

AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

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POLITICAL WEEKLY



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**MARCH
AGAINST
EXTRADITION
AND
PRISON
OPPRESSION
PROMINENT SPEAKERS**

**2.30pm
Saturday
30th March
PORTLAOISE**

OPINION

**Whose
interests?**



WHOSE interests were served by the Coalition's rescue of Allied Irish Banks from its ICI debacle?

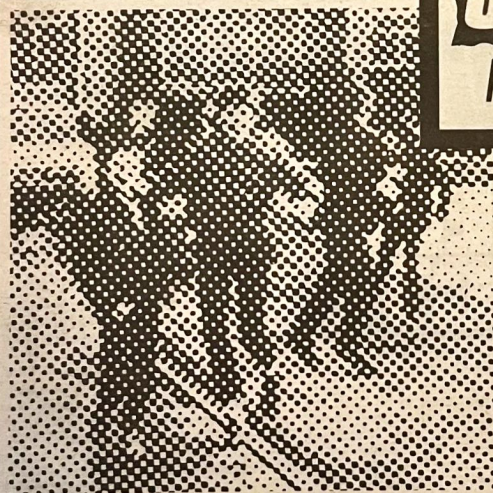
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Shoot-to-kill cover-up

Relatives speak out

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**Education
-the class system**

A barometer of class discrimination

CENTRE PAGES



DERRY PRISONERS' DAY
Rally and exhibition

JOHN McCLOSKEY —
guest speaker at the
'Spirit of Freedom' ex-
hibition

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OPINION

Whose interests?

HUNDREDS of thousands of unemployed and employed Irish people stood aghast on Friday evening, March 15th, when the Coalition government stepped in to save the Insurance Corporation of Ireland (ICI), a subsidiary of the Allied Irish Banks (AIB), from the ruin which its own stupidity had brought.

Here was a government which time and again stated and demonstrated its lack of sympathy for 'lame ducks' in industry by forcing cutbacks and closures in the public and private sectors. Here, too, a government which encourages emigration as a solution to the unprecedented unemployment it has caused.

Yet, when a huge capitalist institution like the AIB wants to wash its hands of its financial commitments in the white elephant which the ICI proved to be, that government obliged.

And in case we should be fooled into thinking that their concern was for the employees of the ICI, it is well to recall that the Coalition excused its move on the grounds that it was saving the AIB from "the risk of adverse effects on its banking operations".

Nor should we forget the statement from AIB chief executive Gerry Scanlan that "there was absolutely no threat to the bank itself".

The question of who was to blame for the debacle at ICI is of little interest to workers. What is of interest and concern is the obvious readiness of the Dublin government to bail out capitalist financiers at the expense of Irish taxpayers.

The most shocking facts of all are, firstly, that the Dublin government undertook to shore up ICI without knowing what debts were involved and, secondly, that the money which the Coalition will use for the operation will be borrowed, at interest, from the AIB. Thus, not only will the bank be shielded from the adverse effects of its ineptitude but it will actually profit from it.

Also of interest is the attempt by Irish capitalism to blame workers who receive compensation for injury at work for the troubles of ICI. This view is promoted by the employers' unions, despite the fact that 70% of ICI business was foreign-based and the fact that the source of the problem was identified in London.

Irish workers are not to blame yet, once again, they are being used as scapegoats. AIB, with their £51 million after-tax profit this year, ICI management, who covered up the financial cock-up, and the Coalition, for their molly-coddling of capitalist interests — they are the guilty parties.



Brit security breached

ON FRIDAY, March 15th, IRA Volunteers detonated a bomb in Newry, succeeding for the second time in 48 hours in breaching the heavy crown force presence in the town.

An IRA engineer had earlier that day carefully assembled the device. Three Volunteers were then responsible for delivering the bomb to its target — Wellworths Store in Hill Street.

Having accomplished their task without mishap, warnings were given and the area was cleared. The bomb exploded around 5pm, causing severe damage.

DUNGANNON

On Saturday, March 16th, three RUC men were injured, one seriously, when four IRA Volunteers attacked an RUC armoured car at Augherainey, several miles outside Dungannon.

The three RUC men were part of a full-time guard established

some time ago to protect a local RUC Reservist called Courtney.

The night before the operation, the IRA commandeered a house overlooking a T-junction. Around lunchtime the following day, the RUC car approached the T-junction and turned right. Four IRA Volunteers, all armed with M16 semi-automatic rifles, ran forward from the house and took up firing position behind the hedge.

As the armoured vehicle drew level with the Volunteers' position, an explosive device struck the front passenger door, seriously injuring one RUC man.

The Volunteers all opened fire on the car, hitting it with more than 50 rounds. They then with-

drew from the area.

KEADY

On Tuesday, March 19th, in Keady, South Armagh, the failure of a detonator to explode a 35lb bomb saved several RUC from almost certain death.

