

AN  
**PHOBLACHT**  
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY

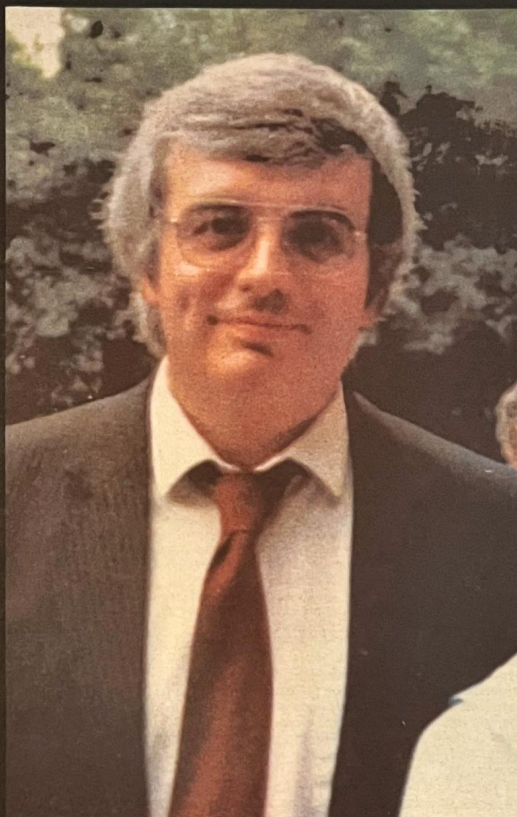


Sraith Nua Imi 7 Uimhir 5 Deardoin Eanáir 31 Thursday 31st January 1985 (Britain 30p) Price 25p

# Mick Timothy

Mick Timothy, editor of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, died on January 26th. Mick's death is not only a keenly-felt personal loss to us but also a political loss to the republican cause.

See page 16 for a full funeral report and obituary by Rita O'Hare, a long-time friend and colleague of Mick Timothy. Rita has been appointed acting editor of *AP/RN*.



## ANGUISH AND ANGER

EVERY YEAR since, our people have marched: the steadfast among those who were there in 1972 and whose presence was not merely an occasion for opportunism; those who remember; and those who were then in their prams but who are now in their jeans and who regularly remind soldiers and the loyalist RUC alike that their jurisdiction runs thin through the Bogside.

Every year since that nothing', the faithful have Bloody Sunday, on marched through torrential January 30th 1972, when it rain or snow to demon- was 'a united Ireland or strate that we would not

be intimidated off our own streets. A total of 31 people were shot that day but every marcher was a target.

Those who spilled the blood of young and old alike and fired the murderous shots were promoted and decorated. Those who were anguished and angered and moved by the sight of their brothers and sisters being cut down as second-class citizens are now in the graveyards or the prisons or are still there in the ranks, planning, preparing, about to spring a sound and just verdict upon the heavily-armed agents of British imperialism in Ireland.

We remember the deaths of those fourteen. We see no change except in laws more repressive than in-terment and deadlier enemy fire-power. And we see no hope except in the liberation struggle of our people's army of Volunteers — militarily and politically — fighting on all fronts.



● Hundreds turn out in Derry to commemorate Bloody Sunday — see centrespread



● American Indians express solidarity with the Republican Movement — see page 10



## OPINION

# The rich get richer

AFTER WEEKS of speculation and leaks to the media, the provisions of the Coalition budget, which were announced on Wednesday this week, do nothing to close the economic gap between rich and poor in the twenty-six counties.

Indeed, the opposite is the case and the gap will now grow even wider, thanks to provisions which have been described as 'imaginative' by Coalition apologists.

The "radical restructuring" of the taxation system, as it was described by Coalition Finance Minister Alan Dukes, is a case in point.

Despite the juggling of figures in the creation of only three tax-bands, there will be little financial gain for those in the lower and middle income brackets. For those wealthy people who were taxed at 65% before this, the reduction to the new top tax-band of 60% will, however, mean a substantial increase in already high incomes.

And any gain that those on lower incomes might get will be cancelled out by the introduction of increased VAT on footwear and on other essentials such as clothing and fuel.

But if the gap has grown even wider between those people who have an income, then the real losers are the nearly 250,000 unemployed and their families. They too have to bear the burden of price increases on essential items but the paltry increases in benefit payments (which are totally inadequate anyway) leaves them, if anything, less able than before to make ends meet.

Nor is there any proposal in the budget to end this circle of poverty. Unemployment is virtually ignored, as if that will make it go away.

It should not be forgotten, either, that this budget comes after three years of savage cutbacks in the supplementary benefits and services to which the most deprived unemployed were once grudgingly entitled.

All in all then, the Coalition has introduced a budget which will make the rich richer and the poor poorer. The favourable reaction of big business to its provisions is proof enough of that.

The underlying principle of this budget is the same old story — that if you create more wealth for those who already have it then they might, in turn, create the jobs which the unemployed need.

This 'principle' has already been discredited, however, and, despite all the incentives which have been offered to them, the modern capitalists continue to invest in non-productive sectors of the economy such as property speculation, which create no jobs at all.

The only remedy is for the state itself to create the jobs so desperately needed, but that is a remedy which will never be adopted by any Leinster House government.

## Oideachas

THUG an Piarasach *The Murder Machine* ar an gcóras oideachais a bhí i réim in Éirinn lena linn agus bhunaigh sé Scoil Eanna chun chur ina gcoinne. Theagasc sé go raibh córas nua ag teastáil. Chreid an pobal san am go ndéanfaí dul chun cinn mór dá mbéadh stát dár gcuid féin acu.

I ndiaidh bunú an stáit sna sé chontae fíchead, ghabh an Eaglais agus fórsaí coimeádacha greim ar an gcóras oideachais agus go dtí an lá seo tá an córas i gcrúba na bhfórsaí céanna. Taispeánadh sin anuraidh nuair a caitheadh Eileen Flynn as a post.

Is minic Gaeilgeoirí ag cáineadh na scoileanna de bharr a dteip i dtéagasc na Gaeilge. Díreach cosúil leis an bPiarasach, tá siad ag bunú a scoileanna féin le freastal ar a bpáistí.

Cáineann ceardchumann na múinteoirí an rialtas as an ngearradh siar ar an méid airgid atá ar fáil d'oideachas. Is minic pólaiteoirí ag maíomh as a mhéid daoine óga is atá sa tír. Sin loighic duit.

Ó bunaíodh an córas tá múinteoirí an gearán mar gheall ar ranganna a bheith ró-mhór agus an faillí a deindeadh in oideachas céad míle teach. Glactar leis anois, go bhfuil, mar thoradh ar seo, céad míle duine sa stát agus deacrachtaí leitheoireachta acu.

Aithnítear go bhfuil fadhbanna móra le sárú i ngach gné den gcóras oideachais ach go dtí seo is beag dul chun cinn atá déanta.

Is fiú is dóigh liom srachfhéachaint a thabhairt ar ar thárla i Nicearagua. Nuair a tháinig an FSLN i gcuimhacht, chuir siad chun oibre líthreach chun litearthacht a thabhairt don bpobal. Nā déanaimis dearmad ach an oiread go raibh an tír faoi ionasá míleata agus go raibh airgead gann. Ach thuigeadar gur ceart bunúsach is ea oideachas.

Níl ach an t-aon rud amháin le clois ós na pólaiteoirí anseo agus sin é go bhfuil airgead gann. Ní leor sin mar mhíniú. Tar éis an tsaoil nā na céadtha míliúin acu leis an teorainn Sasanach a chosaint.



## Hurd defends UDR

IN SPITE OF an increasing political storm surrounding the UDR, British direct-ruler Douglas Hurd spent the greater part of a well-publicised visit to Warrenpoint in County Down on Wednesday, January 30th, defending the regiment's record and refuting allegations that it is a sectarian force.

On the same day, three members of the regiment from the now infamous Drumadd Barracks in Armagh were being questioned about the kidnapping on Sunday night, January 27th, of the wife of an Armagh businessman.

To calls for the disbandment of the UDR, Hurd replied:

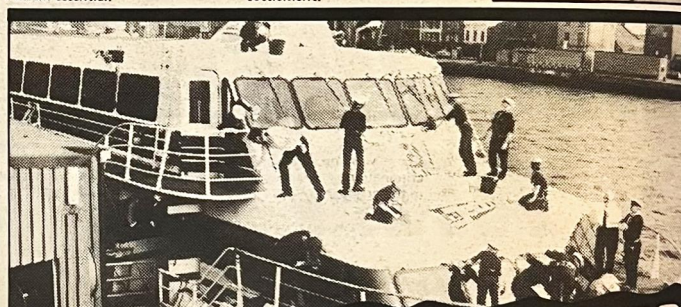
"I have said many times that the UDR are an essential part of the security forces and that for the foreseeable future they will remain essential."

However, Hurd kept alive for the SDLP the possibility of a cosmetic change in the status of the UDR when he pointed out that "security policy is never static".

Such a move, involving most of the regiment's personnel transferring into the RUC, with the remainder going into the British army proper, has been floated in recent weeks as a possible bargaining ploy to secure SDLP collaboration with some sort of British initiative aimed at an internal settlement.



• DOUGLAS HURD



## JETFOIL-MYSTERY UNFOLDS

SINCE the disclosure in last week's AP/RN that B+I has sold its Jetfoil, *Cu na Mara*, at a loss of £2½million (when a second offer on the vessel would have meant the state-owned company making no financial loss), we have learned that the company which clinched the deal — and which now stands to make a huge profit — is owned by multi-millionaire Tony Ryan.

In our original report, we correctly identified the buyer as Ireland Investments Limited. While the purchase deal was apparently signed with them before a higher offer was received, it was not concluded until mid-January, some weeks after a much larger offer of £7½million had been made to B+I through a firm of solicitors who, it is believed, represented Chinese interests.

Although we identified the directors of Ireland Investments as Thomas Anthony Ryan, Declan Francis Ryan and Eugene O'Neill, we could not get further information on the Ryans before publication.

In the past week we have discovered, contrary to our denial

that Tony Ryan of Guinness Peat Aviation was involved in the deal, that the Thomas Anthony Ryan we mentioned is, in fact, the same Tony Ryan.

### ASSOCIATED

Furthermore, we have learned that Dublin man Eugene O'Neill has been closely associated with Ryan in recent years and that he was managing director of the *Sunday Tribune* during Ryan's involvement with that paper.

Meanwhile, the disturbing loss of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money by B+I remains unexplained as the state-owned company still remains tight-lipped about a deal which appears to have seriously backfired on them.



• TONY RYAN



# COALITION BLUNDERS ON

BY JACK MADDEN

WITH their long Christmas holiday over, the Leinster House government got back to business last week and, almost immediately, became involved in internal wrangling which threatened to tear the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition apart.

