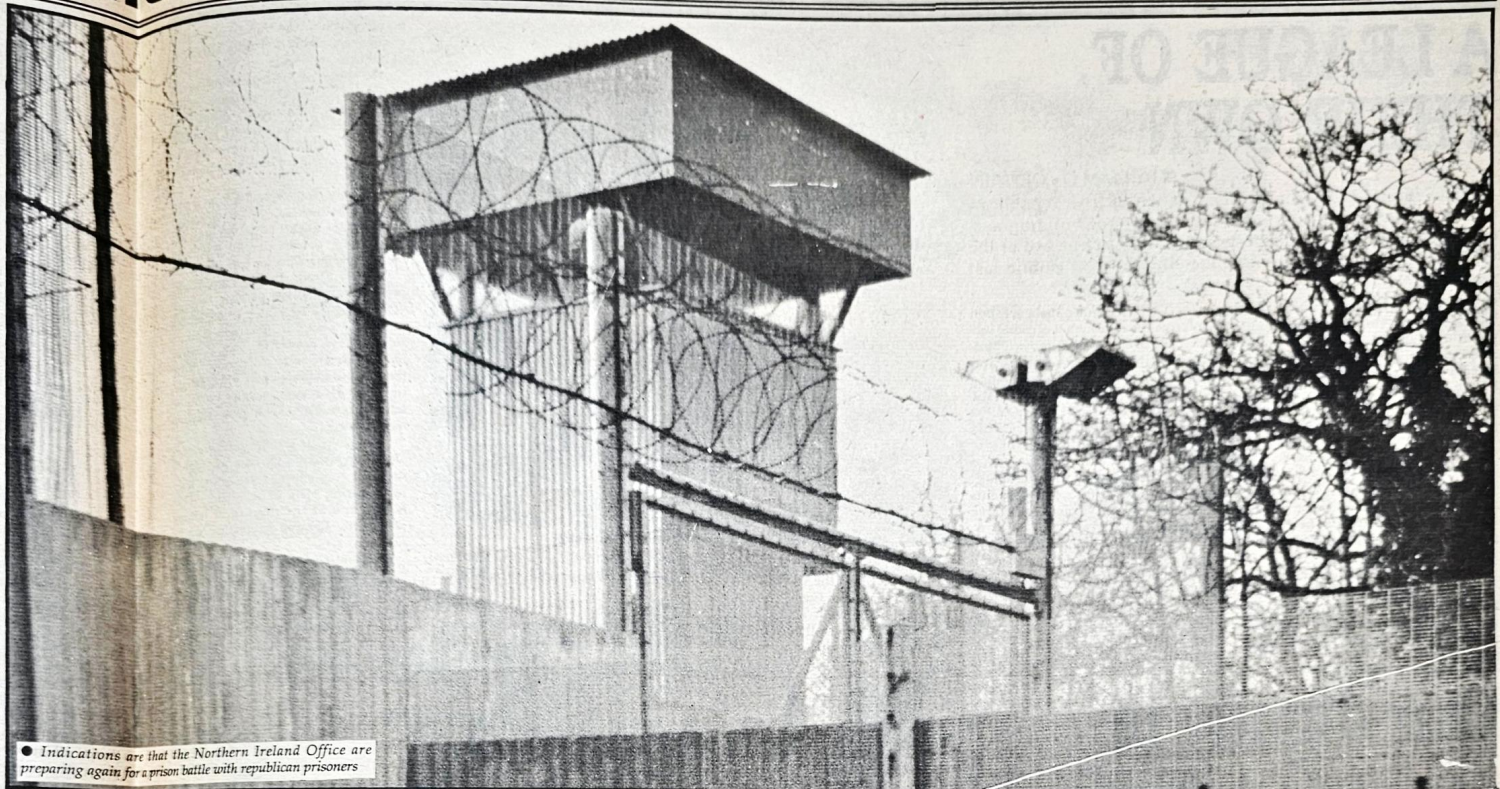
● The scrapping of "nate" sentences as indeterminate sentence but they are also "emergency" laws and Diplock courts.

● Considering that Review board on pr "back" for the "privity" year sentence, all ris have the right to lega tion at a review board.

● If a Life/SOSP "back" she or he informed of not only t or his next review, but some why they were

● As the prison t em is based on subject

Feature



● Indications are that the Northern Ireland Office are preparing again for a prison battle with republican prisoners

the LSRR recommendation the prisoner is moved to a pre-release unit in Maghaberry Jail. At the end of this period of working out the prisoner is then released on licence — this licence lasts for the rest of his/her life and can be revoked. "Where there are grounds for believing that the licensee might again be a danger to the public"

In other words, the secretary of state has the arbitrary power to recall a licensee at any time.

January 1988 began with republican POWs participating in the review procedure en masse for the first time. This decision coincided with the setting up of the Campaign for Lifers (CFL), a group composed of families and friends of the prisoners themselves. This group promptly set about forcing the issue of indeterminate sentences back on the political agenda.

The Campaign for Lifers lobbied all interested groups, political parties and church leaders. In consultation with the prisoners it sought to introduce six proposals for change, which had been drawn up by the prisoners themselves.

These six proposals were:

- The scrapping of "indeterminate" sentences, as not only are indeterminate sentences inhumane, but they are also unsafe under the "emergency" laws and "special" (ie Diplock) courts.

- Considering that, at present, a Review Board can put a prisoner "back" for the equivalent of a 10 year sentence, all prisoners should have the right to legal representation at a review board hearing.

- If a Life/SOSP prisoner is put "back" she or he should be informed of not only the date of her or his next review, but also the reasons why they were put "back".

- As the present "review" system is based on subjective "reports"

by prison staff, etc, an objective criteria for release should be made known to all Life/SOSP prisoners, to prevent the personal and/or political bias of "reports" preventing the release of a Life/SOSP prisoner.

- There should be an end to secret "reports" being submitted on Life/SOSP prisoners. All reports should be open to challenge by the prisoner involved.

- A prisoner should be informed of the names of the people sitting on the "review" of her or his case, and have the right to challenge the inclusion of at least two persons, if mitigating circumstances would prejudice a fair hearing.

Slowly but surely the pressure began to build on the issue again and things seemed to come to a head when two related incidents occurred. In May 1988, it was disclosed that Private Ian Thain, a British soldier who had been sentenced to life for the murder of Thomas "Kidso" Reilly had been released after serving only 26 months. British ministers defended his release by saying that Thain was only 18 years old at the time of the offence and that the whole incident was a tragic error of judgement on his part.

Later that same month it was announced by the NIO that Kevin McGrady had been released after serving six years of a life sentence which had been imposed on him for the killing of three people in separate incidents.

Kevin McGrady had been operated by the RUC as a paid perjurer in the Diplock show trials of 1983.

These two cases more than any other clearly illustrated the political nature of the release of prisoners in the Six Counties. The NIO now found themselves in a situation

where they had to change their tactics in order to reclaim their ground. The circumstances of two groups of prisoners provided the NIO with a safety valve with which to release the growing pressure on the issue.

In June 1988 on the day after the special category prisoners were transferred from the Cages in Long Kesh to the H-Blocks the NIO announced that all special category prisoners would now have their cases specially reviewed by a special sitting of the LSRR. The NIO explained this by saying that the new environment in which these prisoners now found themselves warranted special treatment.

The NIO duly fronted this as a major shift in policy and further announced that 17 SOSP's who had served eight years or more would also have their cases reviewed by this special LSRR. Thus with one stroke of the pen the NIO overturned all previous decisions made by the review board in these 102 cases.

In another attempt to undermine the growing work of the Campaign for Lifers (CFL) the NIO announced in December 1988 that Christmas parole would be available to 117 Life/SOSP prisoners. While the prisoners and the CFL welcomed the parole available to some prisoners, it was viewed in the context of the NIO lifers strategy. This view was borne out when in July 1989, British minister John Cope said that the paroles were all part of the British efforts "to win the battle for the hearts and minds".

As we saw earlier, between 1985 and 1986 there was a sharp rise in the number of prisoners released. This resulted from the growing pressure being brought to bear on the NIO and not procedural changes as the NIO would have us believe. In other words, a decision was taken

to release X amount of prisoners per year in order to alleviate the mounting pressure. The NIO succeeded in doing this by its manipulation of the LSRR. The procedure for release is based not on objective evidence but on the subjective opinions of prisons staff, NIO ministers, the judiciary and the RUC. Thus, it has allowed the maximum of political control while the small number of releases have had the effect of creating the illusion of movement.

It is the contention of the Campaign for Lifers that prisoners are being held, not because of anything they were accused of doing but because of what they represent in terms of potential political capital — to be released or held as the degree of political pressure dictates. In this sense prisoners are being held as political hostages of the state. This view is back up by the following statement from republican prisoners.

"Since 1988 republican prisoners have lent their full support to the efforts of the Campaign for Lifers to bring pressure to bear on the NIO for significant change in the system through which the cases of prisoners serving life sentences are processed, purportedly as part of an unbiased assessment for release.