Some time before the IRA had taken a commandeered Ford Cortina car to a safe location where new number plates were fitted. On Tuesday evening an IRA engineer placed a 35lb bomb in the car, which was then driven to Victoria Street in Keady. After the vehicle was placed in position, two Volunteers entered the shop opposite the car and placed a package on the counter, claiming it was a bomb.

The area was cleared of civilians by the time the RUC arrived. An IRA Volunteer then detonated the bomb from a secure vantage point but only the detonator exploded.

Setback for RUC strategy

BY JANE PLUNKETT

RUC ATTEMPTS to recruit paid-perjurers suffered further embarrassing setbacks as, within the past week, two individuals formally repudiated fabricated statements they had signed incriminating others.

These retractions have also highlighted the sordid methods used by the RUC in attempting to railroad large-scale convictions — methods which include pressurisation, intimidation and plain blackmail.

On Wednesday, March 20th, Belfast solicitor Paddy McGrory announced that Newry man Eamon Collins had signed an affidavit retracting statements against 12 men from the Newry/South Armagh area.

Collins, a member of Newry Sinn Féin, was one of several local men arrested within hours of the IRA's devastating mortar attack of February 28th on Newry RUC Barracks. During the days which followed, the men were reportedly subjected to intensive physical and psychological pressure by the RUC, who were intent on sal-

PERJURERS RETRACT

vaging their dented morale by announcing nationalist arrests.

A week later, Collins' wife Bernie, herself under arrest, met him in Gough Barracks and afterwards confirmed that her husband had undergone a drastic personality change.

PRESSURE

Under RUC pressure, Collins signed statements in which he claimed involvement in two killings in 1983 and 1984, and on March 8th, he was remanded in custody at a court in Banbridge. Six days later, 12 men appeared at Belfast Magistrates Court facing a number of charges, including six alleged killings. According to the RUC, the charges were the result of Collins' statements.

In fact, the RUC were already aware of Collins' unwillingness to give evidence and

they engaged in further manipulations, intent on obtaining another paid-perjurer. Paddy McGrory, Collins' legal representative, was refused access to his client and was told, by telephone, that Collins had engaged other solicitors. These, it emerged, were a firm headed by a member of the RUC Police Authority, Terence Shiels.

At a remand court hearing last Friday, McGrory stated that he had "firm evidence" that the RUC had told lies to get him out of the case. The affair provoked a rare expression of criticism from within the North's colonial legal system. Resident Magistrate Harry Hall said he had "an inbred suspicion about the change" and refused a legal aid certificate to the firm now claiming to represent Collins.

Following Collins' retraction on Wednesday, one of the 12 men being held was

released on bail. Within the next few days, most of the others are also expected to be freed. However, several of those subjected to intense RUC pressure themselves signed statements and are likely to remain in custody.

GIBSON

Also on Wednesday, four loyalists walked free from Crumlin Road Court following last Saturday's retraction by Belfast loyalist John Gibson.

Gibson, who is currently serving a life sentence for four sectarian killings, had been "persuaded" by the RUC, in the hope of a speedy release, to sign statements incriminating over 50 loyalists in alleged UVF activities.

At Gibson's trial last November, the presiding Diplock judge, Lord Chief Justice Lowry, meted out four life-terms, but as in previous paid-perjurer cases, significantly and conveniently Lowry did not specify a minimum term of imprisonment.

Despite the setbacks represented by these latest retractions, the RUC show no sign of abandoning the paid-perjurer tactic. The Kirkpatrick show-trial is still in its preliminary stages and on Wednesday, the first of three trials based on the evidence of Belfast loyalist William 'Budgie' Allen began.

Church row exposes hypocrisy

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

CLERICS of all persuasions continued to make the news last week. Cardinal O Fiach got more deeply embroiled in the row with unionists over his call for a British withdrawal and Bishop of Down and Connor Cahal Daly started the local election campaign by telling Catholics not to vote Sinn Féin.

On Wednesday, March 13th, Channel 4 released extracts of an interview with Cardinal O Fiach in advance of its scheduled St Patrick's Day showing. In it, Cardinal O Fiach reiterated his call for a British withdrawal and suggested that the United Nations could act as a peace-keeping force in the interim.

Such words sent unionist politicians into a predictable rage. "The Catholic Church is the IRA at prayer," screamed Reverend William Beattie, an expert in clerical interference in politics since he himself is a DUP Assembly member.

And on Thursday a full-scale row erupted during a press conference held at Ballymascanlon by Cardinal O Fiach and the leaders of the three main Protestant churches. The conference had been called to announce an ecumenical St Patrick's Day service, to take place in Downpatrick the following Sunday.

However, when Presbyterian Modera-

tor Doctor Howard Cromie was asked about the Cardinal's recent declarations, he launched into virulent criticism. Cardinal O Fiach's remarks were "tragic", they had "undermined the security forces", he said, and "deeply hurt" Protestants. The cardinal's call for British withdrawal was "over-simplistic nonsense". "Such careless talk costs lives," concluded Doctor Cromie, as the press took frantic notes and his colleagues sat stunned.