The row centred on the Labour Party's beloved National Development Corporation (NDC), and the statement by Fine Gael Industry Minister John Bruton that before any government money was put into an industrial enterprise under the proposed scheme, a "pre-defined" time for selling the project to private enterprise would have to be agreed.

Bruton's statement, which reflects the "free enterprise at any cost" mentality of his party, was made in Leinster House on Tuesday, January 22nd. Next day, his Labour partners in government were frothing at the mouth and preparing to engage in what one news report described as "the most serious ideological Cabinet battle since the formation of the present government".

Ruairi Quinn, Coalition Minister for Labour, replied to Bruton that the NDC is "a crucial part of Labour policy" and it was pointed out that the scheme was the major element in the Labour Party's contribution to the programme for government agreed between the two parties in November 1982.

Despite their loud protests that "no commercial enterprise would allow itself to be deprived of essential flexibility by deciding . . . that it was going to sell off its investments at a specific time", members of the Labour Party did not rule out the eventual sale of such projects. And given Labour's silence following recent closures of state-owned industries by the Coalition, their commitment to this sector can, at best, be described as 'watery'.

## THREATS

But as if to reassure their dwindling band of followers, Labour Party representatives issued dire threats to their Coalition colleagues, with Frank Cluskey warning of some "very serious repercussions" should Fine Gael

fail to honour the terms of the joint programme for government.

The best that Labour Party leader Dick Spring could manage, however, was to inform Garret FitzGerald that he was "unhappy" with Bruton's statement. Rather than disown Bruton's remarks, however, Fine Gael played down the row, patronisingly referring to the "foolishness" of having a divisive controversy on the issue. Having won no retraction, the junior partner's threat of "very serious repercussions" naturally came to nothing.

There was no disagreement between the Coalition partners, however, on their attitude to the British 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' (PTA), nor Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry's remarkable statement last week:

"I hope that we never have to introduce legislation whereby people can vanish from the streets for 48 hours."

Barry is apparently blissfully unaware of the operation of the Offences Against the State Act which has legalised the disappearance for 48 hours of thousands of Irish people — at least 90% of whom are released without charge. Nor can he be aware of the seven-day detention period introduced by a Coalition Cabinet, of which he was a member, back in 1975.

## GULLIBILITY

This lapse of memory was surpassed only by Barry's gullibility when he announced in Leinster House that the British had 'assured his department' that there was no question of discrimination against Irish citizens in the operation of the PTA.

Further still, he gave the green light to further repression of the Irish in Britain by announcing that it was a matter for British governments to choose what methods they would use to 'protect themselves against terrorism'.

And, as if to emphasise how little his government knows or



● ALAN DUKES

cares about the extent of harassment which Irish citizens suffer in Britain, Barry told independent deputy Tony Gregory that it would not be possible to detail the number of people 'assisted' by the Free State Department of Foreign Affairs, while they were detained under the Act.

Nor, apparently, is it possible for the Coalition government to introduce the family planning legislation which has been promised since they came to office. Aware that many of their own deputies, including Oliver J. Flanagan and Alice Glenn, would desert to Fianna Fail to defeat the measure, the Fine Gael/Labour Cabinet has not included family planning in the list of 'legislative priorities', according to a report in the *Irish Press* on Friday, January 25th.

## CONDONED

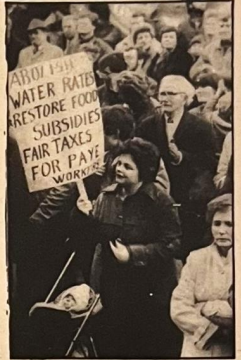
Controversy arose again last weekend following a speech by Communications Minister Jim Mitchell in which he condoned an incident in Dublin, on Friday,

January 25th, when a man shot dead a person who was allegedly burgling his house.

Besides voicing an "overwhelming sympathy for, and identification with, the family who were the victims of this break-in", Mitchell, who was justice minister in the last Coalition government, virtually dismissed research into crime and the penal system as "excusing and, in the process, encouraging crime".

Mitchell's support for 'self-defence' in the case of crimes against property was echoed by his colleagues throughout the weekend — a point which will be noted by those people of little or no property in the flats complexes of Dublin who have been so vilified by those same politicians for daring to defend their children from the scourge of heroin.

Besides the politicians who voiced support for Mitchell — whose presumption of the dead man's guilt they did not question — Jack Manninan, spokesperson for the Garda Representative As-



● Pre-budget protest in Dublin on Saturday, January 26th

sociation, was, predictably, very quick to use the occasion to suggest that even more garda powers are necessary.

## MYTH

The "crime upsurge" which was used to promote the Criminal Justice Bill (now enacted), has, it appears, begun again, if we are to believe Manninan. With the establishment politicians and the media actively promoting this myth, we can undoubtedly expect an extension of the powers of arrest and detention, which the gardaí have already secured.

While most political coverage in the twenty-six counties since the weekend related to the expected provisions of Wednesday's budget, Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey provided a brief interlude on Saturday when he attended the O'Doherty clan gathering in County Donegal.

During his stay, he paid a visit to the Donegal/Derry border where he shook hands with members of the RUC, the same sectarian force which has murdered dozens of nationalist civilians and harassed and tortured thousands more, all to defend British rule in the six counties — the same RUC indeed which Haughey's father, as a member of the IRA in South Derry, fought against.

Republicans could, therefore, be excused for wondering at the mental gymnastics of the same Charles Haughey who, on Wednesday this week, in Leinster House, screamed that the UDR should be disbanded. And no doubt, if they all joined the RUC, then Haughey would be up to shake their hands too.

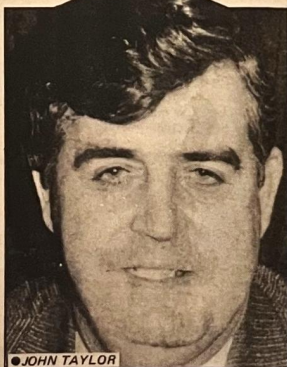
# Unionists divided on tactics

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

ON Wednesday, January 23rd, Official Unionist MP John Taylor lashed Cardinal O Fiaich, calling him "an embarrassment to moderate Catholics", "a religious ogre" and "an obstacle to church unity in Northern Ireland".

Of Taylor's party colleagues, only Robert McCartney bothered to apologise, and the following Sunday, Taylor was admonished by Bishop Empey of the Church of Ireland.

On the same day as Taylor's denunciation, Bishop Cahal Daly announced that he had declined the invitation of the Assembly's devolution committee to address them on the subject of "Catholic alienation". Daly, for once, had decided to forego the opportunity of a political platform, probably realising that it was "not prudent to tread where nationalist elected representatives refused to go."



● JOHN TAYLOR

Predictably, Daly's refusal provided the cue for unionists to indulge in some more

priest-bashing. Relatively unaccustomed to being at the receiving end, a worried Daly warned of "ominous signs of a new build-up of sectarian tension".

## 'MAGNANIMOUS'

But apart from those typical unionist outbursts, there is now a clear division in the unionist camp on the tactics to adopt in order to secure the return to a devolved Stormont government. While the OUP has been making appealing noises towards the SDLP, the DUP seems to have decided that it is has been 'magnanimous' for long enough and that it is time to go on the attack.

Last week, the OUP gave a guarded welcome to direct-ruler Hurd's proposal of a consultative role for Dublin, but the DUP refused even that, calling it "joint sovereignty by stealth". The DUP later accused Hurd of granting the SDLP a "veto on all progress" because of a British offer to the SDLP of equal weight on some advisory commissions — incidentally, another

lure to the SDLP to take part in an internal settlement.

While the OUP leader James Molyneux, lightly dismissed the SDLP's call for a disbanding of the UDR as "conference rhetoric", the DUP claimed that the SDLP were doing the IRA's work for them.

Finally, on Tuesday, January 29th, the OUP repeated its invitation to the SDLP to take part in talks and accused the British government of trying to sabotage the talks with its allusions to Dublin's consultative role. It is the SDLP which is sabotaging the talks with its excessive demands, Paisley retorted.

But whatever the differences, the unionist parties remain unanimous on their ultimate goal. The SDLP boycott, at most a minor irritant, can be used by unionists to prove to the Brits how intransigent those nationalists are.

Then, the unionists hope, the Brits will be persuaded to devolve power back to them, with or without the consent of the SDLP.





Workers occupying Winstanley's not only have to endure the cold and no light (the power has been cut off), but they also have to contend with rats

BY BRENDAN KERR

'RATIONALISATION' is viewed by many people as a euphemism for enforced redundancies and riding roughshod over workers' rights. Nowhere is this so clearly borne out than at Winstanley's shoe manufacturers in Dublin's Liberties area, where 67 FWUI members are staging a sit-in.

The workforce have been more than co-operative with management's so-called 'survival plan' in the past, having already accepted 73 redundancies, agreed to a four-month trial period for a new wages scheme/work practices and then extending it for another four months before being rejected by the shop-floor.

Following this democratic decision of the workers, management issued an ultimatum that either the new scheme be completely accepted by last Monday, January 28th, or the factory would be closed down (three workers have already been sacked for rejecting this blackmail).

Having had enough liberties taken with them already, the entire workforce occupied the premises in protest.

Management are meeting as *AP/RN* goes to press (Thursday).

Eve of budget talks on a wage agreement between public sector trade unions and the Coalition government broke down on Monday.

The union side — representing 150,000 workers — said that the government had made no proposals or indicated whether or not they were prepared to accept Labour Court recommendations where acceptable to the workers.

Thirty-five ITGWU members are on strike at the British-owned Radionics plant in Rialto, Dublin, after being locked out when they refused to sign a document allowing searches of purses, bags and cars to help combat alleged thefts.

Members of management were not asked to sign the 'search authorisation' forms.

The workers' co-operative at the Molins engineering factory have three weeks left of a four-week 'reprieve' — won after an occupation — to make the

# TAKING LIBERTIES

plant 'viable' following talks with the Industrial Development Board. There are 400 jobs at stake.

Management at Gillette's distributive centre in Tallaght, County Dublin, have locked out 20 workers, members of the MPGWU, who have refused to discontinue their three-week-old work-to-rule. The dispute is over dismissals and changes in work practices.

The Clarke's (Ireland) shoe factory in Dundalk is to close, with the loss of 365 jobs, despite management claims last week that any talk of closure was 'news' to them.

Over 750 Telecom Eireann technicians, who maintain trunk and international telephone and telex services, have called on their union, the IPOEU, to issue strike notice, effective from February 25th, if there is no improvement in pay negotiations.

Twenty of the 270 workers who were made redundant at the Atari computers plant in Limerick are continuing their sit-in. They are demanding a replacement industry.

Sligo is to lose 19 jobs when the Western Wholesale Co Ltd transfers to Ballyshannon.

The threat to close the *Daily Mirror* offices in Dublin and Belfast, putting at risk 15 jobs, has been temporarily lifted

following representations by the National Union of Journalists.

The anti-apartheid strike at Dunnes Stores, Henry Street, Dublin, enters its 29th week.