"Despite our support for a reform of the review procedure it has been and remains our contention that political considerations far removed from and unassociated with any individual life sentence prisoner are the determining factor in any decision as to the release or continued indefinite detention of lifers. This fact has been cynically and, it must be admitted, somewhat successfully masked by the NIO with their ritual quoting of the statistics for released lifers since 1985. The NIO have much less to say however when asked to reconcile the two

years retribution judged sufficient for British army private Ian Thain, convicted and sentenced to life for the murder of an unarmed nationalist, with the 15-18 years retribution requirement for republican prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment.

"Republican prisoners are in fact political hostages. Any lingering doubt that the review procedure is subordinate to political factors and manipulation has surely been set aside by the fact that, over the past four months, British Secretary of State, Patrick Mayhew, has, on five occasions, overruled the recommendations of the Life Sentence Review Board that individual republican prisoners be released. In one instance Mayhew has ruled that the republican prisoner concerned, now into his 16th year of imprisonment, serve at least another two and a half years before his case may be reviewed again. All five republican prisoners Felim O'Hagan, Kevin Carey, Pat Livingstone, Seamus Bradley and Liam Ferguson who had their recommendations for release overruled in the last four months have been advised by the jail administration that should they move voluntarily to an integrated prison regime in Maghaberry their cases would be reviewed again within a shorter time period and have a more favourable outcome.

"This gradual upping of the minimum retribution requirement for republican lifers and the blatant blackmail tactics at work in the suggestion that lifers moving to Maghaberry may be released earlier are no isolated or rash acts of petty vindictiveness. Such events must be viewed in the same context as the coupling of a heavier sentencing policy with a simultaneous reduction in the remission facility over the past three years and, more recently, the adoption of the Colville report

in support of continued integration in Crumlin Road prison.

"Indications are that the NIO are preparing again for a prison battle with republican prisoners, as integral to their overall political strategy as the criminalisation battle of the 1976-'82 period. Central to their hopes of success in the implementation of their strategy will be their efforts to sow demoralisation among republican prisoners.

"Republican prisoners will continue to resist the NIO's political hostages strategy. We will continue to highlight the various injustices to which we are subjected. We call for an immediate and renewed focussing of public and political attention on both the secret workings of the LSRR and the political agenda upon which NIO prisoners' policies are constructed.

Of the 150 republicans serving life, not all are held in the Six Counties. Some are held in Portlaoise and others are imprisoned in England. Those in England are given savagely long, minimum sentences of 20-25 years and are classic examples of the political hostage scenario.

A review body exists for life sentenced prisoners in Portlaoise where the equivalent of many of the conditions laid down by the NIO in the Six Counties also exist for the 26-County review procedure. The final decision lies with the justice minister and prisoners are advised not to enter the review procedure if they are not prepared to "renounce the use of violence". Men sentenced to 40 years for a capital offence have no release mechanism at all.

Anyone who requires further information on republicans serving life should contact the POW Department. Tel: (0232) 249975 or (010 3531) 308664.

News

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

■ BY LIAM O COILEAIN

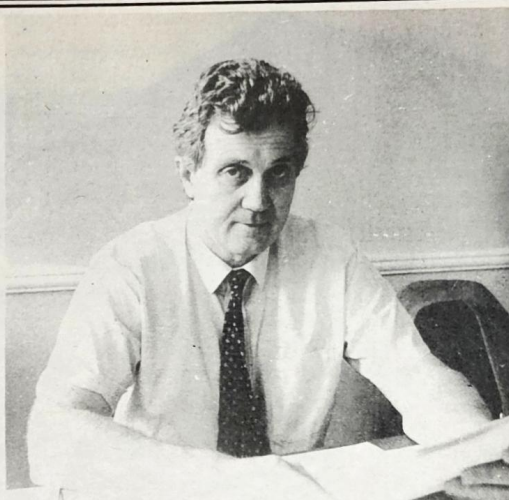
MOTIONS CALLING for the repatriation of Irish republican prisoners and condemning Britain's policy of building and expanding fortified border posts in Ireland were passed at the Celtic League's annual general meeting, held in Dublin last weekend.

The League is an organisation of the Celtic nations which seeks to complement national movements and promote inter-Celtic communication. Despite its small size it has proved a highly effective organisation in terms of publicising its message. The Celtic League has been to the forefront in monitoring British military activities, warning of the dangers posed to surface vessels in the Irish Sea by submarine traffic, of the dangers of undersea military dumping grounds and by military overflights. It has joined the chorus against Sellafield, among numerous other campaigns.

In Ireland, the League has consistently condemned the British presence, expressing its concern about border posts, in support of republican prisoners and against British covert operations.

The Celtic League's main weapon is information. Through its general secretary, Isle of Man-based Bernard Moffatt, it writes countless letters and issues press statements challenging official explanations and excuses. The League's consistent warnings of the dangers posed by submarine activity and its carefully documented files of previous incidents have proved invaluable in exposing the willful negligence of the various governments involved where tragedies have occurred.

In his report to the AGM, Moffatt highlighted some of the successes of the League's work: "Many of the campaigns which we have persevered with over a decade are at last being realised," he said. He cited a few instances; that the Isle of Man's last military installation will close, 15 years



● Brendan Moffatt — the Celtic League's General Secretary

after the League initiated a campaign to that end; that the use of Irish and the participation in Gaelic cultural and sporting activities is now allowed in Six-County prisons; that Manx Gaelic has been re-introduced in the Isle of Man teaching curriculum and that the

Manx and Dublin governments have restated their opposition to Sellafield.

Speaking to AP/RN, Bernard Moffatt spoke of the importance of communication. He cited the cases of Welsh political detainees as examples of a dif-

ficulty which can be translated to other countries, notably Ireland's hundreds of political prisoners.

He spoke of the expansion of the League in the US, where up to now the League has been mainly a cultural organisation. Some members, affiliated to Irish Northern Aid, now hope to give the League a political dimension there also.

"Military monitoring has been a success," Moffatt added. "When we started out on this we used to protest after the event. Now we can identify that there could likely be a situation beforehand."

On the introduction of Manx Gaelic in schools in the Isle of Man, he said: "We called for this 14 or 15 years ago and at the time it was regarded as ridiculous, a nonsense. They'd never teach Manx Gaelic in schools. Now there are something like 1,800 kids taking it at all levels, mainly primary school, right up to sixth form. That's a major success."

He spoke of the "nightmare scenario" of surface ships carrying highly radioactive nuclear waste to the new reprocessing plant at Sellafield. "This is just one of the myriad of issues which the League is continuing to work on."

"Essentially the role of the Celtic League is a reactive one," said Moffatt. "We complement the national movements. We don't seek to direct them or force policy upon them. We have a few internal problems, but that's a fact of life of the Celts, isn't it?"

Our dignity in struggle intact

PEOPLE OF the Lower Falls gathered at the gates of Milltown Cemetery for the 1992 commemoration for the fallen Volunteers of 'D Company', the IRA company covering their area, last Sunday 26 October.

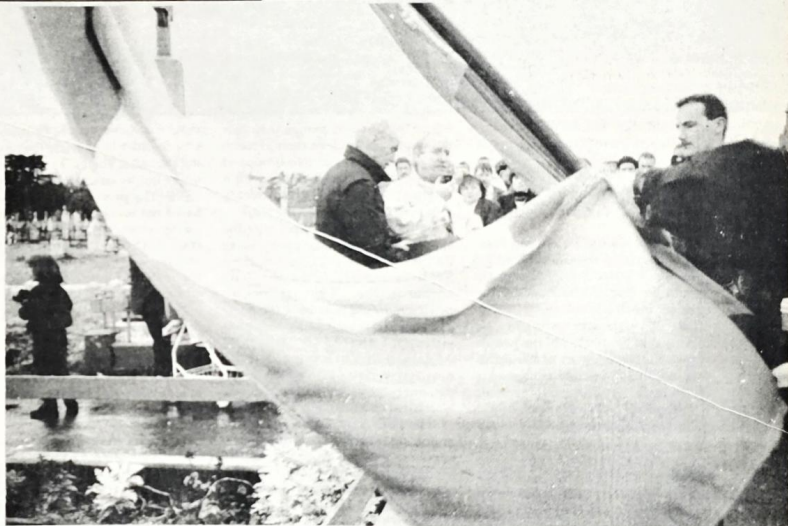
The procession from the gates to the County Antrim Republican Plot was led by a colour party and a lone piper. After a minute's silence at the graveside of Paddy Loughran, shot dead in the Falls Road Sinn Féin centre in February of this year, the crowd made its way to the Republican Plot where Sinn Féin Councillor Fra McCann chaired the proceedings.

He reminded people of the sacrifice of the dead Volunteers in the struggle for national liberation and for the people of the Lower Falls. "A casual visitor walking around this graveyard could see the last 23 years of republican history etched in the marble of these gravestones. It is the history of

our fathers, brothers, mothers, daughters and sons."

Marie Moore, the main speaker was called to give the oration. "Over the last 23 years the Volunteers of D Company and the people of the Lower Falls have suffered so much at the hands of the British Army, the RUC and loyalist death squads. They came through the attacks of 1969, the curfew and the shoot-to-kill policy," said Moore.

Countering the British government and media attempts to demonise republicans she said, "We laugh as others laugh, we cry as others cry and we grieve as others grieve. British attempts to dehumanise and demonise us will fail. Our dignity in struggle is intact."