CONDEMNED

Cardinal O Fiach retorted by reminding all present that he had condemned the IRA on many occasions. Church of Ireland primate John Armstrong tried to steer the press conference back to talk of "ecumenism" and "reconciliation", while the Methodist minister hid his face in his hands — in embarrassment at the row rather than disagreement with Doctor Cromie's stance.

The moderator's carefully-planned outburst — a prepared statement had been handed to a journalist beforehand — was described in unionist papers as a well-deserved "rebuke" to Cardinal O Fiach and Doctor Cromie was hailed as a man of courage by unionist politicians.

But while the cardinal's declarations had caused a storm, Doctor Cromie's equally 'political' statement failed to raise a single word of protest. In the six counties, 'church meddling in politics'



● Pictured at St Patrick's grave at Downpatrick on Sunday, March 17th, are the leaders of the four main Irish Christian churches. They are (left to right) Rev Paul Kingston, Methodist president, Cardinal Tomas O Fiach, Catholic primate, Most Rev Howard Cromie, Presbyterian moderator, and Most Rev Dr John Armstrong, Church of Ireland primate

is a phrase reserved for nationalistic declarations by Catholic clergy. When clerics come out in favour of the status quo and the Brits it is called 'moral leadership'.

The row was welcomed by unionist politicians, who immediately started putting pressure on their clergy to boycott the Downpatrick ceremony. Another DUP cleric, the Reverend Ivan Foster, compared Cardinal O Fiach's stance to the Vatican's support for Hitler during the Second World War, while the Reverend Martin Smyth, of the OUP, accused the cardinal of "giving credibility to republican terrorism".

LUDICROUS

And OUP leader James Molyneux added a 'Catholic dimension' to his favoured integrationist stance by making the ludicrous suggestion that six-county Catholics should come under Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster — obviously a more 'acceptable' Catholic than Cardinal O Fiach in unionist eyes.

In the event, all church leaders took part in the St Patrick's Day service. A lone OUP councillor defied his party's boycott — he is not seeking re-election next May. But the wave of unionist hys-

teria has once again exposed the hypocrisy of unionist politicians — some of them doubling as Protestant clergymen — screaming about Catholic Church intervention in politics. As for Protestant clerics, given their unconditional support of unionism and of the British link, their talk of 'reconciliation' sounds rather hollow.

On Thursday, March 14th, Bishop Cahal Daly launched his own personal anti-Sinn Féin campaign, two months in advance of the next local elections, by asking Catholics not to vote Sinn Féin. A one-sided condemnation of the armed struggle — "let's look at the blood on the pavement" — followed his usual and unwarranted accusations that republicans use the Sinn Féin vote as a "mandate for violence". Sinn Féin has, in fact, always clearly stated that this was not the case.

Of course Bishop Daly's utterances — yet another example of Church interference in politics — did not raise one single protest. Therein lie two lessons for Northern nationalists. While Catholic bishops may not "speak with one voice", in Bishop Daly's words, as a group they still remain a powerful conservative force in Ireland, determined to oppose the Republican Movement at every turn.

Who needs enemies?

BY JACK MADDEN

THE FULL EXTENT of the fear with which the Dublin government views Irish-American support for the national liberation struggle was revealed in the past week in the near-euphoric welcome which they accorded a delegation to this country from the pro-Free State 'Friends of Ireland' group.

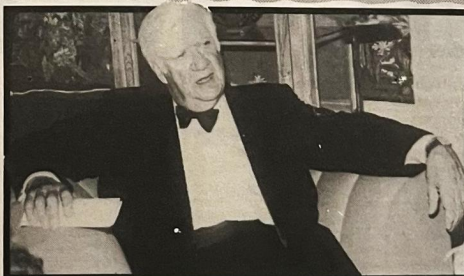
Led by the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill, the misnamed Friends of Ireland delegation's six-day visit went virtually unnoticed by most Irish people, despite the best efforts of the Coalition to portray it as a major state visit.

A host of Mercedes-Benz cars and dozens of uniformed and plain-clothes gardai escorted the delegates' bus with sirens blazing through towns and cities, in a publicity-seeking operation which the taxpayers will dearly pay for.

The 11-strong delegation met the leaders of both Coalition parties, Fianna Fáil and the Free State president, Patrick Hillery, during their visit which began at Dublin Airport on Wednesday night with Coalition Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry greeting O'Neill as a "firm friend of Ireland".

There was a similar reaction from Garret FitzGerald who, as O'Neill pointed out on Thursday, has the "respect" of Margaret Thatcher. So overawed were Leinster House deputies when the delegation paid them a fleeting and a surprise visit that they had to rush back from the Leinster House restaurant and bar to the 'debating' chamber to give the impression that they do work.