Free State Industry Minister John Bruton has admitted that there are 380 Industrial Development Authority factories lying idle. However, he dodged questions as to what, if anything, the Coalition plans to do with them.

Pay talks between the ESB and unions representing 12,500 workers collapsed on Thursday of last week, January 24th.

Noritake, the Japanese-owned porcelain factory in Arklow, County Wicklow, is to close in March with the loss of 135 jobs. The company used to employ over 500 people.

The CIE strike in Galway goes into its third week.

Up to 250 workers at the Cork Marts/IMP plant in Leixlip, County Kildare, are facing lay-offs as a result of Canadian government restrictions on beef imports.

About 100 CIE workers in Galway have been laid off by management.

The sit-in at Dunnes Stores' Wexford branch continues. The 50 workers have

been occupying the store since October 26th in pursuit of their Christmas 1983 bonus.

The two-year-old occupation of King-don Tubes in Tralee continues.

A meeting of over 100 workers last week denounced the Free State Labour Party leader and Leinster House deputy for the area, Dick Spring, for his hollow promises of last year of a replacement company and for his lack of action.

About 600 people marched in Belfast last Saturday, January 26th, in solidarity with the striking British miners.

The demonstration, organised by Belfast Trades Council, heard Eric Clarke, general secretary of the Scottish National Union of Mineworkers, say:

"We know perfectly well that the police tactics used against miners were perfected here first."

Over £1,500 was collected for the miners' hardship fund.

The Swedish-owned Klostertafflen company which manufactures footwear in its factory in Kanturk, County Cork, closed on January 25th with the loss of 22 jobs.

Payment of back wages and holiday pay is being demanded by workers who are occupying the liquidated Thompson's bakery in Cork city.

Fourteen postal workers in Clondalkin, County Dublin, are on strike due to a dispute about overtime payments during the recent bad weather.

Workers at Tralee's Lee Strand Creamery are in the fourth month of their strike over a 16% wage claim.

The 80 craftsmen at Premier Dairies, Dublin, who have been on strike for eight weeks seeking pay parity, have returned to work following a Labour Court hearing on Monday.

And 'rationalisation' claims more victims, this time at Connacht Mineral Water Ltd. Three workers are to lose their jobs and the rest of the workforce have to be placed on short-time.



BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

AT the SDLP's 14th annual conference in Belfast last weekend the party leadership predictably and easily obtained delegates' approval for its designs: continued support for the Forum report, no electoral pacts with Sinn Féin next May, and a 'hardening' of the nationalistic posture at the end of last year.

But the 1985 conference will also be remembered for its total, though not unusual, absence of real debate, a smaller number of delegates and in particular of young delegates, and a marked lack of enthusiasm from the floor.

Gone are the heady days of the New Ireland Forum, buried is last year's promise of a "historic breakthrough". Buried last November at Chequers, to be precise.

### CONTENT

If it all looked staunch and principled on the agenda, the content of the speeches would not fail to reveal the middle-class and rather reactionary nature of the SDLP. Only one woman spoke on strip-searches in Armagh: Brid Rogers.

In fact Brid Rogers spoke on practically everything, but this could hardly conceal the dearth of women speakers.

There were women on the executive platform, but they seemed to confine themselves to ferrying drinks across from the bar to thirsty male colleagues.

The prison issue could "fester" and "spill over into civil strife", one Lenadon delegate warned. The "girls" in Armagh had got "caught up in the violence", another patronised.

### IRONY

"We in our middle-class existence could not appreciate the injustices of the ghetto", he added without a trace of irony.

The whole discussion on 'administration of justice' had started with an attempt by Belfast solicitor Paschal O'Hare to have extradition discussed first — a move narrowly defeated, and opposed by an SDLP executive fearful of allowing public criticism of their Free State allies, some of whom attended the conference.

In the end, extradition was not discussed at all.

The Flags and Emblems Act, made topical not by the SDLP efforts but by the continued defiance of republican people, was the object of another bout of verbalising by the delegates.

Equal status for the Union Jack and the Tricolour, they asked.

Would the SDLP then go back into the Assembly if both flags flew over Stormont? "No," Paschal O'Hare was at pains to point out, "we are not asking for crumbs from the British table."

### THEMES

This in fact was one of the themes of this year's SDLP conference: time and again senior SDLP members came to the rostrum to reassure everyone that they were not about to sell out for some dubious package of reforms like the repeal of the Flags and Emblems Act.

The motion on the UDR was Seamus Mallon's own, and allowed him to waffle at length on the irreformability of the UDR (they even harassed him), the "greatest single factor of alienation among the nationalist community on the ground in Northern Ireland".

The SDLP could not "sell a settlement and support of law and order" to the people of South Armagh without the end of the UDR, Mallon declared, insisting in the same breath that the SDLP did not view the disbandment of the UDR as part of a settlement, but as "a right". There was a time when all these reforms would have been enough, Hugh Logue added, but not now.

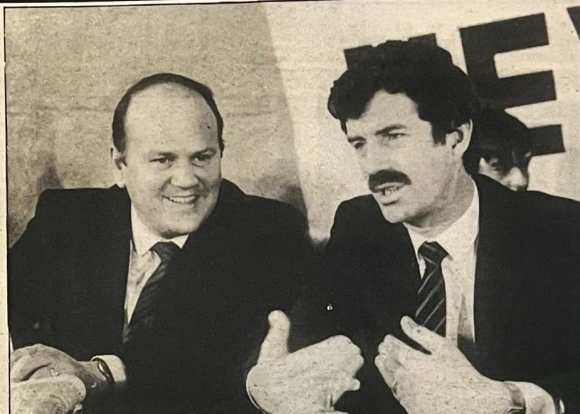
All speeches included the obligatory condemnation of the killing of UDR men by the IRA, of course.

"The greatest recruiting agency the IRA have", is how the UDR was frequently described, by the delegates of a party which allowed an ex-UDR major to become the MP for Bobby Sands' former constituency.

### WOMEN

Rape, and indeed women's affairs, have never loomed large in the SDLP's

# Stale Dull Lame Pointless



● Free State Justice Minister Michael Noonan and deputy-premier Dick Spring enjoying the hospitality of their fellow 'constitutional nationalist' hosts at the SDLP conference

collective mind. And the appearance this year of two motions supporting the campaign of the Belfast Rape Crisis Centre can be attributed as much to pressure from Sinn Féin as to the lobbying by the centre.

Denis Haughey was delegated by the SDLP executive to propose the motion and by his seniority ensure that there would be no embarrassing giggles or outbursts from the floor.

One woman spoke — the second to speak at all! The SDLP's current position on women was "quite appalling", she said, to applause.

The document on justice was adopted the next day. Described by its author as a "study of alienation from the legal system in Northern Ireland", it caused little debate, apart from two young Belfast delegates who called such study "naïve".

Seamus Mallon used the opportunity to call for an amnesty for all prisoners. "This would hit at the very roots of paramilitary organisations", he said, quoting Fr Denis Faul.

The previous day, the outgoing party chairperson, Sean Farren, had accused the IRA of "trapping" the courts and the RUC into "abdacating their responsibilities for the protection of human rights".

### BASHING

Indeed, no SDLP conference would be complete without Sinn Féin-bashing, and 1985 was no exception. John Hume, in his Saturday address, spent quite some time attacking the use of force by the IRA: "violence" was "irresponsible", Catholics bore the brunt of it, and there was no victory in sight.

Hume's shaky argument was certainly good enough for the SDLP faithful, but how will it be received by ordinary nationalists who have seen the IRA become more selective in its operations, who know that the loyalist boot was on their neck

regardless of whether there was an IRA or not, and who have witnessed the failure of constitutional nationalists in securing a victory?

For those nationalists, Hume's words will not be good enough this time.

Even within SDLP ranks, unanimity was not complete when it came to rejecting pacts with Sinn Féin.

### REJECTION

SDLP chief whip Eddie McGrady proposed a rejection of "any pact, alliance or understanding with any group" which did not reject violence. He explained that this meant pacts both before and after the elections.

But Hugh Logue from Derry quickly pointed to Free State parties co-operating with Sinn Féin at council level. A delegate pointed to "state violence", another said he preferred any member of Sinn Féin to the likes of Fermanagh unionist Raymond Ferguson.

Few senior SDLP members were present though the debate.

The press, however, was there in force. To cut short an embarrassing wrangle, McGrady came back to re-interpret his motion as referring only to "electoral pacts", not to what would happen in the councils afterwards. The motion was carried, with a few against and many abstentions.

### FORUM

The conference found a greater unanimity, however, when it refused to spend much time discussing the Forum report.

In spite of grand speeches about this "historical document" and its "pivotal role", in spite of Hume's attempts to convince the rank and file that the Forum report would bear fruit, in spite of a lengthy motion from the SDLP executive

reiterating all the "realities" of the Forum report, the delegates decided to cut the debate short.

Hume's poor performance might have been a factor. Watching your party leader flog a dead horse for over half-an-hour is not the most uplifting experience. Delegates were expecting some Thatcher-bashing. "Mrs Thatcher told me that Northern Ireland is one of the priorities for her government...", Hume said.

Laughter. But Hume was serious.

He continued: "Does anyone think that it would be so were it not for the Forum?" At that point he must have lost the rest of the delegates.

### DOWNHILL

Nothing he could say, not even the embarrassingly long list of quotations from the "serious international press", could stop the delegates from feeling that the SDLP had staked all on the Forum report, and it had lost, and that was that. After this, and the debate on pacts with Sinn Féin, the attendance went downhill to closing-time on Sunday.

The leader's 'charisma' had been found wanting. The "high ground of nationalism" looked more like the gutter.

There was little else of note. A trite document was passed on the Fair Employment Agency.

There were embarrassed giggles when Belfast Councillor Cormac Boomer said he saw "no difference between Margaret Thatcher and Arthur Scargill".

### UNIONISTS

And delegates were told that there would be informal talks with unionists. Such was Hume's will — although Eddie McGrady expressed reservations: better to wait until after the next Anglo-Irish summit.

As for the "youngest executive of any party in Ireland", in Farren's words, well, many were quite young, unknown and inexperienced. Hume's pawns, or budding political careers: next year will tell. But this SDLP 'paranoia' on youth could not hide the fact that there were fewer young delegates than in 1984.

Media comments ranged from pessimism to sycophantic praise. For the *Belfast Telegraph*, the conference "underlined the fundamental gap between the unionist and nationalist positions", with direct rule the only answer. "The SDLP put a brave face on things" after the Chequers "fiasco", the *Irish Press* wrote.

### DISSOLVED

As for the *Irish Times* and the *Irish News*, they dissolved in praise for John Hume. "Opportunity Knocks", the *Irish News* ludicrously headlined.

Last year, Seamus Mallon had warned that if the Forum report was a "bag of dolly mixtures", that would spell disaster for constitutional nationalism. The report was that; furthermore, Thatcher rejected it six months later.