● Councillor Fra McCann chaired the proceedings on Sunday at the commemoration for the fallen Volunteers of 'D' Company at the Republican Plot in Belfast's Milltown Cemetery

Death of Paddy Joe Doyle

PADDY JOE DOYLE was born in Corrigan Steet, Belfast in 1920. He was a stalwart republican up to the day he died. After leaving St Finian's School his first involvement in the Republican Movement was when he joined Fianna Éireann as a boy. In his early years Paddy, like many other Irish people, went to England to seek work. He was subsequently deported upon his arrival.

When Paddy returned to Ireland Paddy was imprisoned on the prison ship Al Rawdah as well as in Derry Jail and Crumlin Road. Whilst in Crumlin Road Jail Paddy, along with

his comrade Harry O'Rawe, unselfishly helped to effect the successful escape of five of his comrades.

On the 9 January, 1961, Paddy married Patricia Murphy at St Peter's

Chapel on the Lower Falls. In 1969 Paddy he threw himself wholeheartedly into helping the beleaguered people of Belfast. He later became the first to be shot by members of the 'Official IRA' after he criticised their policies.

In 1971 Paddy Joe again found himself back in prison. This time it was in Long Kesh when he was interned. On his release he continued to give whatever assistance he could and in his own words always said "My door is always open".

Paddy Joe sadly passed away on 3 September 1992. In a moving oration his old friend and comrade, Liam Burke, outlined Paddy Joe's dedication to the republican cause.

The Republican Movement extends its deepest sympathy to his wife Patricia, daughters, sons and extended family circle. Always remembered by his comrades and friends in the Republican Movement.

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● Henry Downey (Derry) and Martin McHugh (Donegal) — Both of their counties got their League campaigns off to a winning start

Spotlight on new managers

■ BY BREANDAN Mac RUAIRI

IT MAY BE over a month since the GAA year reached its pinnacle with the All-Ireland Football Final, but in many ways the last few weeks have been as busy as any for players around the country.

Many key club championship games have been decided, the very successful 'B' football championship has got underway, while the National Leagues have clicked into action. Managerial controversies in Mayo and Dublin have never been far from the headlines. The fortunes of other new appointees will be keenly monitored.

The western footballers finally got the manager they

wanted in Jack O'Shea but whether the personable Kerryman can elicit a better response than the more austere Brian McDonald remains an open question. The five-point victory over Tyrone in the first league match was certainly a heartening debut for O'Shea, who will be hoping for an impact similar to Mick O'Dwyer in Kildare when the parachuting of a big name into the county gave young players a sense of pur-

pose and the conviction that the county board is serious about doing well.

Dithering and petty politicking among the Dublin county board almost turned the appointment of a successor to Paddy Cullen into a fiasco. New supremo Dr Pat O'Neill, the intense academic, certainly provides a stark contrast to the gregarious and easy-going Cullen. The decision to maintain the core of the management structure is sensible. Their primary task now must be to unearth a half a dozen players of real quality, especially in the forward division, otherwise All-Ireland honours will remain elusive.

The first series of matches in the National Football League produced its mix of the predictable and the unexpected but there was little evidence of pre-competition fears that weaker counties would suffer in the new set-up. True traditional "soft touches" Kilkenny did go down to Fermanagh by ten

points, but apparently the 'Black and Amber' competed well for the greater part of the contest.

All-Ireland champions Donegal, despite all the beer swilling and back slapping that has doubtless continued since the third Sunday in September, scored a good win against fashionable Kildare. After all the euphoria, the players from the north-west can scarcely have much appetite for the league but winning is a healthy habit which, quite rightly, they seem reluctant to abandon.

The margin of Cork's 14-point win over Cavan was a surprise. Backroom difficulties on Leeside appear to be resolved and this result indicates positive developments on the field of play. P J Carroll recently reappointed Cavan boss, after doing a fine job with scant resources in neighbouring Leitrim, might have hoped to run Cork a lot closer. He has a mountain to climb.

Derry's narrow win over

Dublin probably accurately reflected the state of both teams, the Ulstermen notching up another win as they seek to consolidate an already highly encouraging year. The Liffesiders, then managerless and still suffering from the trauma of the All-Ireland final, marked time while refusing to surrender too readily.

Ogie' Moran made a winning start with Kerry on picking up the pieces from predecessor Mickey O'Sullivan's regime. Battling Wicklow provided stubborn opposition. 'Ogie', previously a lovely footballer and doubtless an efficient organiser takes on the Kerry job at a major disadvantage to those who have gone before. The 'Kingdom's' aura of invincibility is gone and all pretenders will oppose them with unprecedented bravado.

On the hurling front the two northern standard-bearers gave notice of serious intent with

impressive wins against first class Leinster opposition. Antrim's defeat of All-Ireland champions Kilkenny, before a big crowd at Casement Park, is a further important boost for the game in the county. Of course Kilkenny and Cork, who received a similar type drubbing from Dublin, are different propositions come summer but these results are still not without significance.

Perhaps it might pay handsome dividends for those counties striving, with limited success, for that championship breakthrough to go all out to win a league title. It would greatly increase self-belief and leave them better placed to capture the McCarthy Cup at a later stage.

Reigning league champions Limerick found a hungry Tipperary team too much at Semple Stadium. The radio commentary indicated that despite the closeness of the scoring, an experimental Shan-non-side outfit were always under pressure. The 'Premier' county paraded a few less familiar faces all of whom did well and John Kennedy's return after serious injury is a major fillip. Although this team has been around for some time now, the core of it is still quite young and its strength in depth, particularly in terms of genuine skilful hurlers, is remarkable. Further honours look certain to come their way in the near future.

Wexford edged out Clare by three points in the only other first division match. The Slaneysiders will be pleased enough with this start for their new managerial team as several of their best players were otherwise engaged in the county championship final the same day. Yet both these proud hurling counties, despite being well coached, still seem stuck in the doldrums, unable to develop any momentum or to convey a sense of potential. It's hard to be optimistic about their fortunes.

Dublin's heart—beating strong

■ BY ART Mac EOIN

NORTH OF THE LIFFEY — REMINISCENCES, the latest publication by Dublin's Inner City Folklore Project, contains memories and views of some of the people who live in the communities that comprise the area now known popularly as Dublin's north inner city. The booklet as Michael Rush, Folklore Project Co-ordinator says, "reflects in a small way, the historical strength and depth of roots of the local community, roots that continue to survive and flourish".

The stories in *North of the Liffey* are told by those who lived them and they paint an illuminating picture of Dublin life over several decades of this century. The various accounts are presented as a series of individual, personal portraits over five chapters covering issues such as work, school days, social life, family life and community spirit.

The stories are fascinating and often very humorous. One of those interviewed, Tom Byrne remembers the days of

Big Jim Larkin: "He used to have these political meetings when he was going for the Corporation. He was fortunate in that he had an opponent like Alfie Byrne who lived around the corner. Alfie you see wasn't the best friend that the workers ever had. One time Alfie organised a union in opposition to Larkin. Wherever Alfie would appear Larkin would appear too. Regularly at the Five Lamps there were meetings and everyone would go. Larkin used to go to town on Alfie

Byrne. He used to knock strips off him. He was the champion of the working-class and that is how he used to impress the people."

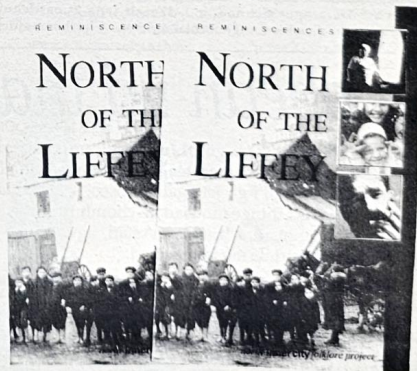
Speaking of his dancing days Michael Foran recalls: "The Rink was the most notorious place in Ireland—you could get killed in it. When you went in the door of the Rink dancehall in Aungier Street there were stud belts, flick knives and hatchets hanging up. Fellas who got caught with them were battered by the bouncers. They were very cruel because we were only 14 years of age at that time."

The book gives prominence to women which is only natural considering that women are the backbone of working-class communities such as inner-city Dublin. And it is to the women most of all that the tributes paid to communities, especially communities that

have known economic hardship and struggle, rightfully belong.

North of the Liffey was launched at a rousing reception in the old Fire Brigade building on Buckingham Street in the heart of the north inner city on Thursday, 15 October. Music was provided by Dublin ballad group 'This and That' and those in attendance were treated to a disco-dancing exhibition by the energetic local youth dance group Jump Street DC who, as compere for the evening Jer O'Leary pointed out, "have to rehearse on the streets of Ballybough as they don't have a premises".

The highlight of the evening was an exciting and colourful theatrical performance by local youths in co-operation with the Theatre of Public Works which, in a real way tapped into the talent that lies in the inner city. The participating local kids had no previous experience in acting of any sort and only had a



week to prepare for the act which was a resounding success. The performance had onlooking children joining in without encouragement, singing, dancing, chanting and miming.

Mick Rush thanked all those who contributed to *North of the Liffey* which he pointed out was the Folklore Project's third

launch in three years. An appeal was made too for a premises for a permanent archive to house material reflecting the rich history of Dublin's north inner city.

North of the Liffey costs £2 but is free to residents of the inner city on application to the Inner City Folklore Project, while stocks last!