In Dublin and in Cork, where he reviewed the St Patrick's Day parade as a freeman of the city, Tip O'Neill was quizzed by reporters about Irish-American support for the IRA. Stating his regret that Noraid has grown in strength and support in the past year, O'Neill demonstrated his ignorance of Irish history by adding that, like himself, "the people" in America "now realise that the IRA of 50 or 60 years ago is not the IRA of the present time".



● TIP O'NEILL

And, as a final insult from a man who is part of an administration which spends more money than any other on weaponry, he added:

"You just don't settle things with guns."

If guns don't solve a problem then whips might, according to Fine Gael deputies Enda Kenny and John Farrelly who, in a joint statement on Thursday, March 14th, called for the introduction of flogging for youths involved in crime and for the re-opening

of Spike Island Prison in Cork Harbour.

While their first suggestion is already likely under the powers given to the gardai by the Criminal Justice Act, the second was quickly put into operation by the Coalition government which announced that "Ireland's Alcatraz" as Kenny and Farrelly called it, would be opened for 50 prisoners initially, at a cost of between £2 and £3 million a year.

Commenting on this development, a Sinn Féin community activist with youth groups in Tallaght, County Dub-

lin, Clodna Nic Mhurchadha, said:

"It is all too easy for the Coalition to come up with simplistic solutions, such as jail, to deal with deep-rooted social problems. Jailing people provides no lasting solution to the social conditions which lead youths to car-theft."

"Jobs — real jobs and not cosmetic AnCO 'training' schemes — and decent youth facilities will, however, help to alleviate the conditions which give rise to the problem."

"The responsibility lies squarely with the government. It's time they stopped parroting simplistic solutions and came up with real answers instead."

QUESTIONS

If answers are in short supply in the Coalition government, questions about the commitment of that government to retaining even the pretence of Irish sovereignty arose again last week-end with the St Patrick's Day speech by Free State Defence Minister Patrick Cooney to the pro-British Irish Club in London.

Cooney stated that nationalism "is totally out of place in this last decade of the 20th century" and urged an even closer European union. Irish people joined the EEC, he informed his audience "...to protect the European culture, the Christian and democratic heritage against, for example, the forces coming from atheistic communism and the immense cultural and commercial forces from the Far East."

Following this Paisley-like outburst of nonsense, Cooney appropriately rose to join in a toast to "Her Majesty the Queen and the President of Ireland".

Appropriately, too, none of his party colleagues appear to have objected, a sign perhaps that Fine Gael still hankers after the international union they had with European fascism in the 1930s.

BY CHARLIE McFADDEN

THE DUBLIN confectionery manufacturers, Gateaux Ltd, is to close tomorrow, Friday, March 22nd, with the loss of 300 jobs, in what appears to be a co-ordinated effort by employers to impose pre-conditions on workers prior to conceding cost-of-living increases.

The Gateaux workers have been more than co-operative in recent years with unions agreeing to a number of concessions which have resulted in a saving of one million pounds per annum for the company.

However, the firm's parent company in England, Lyons Holding Ltd, is believed to be dictating management policy. This English plant has the capacity to supply the twenty-six counties direct, and it is envisaged that the company will import cakes from Britain to maintain its 75% share of the Irish market.

The decision to close will also mean that 900 seasonal jobs will be lost in addition to a £10 million export trade.

The provocative attitudes being adopted by managements, both in the public and private sector, is a source of growing concern for trade unionists.

In both Gateaux and CIE, disputes have arisen because managements are refusing to pay previously agreed awards unless the workers accept new work practices. In neither case were these practices part of the original agreement.

A dispute is looming in the ESB because management are attempting to subcontract their sales and service divisions with a subsequent loss of jobs. In Cork, the Gas Company is demanding 85 compulsory redundancies.

This growing arrogance by employers appears to be part of a concerted effort by both the Dublin government and the Federated Union of Employers to attack and weaken the power of organised labour. Trade unionists must be on guard for any such tactics in their workplaces and if necessary be prepared to resort to the ultimate weapon available to the working class. Strike!

The strike by 16 laundry workers em-



● Shop-steward Jimmy Ball on the picket-line at the Churchtown premises of the Hospital Joint Services Board

ployed by the Hospital Joint Services Board is now in its second week.

The dispute stems from management's failure to compensate the workers for loss of earnings following the board's decision, in October 1982, to do away with early morning overtime.

Shop-steward Jimmy Ball maintains

that labour-management relations are non-existent and lays blame for the dispute on the dictatorial attitude of Frank Woods, the board's chief executive. Ball also points out that craftworkers, who made a similar claim for compensation in December 1982, have been awarded between £750 and £1,500.

Let 'em eat cake!

There has been no attempt by management to end the dispute although the union has voiced its willingness to negotiate.

The split within the Irish Labour Party is widening and open opposition towards its reactionary leadership is growing from the strong trade union element within and close to that party.

Last week, the Irish Distributive and Allied Trade Union issued invitations to trades councils and other trade unions to attend a meeting to discuss the proposition that

a) Workers have no political voice at the moment and

b) That they need one.