Now Mallon warns that if the next summit fails to bring a new initiative, that will be the end of the SDLP.

Mallon's warnings have a ring of truth, but it is well to remember that next May Sinn Féin will be facing a party whose strength does not come from its achievements but rather from its being a 'respectable alternative to the IRA', and the party of the Catholic, nationalist middle-classes.



# UDR MURDERER JAILED

A FULL-TIME member of the UDR, who pleaded guilty to the murder of Armagh Sinn Féin activist Peter Corrigan in October 1982, and to a series of other sectarian attacks in the city, was sentenced to life imprisonment in a Belfast court last Friday, January 25th.

However, trial judge Murray imposed no recommendation on the length which the soldier, Geoffrey Edwards from Drumadd Barracks in Armagh, should serve in prison.

Edwards pleaded guilty to murdering 47-year-old Peter Corrigan, father of 11 children, who was shot dead as he was making his regular fortnightly journey from his home in the nationalist Drumadd estate to the local unemployment office.

The car used in the murder had been brought to Armagh from Belfast on the morning of the attack with no hindrance from numerous UDR and RUC checkpoints.

## GUILTY

Edwards also pleaded guilty to 18 other



● PETER CORRIGAN

offences, including six attempted murders, one of which involved a second Sinn Féin election worker, Kevin Trainor, who

was shot and wounded on his way from the same unemployment office on March 9th 1983.

Ten days later, Edwards was involved in another attack on members of the Trainor family. Kevin Trainor's cousin Emmet Trainor, his six-year-old son Dermot and a neighbour, Peter Rafferty, were seriously injured when a booby-trap bomb attached to Trainor's car exploded.

Admitting involvement in these and other crimes, Edwards implied that more UDR soldiers besides himself were involved, when he said that it was 'more than his life was worth' to give names.

## RHETORIC

Despite the number and the serious nature of Edwards' crimes and despite the rhetoric which Judge Murray used to denounce them, the UDR soldier was given a relatively short sentence — short, that is, when compared to the savage sentences meted out to nationalists for less serious offences.

Jim McAllister, Sinn Féin elected representative for the area, said in a statement:

"The arrest of Edwards and other UDR soldiers from Drumadd Barracks is an obvious attempt by the RUC to give the spurious impression that only a few UDR 'bad apples' were involved in sectarian attacks, and that they, the RUC, are on top of the situation.

"The reality is that Edwards is a scapegoat, a convenient way for the RUC to clear their books and at the same time attempt to claim some credibility within the nationalist community for having 'solved' these crimes.

"However, all of the available evidence points to a large-scale UDR involvement in sectarian attacks and RUC connivance in covering this up."

## SECTARIAN

"The UDR and RUC are both sectarian forces dedicated to the preservation of unionist supremacy. Political considerations may mean occasionally sacrificing a 'Geoffrey Edwards'.

However, for the nationalist community, only the total disbandment of both forces and the Northern state they defend, will resolve this problem."

# DIGNITY DENIED

ATTEMPTS have been made to change the usual strip-search procedure carried out in Long Kesh.

Lurgan man Damian McCann was returning to H5 after a visit on January 9th, when he was singled out for a strip-search. Usually, this entails the removal of all clothing except underpants. In a statement from Long Kesh, the prisoners say:

"On this occasion, however, Damian McCann was ordered to remove all his clothes and stand naked for scrutiny by all Screws present. He stated that he was willing to comply with the normal search procedure but refused to be subjected to the degrading and perverse search being inflicted on him. He was immediately charged and sentenced to three days in the punishment cells.

"The following day, Screws tried to inflict a similar strip-search on Harry Murray, from Lenadoon in West Belfast, when he was going out on a visit. He, too, refused to comply with the Screws' humiliating demand and was immediately taken to the punishment block. There he was

forcibly strip-searched and sentenced to three days cellular confinement.

"Nothing was found during either search but both men were punished and Harry Murray was denied the visit with his wife and children.

"This is the answer of the NIO to concerned people who have protested at the degrading searches of women prisoners in Armagh — an escalation of the same humiliating procedure in Long Kesh. Strip-searching has clearly nothing to do with prison security but is a means by which the Screws and the NIO degrade and humiliate prisoners and punish them for trying to preserve some dignity."

## STATEMENT

The Portlaoise Prisoners Relatives Action Committee, in a statement released on January 29th, has given a cautious welcome to Free State Justice Minister Michael Noonan's decision on strip-



● Protests against the degrading practice of strip-searching continue to gain momentum

searching.

"Republican prisoners in Portlaoise Jail have been informed by the governor, William O'Reilly, of the decision by Justice Minister Michael Noonan that as from Friday last, January 25th, the strip-searches being carried out in the jail would no longer include the degrading anal search. Up to now prisoners, when stripped naked, were required to bend over and be probed by prison warders.

"We welcome this change for the better, but remain mindful of

the fact that, as with all other practices within the jail, it can be changed at the whim of the governor. We also remain opposed to strip-searching of any kind.

"We will continue to step up our campaign to put pressure on Michael Noonan so that we may be afforded the facility of physical contact with our prisoners, i.e. open visits.

"We are also becoming increasingly concerned at the continued imprisonment of Mick Kinsella from Monaghan, whose mental

health deteriorates daily."

Conditions in Portlaoise Prison and the demands of the prisoners were highlighted in Cork on consecutive Saturdays, January 12th, 19th and 26th.

A photographic exhibition was set up in Daut's Square, Cork city, and over 1,000 signatures were collected for the petition in support of the prisoners.

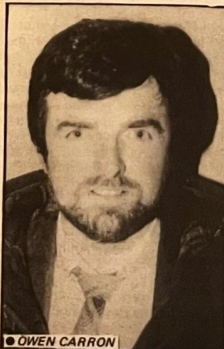
During the display on Saturday 19th, a prisoner's relative gave a detailed account of visiting conditions in the prison.

# Fermanagh frame-up

BY EAMONN TRACY

SINN FEIN in County Fermanagh has strongly criticised a series of arrests in and around the Lisnaskea/Donagh area, in which five teenagers, two of them under 16 years old, have been lifted in dawn swoops and held in Gough Barracks, Armagh, under seven-day detention orders.

One of the first arrested was brought to Gough Barracks on 16-year-old Paul Smyth who was Monday, January 21st. Four days



● OWEN CARRON

later he was charged with a number of serious offences including

the killing of a UDR soldier in 1982. At the time of the alleged offence Smyth was only 12 years old!

Of the other youths arrested, two were only 17 years old. But on Friday, January 25th, the RUC went even further by arresting Declan Murray (14), and P.J. McCrudden (15), both under seven-day detention orders.

A further three people arrested and taken to Gough Barracks from the Lisnaskea area included Kathleen Gleeson, a well-known Sinn Féin activist in Fermanagh. This is her third seven-day arrest in recent months.

## LOCALS

Two other locals, Patrick Markay and Colin McCaffrey, were also arrested and, following his release, Markay alleged that the

RUC had attempted to recruit him as a paid informer. He had been given a phone number and a name to contact by his RUC interrogators.

This is the latest of a series of attempts by the RUC to intimidate or bribe people in this area to give information about the movements of republican activists. In a statement condemning this practice and the arrests of last week, Owen Carron, Sinn Féin elected representative for the area, said:

"The RUC obviously intends to use arrests of this nature to recruit paid agents. Young people are always vulnerable in this type of situation, and there have been many documented cases since the early 1970s of schoolchildren being intimidated into becoming agents by the RUC and Brits."



# Sectarian attacks

BY JANE PLUNKETT

FOUR nationalists were injured and several others narrowly escaped death last weekend in two separate sectarian attacks on families in the Short Strand area of East Belfast. The most serious casualties were a 21-year-old woman, shot in the leg, and a middle-aged father-of-seven, who suffered multiple stab wounds.

The first attack took place on Friday night, January 25th, at about 9.30pm, on the Rennick family, whose Albertbridge Road home is separated only by a main road from the surrounding loyalist areas. Mother-of-five Mary Rennick was sitting watching television with her daughters Catherine (23) and Jacqueline (21) and a family friend, when there was a knock on the front door.

The women wrongly assumed it was children collecting money and their friend went to answer it. Mary Rennick recalls:

"I'll never forget her screams in the hall, she was trying to warn us. She came back in and two men came in behind her wearing balaclavas. They each had a gun. They didn't say a word, they just stood there and looked all around twice and then started shooting."

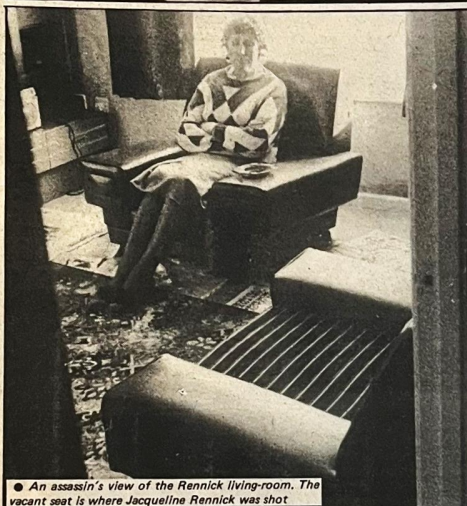
The loyalists fired first at Jacqueline, wounding her in the leg. Another bullet narrowly missed her friend who had dived for cover behind the settee. The murder gang then fired two shots at Mary Rennick, one of which lodged in her armchair. The other burst the radiator behind her, flooding the room.

The attackers then left, closing the front door and gate behind them, before running across the road into the loyalist Woodstock area.

All four women were severely shaken by their ordeal. Jacqueline, who had started work in the health service three weeks previously, after being unemployed



● Agnes, Robert and Carlo Bradley — victims of a sectarian assassination attempt



● An assassin's view of the Rennick living-room. The vacant seat is where Jacqueline Rennick was shot

ed for two years, is still detained in hospital.

## CALCULATED

This calculated sectarian shoot-

ing was followed 24 hours later by an attack on the Bradley family, who live at Clondeboyne Drive. At 9.30pm, there was a knock at the front door and 52-

year-old Agnes Bradley, assuming the caller was her married daughter Margaret Bennett, whom she was expecting, opened the door. She recalls:

"Straightaway he just grabbed me. I tackled him, then he hit me in the eye. He knocked me down and kicked me."

Her husband, Robert Bradley (48), who is deaf, did not hear the commotion. He was caught unawares as the knife-wielding loyalist burst into the living-room and quickly pinned him down, shouting "die, you Fenian bastard, die", as he knifed him. Robert Bradley suffered six stab wounds, to the face, neck and chest.

He was saved from death by his 19-year-old son who rushed downstairs, pulled the intruder away and, despite himself suffering gashes to his chest and fingers, managed to disarm the loyalist.

The attacker fled from the house, stumbling on the ice just as Mrs Bradley's daughter approached. Alerted by the screams of her 12-year-old brother Carlo, Margaret Bennett forcefully struck the loyalist with a bottle. He crawled into a garden, but was eventually spotted by neighbours and arrested by the RUC.