Nuacht

Caithfear freastal ar an phobal Gaeilge

CUIREANN freagraí dhaonáireamh na Sé Chontae in iúl go bhfuil eolas áirithe ar Ghaeilge ag 9.4 faoin gcéad den daonra, nó 142,003 duine sna Sé Chontae. Ar fad d'fhreagair 79,012 duine go raibh labhairt, léamh agus scríobh na Gaeilge acu. Dúirt 45,338 daoibh go raibh labhairt na teanga acu ach nár mhaigh go raibh an léamh nó scríobh acu. Dúirt 6,593 go raibh léamh agus scríobh na Gaeilge acu, ach nach raibh siad in ann an teanga a labhairt.

Níor fhreagair 39,725 duine an cheist ar chor ar bith. Bhí míshasamh ann i measc grúpaí áirithe Gaeilge sa tuaisceart faoin leagan amach de chuid de na ceisteanna, iad ag déanamh idirdhealú idir cumas an duine ó thaobh labhairt, scríobh agus léamh na teanga. Dhiúltaigh daoine eile iad a fhreagairt mar gheall nach raibh na foirmeacha ar fáil as Gaeilge.

I mBéal Feirste é féin labhraíonn níos mó ná deich faoin gcéad duine Gaeilge, agus i nDoire tá

Gaeilge éigin ag 16 faoin gcéad de mhuintir an chontae agus naoi faoin gcéad de phobal lúir agus Mhonn. Cuireadh ceist faoin Ghaeilge i ndaonáireamh na hÉireann i 1911 nuair a d'fhreagair 2.3 faoin gcéad de phobal na Sé Chontae go raibh eolas ar an Ghaeilge acu. Tá seoiléir ó na figiúirí seo go bhfuil meáduí iontach ar

an mhéid Gaeilge a bhfuil ag muintir na Sé Chontae agus an dul chun cinn atá deantú ag eagraíochtaí cultúrtha atá ag obair ar son na teanga le blianta gan aon tacaíocht ón stát. Fós tá scoileanna Gaeilge sna Sé Chontae nach bhfaigheann cuidiú ar bith ón roinn oideachais. Tá siad fós ag streachtailt faoi chúrsaí airgid.

Anois go bhfuil an t-aitheantas seo faighte ag an phobal Gaeilge beidh sé le feiceáil an leanfaidh rialtas na Breataine lena polasaithe a dhiúltaíonn stadad leathach a thabhairt don teanga agus is cinnte go gcuirfead faoi bhrú iad chun an maoiniú is cóir a thabhairt do na tionscnaimh éagsúla Gaeilge.



ÉILEAMH DO CHUR I BHFEIDHM REACHTAIOCHTA

AG AN CHEATHRU féasta breithlae de réiteach Norris i gCúirt na hEorpa taobh amuigh de gheataí Theach Laighin ar an Chéadaoin 28 Deireadh Fómhair, bhí na feachtais leispacha agus homoghnéasacha ag éileamh gur chóir Éire a chur faoi chosc ó Chomhairle na hEorpa.

Tugadh cuireadh chuig an chóisir do gach aon Teachta Dála agus Seanadóir i dTeach Laighin agus do dhaoine ó eagraíochtaí áirithe

náisiúnta chomh maith, Comhdháil Éireannach na gCeardchumann, an Ghníomhaíocht do Chothromaíocht Fostaíochta, agus an

Chomhairle Éireannach do Shaoirse Daoine ina measc.

Iarradh ar achan duine ribín bandearg a chaitheamh chun tacaíocht a thaispeáint don éileamh. Fáiltíodh roimh cheannairí na bpáirtithe polaitiúla cúpla focal a rá ag an ócáid. Cuireadh coinne ar cháca mór bandearg agus tugadh píosa do achan duine a bhí ann.

D'fhógair an t-Eangach do Chothromaíocht Homoghnéasach agus Leispacha go raibh litir scríofa acu go dtí an Stiúrthóir de Chearta Daonna i gComhairle na hEorpa ag moladh gur chóir trí mhí a thabhairt d'Éirinn chun réiteach Norris a chur i bhfeidhm agus mura bhfuil sé déanta gur cheart Éire a chur faoi chosc ón Chomhairle go dtí go dtugtar an reachtaíocht isteach.



● DAVID NORRIS

An bhean úd thall

■ LE JOE MCQUILLAN, H7

NIL AMHRAS ar bith ná go bhfuil sotal agus aineolas — nó easpa béasa — thar leith ag an teaghlach Windsor thall i Sasain. Tá a fhios agaibh cé tá i gceist againn anseo, an teaghlach ríoga, mura miste libh. Ní thuigeann siad cé chomh fhada is atá siad ó ghnáthshaol an phobail a 'rialáinn' siad, agus duine ar bith a chreideann a mhalairt, is measa é ná iad.

Cuid mí ó shin, mar shampla, bhí clár faisnéise craolta fá bhliain i saol na ríona, agus in eachtra bheag amháin nochtai si a míthuiscint ar an saol. Bhí sí ag caint le seandúine i dTeach Banailtramas.

"Agus an bhfuil seomra codlata agat i d'aonar?" arsa sí.

"Oh, how nice."

Sin ó bhean a bhfuil níl a fhios agam cé mhéad tithe agus cé mhéad seomraí iontu aici féin. Agus ansin, masla eile uathu. Cuairt oifigiúil — chan cuairt aithreachais — ar Dresden, an chathair ar scrios Bomber Butcher Harris. Níorbh fhada ó shin go raibh

an bhean chéanna agus a máthair ag nochtú deilbhe don dunmharfóir úd, agus ní nach ionadh, mar sin, go raibh formhór mhuintir Dresden ar buile, leis an mhasla a rinneadh orthu.

Sin ráite, ní miste mar sin píosa grinn a aithris, greann atá ag dul timpeall fá láthair faoin teaghlach úd. Deirtear go raibh rion Shasana agus Diana Spencer ar chuairt sna Sé Chontae, ag cur crann agus a leithéid. Bhí Eilís ag lorg giota craice agus chinn sí go nglacfaidís — ise agus Diana — Land Rover agus go rachaidís ar spraoi thiomána.

Ar aghaidh leo. Tar éis tamaill, cad a tharla ach stadadh iad ag cosc



● Ar chuala tú an ceann faoi Diana Spencer agus an Land Rover?

bóthair neamhoifigiúil de ghrúpa den Workers' Party, amach ar "Special Activities" b'fheidir, agus bagairíodh orthu a gcuid airgid agus seoda a thabhairt suas. Sheán an bheirt go raibh airgead ná cloch ar bith acu, agus in áit sin, ghabh na fuadaitheoirí leo an Land Rover agus d'éalaigh leo, ag fáigáil Eilís agus

Diana ar thaobh an bhóthair.

Nuair a bhí siad ina n-aonar arís, labhair Diana.

"Eist, a usail," arsa Diana. "Chonaic mé thu le rolla mór airgid sular imigh muid ar maidin. Cá háit a chuir tú i bhfolach é?"

"I mo bhéal mór," arsa an bhanríon "Agus, tusa, cá háit ar chuir tú na

seoda agus clocha luachmhara eile i bhfolach?"

"I mo bhéal mór féin," arsa Diana. Bhí tost ar feadh meandair agus ansin labhair Eilís arís.

"Nach trua," ar sise, "nár tháinig Charles linn inniu, nó bheadh an diabhal Land Rover sin againn go fóill."

News

Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist...

Kathleen Gallagher

A Chairde,
I was glad to read Martin McGuinness' moving appreciation of Kathleen Gallagher, and very sad to hear of her death.

Kathleen stayed with us in London in 1972, when my students held an Irish Day in support of the prisoners. On her return to Derry she wrote to me saying how much she had appreciated a short respite in, what was then, peaceful London, away from the bombs of Derry. She was particularly moved that young students (who had not long returned from their first visit to Ireland) should give so generously of "their pocket money" as she said.

Mr McGuinness describes her beautiful personality as accurately in his description of how she gave succour to the British soldier: it brought her memory back to me so vividly. The day after Bloody Sunday she rang me crying, "I never want to speak to another English person again!" she sobbed, forgetting, of course, that she had just telephoned one. She was a lovely lady.

We lost personal touch over the years — strange really, because I was so often just over the border in Donegal. That's the way it goes I suppose but then, one never really loses touch with people like Kathleen.

Everyone, of course, is special but it is through people like Kathleen Gallagher that outsiders like I understand where the truth of Ireland lies — if you're against someone as beautiful as she, then I'm against you.

I never knew her family but may I, through your columns, send my condolences to them.
Brian Anson,
Milhac d'Auberoche.

A Chairde,
Please allow me to express my great sorrow on hearing of the passing of Kathleen Gallagher of Derry as published in the *Republican News* of 8 October 1992. The same report told of the death of her husband Willie three years ago. The news of the passing of both these truly superlative friends of mine shocked me into intense reflection as I started pondering my treasured relationship with these two wonderful, gallant Gaels.