The subject matter of the discussion poses some obvious questions.

Will this influential grouping sponsor independent trade union candidates? Will they base their future support for Labour on the right of individual unions or groups of unions to nominate their own candidates to the Labour ticket?

Such a system functions in the English Labour Party. Already some unions have indicated their willingness to send delegates to such a forum.

Undoubtedly, the meeting will have the approval of Congress president, Matt Merrigan. He has long been an outspoken critic of the tactics and policy of the so-called Labour Party, and has stood in elections himself against Labour.

A date has yet to be set for the meeting but, with local elections in three months, the timing of the call is seen to be significant. This clearly-perceived lack of a working-class voice creates a vacuum which Sinn Féin is capable of filling.

The strikes by members of the National Busworkers Union and the local authority craftworkers have been deferred pending further negotiations with management and the Labour Court.

False picture for workers

IN A BLAZE of media publicity, high-technology industries are springing up throughout the twenty-six counties but, far from becoming a slave of the workers, these industries are being used to 'rationalise' factory workforces, present a false picture of economic growth and line the pockets of the multinationals.

Such industries have had full backing from the Dublin government, whose industrial agency, the IDA, announced last month that a new £100 million factory was being opened in Greystones, County Wicklow, with their backing.

This development is being promoted despite warnings from computer experts that the development and production of microchips is extremely risky. Any hiccup in trading could send the whole project to the wall, like so many other high-technology factories which have closed recently, making a shambles of the Dublin government's industrial strategy.

US multinational investment in the twenty-six counties increased from \$986 million in 1977 to \$3.8 billion in 1983. Only one other country, the

Bahamas, has had a greater amount of direct US investment. Figures published in the US prove that multinational branches in Ireland yield profits three times greater than in other European locations.

Accountants here state that the multinational policy of transfer pricing is used to maximise profit in the twenty-six counties where the government allows 100% tax relief on exports and only a 10% rate in manufacturing industry. Besides this, no other tax is paid by the multinationals, who are the source of the 'black hole' in the economy.

ATARI

Tax incentives and IDA hand-outs plus the provision of factories has obviously attracted the worst kind of capitalist into this country. The contempt which these companies have demonstrated towards their workforces was demonstrated at the Atari high-

technology factory in Limerick recently.

At various meetings with workers' representatives at Atari, since it was taken over by Jack Trameil in July 1984, management stated that the Limerick plant was to be the European production and distribution base for the company. The true reason for Trameil's purchase of the plant has since become clear.

Production was massively increased between July and December 1984, with the employment of over 200 temporary workers as well as normal staff. The products they made were exported (tax free) and continue to make enormous profits for Trameil Technology. Since the workers had 'served their usefulness', the plant was closed and they were offered only statutory redundancy.

Trameil Technology is not in liquidation and the company is still trading in Europe. Recognising the criminal injustice they had suffered, the quick-thinking workforce occupied the plant where no less than £5.9 million worth of goods are stored. These goods will be 'going nowhere' until their demands are met, a workers' spokesperson has stated. Dock workers in Shannon and Dublin are refusing to

handle Atari products in support of the redundant workers.

TRAVENOL

In Castlebar, different tactics were announced by the Travenol multinational company which is phasing out production over a two-year period. The IDA was quick to warn workers that an occupation would scare off 'potential foreign investors', thereby helping a highly profitable company to desert a workforce which had helped produce these profits for more than a decade.

The loss of 700 jobs in this region is a major body-blow to an already weak local economy, and the Travenol/IDA intimidation of workers should serve as a lesson to trade unionists throughout, the twenty-six counties that only they themselves can protect their interests in the event of closure.

STORAGE

The imminent closure of Storage Technology Systems, Dublin, once again exposes the lie of high-technology employment promises. Storage, a Colorado company, was 'lured' to Ireland with huge grants, and promised to employ 1,500 people by the end of 1986.

However, the maximum number

ever employed was 360 and, in November 1984, the workers received an anonymous tip-off that the firm had gone into liquidation. Management would neither confirm nor deny this, but the workers quickly discovered that senior management had returned to the USA.

Forty workers immediately barricaded themselves inside the plant and during the next few days they refused access to liquidator John Donnelly. During a ten-day occupation, the workers wouldn't allow either stock or machinery to be removed from the premises. They were then guaranteed a further eight weeks employment, while negotiations about the plant's future continued.

Over 200 workers have, since then, refused to accept redundancy and are determined to secure their jobs.

Other multinational factories have either shut down or gone on short time since last year. These include the Beehive plant in Fermoy, County Cork, where 70 jobs were lost last year; ECCO in Dundalk which suffered massive lay-offs in recent years with the remaining workers now on a three-day week; and Centronix in Drogheda which opened in 1979 and closed in 1982 with the loss of 400 jobs.