According to local people, two other loyalists were seen in the area but they escaped.

On Monday, January 28th, the youth, named as Alan Carter, of Paxton Street in the loyalist Albertbridge area, appeared in court charged with attempted murder.

## CONVINCED

Many Short Strand residents are convinced that were it not for the actions of the Bradley family the attacker would have escaped, notwithstanding the fact that Mountpottinger RUC Barracks is at the end of the street.

They point out that when the RUC came on the scene, they made no attempt to search even the immediate area. By contrast in the past, when engaged in arbitrary harassment of the local nationalist population, the RUC have sealed off the tiny Short Strand and searched it street by street.

One locally-based RUC man is currently out on bail charged with the sectarian killing of 18-year-old Tony Dawson in December 1983, in a blatant attack outside Mountpottinger Barracks.

But nationalists this week pointed out that in the vast majority of cases, particularly in the Short Strand where dozens of sectarian attacks have taken place, the RUC have failed both to prevent such attacks or to detain the culprits, despite their extensive network of sophisticated surveillance equipment and customary heavy presence in nationalist areas.

Several members of the Bradley family have been victims of sectarian attacks. Robert Bradley's deafness dates from a loyalist bomb attack on the Strand Bar in 1975 in which six people were killed. He was seriously injured and has not worked since. His elderly father was killed in 1971 when McGurk's bar in the New Lodge area was blown up.

These two latest attacks were condemned by local Sinn Féin spokesperson Joe O'Donnell, who pointed out that recent sectarian outbursts by loyalist politicians served as a 'green light' for murder gangs. O'Donnell warned:

"Sinn Féin would advise nationalists to take sensible precautions at all times and, in particular, never to answer the door, or even approach it, until they have first checked the identity of the caller."

# RUC show-trials resume

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE SHOW-TRIAL began this week of 28 nationalists charged on the sole word of Belfastman Harry Kirkpatrick.

As the RUC's latest paid-perjury show-trial got underway on Monday morning, the defendants were re-arraigned on nearly 200 charges, including killings, attempted killings and INLA membership.

Outside Crumlin Road Courthouse, a picket organised by the Stop the Show-Trials group was joined by members of the American Indian Movement delegation which is currently visiting the six counties.

Most of the defendants are from Belfast and most have been detained since May 1983, when Kirkpatrick, himself having been incriminated by two men, Jackie Goodman and Robert McAllister, agreed under RUC pressure to implicate others.

## EXCHANGE

McAllister and Goodman, in exchange

for their perjured evidence — which both subsequently retracted — were given immunity by the RUC from prosecution.

In addition to a substantial sum of money, the deal with Kirkpatrick involved a reduced jail term. Though at his trial in June 1983 he was given five life terms, the judge, significantly, did not recommend a minimum sentence, leaving the way open for a relatively speedy release.

That, however, will depend on Kirkpatrick's continued 'co-operation' with the RUC, whose powerful hold on him has ensured a steady trickle of new arrests over the months.

Among those charged on Kirkpatrick's sole word are his sister and brother-in-law, Michelle and Bernard Dorrian. Neither was in court on Monday, having last week applied for and been given a separate trial.

## ATTENTION

One possible reason for the readiness with which their application was granted is that their presence in court would inevitably once again have drawn public attention to the powerful methods of blackmail upon which the RUC's paid-perjury strategy depends.

It also appears likely that the Dorrians' application was facilitated in order to reduce the risk that Kirkpatrick might crack under the emotional pressure of their continued courtroom presence.

Thirty-one defendants in all were due in court on Monday, although three did not appear. One of these was 24-year-old Markets man John O'Reilly who, prior to being granted bail recently, had been held without trial for two years and eight months on the uncorroborated word of five different paid-perjurors.

## VICTIMISED

Several other defendants have been similarly victimised under the interment-by-perjury system. In O'Reilly's case, three of his accusers eventually retracted their evidence and the testimony of the fourth, John Grimley, was dismissed after repeated courtroom demonstrations of his mental instability.

One can only presume that O'Reilly, in deciding to skip bail, had drawn his own conclusions as to the lengths to which the RUC were prepared to go to keep him in jail and that, having no expectation of a fair trial from the colonial judiciary, he decided that discretion would be the better part of valour.

Kirkpatrick, who is known to have been intensively schooled in his evidence by senior crown



● New York lawyer Peter King, Lord Longford and Labour MP Claire Short — observers at the Crookshow trial

lawyers, is not expected to appear in court for several weeks.

## LOYALISTS

Another RUC perjurer, James Crookard, continued giving evidence this week against 29 loyalists he has implicated in more than 90 UVF-related charges.

On Monday, Crookard, who is serving two life terms (again with no recommended sentence) and who has implicated his brother Isaac, told the court he was testifying "to clear his conscience", and had been thinking of "cleaning the slate" since about 1977.

Thus far at least, Crookard has followed RUC instructions to present himself as a "converted terrorist".

But he also said that he had agreed to give evidence in the hope of "getting back onto the street". Under further cross-examination, he admitted that since 1977 he had taken part in two sectarian murders, in 1979 and 1980, as well as other serious crimes.

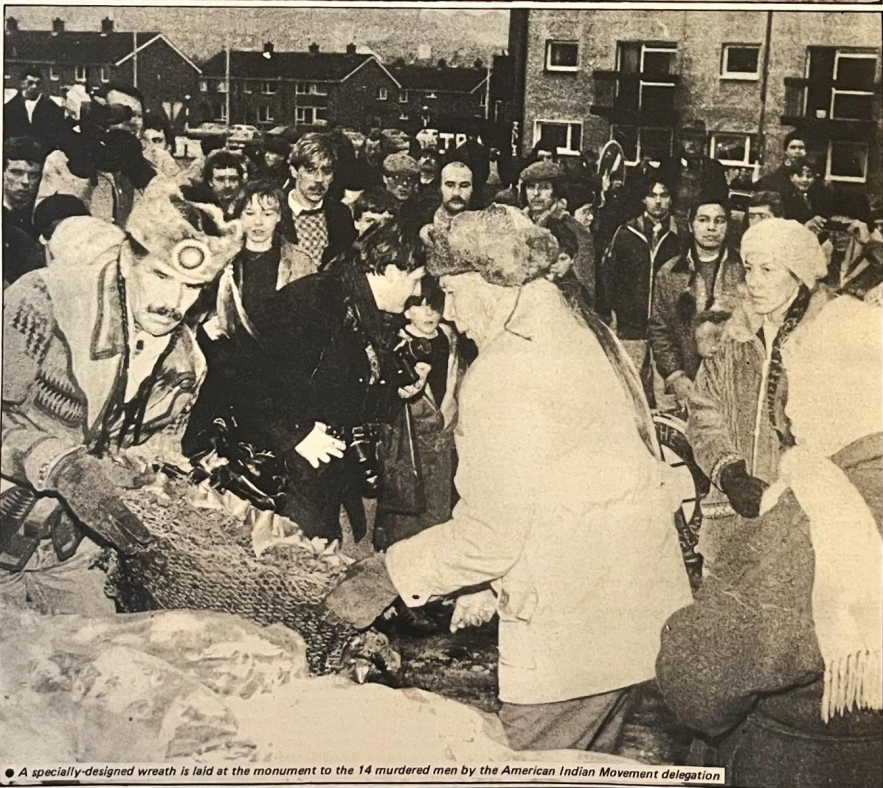




● The Hogan/Martin Memorial Band from Dunloy



● Relatives of the victims lead the march along the route of the 1972 Civil Rights demonstration



● A specially-designed wreath is laid at the monument to the 14 murdered men by the American Indian Movement delegation



● Clyde Bellacourt, spokesperson for the American Indian Movement delegation, addresses the crowd

# BLOODY RE

IN A huge display of resistance to British rule in the occupied six counties, one of the largest crowds to attend a Bloody Sunday memorial in years gathered in the city today to remember the 14 men murdered by British paratroopers on that last Sunday 13 years ago.

Undeterred by freezing rain and icy winds, thousands of people from all over Ireland and Britain gathered in the city to follow defiantly through the streets by their predecessors on that fateful day in 1972.

Led by relatives of the 14 dead, carrying wreaths and accompanied by a group of children carrying black flags, the procession followed the original route through the twisting streets of the Creggan, Brandywell and Bogside. On the long drop from the Creggan to Brandywell, marchers and observers alike struggled to keep their balance on the treacherous road surface.

No such difficulties were encountered by the young men and women making up the dozens or so bands from Ireland and Scotland. Their verve and enthusiasm made up for their lack of warm clothing, and even the youngest of them seemed not to notice the biting cold.

Among the procession were delegations from Sinn Féin covering the length and breadth of Ireland, as well as solidarity committees from England and Scotland. Leading the bands was the newly-formed Hogan/

Martin Memorial

Dunloy.

At Rossville the marchers' relatives of the 14 wreaths at the An American Indian Movement laid a wreath of traditional Indian

of the dead.

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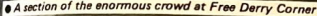
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## BY ROBERT CARLIN

The annual Bloody Sunday march in England will be held next Sunday, February 3rd, in Leicester.





● In honour of the fallen freedom-fighters of the American Indian Movement and the Republican Movement, and especially the hunger-strikers, the delegation members chant the AIM national anthem at their Conway Mill press conference in Belfast

BY ROBERT CARLIN

A DELEGATION of American Indians paid a visit to Belfast this week on what spokesperson Clyde Bellacourt described as "our chance to see the situation — political and cultural — of our Irish brothers".

Representing members of the Dakota, Lakota and Anashobina nations were Clyde Bellacourt, Mel Youngbear, John Brown, Conrad Hissun, Yvonne Swan, Amos Owens and Floyd Westerman.

Bellacourt was a co-founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM) in 1968. AIM was brought into being in response to police violence and increasing anti-Indian sentiment. In 1971 they organised their own school system, the survival school:

"We knew the truth had to be told to our children. The public school system had tried to change us and had ignored our way of life. In the public school system children were taught that Indians were savages — dirty, lazy and drunk. We couldn't change that system, we had to make our own."

"Like the Irish people we have had to fight against cultural genocide. We visited the Irish school today (Tuesday). In many ways the schools are very similar, and I would hope some day to see some kind of cultural exchange whereby kids from here could come and attend our school and live with us for maybe a quarter, and vice-versa."

#### WOUNDED KNEE

On their arrival in Belfast on Friday, the group attended a press conference in the Conway Mill.

## Links forged with American Indians



● Jim Daly, Clyde Bellacourt and Margaret Doherty laying a wreath on behalf of AIM at the Republican Plot in Belfast's Milltown Cemetery

way Mill. A large crowd heard Bellacourt describe the famous Wounded Knee Battle of 1890, when hundreds of Federal officers attacked the Indian reservation at Wounded Knee in response to a takeover by AIM. Bellacourt himself was shot and another Indian, Buddy Lamont, was killed.