Kathleen came to New York quite a few times and I specially recall one of these visits. I was in my prearranged seat as we all waited for Mass to begin on this occasion which was the Annual Commemoration of the Rising of 1916 promoted each Easter by Sean Oglaigh na hÉireann. It was in Gaelic Park. I forget which year but I remember well my surprise when she arrived just as Mass was beginning and she smiled over to me in a scarcely audible whisper "Hello Tommy!" After the Mass she hastened to compliment me by saying "Your voice is great as it was when you won the tenor solo in the Derry Feis long ago". This was an unspeakable compliment for I was sure that no one but my immediate family

would ever remember that occasion. But it surely brought tears to my eyes. And we recounted some of the days shared by Willie and myself and these were many for we were in the same class at the Long Tower Boys School. Then she flattered me even further by telling me that Willie cut out and kept all the letters I had sent to the *Derry Journal* throughout the years. I am very saddened by their passing but so privileged for having been able to call them my friends.

Tom Duffy,
New York.

National Women's Conference

A Chairde,

On 7 November Sinn Féin will hold its fifth national women's conference in Derry. This conference is an important occasion for republican women, as it is an opportunity for us to air our views on important issues for women. It is not often that the public get a chance to hear republican views because of the censorship which is directed against our party.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Self-Determination — What choices for Irish women?'

Some of the questions we intend to address through workshop discussion include: A united Ireland, does it have anything to offer Irish women? Will there be separation of Church and State in the new Ireland? Is it the case that the worm in the heart of the women's movement is partition? These questions address fundamental issues for the broader women's movement and we encourage women to attend and put forward their views at the conference.

The women's movement needs to debate the failure of governments to give priority to women's rights. We live in a society where women are not safe in their own homes, we can not walk on the streets of our own towns and cities night or day. We live with the constant fear of violence against women. Any improvements in the law on rape are there because groups such as the Rape Crisis Centre have lobbied for years for such change. The commitment of governments past and present to women's rights is reflected in the little amount of money they are prepared to spend on women's services. There is an urgent need for women's groups to form a strong coalition to put the issue of funding top of the government's agenda.

In the long term the objective for women should be to build a strong women's movement which puts partition on the political agenda. The furthering of women's rights on both sides of the border is hindered by the continued existence of two right-wing states. It is in women's self-interest to put partition on the agenda. The removal of the border will create the conditions to build a secular state where women's freedom is enshrined in the new con-

stitution of a 32-County national democracy.

Last year at our national conference in Belfast we outlined the need to build a women's movement which has a broad base of support which draws from the experience of feminism and links women's freedom with national freedom. That is the republican position. Republican women are ready for debate and dialogue. We invite women of all political persuasions to join us at our conference in Derry.

Máiréad Keane,
Director,
Sinn Féin Women's Department.

Accommodation and crèche facilities for the conference should be booked by ringing Derry 368926 or 263933.

Poisoning the environment

A Chairde,

Two chemical disasters befell Ireland in a space of less than a week.

From the giant Du Pont synthetics factory near Derry 1.25 tonnes of Chloro-butadiene spilled into Lough Foyle on Tuesday 6 October.

On Sunday 11 October, only five days later, a full scale evacuation of over 20 houses south of Listowel, County Kerry occurred.

It was only on Friday 9 October, that the incident in Derry was revealed. A Du Pont spokesperson admitted "we regard this spillage as very serious". "Extremely worrying" was the reaction from the DOE in Northern Ireland.

Fifty farmers who supplement their income from collecting shellfish from the lough will have to stop this activity as there are serious implications for fish and shellfish and so a threat to the food chain.

"That this should happen is totally beyond belief" was the first comment of Frank Hayes, the Kerry Group's corporate manager after the emergency following the collapse of a 500,000 gallon water tank at the Groups plant in Listowel. The rush of water from the water tank damaged the bund of a hydrochloric acid tank, upsetting valves which allowed a cloud of toxic acid vapour to blanket the area.

Comments like "extremely worrying" and "beyond belief" don't alter or remove the harm that has been caused, they are just an exercise in public relations damage limitation. The Irish Marine Emergency Service still have not been informed of the spill from Du Pont. Belfast coastguards are as yet also unaware.

Frank Hayes' post disaster claims "We're concerned that there should be no hazards to anyone" ring hollow, and will be exposed for what they are.

On Tuesday 13 October, Irish fishermen united on Lough Foyle their boats standing watch over the Du Pont plant. The date when they can resume fishing or receive compensation is out of their hands. They are understandably angry and woefully underinformed.

A national environmental watchdog organisation must be set up, this would be the first step in the right direction — a body which could oversee the activities of multinational companies moving into this country, a body which could research and communicate accurate environmental information to the people. Every one wants good jobs to be created in this country, but the environment and the quality of people's lives must come before profit and quick political fixes.

What good is a "good" job when your children cannot play in safety in the garden or your food is poisoned?

Szymon Los,
Cumann
Skibbereen.

Sponsored run — money please!

A Chairde,

The sponsored annual run by republican prisoners in aid of Irish language education projects was completed in the various prisons where republicans are being held throughout Ireland, England and Europe during the month of August. As always the money the prisoners raise in this fashion is of great assistance to these schools, situated as they are, in the most economically deprived areas of the Six Counties. In order to facilitate the presentation to the schools at the earliest possible date could all those who offered their time and energy to gather sponsors forward the money to either:

Bairbre de Brún, Connolly House, 147 Andersonstown Road, Belfast or Marcas Mac Ruairi, 64B Racecourse Road, Shantallow, Derry.

The sooner the collection of monies can be completed the more effective the prisoners' run will have been.

Marcas Mac Ruairi.

UN and hunger

A Chairde,

I have read the many articles and reviews in *AP/RN* concerning the African crisis. As republicans

we all know the colonial reasons for this extreme poverty, and where the blame for it lies, with our European 'partners' of course.

No matter how much, well-deserved criticism we have for them, it will do little for the people of the lands they plundered, because the hearts of the rich and powerful are as hard today, as when their forefathers first conquered Africa.

However this does not take from our responsibility as human beings to do our very best to save these lives. The millions of pounds being contributed by the Irish public to aid the Somalians is heartening. It is however, extremely distressing to realise that, with all this good will, only a small percentage of the supplies sent are getting through, due to the warring factions out there.

Considering the United Nations military might which was so clearly demonstrated to us in January 1991, it is incomprehensible that no movement is forthcoming to aid the starving population of Somalia now.

I would implore your readers to write to the UN Headquarters, New York 10017, USA, to once again impress us with their powerful army in saving lives this time.
Martin Kenny,
Aughavas,
County Leitrim.

Excellent theatre

A Chairde,

As reported in your newspaper: Fair Play to Gabriel Byrne and Jim Sheridan. As a Dublin playgoer one is proud to note that they have been loyal to their "roots" in ensuring that the funds from the world premier of their film *Into the West* are going to the thoroughly worthy Project Arts Centre (& the Dublin Travellers Education Group).

Excellent as Gabriel has played in such films as *Millers Crossing* and *Defence of the Realm* one wonders who recalls now among those lucky to have

caught it, his superlative performance in Tom Murphy's magnificent *Famine* in 1980, in his first ever 'lead'. Equally it is the most underrated Irish play ever written. Tom Murphy himself, I heard, considers this his finest work, quite justifiably. Combined with Jim Sheridan's direction of *The Risen People* which the vast majority of viewers and reviewers avowed was nothing short of "electrifying" and Michael Sheridan's famous "provocative" production of *Marat-Sade*, there were no empty seats in the house for that hattrick. Halcyon days indeed at the Project.

They don't make live theatre seasons like that anymore... Here was a theatre... Whence shall come another?
Eithne Dorchá-O'Brien,
North Strand,
Dublin.

Mac Ruairi "knows nothing about soccer"!

A Chairde,

I read with interest Breandan MacRuairi's article on the League of Ireland, *AP/RN* 15 October. MacRuairi states "that quality players in the league are inevitably drawn to a handful of leading clubs and these clubs consequently dominate the competition".

The facts are that if Shelbourne don't retain the league title this season only one team, Shamrock Rovers, has retained the league in the last 20 years. In countries like Italy, Spain, Holland and Germany we have the same three or four clubs dominating the league for as long as I can remember. And the Scottish league has now become a joke with the league being all over bar the shouting before Christmas every year. Even a very poor Celtic team can qualify for Europe and then get trounced by a team of no hopes 5-1. I never watch Italian or Spanish football on TV as it is boring watching one-sided games week in week out. Recently Shelbourne were very lucky to draw with my team Shamrock Rovers (who are struggling at present) when they scored in injury time. Then Shelbourne who had lost their last three games including a so-called easy game in Waterford, go out and thrash the league leaders Cork City 6-2.

St Patrick's Athletic who have lost almost all their best players to other clubs are doing very well. The League of Ireland is probably the most competitive league in Europe and remember they are part-time players who give 100% effort every week and this after a week's work (for those who are lucky enough to have a job). Mr MacRuairi should stick to reviewing the GAA games as it is obvious he knows nothing about League of Ireland soccer. Edward Timmins, Ballyfermot, Dublin.



● Considering the military might of the United Nations why have they not come to the aid of the starving people of Somalia?

Letters to: The Editor, AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

PLEASE KEEP LETTERS SHORT

Notices

REMEMBERING THE PAST CIVIL WAR MURDER

■ BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE DEATH of John Lawlor in County Kerry in October 1922, was one of the many executions of untried republican prisoners by Free State forces during the Civil War, 1922/'23.