Since the multinational control of high-technology in Ireland has proven disastrous in these cases, and with further collapses likely in the future, the remedy must be to take this highly lucrative and potentially acceptable form of industry out of the hands of foreign or native capitalists.

The state ownership which will be necessary to control the development, production and distribution of hardware, software and research, establishing effective training programmes for both school-leavers and displaced workers, will only be achieved with a fundamental change in this country - a change which only revolutionary action can achieve.



Freedom of assembly defended

THE RUC demonstrated in Portadown on St Patrick's Day that they remain the military wing of unionism when they stopped and re-routed a parade by a local accordion band, claiming that the parade could have led to "a breach of the peace".

BY ROBERT CARLIN

The RUC's behaviour was in stark contrast to their actions during the provocative Orange and Black parades in July when loyalist marches are heavily guarded as they pass through the 100% nationalist Obins Street area of the town.

The original route of the St Patrick's Day parade had to pass a small loyalist area in order to include all nationalist districts in the town and had been given the go-ahead by the RUC. Loyalists, led by OUP and DUP councillors, objected to the route and announced a "prayer" meeting would be held in Park Road to coincide with the parade.

In the event, around 700 loyalists gathered in Park Road, carrying sticks, bottles and knives and singing hymns. These were ignored by the RUC, who concentrated on blocking the band. A press photographer was attacked and beaten by the loyalist mob.

After arguments with the RUC, the band retraced its route and attempted to march via Garvaghy Road, but again found their route blocked by the RUC. The members of the band then boarded their bus to go to the St Patrick's Day parade in Cookstown.

RESENTMENT

On Sunday night, on their return from Cookstown, the band again attempted to march the original route, but once more the RUC had blocked the Garvaghy Road. Local people's anger and resentment resulted in hand-to-hand fighting with the RUC, and

later, at Corcain, the RUC drove two jeeps at high speed through the band and its followers in an attempt to injure some of the marchers. More fist fights broke out and several RUC men were injured.

PREDICTABLE

Portadown Sinn Fein spokesperson Frankie Tennyson said that the actions of the RUC were, at the very least, predictable.

"Portadown epitomised the whole corrupt nature of the Orange state, where the loyalist mentality still insists on nationalists being kept to their ghettos. Loyalist councillors, aided and abetted by the RUC, have effectively denied freedom of expression and freedom of assembly to local nationalists on St Patrick's Day."

"The loyalist ethos of 'a Protestant state for a Protestant people' is compounded locally by the fact that Craigavon Council is due to debate and pass the two anti-Sinn Fein motions this week, seeking to deny to Northern nationalists more of their already limited rights."

On Tuesday night, 20 members of Portadown Sinn Fein disrupted the monthly meeting of Craigavon Council in protest over what Frankie Tennyson described as "the action of loyalist members of Craigavon Council who seek to deny and deprive nationalist people in Craigavon of their rights and aspirations".

ESCORTED

The Sinn Fein members entered



● The St Patrick's Accordion Band are blocked and turned back by the RUC at Garvaghy Road...



●...and later at Park Road

the council chamber and unfurled banners and placards and were escorted from the council building about ten minutes later by

a large force of RUC. Tennyson commented:

"Loyalist members of the council, including the lord mayor,

have publicly defended the right of the Orange and Black institutions to route their provocative parades through totally nationalist areas of Portadown.

"The council was also due to discuss at its monthly meeting two resolutions aimed at depriving the electorate of the right to choose and vote for the candidate of their choice."

"We believe that the self-styled upholders of democracy on Craigavon Council, responsible for these and other bigoted actions, by depriving others of freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, have effectively deprived themselves of the right to those same freedoms. As a result, we feel we acted accordingly."

Attempt to ban Sinn Fein

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

BELFAST COUNCILLORS were called to yet another emergency meeting on Friday, March 15th, to discuss a DUP-engineered motion, this time asking the British government to ban Sinn Fein.

The motion, which was easily passed by 20 votes to nine, had been proposed by arch-bigot Frank Millar, an independent unionist, and seconded by Sammy Wilson of the DUP, once hailed in the 'liberal press' as "red Sammy", now a strong contender for the title of DUP's super-bigot!

The two Sinn Fein councillors walked out before the vote. "Proscribing Sinn Fein will not make it go away," Sean McKnight declared before leaving. The SDLP lost an amendment asking for the UDA to be outlawed as well.

And the Alliance Party lost its amendment asking "all elected representatives to reject violence and support impartial enforcement of law and order". Impartiality is not what the DUP is about. As for OUP and DUP councillors, the outcome being a foregone conclusion, they just gave vent to their anti-republican hatred.

However on Monday, March 18th, British direct-ruler Douglas Hurd turned down the unionist request for a ban of Sinn Fein. It would not be "beneficial", Hurd said, just as another request by unionists to have newly-elected councillors take an oath of allegiance to the British government was described by Hurd as "constitutionally inappropriate".