On Saturday morning the group visited the Republican Plot at Milltown Cemetery. Also present were Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, Margaret and Alfie Doherty, parents of hunger-striker Kieran Doherty, and James Daly, husband of Miriam Daly, the prominent IRSP member murdered by loyalist gunmen. The Indians laid a wreath at the plot and played the national anthem of AIM. In a short speech after the ceremony, Gerry Adams extended the solidarity of the Republican Movement to "the representatives of a people as oppressed as our own".

The Indian delegation wishes

to forge links with the Republican Movement because of the similarities of the experience of the two peoples at the hands of an occupying power. Bellacourt said that AIM would be issuing a formal invitation to Sinn Féin to attend their annual International Treaty Council, to be held in Washington State in July.

#### TURTLE ISLAND

Describing the dire social and economic problems of the American Indian, Bellacourt said:

"In Turtle Island (North America), the Indians are suffering a 95% unemployment rate in places, a high infant mortality rate, an average life expectancy of 43.5 years, a suicide rate 20 times the national average, and, when the dispossessed Indians are moved into the urban ghettos of New Mexico and Albuquerque, the suicide rate rises to 50 times the national average. Yet, when the US started to talk about civil

rights in the '60s, we looked at our conditions and wondered. The civil rights issue was purely a black/white one. We were shoved aside again."

On Sunday, the group was joined by their spiritual leader and medicine man, Amos Owens, along with Floyd Westerman, a noted Indian singer, and Yvonne Swan, who was the subject of a controversial trial in the US.

#### YVONNE SWAN

Accused of murdering a 62-year-old man in 1972, Swan was found guilty in 1973 of 2nd degree murder and sentenced to 12 years in prison. The state rejected Swan's defence that she had acted in self-defence and said she had been guilty of "cold-blooded murder". Swan had shot the man, a known and previously convicted child molester, in defence of herself and a group of children she was minding, including her own son.

Describing that court as racist and anti-Indian, Swan points out that on appeal she walked free from court.

The group attended the Bloody Sunday commemoration in Derry on Sunday. At Ross-ville Flats they laid a wreath at the monument and sang in memory of those who had died. Their spiritual leader, Amos Owens, prayed silently in the background. At Free Derry Corner, Bellacourt extended the greetings of AIM to the people of Derry.

On Monday the delegation attended the Kirkpatrick show-

trial and on Tuesday they visited the Shaws Road Irish School before they joined Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams MP, Belfast Councillor Alex Maskey and the Sinn Féin PRO for West Belfast, Liam Boyle, for a two-hour meeting.

#### SOLIDARITY

Following this meeting, Adams said in a statement:

"Today's discussions were educational and informative, and deepened Sinn Féin's understanding of the plight of the native American Indian community and of the similarities of struggles of oppressed peoples throughout the world."

"The American Indians have been dispossessed of their land, robbed of their cultural and religious way of life, and criminalised by successive American governments and by the American movie industry."

"Today the American government is attempting to rob the American Indians of their few remaining land rights. Sinn Féin extends greetings to these oppressed people and promises solidarity to them in their struggle."

"In particular, on behalf of Irish political prisoners, I extend solidarity greetings to Leonard Peltier, an American Indian political prisoner."

"An exchange of information between Sinn Féin and AIM of educational and cultural material was arranged at today's meeting, as was an agreement to formalise contact between the two movements."

On Thursday and Friday, the delegation will be visiting republican prisoners in Long Kesh and Armagh, while on Saturday they will be back at the Conway Mill for an all-day folk session before leaving for Dublin on Sunday.



# TRALEE TRAUMA CONTINUES

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

**OUTRAGE** at the method of cross-examination of Joanne Hayes and the ruthless pursuance of intimate details of her private life has been publicly demonstrated in Tralee during the last week.

Neighbours of the Hayes family from Abbeydorney and the surrounding townlands picketed the Urban District Council Office, where the tribunal is being held, on Wednesday, January 23rd. They were there, they said, to show the family that their neighbours supported them.

The next day, over 200 women, some from as far away as Dublin, gathered outside the building, carrying placards and shouting "who's on trial?". There were jeers and heckling of the judge, the counsel for the gardai and the gardai themselves. Judges, lawyers and gardai are not used to their actions being questioned. It is they who do the questioning.

## WARNINGS

This was made clear on Monday, January 28th, by Judge Kevin Lynch, who is conducting the inquiry. He began the proceedings with a half-hour-long explanation of the terms of reference of the tribunal, having first directed that all parties to the inquiry be present.

His address ended with strong warnings to anyone "disturbing the tribunal" that they could be liable to a fine of £10,000 or two years imprisonment.

Within hours of Judge Lynch's warnings, over 50 people picketed the offices of the Free State Department of Justice on St Stephen's Green in Dublin to protest against the treatment of the Hayes family.

## ORDEAL

When Joanne Hayes' ordeal ended, it was the turn first of her sister Kathleen and then her brother Ned. Both told of the abuse,



● JUDGE KEVIN LYNCH

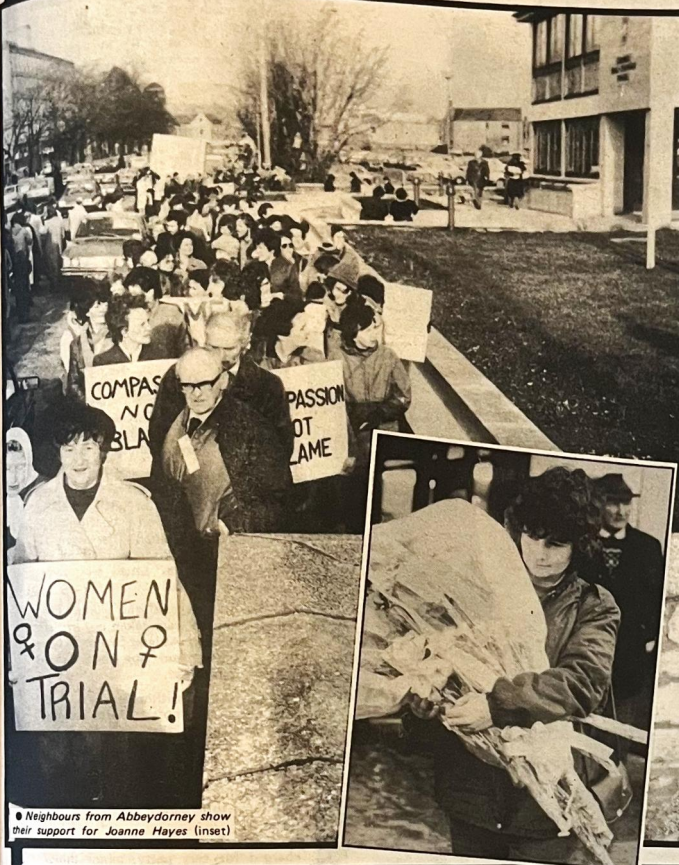
physical, verbal and mental, that they suffered in Tralee Garda Barracks.

Kathleen described how she was slapped on the back of the head, and how a gardai had pushed his face close to hers and stared for a long time, breathing heavily. Ned told how he was held upside-down while a gardai tried to grab his genitals, and how he was punched in the ribs.

On Wednesday, January 30th, counsel for the gardai sought out Bridie Fuller, Joanne Hayes' elderly aunt. She is in Tralee Hospital, and Judge Lynch ordered that, since she was unable to attend the tribunal, the tribunal should interview her in her hospital bed. Bridie Fuller was, however, too ill to be questioned.

It will soon be the turn of the gardai to be questioned, we are assured. They, too, will be rigorously cross-examined, we are told. But they will not be asked if they are fond of drink. None of them will be questioned in public about their sexual past, nor indeed about any details of their personal lives.

For that, apparently, will not be within the terms of reference of this tribunal.



● Neighbours from Abbeydorney show their support for Joanne Hayes (inset)



## Solidarity with Palestinian struggle

A MEETING to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the foundation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) was held in London's Conway Hall on Saturday, January 26th.

Sinn Féin spokesperson Gerry Mac Lochlainn gave a message of support and solidarity from Sinn Féin to the dispossessed people of Palestine and linked the struggles of the Irish people and the Palestinian people, who have the common

experience of British imperialism. He saluted all those who have taken up the struggle for justice in Palestine, as well as the innocent martyrs of Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps.

A representative from the PFLP spoke of the past

17 years of the struggle and of the future hopes of the Palestinian people. In their first manifesto, published in December 1967, the PFLP recognised the need for all forms of struggle to reclaim their homeland, he said.

Now, in 1985, they remain committed to the achievement of nothing less than total national self-determination.



## Rates resisted

MEMBERS of Sinn Féin from Letterkenny, Lifford, Convoys and Buncrana picketed a meeting of county councillors in Lifford on Monday morning, January 28th, in a protest against water charges.

Most of the councillors who were canvassed going into the meeting hedged on the issue, though Fine Gael councillor Sean McLaughlin said that the charge was too small and should be increased.

Donegal Sinn Féin states that the only answer to the imposition of these unjust water charges is to refuse to pay them, as they are only the beginning of a series of such charges.

Sinn Féin spokesperson Sean Gallagher, from Letterkenny, points out that the uniform rate of £30 may represent

represent a very small percentage of income for professional and business people, but was an unjustifiable burden for already poor families.

At a meeting prior to the protest, which was organised by Letterkenny Trades Council, Sinn Féin's Eddie Fullerton, the only councillor to attend, said that 58% of water charges in the county had been paid. In Buncrana, however, only 24% of the demands had been collected. He attributed this to the impact of a strong Water Rates Protest Committee which has been in existence for four years, and added that no-one had been cut off for non-payment.

Dennis O'Donnell, secretary of Letterkenny Trades Council, told AP/RN that efforts would continue to organise county-wide resistance to charges for water and other essential services.



BY JANE PLUNKETT

**THE LAST 'special category status' prisoner in Armagh Jail, North Belfast woman Pauline Deery, was released on Friday, January 11th, after nine years incarceration. During the previous 20 months, Pauline had been held alone, having refused to abandon her officially-recognised political status, despite persistent pressure from the prison authorities.**

Pauline was 19 when she was arrested in January 1976, two months before the 'criminalisation' policy was introduced in the North's jails. During the protests by republican prisoners which followed over the years, culminating in the 1981 hunger-strike, the scores of 'special category' prisoners in Armagh and Long Kesh were living proof that the British government — contrary to its propaganda — in fact recognised republicans as political prisoners.

By September 1979, there were only four 'status' prisoners remaining in Armagh, three of whom, Dolores and Marion Price and Chris Sheerin, were subsequently released on medical grounds. By May 1983, Pauline Deery was alone.

"When I went into Armagh there were about 70 republicans, all with political status. The ordinary prisoners were kept completely separate. Sentenced and remand republicans were all together and we organised our whole day ourselves, we had our own command structure and had nothing really to do with the prison warders.