More than any county perhaps, Kerry suffered cruelly during that period, a time which is still remembered today in what remains one of Ireland's most republican areas.

"It would have been the destiny of those young Kerry men," Dorothy Macardie wrote in her book *Tragedies of Kerry* (which deals with atrocities by Free State forces during the Civil War) "to live, in a free Ireland, vigorous, well-reputed achieving lives; to observe their generation a little, and die, and be remembered a little while."

"It was their destiny to live a score or more of poverty bitten years,

burdened and obscure; to rise up in their passionate valour and hurl themselves against Ireland's enemy; to die violent deaths; to become the awakeners and redeemers of their nation and to be remembered while Ireland lives."

One such was John Lawlor of Ballyheigue, County Kerry, who had joined the Volunteers in 1918 and fought throughout the Tan War 1919/21. He continued to fight on the republican side during the Civil War.

On the night of 30 October 1922, a division of Free State troops surrounded Ballyheigue. Lawlor was able to lead out two companies of IRA Volun-

teers from the besieged town and then returned with a couple of comrades to bring out some arms. The three were captured, but later overpowered and disarmed the guard, took his rifle and escaped over the fields.

Unfortunately, they headed straight into an enemy post, were seen and fired upon. The other two escaped, but Lawlor was wounded and again taken prisoner.

A short while later, in the early hours of the morning of Halloween, the Free State troops summarily pronounced a death sentence on Lawlor and shot him dead. They left his body in the street outside the church gate in Ballyheigue.

John Lawlor, a republican prisoner of war, was executed by Free State forces on 31 October 1922, 70 years ago this week.



● More than any other county perhaps, Kerry suffered cruelly during the Civil War, 1922/'23

Imeachtaí

ANTI-EXTRADITION MEETING: meets 6.30pm every Tuesday, USI, 16 North Great George's Street, DUBLIN

REPEAL THE 8th AMENDMENT CAMPAIGN MEETINGS: DUBLIN: 6.30pm every Monday, Halpenny Inn. Women's Coalition, 8pm every Thursday, USI, North Great George's Street. **CORK:** 8pm every Wednesday, Moore's Hotel, Morrison Island

CORK UNEMPLOYED ACTION GROUP: Meets 3pm, every Wednesday, CCTU Unemployed Centre, Oliver Plunkett Street, CORK

THE NORTH OF IRELAND IN FOCUS: A series of videos and discussions. 7.30pm Tuesday, 3 Novem-

ber *Trouble The Calm*. Four Corner Films, 113 Roman Road, E2, LONDON. Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. Entrance: £2/£1. Organised by Hackney Troops Out Movement

SAVE ARTICLES 2 & 3 CONFERENCE: Saturday 31 October. Teachers Club, DUBLIN. Organised by the INC. Contact Box No 2814, Dublin 7 for further details

ANNUAL KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION: 3pm, Sunday 1 November, Assemblée Rathvilly, COUNTY CARLOW. Speaker, Joe Cahill

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: 'Self-Determination — What Choices for Irish Women?' Friday and Saturday 6 & 7 November, DERRY. Friday 8-10pm Internal Sinn Féin Women's Conference. Social to follow

SINN FÉIN NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE FUNCTION: Featuring The Irish Brigade, Saturday 7 November, Wexford Inn, DUBLIN. Taille £3. Also final National Draw will take place

REPEAL THE 8th AMENDMENT BENEFIT: 8.30pm, Monday 9 November. Whelan's, DUBLIN. Taille £2/£3

MANCHESTER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION: Torchlight March, Colour Party, 8.30pm, Friday 13 November. Hugginstown, COUNTY KILKENNY. Speaker: Fr Paddy Ryan

PUBLIC MEETING: On 'Employment Discrimination in Northern Ireland'. 7.30pm, Friday 13 November. The Friendship Hall, Sutton New Road, ERDINGTON. Speakers include Paddy Hill (Birmingham Six). Organised by Stockland Green Labour Party

CELEBRATE CHOICE PARADE & RALLY: 2pm, Saturday 14 November. Assemble Parnell Square, DUBLIN

THE EDENTUBBER MARTYRS COMMEMORATION: 2.30pm, Sunday 15 November. Parade assemblies at the former Nikita's restaurant, EDENTUBBER, County Louth. Speaker: Pat Doherty

WELCOME HOME FUNCTION: For Nicky Kehoe, 8.30pm, Thursday 19 November. Cabra House, CABRA. Taille £3. Tickets available from Mick Finnegan c/o 44 Parnell Square shop or 5 Blessington Street, Ph 308783

REPEAL THE 8th AMENDMENT New Offices in Cork City. Fitzgerald House, Grand Parade, CORK CITY. Ph: 021-270819. Opening hours 10-5pm

DRAW RESULTS

Dundalk Cumann Cabhrach Draw Results

Sunday 18 October
1st Prize: Framed Portlaoise Mirror: Nial Kirk, c/o Vera; 2nd Prize: Wallset: Martin Hearty, c/o Bar; 3rd Prize: Ladies or Gents Belts: Mary Hearty, c/o Bar; 4th Prize: Key Ring and 1/2 Doz Cans: John Pongela, c/o Janet; 5th Prize: 1/2 Doz Cans: James Quinn, c/o Mac's Bar.

POWs Transport Committee September Draw results

1st Prize: no 234, Jeff, c/o Noleen Adams; 2nd Prize: no 134, Denis O'Sullivan, c/o Tony Flannery; 3rd Prize: no 046, Paul Donnelly, c/o Fergal; 4th Prize: no 125, c/o Tony O'Flaherty, 5th Prize: no 081, Pat Curran, c/o J. Cullen

InDíl Chuimhne

BLAKE, Peter; CASEY, Tommy; DEERY, Paddy; DRUMM, Máire; McCUSKER, Seamus; McGOLDRICK, Tommy; McSHEFFREY, Eddie; MEENAN, Michael. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Peter Blake (27 October 1970), Paddy Deery (28 October 1987), Seamus McCusker (31 October 1975), Tommy McGoldrick (27 October 1970), Eddie McSheffrey (28 October 1987), Michael Meenan (30 October 1974) and Sinn Féin members Tommy Casey (28 October 1990) and Máire Drumm (28 October 1976). "We must take no steps backward, our steps must be onward, for if we don't, the martyrs who died for you, for me, for this country will haunt us for eternity." — Máire Drumm. Always remembered with love and pride by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

CASEY, Tommy (2nd Ann). Murdered by British agents October 26 1990. Remembered and respected wherever you went. Always helpful, loving and kind, what a beautiful memory you left behind. Remembered by your loving wife Kathleen and son Conor. Daughters Anis, Patsy and grandchildren. Daughter Fiona and grandchildren. Daughter Ursula and granddaughter.

CASEY, Tommy (2nd Ann). In proud and loving memory of my dear father who was shot dead on 26 October 1990. I had a dad in a million, I loved him to the end, I lost two precious things that day my dad and my best friend. Will those who think of him today a little prayer to Jesus say. Always loved and never forgotten by his loving son Kevin, daughter-in-law Kathleen and grandson Ryan.

CASEY, Tommy (2nd Ann). In loving memory of Tommy shot dead on 26 October 1990. RIP. Padre Pio pray for him. Always remembered by the Conway family, Carrickmore.

CASEY, Tommy (2nd Ann). In proud memory of Tommy Casey brutally murdered by a loyalist death squad on 26 October 1990. Your name is often spoken, our thoughts are with you still, you haven't been forgotten, and by us you never will. Proudly remembered by the Mulgrew family, Pomeroy. Always remembered with the greatest of pride by Mark Mulgrew POW (H4 Long Kesh).

CASEY, Tommy (2nd Ann). Always remembered by Joe, Ann and children. **CASEY, Tommy (2nd Ann)** In proud and loving memory of Tommy Casey murdered by loyalist assassins on 26 October 1990. Remembered with love and pride by Dungannon Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann.

Always remembered by Coalisland Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann. Always remember by Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann. Always remember by Jim Lynagh Sinn Féin Cumann. Always remember by Colm Keenan /Marlin Hurson Sinn Féin Cumann, Cookstown

DOYLE, Sarah (3rd Ann). An Irish heart to the end, a loving granny and a friend, A lady who would give all for those in need her name did call, A rebel song she loved to sing and strongly to her principles did cling. For those of you who knew her this verse you will understand. So in proud and loving memory of an old woman of Ireland. Always loved and missed by her granddaughter Bridgid and all her children, grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

HUGHES, Michael (18th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Michael Hughes who was shot dead by the British army on 18 October 1974. Always remembered by the Republican Movement in Newry.

McSHEFFREY, Eddie (5th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Eddie McSheffrey, Derry Brigade killed in action on 28 October 1987. "Never had a man or woman a greater cause, never was a cause more grandly served." Always remembered by his mother and father and brothers Patrick and Sean.

Always remembered by his brother Martin and Debbie and his brother Neil, Clara, and Annemarie. **McSHEFFREY, Eddie; DEERY, Paddy (5th Ann).** Always remembered with love and pride by their friends Fergal and Christine. **McSHEFFREY, Eddie; DEERY, Paddy (5th Ann).** In proud and loving memory of Eddie McSheffrey and Paddy Deery who died on 28 October while on active service. Gone but not forgotten. From your friend and comrade Hugh Brady.