EXPEDIENCY

The British decision not to ban Sinn Fein, made purely on the grounds of expediency, caused further unionist protests. Sammy Wilson called Hurd's refusal an "insult to the families of Ulster's dead".

But if unionist councillors, and especially the DUP, have been concentrating their attacks on Sinn Fein in the last few months, it is not only because Sinn Fein represents the only unequivocal opposition to unionism on the council, but also because of the approaching local elections.

Paisley based his EEC campaign on the slogan "Defeat Sinn Fein". Given the sectarian headcount, it was not all that difficult a goal to achieve but it contributed to his biggest vote ever. DUP councillors in Belfast are hoping for more of the same next May, and to achieve this they will walk over their unionist rivals, the bodies of murdered nationalists and even 'their own' dead of the UDR and RUC.

Meanwhile, between adjourned meetings and emergency meetings, that bigoted lot is costing Belfast City Council thousands of pounds of ratepayers' money - a council that is not known for spoiling its constituents with too many amenities.

Disenfranchising the working class

SINN FEIN COUNCILLOR Sean McKnight has slammed the Electoral Office's refusal to allow the use of the UB40 card as a form of identification at the forthcoming local council elections. McKnight described the decision as "an attempt to disenfranchise working-class people".

The new legislation, which will become law shortly before the local elections in May, requires all voters to produce some form of identification at polling stations. It entitles the RUC to stop any vehicle or enter any premises where they have reasonable suspicion that they may find evidence of personation. In May, the RUC will have the power to enter polling stations and accost any voter, instead of having to be asked in by the electoral officer as has previously been the case.

The result of this legislation will inevitably be a higher RUC and British army profile at polling stations in nationalist areas. The decision not to allow the use of the UB40 will have the greatest effect in the same areas, where other forms of identification such as a passport or a driving licence are not as readily available.

BEST AVAILABLE

The UB40 is by far the best available

able form of identification for the majority of workless people in the six counties. The UB40 is accepted by the post office, the British army and the RUC, but not by the Electoral Office. This move by the British government is the latest in a series of moves designed to minimise the Sinn Fein vote in the forthcoming local elections.

McKnight said:

"Sinn Fein has been trying to get the Electoral Office to accept the UB40, but we have been informed through the office of Mr Bradley, chief electoral officer, that the UB40 will not be permitted as identification for the local council elections in May."

"While Sinn Fein is pressing the chief electoral officer to reconsider his decision, we call on people to ensure that they have sufficient identification. The accepted forms are (a) a medical card (b) a passport (c) a driver's licence and (d) an allowance book."

"The medical card is the most easily obtained, a form can be acquired from any doctor's surgery or post office. As it takes at least seven days to arrive, Sinn Fein calls on people to apply as soon as possible."

LOYAL REBUKES FOR BRIT BUDGET

BY JANE PLUNKETT

REACTION in the six counties to Tuesday's British government budget was generally low key, but hostile. Though Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson described the measures as a "budget for jobs", only employers' organisations responded favourably. Local trade unions and politicians pointed out that the budget will do nothing to alleviate the North's chronic unemployment, though they carefully avoided criticising the root of the problem — British economic domination of the six counties.

Lawson's budget predictably stuck firmly to the dictates of Tory monetarist ideology. Labour movement hopes of a state-spending-led mini-boom in the economy were swiftly dashed by Lawson, who said he envisaged a further reduction in public-sector borrowing.

Lawson also announced cuts in income tax and national insurance contributions, but the benefits of these will be offset by new rises in indirect taxation (which always

hit hardest those people on the lowest incomes). Vehicle road tax, and taxes on petrol, cigarettes and alcoholic drinks were all increased by the budget, in most cases by more than the inflation rate.

COST

The budget's much-trumpeted job-creation moves will cost some £750 million, an insignificant portion of the British state's overall budget, and only half the sum advertised by the British treasury last November. These measures include an increase in tax allowances — by just over 10% — as a result of which, according to Tory estimates, some 400,000 people in Britain and the

North will no longer pay income tax.

The national insurance system is also to be restructured. Benefiting most will be people earning over £40,000 a year. Next in line will be the low-paid sector, where both employers' and employees' contributions will be reduced. Thus, effectively, employers will be subsidised to pay inadequate wages, or indeed to push wages down further.

In his budget speech, Lawson also announced a further erosion of workers' protective legislation. In future, new workers will only gain legal protection against unfair dismissal when they have been employed for at least two years, instead of one year as at present. In effect, workers who, before their two years are up, protest against exploitative wages will be liable to instant dismissal.

ABOLISHING

The Tory government is also to consider abolishing wage councils, which set minimum pay standards in traditionally exploitative industries such as hairdressing and catering.

The rationale for these measures is derived from conventional Tory wisdom that unemployment can be reduced by increasing 'incentives' to work and that labour costs are the main factor preventing employers from taking on more workers.