"They accepted that we took orders only from our O/C. Now, republicans on the wing are put on charges if they mention orders from anyone except the governor.

"The prison was open, right through from 'A' to 'B' Wing, whereas now every landing is divided off. When I first went in we could stay out in the yard all day if we wanted. By the time I was released, it was reduced to an hour a day.

#### NO-WASH

"The times of the no-wash protest and the hunger-strike were terrible, knowing what the other republican prisoners were going through, and knowing that we had political status and there was nothing we could do to help.

"We were standing all day at the window trying to hear whether anyone was being beaten. It was worse when the three women were on hunger-strike, watching them every week at Mass getting weaker and weaker. But they were all in great spirits throughout it all.

"As 'status' prisoners were released, the area we had was getting smaller and smaller. Finally, I was moved to B1, into five cells which were converted into a bathroom, kitchen and three rooms and partitioned off from the rest of the wing.

"Even before that, the prison authorities were continually exerting pressure on us to give up political status, saying we would have much more contact with other prisoners if we did that. Murtagh also suggested that I could go out to work in a factory in Portadown (which two loyalists did) and come in at night, but of course I refused.

"After Chris was released, and I was on my own, they said I could go onto the wings with the rest of the republican prisoners, but that would have been giving up political status, which I wouldn't do. They also offered me association with non-political prisoners, but I thought they would use that, so I refused that too.

"During the day I would see nobody. If other republicans came over to talk to me through the window, they were threatened with being put on charges. For example, one of the remands, I think, got two nights lock-up.

"I saw the other republicans only at Mass on Sundays, and during the last year I saw some of them at classes in the evening. It was lonely, but I was determined not to let the system beat me. There was plenty to do, as I was

# The inside story



● PAULINE DEERY

doing laundry, cooking, cleaning etc.

#### REGIME

"When Murtagh became governor, the regime in Armagh was tightened up. While he was there our republican prisoners came off the no-work protest. The work they were given was pointless, just intended to break the republican prisoners' morale.

"A complete isolation wing was built, which had never existed before in the prison. I rarely saw the Screws but the other republicans were being nagged by them all day. For the slightest infringement of prison rules, republicans were put on report and locked up.

"Murtagh also brought in the strip-searching, which is the worst thing for the women. Scott (the British direct-rule prisons minister) says they are nor-

mal practice, but even during the worst time in Armagh, strip-searching was never introduced.

"I was in Armagh for nine years and strip-searching was never carried out prior to November 1982. These searches were another move to see her fiance, as republicans because we took orders from our own O/C and not the governor."

Since the strip-searches were introduced, Pauline, who is engaged to a republican prisoner in Long Kesh, has refused to take inter-prison visits to see her fiance. Several other republicans in Armagh have done likewise. Her first experience of strip-searching was when she was released. She recalls:

"It was petty, there was no point in it. I knew what to expect but it's worse, you couldn't imagine it. You're standing there completely naked and you

just feel defenceless when you're standing in front of the Screw. She inspects the soles of your feet and then she takes your clothes away and searches them. And you're left standing there, for about ten minutes.

"I knew I was walking out and I had thought it would be OK. But I felt terrible. I was standing shaking in the cubicle. The Screws know you're embarrassed and they chat to you in the middle of it. That's badness, they're trying to act as if it's normal, when it's no way normal and could never be normal."

#### H-BLOCKS

In the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, too, the harassment of republican prisoners has been stepped up in recent months. A recently-released republican prisoner told AP/RN:

"The riot squad are being used more often and the frequency of cell searches has also increased. As well as the routine searches, special search squads are brought in very frequently. They are very aggressive and seem to be looking for confrontation. Prisoners' books and family photographs have been taken, they never go out of a cell empty-handed.

"If there is any incident, the riot squad are brought in straight away. They're made up of Screws who were actively involved, during the protests, in beatings, force-washing of prisoners, etc.

"On one occasion our block, H7, was being searched for the second time in two days. There was a confrontation involving one prisoner. There were already 15 to 20 prison warders on the wing but the riot squad was immediately brought in.

"Two republicans who weren't even on the landing were taken out of their cells and beaten. At least two more were badly beaten, and one man needed stitches to his head.

"The prison authorities have made a couple of attempts to force integration between loyalist and republican prisoners, but they've always met with resistance. They are now 'integrating' prisoners in a punishment wing in H4. That's another means they can use to victimise and harass individual prisoners.

"Generally now, men are being charged for very petty, minor things. A curse word, as they call it 'using abusive language to a prison officer' and you can be in the isolation wing for 60 days."

#### ESCAPEES

"The former escapees are still being singled out for special harassment. After the escape, of course, they were brutally beaten. Most are still being moved from wing to wing about every two weeks, and a number of other republicans have also been singled out for this treatment.

"The authorities even pettily moved some of them on Christmas Eve. Each prisoner is watched constantly, his cell is checked every 15 to 20 minutes, and no matter where he moves in the wing, it's written down.

"Yet there's no difference in terms of the authorities' so-called 'security' between those prisoners and the others. The prison authorities seem to be selecting individuals to try and break them. Yet it's having the opposite effect, because the men are refusing to let it get them down.

"In fact, morale among the republican prisoners is very strong, one aspect of which is the increase currently in education and the study of Irish language among them.

"After the escape, education classes run by the prison authorities were 'suspended' (except for remedial education) which meant that no education materials were allowed in, including Irish books and letters with Irish in them. But despite the shortage of materials, I would say we have done more ourselves education-wise, through discussions, debates, books, than the authorities ever did."



film

# Gremlins, ghosts and commies

BY EDDIE STACK

HAVING begged for more films throughout 1984, December saw a deluge of movies opening in Ireland. In a lightning-fast review, I've looked at three of these films which have been swallowing up your kid brothers' and sisters' pocket money in recent weeks.

Best of this motley crew of overhyped dreck we looked at was *Gremlins*, the new kiddie flick with the video-nasty aftertaste from whizz kid and multimillionaire Steven Spielberg. *Gremlins* is set in familiar America where the lawns are neat, all the children's teeth are clean and even the goldfish are house-trained. Into this sleepy town, with its Osmond-like inhabitants and the other crinkly but lovable folk, comes a strange, furry animal found in a Chinatown gift shop by a madcap inventor who wants to buy a Christmas present for his son.

This lovely, furry animal looks sweet as pie at first but, listen carefully children, you must not do three things to it or it will transform into a nasty human-eating gremlin. (These three things have been cited laboriously by every reviewer so I won't bore you further. However, they don't include reading *An Phoblacht/Republican News* which must have annoyed some people.)

*Gremlins*, which begins as a nice twee film, soon turns into a very violent one with the gremlins eating up all those nice people. These gremlins are great fun, even all going into a cinema together to watch *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarfs*. At the risk of receiving a letter from John Hume demanding that I condemn violence, I must say that the gremlin-infested part of *Gremlins* is a scream.

## MEGABUCK

Less of a scream, despite the ghosts in the movie, is the megabuck hit-of-the-year, *Ghostbusters*. Like *Gremlins*, the quality of *Ghostbusters* is very neatly divided into two sections. There's the very enjoyable low-budget section, where the cast is forced to come up with a few good jokes to get by, and then there's the big budget special-effects section, where the cast go to sleep and the movie goes to the dogs.

*Ghostbusters* is written by the team who brought you *Trading Places*, so if you liked that you might like this. It deals with university professor types who decide to make a

living out of clearing ghosts from haunted buildings. Like good little capitalists, they form their own private company and will exorcise your haunted house at any time during the day or night. One day, however, they come across a monster ghost far worse than all the rest.

Will they be able to save New York city from calamity? Can the funny professor save the woman he loves from being possessed by the monster? Will you be awake at the end of this movie? These are just some of the questions that *Ghostbusters* raises for our generation, folks. Verdict: a few laughs at first, but then yawnsville.

## INVADED

But if *Ghostbusters* fails to come up to scratch, what about *Red Dawn* — the film that has us believe that Nicaragua has invaded the United States of America? I mean the scriptwriters of *Ghostbusters* would have sold their last jacuzzi for a joke as funny as that.

But *Red Dawn* is no joke. It's two hours of volcanic hilarity. Take along someone you love to wipe away the tears of laughter.

I don't know what's funniest. Maybe it's the bit where dear old Dad, who is imprisoned in a Russian concentration camp, tells his children:

"Remember, boys, when I played with you on the swing — you've got no-one to hold you now."

At this his 'boys' collapse in tears. They have never seen such bad acting. But, with a frog in his throat, Dad tells them:

"Don't ever cry again. Turn it to something else. Avenge me!"

But then Dad is carried back to his prison cell by his fellow inmates, thereby averting a mass slaughter of the cinema audience whose sides are starting to split open.

*Red Dawn* follows the fortunes of a group of American kids who take to the hills when the communists invade. Watching wave after wave of apple pie-loving Americans be-



● No, it's not Kenneth Newman, ex-leader of the murderous RUC — it's White Stripe, leader of the equally unpleasant gremlins



● Jed, Robert and Matt secretly observe nasty Nicaraguan commie bad guys in the unintentionally hilarious pulp film, *Red Dawn*

ing shot by firing-squads these scenes are presumably to tell the Americans who the bad guys are — the kids form a guerrilla group called the Wolverines. They then take on the Russian-Cuban-Nicaraguans (what about the Albanians?) and mow down the communist armies with great success. The reason for this is clear — the actors

playing the Russians have been issued with blanks.

Yet, as this drags on, a token Wolverine or two gets hit by the stray missile which, the film hints, we can all expect from anyone slightly to the left of Margaret Thatcher if they ever get their way with us.

It would be no problem for a paper like this to slag

off *Red Dawn* when all the liberal press have gone through their indignant ritual of 'right-wing rubbish'. It's not even an enjoyable shoot-em-up film as *la Clint Eastwood*. It's just badly-acted, badly-written, badly-directed junk that could only find an audience through taking a political position that would attract a lot of attention. A plague on it.

leabhar

## Scéalaíocht na Féinne

LED. MAC DIARMADA

TÁ Agallamh na Seanórach ar an scéal is mó cáil de chuid scéalaíocht na Féinne. Ní mór gur féidir scéal a thabhairt air, óir séard atá ann go bunúsach bailiúchán de scéalta ach iad uilig á nascadh le chéile ar na Fianna.

Ba sa dara leath den dara haois déag a cumadh an scéal seo. Fite isteach sa scéal tá dhá áine — tá dán ag gabháil le chéile scéal beagnach ann.

Is marb leis uile Fianna

Phinn

Cé do chuadar glinn do ghlinn;

trua an bheatha bheith mar

táim

tar éis Diarmada is Chon-

Cé gur tosadh ar na scéalta seo sa tseachtú haois, níor bhain siad leis na huaisle go dtí an dara haois déag agus tá siad ar fáil inniu bríomhar beatháíoch.