Cuimhní Breithlae

McKENNA, Precious loving birthday memories of my dear brother Volunteer Finbarr McKenna whose birthday occurs on 30 October. St Michael pray for him. A special date another year, a loving thought a silent tear. A loving prayer to keep in touch. I love you Finbarr so very much. No cards to send no presents to give, just all my love as long as I live. Always loved and missed by his loving sister Róisín.

McKENNA. Birthday memories of my dear brother Finbarr. St Joseph pray for him. As I opened my eyes this morning and looked to heaven above I whispered 'Happy birthday, Finbarr', and send you all our love. Remembered always by his sister Nuala and Mairead.

McKENNA. Birthday memories of my dear brother Finbarr. St Anthony, pray for him. No birthday card to send you for there is no address. Only God's beautiful garden, where you have gone to rest. Remembered by his sister Mary and niece Orlaith. **McKENNA.** In proud and loving birthday memories of Finbarr. St Gerard pray for him. No birthday cards or presents to give, only our love as long as we live. Always remembered by brother Eugene and sister-in-law Lily.

McKENNA. Birthday memories for my brother Finbarr. A little tribute true and tender just to say we still remember. Always remembered by brother Paul, sister-in-law Jean, nieces Sinead and Aisling.

Comhbhrón

CAMPBELL. With sadness and regrets we offer our deepest sympathies to Brendan and the entire family circle of Sheena Campbell on her death at the hands of pro-British death squads. Always remembered by Gerard Magee and Bean Murray, Long Kesh. **CAMPBELL.** Deepest sympathy to Brendan and the family circle on the death of Sheena murdered by pro-British agents. From Sean J Nash, Bradford, England. **CAMPBELL.** In proud and loving memory of a friend and comrade murdered on 16 October. Always

remembered by Jim McAllister and family. **CAMPBELL.** Always remembered by Pearse.

CAMPBELL. Deepest sympathy extended to Brendan and the entire family circle. Remembered always by Catherine McCabe. **CAMPBELL.** Deepest sympathy extended to Brendan and the entire family circle on the death of Sheena. Always remembered by Christy.

CAMPBELL. In proud and loving memory of our friend and comrade Sheena.

From Barney Morris Sinn Féin Cumann, Crossmaglen.

From Michael McVerry Sinn Féin Cumann, Cullyhanna.

From Mick-Louis Sinn Féin Cumann.

From the John Mitchell Cumann.

Newry and the Newry/Armagh Comhairle Ceannair.

Always remembered by Korea Friendship Committee

Always remembered by Rim Su Gyong Defence Campaign.

Always remembered by the Indian Workers Association of Britain.

ALWAYS remembered by International War Crimes Tribunal in Britain.

Always remembered by the Anti-Imperialist Youth Organisation.

Always remembered by the Communist Organisation of Britain.

Always remembered by Mosquito Press, London.

Always remembered by the Institute for Independence Studies.

Always remembered by the British delegation to the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students.

KAVANAGH. Deepest sympathy to Anto on the death of his father.

From the Bryson lads.

McGEOWN. It was with regret and sadness that we learned of the death of Gerry. To his family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy. Mary Queen of the Gael, pray for him.

From the Sean Martin/Sean Tracey Sinn Féin Cumann, Short Strand.

McGEOWN. We learned of the death of Gerry with sorrow and we offer our condolences to his family in this time of loss.

Jeannie and Malachy and all the Callaghan family.

McGEOWN. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Gerry's family whose untimely death occurred on Sunday. Ar lámh dhé De go raib a anam. Joe and Jacqueline.

McGEOWN and McATAMNEY. The Republican Movement, North Belfast extends heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of their recently departed friends, Gerry Mc Geown and Thomas 'Foxy' McAtamney.

Beannachtáí

CODDLE. Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Coddle. From the two Shays, Skinny Jew and Harry.

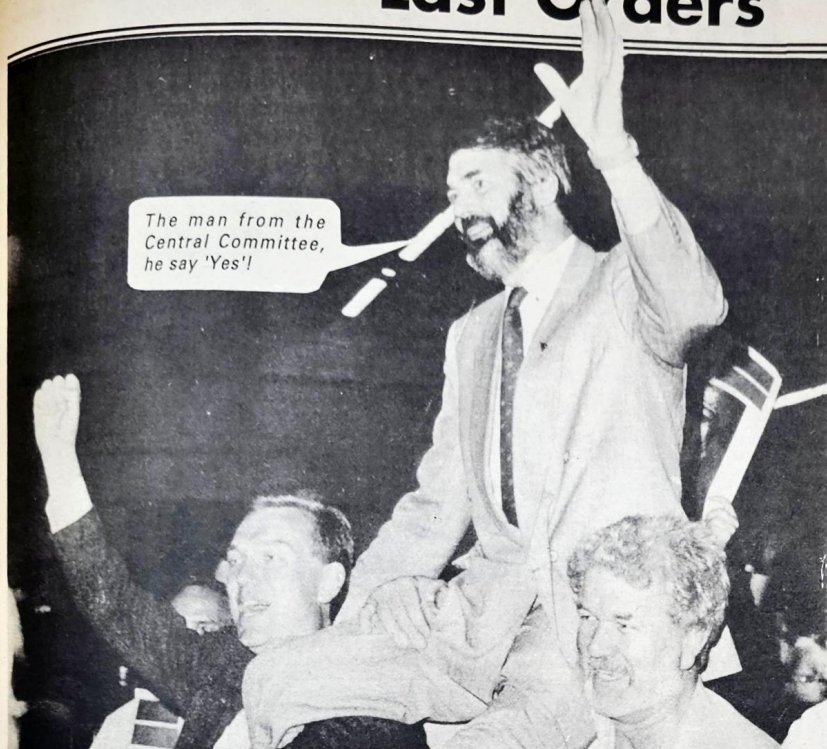
MURRAY. Happy birthday Patrick. Thinking of you. From Gael, your fiancée.

NOONAN. Happy birthday Noel (Portlaoise). Sending you our love. From Mam and Dad.

From your daughter Lynda and son Kenneth.

Kenny. Happy birthday Noel from your sister Helen, Mike and Jennifer.

From the Lynch family Weston. From all your comrades in Limerick.



The man from the
Central Committee,
he say 'Yes'!

Wishful thinking from Proinsias De Rossa arriving home from his Moscow 'special activities' in 1986

IN THE EVER-SHIFTING world of Sticky politics, some figures have always been shiftier than others. Proinsias De Rossa is such a man.

He could just as easily be named Teflon De Rossa. In the 1980s he managed to emerge relatively unscathed through the numerous revelations of links between the then Workers' Party and the 'Official IRA'. The embarrassing details which emerged included various imaginative fundraising activities or 'special activities', including protection rackets, forged fivers and armed robberies.

But Proinsias' hands were clean. He knew nothing of any such links and anyway, the Officials didn't exist. Last year the Workers' Party split and his new Democratic Left vehicle was to finally throw off those nasty stories of the undemocratic policy of democratic centralism and corruption.

But then the *London Independent* leaked details of Seán and Proinsias's £1 million begging letter to the Soviets and further alleged that the pair had visited the Soviet Union in 1986 to back up their fundraising request.

De Rossa, already a victim of selective internment in the 1950s, has now become a victim of selective memory loss in 1992. He told the *Independent* that he had "no recollection" of the letter. "It doesn't ring a bell with me," said Proinsias, adding frankly: "I may have been — I was in Moscow sometime in the '80s. I did a fair bit of travelling around then."

Statements like that won't go far to scotch this story. And with the prospect of even more embarrassing revelations to come, maybe Proinsias has finally had it.

This is one thrilling installment that De Rossa will not be looking forward to.

THE CHINESE government has informed Britain's governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, that if he presses ahead with plans for democratic reform it will be a waste of time.

China has promised the Tory appointee that it will reverse any such reforms in 1997, when the state is due to be handed over to Beijing rule.

Britain, of course, will still hand over Hong Kong, regardless of the implications for its citizens of being swallowed up by that regime.

The Hong Kong situation demonstrates how British policy is dictated by political, military, and economic expediency, rather than any high moral sense of duty to loyal natives.

The unionists should look closely at what is going on in Hong Kong.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT sent another clear message to unionists last week when Ian Paisley called for an emergency debate on the IRA killing of RIR Sergeant Robert Irvine.

Sunday Times columnist Atticus recalled that when Paisley "outlined the grim details" of the death of the British army NCO in defence of the Union, "MPs and a number of ministers chatted noisily, some laughing as if nothing was amiss".

Had the IRA attack involved an MP or Westminster official, Atticus pointed out, "parliament would have been hushed".

It was, he pronounced, "a bad case of double standards".

It was, in fact, the typically contemptuous attitude of British MPs towards anything Irish — even those Irish who give their allegiance to Britain.

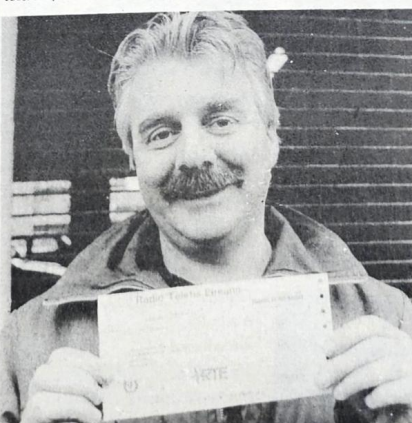
THE GERMAN COP who last week angrily exclaimed — "The bloody English queen. We have been shat on by the British" — did so because a colleague, who had collapsed during the queen's visit to Berlin, was refused medical attention on security grounds.

Because of the queen's presence there was a considerable delay before the fallen officer was treated. But what really annoyed the German press and public — apart from the visit itself — was that the queen's doctor refused to help him, because, as he explained, he is only allowed to treat the queen.

SINN FEIN member Larry O'Toole, who earlier this year won this High Court case against RTE's decision to censor him, seen here displaying his cheque from the station.

Larry received the expenses cheque following his participation in filming for an edition of RTE's *Tuesday File* programme. He was among a group interviewed about being unemployed in the run-up to the INOU's march for an edition of the programme focussing on the work of Fr Peter McVerry.

The programme's producer and director, Michael Heaney, told *AP/RN* that the decision not to use the footage was a broad-



● Biting the hand that feeds him — Larry O'Toole

casting one due to reasons of time. He did admit that he was aware of Larry's membership of Sinn Féin and so knew that he would not have been able to broadcast Larry anyway.

This is because of RTE's continuing policy of blanket censorship of Sinn Féin members pending its appeal against the High Court judgement.

AS WE GO to print, there is as yet no sign of the end of the world, despite the earnest belief of some 10,000 followers of the Mission for the Coming Days Church in South Korea that the end is nigh.

But if you don't get your paper this week, herein could lie the explanation — Armageddon I.

Anyway, should this cataclysmic event fail to occur, I'm left with a column to fill, so a few friendly words about Armageddon II, this comet that, scientists say, (well, some scientists anyway) is definitely going to destroy the earth if the Koreans prove to be mistaken.

The Anglo-Australian observatory has predicted that on 14 August 2,126, a comet, named Comet Swift-Tuttle after the chaps who first saw it in 1862, will smash into the Earth at a speed of some 60 kilometres per second, causing an explosion the equivalent of a million atomic bombs.

Don't start chopping down all the rain forests or avoiding the conception of your doomed great-grandchildren just yet, though — help is at hand.

Former goalkeeper, television commentator and self-proclaimed Messiah, David Icke, has some words of reassurance.

According to the turquoise-clad saviour's calculations, "the comet will miss the planet" but the downside is that its passing will "speed up the vibrations of subatomic energy fields of which we are all a part", whatever that means.

Dúirt Siad

Expenditure over a 12-month period is £325,000 which covers wages, offices and publications. The bulk of the shortfall has been met by 'special activities' of which it is not possible to detail here because of reasons we are sure you will understand. The 'special activities' are unable always to be effective and so on occasion the party has had to seek loans from individuals and financial institutions for specific activities. — Extract from the 1986 begging letter written by Proinsias De Rossa and Seán Garland touting for £1 million for the Workers' Party from the Soviets.

The continued growth of the party in the public domain makes 'special activities' more hazardous for the party.
—More from Proinsias and Seán's letter.

We're used to having our noses rubbed in it.

— Progressive Democrat TD, Pearse Wyse, on his party's relationship with Albert Reynolds, RTE *Radio's News at One*, Wednesday, 28 October.

We will work to ensure that political considerations do not hinder the workings of our courts in asylum cases.

— US Presidential candidate, Governor Bill Clinton in a letter to Irish American supporters.

We believe that the British government must do more to oppose the job discrimination that has created unemployment levels two and a half times higher for Catholic workers than Protestant workers. There can be no lasting settlement in Northern Ireland until such discrimination is ended. The MacBride Principles set forth appropriate guidelines for investment to help achieve these goals. — US Presidential candidate, Governor Bill Clinton.

I didn't set out to make any moral judgements on these people, not on the IRA or on the British army. I aimed to portray them as people stuck in situations in which they have to do unacceptable things. — Film director Neil Jordan on his latest movie, *The Crying Game*, in which Stephen Rea plays an IRA Volunteer, the *Evening Herald*, Tuesday, 27 October.

I don't think censorship helps end the problem of political violence. I also don't think that seeing the IRA as mindless psychopaths helps solve the violence because maybe that stops us from understanding the problem.

— Neil Jordan.

[illegible]

Vigil for Sheena Campbell

AT A VIGIL outside the York Hotel last Thursday 22 October, colleagues and friends of Sinn Féin member Sheena Campbell gathered to highlight the fact that the principles that Sheena believed in live on and will never be defeated.

The 29-year-old law student and mother of one was shot dead by the UVF inside the hotel. Despite killing Sheena, the death squad failed in their ultimate aim, to silence Sinn Féin.

Sheena's parents, Jean and Patsy and her sister, Gabrielle were accompanied by Pauline Davey-Kennedy, daughter of assassinated Sinn Féin Councillor John Davey and Fiona O'Hagan, wife of assassinated Sinn Féin Councillor Bernard O'Hagan.

Sheena's partner, Craigavon Sinn Féin councillor Brendan Curran, was also among the 25 Sinn Féin councillors and representatives who held up Sheena's election posters outside the hotel. These were captioned, "Cen-

sored" and "Murdered", a reference to the reality of 'normal' life faced by any member of Sinn Féin in Ireland.

Whether it is in County Donegal where Councillor Eddie Fullerton was shot dead by loyalists or County Antrim, Sinn Féin members are only too aware what that political reality is. In the last 23 years no other party in Ireland has suffered such a high casualty rate. The long list of dead and wounded in Sinn Féin is a testimony to the dedication of people such as Sheena Campbell.

Councillor Curran, who survived an earlier loyalist attack in which he was seriously wounded, explained to journalists from both the print and televised media exactly why the picket was mounted.



● Family, friends and comrades of Sheena Campbell outside the York Hotel last Thursday

Significantly his words were not heard on that evening's television news programmes as news editors continued with their policy of self cen-

sorship. Brendan Curran said: "We are not intimidated, we will not be deterred from pursuing our vision of an Ireland free from violence

and destruction. Sheena believed passionately in peace. We intend working even harder in pursuit of her goal and that of all her murdered colleagues."

(continued from front page)

started to put bombs on the train tracks between Dublin and Belfast I was asked by Proinsias De Rossa to talk to people...

"Proinsias then went public on the 'Peace Train' idea and after some weeks a small committee made up of Brian Brennan, Phyllis McGhee, Proinsias and myself came together for a short meeting at the Dáil. I was given the task of trying to get those whom I had spoken to on the telephone to a private meeting to see how to advance the 'Peace Train' idea. And around this time too Proinsias and myself met with a very helpful representative of Northern Rail and a very reluctant representative of Irish Rail at Connolly Station in Dublin..."

"I then set about inviting a very wide group to a very private meeting in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin on Saturday, 6 May. Around 80 letters went out to trade union, church, politicians and business people and the letter was on Dáil notepaper signed by Proinsias with 12 other sponsors for the meeting from North and South."

The documentation shows that the minutes of all meetings of the Belfast committee of the Peace Train group were faxed from the Workers' Party offices in Belfast to the party's HQ in Dublin.

Minutes of a meeting of the Peace Train Committee of 7 March 1990, attended by Seamus Lynch, and Mary McMahon, both senior members of the Workers' Party in Belfast, and faxed to the Workers' Party office in Dublin's Gardiner Place reveal:

"Paddy Devlin contacted Chris Ryder during the course of the meeting to explore funding possibilities. (No time like the present!)"

Chris Ryder is the *Daily Telegraph's* Six-County correspondent. He is well known for his anti-republican line and his close contacts in the RUC and British military and intelligence services. When contacted by AP/RN Ryder said that Devlin had got in touch with him in the knowledge that he was a member of the Northern Ireland Office's (NIO) Community Relations Council. Ryder says that he referred Devlin to others on the Community Relations Council who could



● The 'Peace' Train organisation was partly financed by the British government

be of assistance and that he had no direct role in gaining funding for the Peace Train.

It was revealed by British Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office Brian Mawhinney in July of last year that the British government had funded the Peace Train and the so-called Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT) group to the tune of £12,500 at the time with more money promised.

The revelation came in the British House of Commons soon after members of the Peace Train had met there with British Labour MP Harry Barnes. It was in reply to a speech by Barnes praising bogus peace groups in Ireland that Mawhinney made his announcement.

"In the past few days I have been able to put my money where my mouth — and my pen — would normally be," he said. Mawhinney told

the Commons that the NIO's Central Committee for Community Relations had at that time provided £8,500 to the Peace Train group. FAIT had been provided with £4,000 "to enable it to develop its strategy for future development". FAIT's spokesperson at the time was Henry Robinson, a member of the Workers' Party.

At the end of the day, in pursuit of their own political interests, the Workers' Party sought money from anyone willing to provide it, this included the old Soviet leadership. But more to the point it has and does include the British government who are funding groups in Ireland which are mere fronts for the Workers' Party. Both the British and those who formed the Workers' Party and now Democratic Left are cynically manipulating the genuine desire for peace among the Irish people. Both are using such groups as New Consensus, the Peace Train and FAIT to further their own political objectives. Top priority for both is the marginalisation and defeat of republicans. To this end the British have found loyal allies in the Workers' Party and Democratic Left.



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