## DORAS

Is dianchúrsa é ar an chultúr Ghaelach, scéalta a bhí beo i dtráidisiún agus i gcuimhne na ndaoine. Is doras isteach ar an tsamhraidh agus i leabhar seo agus *Foras Fessa ar Éirinn*; *Athnuas*, leis an Bharrach cheanna.

Baigh rachairt an-mhór ar an chineál seo leabhair mar tá

## AGALLAMH NA SEANOIRI-1



Pádraig de Barra

a háit féin ag an Fhianáilíocht sa bháilíocht. Bhí an ghné den tsamhraidh dúchais beo i mbéal agus i lámhscribhíní agus ba chóir do lucht na linne seo bheith eolach ar an chuid tébhachtach seo dí.

Tá nua Ghaeilge curtha ag an Bharrach go snasta cruinn ar an seantéacs agus is ábhar maith leitheoireachta é dá bharr. Tá greann, grá, stair, miotaseolaíocht, dinneanchas, laochliríocht agus go leor de scoth na filíochta le fáil mar aon leis an phrós.

## SCOTH

Molaim go mór an leabhar beag seo ina bhfuil breis agus dhá chéad leathanach de scoth na Gaeilge agus na litríochta.

"Beir mo bheannacht. Éirigh do d'ádh"

ar Fionn le Fionn mac Bhréasaill.

"Luch a ndúirt Guire féin."

Dlíonn sárbríathar sárbrí-

aim."

● Agallamh na Seanóirí 1. Eog. Pádraig de Barra. Foil seacháin Náisiúnta Teoranta.

£5 a luech.

## Imeachtaí

### HOME-COMING FUNCTION

(For Seamus Swan & Jim Mythen)  
8.30pm Friday 1st February  
County Hotel  
WEXFORD  
Taillie £9  
Organised by Wexford Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair

### DUNNES STRIKERS

BENEFIT SOCIAL  
Featuring Gerry Crilly and Frances & Martin Black  
8pm Saturday 2nd February  
The Spinning Wheel  
Mary Street  
DUBLIN  
Taillie £2 (£1 unwaged)  
Organised by Dublin Sinn Féin Trade Union Group

### SINN FEIN

AGRICULTURAL MEETING  
12 noon Sunday 3rd February  
44 Parnell Square  
DUBLIN  
All agriculture officers to attend  
Everybody welcome

### ARMAGH/PORTLAOISE

COMMITTEE MEETING  
8pm Monday 4th February  
Memorial Hall  
GULLADUFF  
County Derry

### AMERICAN INDIAN

CONCERT  
Featuring Floyd Westernman  
8pm Monday 4th February  
Culturann na hÉireann  
Belgrave Square  
MONKSTOWN  
County Dublin  
Taillie £2.50

### BALLAD SESSION

Featuring Paddy's Return  
8.30pm Thursday 7th February  
Swan Lake Hotel  
MONAGHAN  
Taillie £2.50  
Organised by Sinn Féin

### BUFFET & DANCE

Featuring Spailpin  
9pm Thursday 7th February  
The Manor Inn  
KILLORGLIN  
County Kerry  
Taillie: £5.50  
Speaker: Caoimhghín Ó. Caoláin  
Organised by Sinn Féin

### MINI-CHOLÁISTE GHAELACH

10am to 5pm  
Saturday 9th February  
Conway Street Mill  
BELFAST  
(For more information, contact local Sinn Féin)

### FRANK STAGG

COMMEMORATION  
1.30pm Sunday 10th February  
Wakefield Prison  
Love Lane  
WAKEFIELD  
England  
Organised by Republican POW Campaign Committee

### MAYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ELECTION CONVENTION  
Sunday 10th February  
Welcome Inn Hotel  
CASTLEBAR  
County Mayo  
All Mayo republicans must attend

### CABARET SHOW

Featuring Joe Diamond  
8pm Friday 15th February  
The Lavens  
BALLYFERMOT  
Taillie £1  
Organised by Sinn Féin

### FINGLAS SINN FEIN

ADVICE CENTRE  
10am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday  
2 Church Street  
(opposite Village Inn)  
Finglas  
DUBLIN











**MICHAEL TIMOTHY** was buried in Palmerstown Cemetery, Dublin, on Wednesday, January 30th, after Mass in Our Lady of the Nativity Church in Leixlip, County Kildare.

Flanked by a guard of honour from Fian-na Éireann, the Tricolour-draped coffin was carried from the church past a large crowd of mourners which included Mick's family, friends and neighbours from Leixlip, local schoolchildren and his comrades from the Republican Movement, including Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, vice-president John Joe McGirl, treasurers Joe Cahill and Seamus McGarrigle and former president Ruairi O Bradaigh.

The simple and moving ceremony at the graveside was conducted by Tom Hartley, general secretary of Sinn Féin. Decades of the Rosary in Irish were recited by An tAth Piaras O Duill and by Micheal Mac Conmara of Dublin Sinn Féin.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, the ard chomhairle of Sinn Féin and from *An Phoblacht/Republican News* in Dublin and Belfast. The graveside was also banked with floral tributes from his family and his many friends.

#### ORATION

The oration was delivered by Danny Morrison, Sinn Féin elected representative and director of publicity. In his tribute to Mick Timothy, he said:

*"It is with great sadness that we stand here today at the graveside of our comrade, Mick Timothy, who only a few days ago was so full of life and who had so much before him."*

*"There are a lot of things about Mick which I didn't know until in conversation last night with his mother and father — the background to his republicanism and a lot of other matters about which he never spoke but which now explain, even more, his generosity and loyalty and his willingness to make sacrifices."*

*"Without engaging in elitism, his parting is a serious blow to our organisation in the twenty-six counties since he was a key figure in the research and planning committees of Sinn Féin. In the paper, he developed a style of revolutionary journalism which AP/RN is going to be hard put to, but which it has to, maintain."*

*"There is another side to Mick which we cannot forget and it is Mick as the husband, as the family man. Alice, who along with her family bore another tragedy very recently with the death of her father in Dublin, was also at Mick's side during the early years of the paper's development. Without Alice's support and encouragement Mick would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to have realised his commitment and full potential."*

*"Our loss, and it is no exaggeration, even if it is of some comfort to the enemy, is truly great."*

#### SHARED GRIEF

*"But there is another loss — a loss of a loving husband to Alice, a father to their children, a son to his parents and a brother. We can offer nothing to them, except the shared communion of grief and perhaps the comfort to them of the undoubted heights of influence which his character and talent have stamped upon the direction of our struggle."*

*"He did not live a wasted life."*

*"Our Movement is all the richer for having known the man and genius behind Kevin Burke."*

*"Slán agus tchífidh mé tú, mo chara, we will see you throughout the unfolding struggle."*

#### SPECIAL BRANCH

After the funeral, the van carrying the Fianna was stopped by six Branchmen, including Patsy O'Leary, John Fortune, Ahearne and Mulroy, who forced one of the young people against a wall and verbally abused him when he insisted on seeing their identification.



• Danny Morrison (centre) gives the oration at the graveside



# MICK TIMOTHY

## -an immeasurable loss



• A Fianna Éireann guard of honour flanks the funeral cortege

# Goodbye to Burke

BY  
RITA  
O'HARE

**MICHAEL TIMOTHY**, editor of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, died suddenly at his home in Leixlip, County Kildare, on Saturday, January 26th.

He took over as editor in October 1982, after the then editor, Danny Morrison, was elected as a Sinn Féin representative in the Assembly elections.

Mick was born in Manchester on August 4th 1948, into a family with a strong Irish identity and a great awareness of their Irish ancestry. His grandparents were born in Ireland and the family have connections in Mayo, Roscommon, Galway and Newry, County Down. A brilliant student, Mick was educated at St Bede's College, Manchester, and took an economics degree at Manchester University. Mick joined the Republican Movement in the early 1970s and was an active member of Sinn Féin in Manchester, speaking at public meetings and lectures and becoming deeply involved in organisational work.

In January 1975 he left Manchester to escape imminent arrest for his republican activities and came to Dublin. He was billeted with a well-known

republican family, the Sillerys of Drimnagh, and in true romantic tradition fell in love and married a daughter of the house, Alice, in August 1975.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Mick started working for *An Phoblacht* in December 1975 in his capacity as a qualified accountant, and stayed on the administrative side, becoming manager of the amalgamated *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, until 1980. He had been combining administration with writing for the paper for some time, but concentrated on editorial work from 1980 onwards.

Mick's ability as a journalist was even more evident when he became editor of the paper in 1982. He made several innovative changes in the paper, not least the major expansion from 12 to 16 pages. This allowed for a greater coverage of social, economic and political issues throughout the thirty-two counties as well as introducing a lighter side to the paper with review pages and, of course,

the extremely popular *Burke's at the Back* column.

It was *Burke's at the Back* that most reflected Mick's personality. Written in his own wry style, the column humorously but ruthlessly exposed the hypocrisy and arrogance of the establishment, North and South. It often made some people see red, the same colour as *AP/RN's* masthead. Mick changed the masthead from green to red, which generated a great deal of controversy both in our letters page and at two Ard-Fheis-anna. One of the reasons it stayed red was, as he explained at the 1983 Ard-Fheis, because Mick liked red.

Mick encouraged controversy in the columns of the paper. It made *AP/RN* interesting and reflected the views of the readership.

Another new departure for the paper, encouraged by Mick, was the use of full-colour photographs on our front page, introduced this week.

He always strove to make *AP/RN* relevant, accurate and professional. Mick's standards were high, standards that were a result of his commitment to

the Republican Movement as well as his obvious ability.

#### SINN FÉIN

Mick also played a prominent role in Sinn Féin and was on several planning and research committees. He was head of the strategy committee for the EEC elections in 1984, where his ability to analyse political situations and pinpoint areas for action ensured that Sinn Féin always had a position on whatever were the issues of the day in the Free State.

Co-opted on to the ard chomhairle in 1983, Mick took his appointment seriously, contributing consistently and incisively to the debates and business of that body. He gave unstintingly of his time to the committees he was appointed to, in spite of his already heavy commitments. He was in his last year of studying law at the Kings Inns in Dublin, and achieved the distinction of being one of the best of his year. He was devoted to his wife, Alice, and to their children, Ciara, Fiachra and Fíonán. Despite the great pressures on him from both his republican activities and his law studies, he never failed to be a conscientious and loving husband and father who spent as much time as he could with his family.

#### REMEMBERED

That Mick Timothy will be missed, that the many positions of responsibility he held will be difficult to fill, is an understatement. The loss to the Republican Movement is immeasurable and will become more evident when the shock of his death eases.

To his wife, Alice, and children, his parents, brothers and sister, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and share in their sorrow. Although he has left us, Mick will always be a part of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*. His ready wit, his intellect and political acumen, his capacity for hard work and his dedication, will all be lovingly remembered. So too will his kindness and his loyalty to his friends, amongst whom I am proud to have counted myself.