However appealing to sweatshop proprietors, such ideology provides cold comfort for the victims of the six counties' long-term economic decline. After all, if high wages cause unemployment, why is it that throughout



● The bitter taste of the price increase

the existence of the Northern statelet, average wage levels have been significantly lower than in Britain, while unemployment has been consistently much higher?

PREDICTED

Commenting on the budget, an ICTU spokesperson predicted that employers would use their national insurance savings to increase profits, not create jobs, adding that the tax cuts were "specifically designed to push down wage levels".

The DUP, mindful of rising unemployment among unionist workers, protested that they had "expected" the British government to "prime the economic pump". No such vain expectations were held by nationalists, long inured to British government indifference.

There were complaints too that the local cigarette industry — the six counties' largest private em-

ployer — will be hit by the increased tax on tobacco announced in Tuesday's budget. However, few commentators in the North whatever their expressions of concern, made reference to the increased transport costs that will follow from the rises in petrol, diesel and heavy goods vehicle duties.

These measures will increase industrial costs (particularly of exports) and could lead further British-based companies to pull out of the six counties. They will also inevitably increase prices of imported necessities including clothing and food.

Yet, on this issue, almost all the budget's critics were loyally silent. To speak out would have been to draw attention to one aspect of the intractable economic problems caused by the six-county economy's status as a peripheral unit of the British economy.



● NIGEL LAWSON

Cork smear answered

ARSON ATTACKS on flats in the Mayfield area of Cork city, which has caused widespread local anger, have led to garda attempts to vilify Sinn Féin in the area.

There have been five recent fires in Mayfield, four in the Glenamoye flats complex and one in

the neighbouring Mount Erne complex.

A local man, John Ross, whose

own flat was seriously damaged in one of these attacks and who had to break a window and jump 25 feet with his young son to escape the flames, was subsequently arrested by garda Special Branch detectives under Section

30 of the Offences Against the State Act.

Ross, who had been active in highlighting the poor living conditions in the flats and had approached Cork Corporation in an effort to have conditions impro-

ved, had witnesses to prove his whereabouts during each fire. He was released without charge.

However, Ross' arrest under special legislation was clearly an attempt to suggest political involvement in the attacks. This smear tactic continued with the further arrests of four youths from the area — again under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act.

'VIGILANTE JUSTICE'

While none of the youths was charged with the arson attacks, they were urged by the Special Branch to implicate Sinn Féin and were threatened to be set up for 'vigilante justice' if they refused to co-operate.

In a statement condemning the arson attacks as "a further attack on the people in the area which has already been ravaged by massive unemployment and deprivation", Alfie McEvoy of Cork Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair said:

"The Special Branch, having failed to intimidate local Sinn Féin activists, are now engaged in an attempt to vilify our party in the Mayfield area."

"However, Sinn Féin will continue to work for the people of Mayfield in spite of the blatant harassment of our members and this reprehensible smear campaign."

Garda riot in Balgriffin

A LARGE FORCE of gardai ran riot in the North County Dublin village of Balgriffin last Friday night, March 15th.

At around 11.30pm, a number of young people from the Coolock area were leaving Campions public house, Balgriffin, after a 'stag' party.

The evening had passed peacefully and the company was making its way home when a garda sergeant and a small army of gardai arrived in eight squad cars and a black maria.

The gardai ran amok, laying into the youths with batons, kicks and punches. Four men, James Mahoney, Gerry McDermott and brothers Greg and Gary Hanlon, were singled out for particular brutality.

Gary Hanlon, who was struck on the head, later identified his assailant as Garda Colm O Briain. Gerry McDermott was batoned repeatedly on the leg. McDermott, Mahoney and the Hanlon brothers were then thrown into the black maria and taken to Coolock Garda station.

At no time during their ordeal was any of the four formally arrested.

REFUSED

On arrival at the barracks, the men demanded their right to a doctor for Gary Hanlon, whose

head-wound was still pumping blood. Their request was refused by the gardai and it was not until 2am that an ambulance arrived to take Hanlon and McDermott to Blanchardstown Hospital. While there, Hanlon collapsed and was diagnosed as suffering from concussion as a result of the baton wound.

Dublin North East Sinn Féin community officer Christy Foley was among the group attacked by the gardai and is a friend of the injured men.

Describing the incident as a totally unprovoked attack, he said:

"There was no trouble, we were leaving after an enjoyable

night. The gardai seemed to have the group marked out and just laid into us with no mercy whatsoever."

In a statement, a spokesperson for Dublin North East Sinn Féin said:

"This attack illustrates the contempt of the gardai for the youth of Coolock. It was totally unprovoked and seems to have been a planned attempt to intimidate this particular group of people."

"This incident shows the reality of the powers given to the gardai in the recent Criminal Justice Act. Their aims are clear — not 'community policing' nor preventing or even solving crime, but repression and more repression."

Shoot-to-kill cover-up

BY ROBERT CARLIN

THE INQUESTS into the deaths of two IRA Volunteers who were victims of the British shoot-to-kill policy were adjourned after only 15 minutes when British soldiers failed to turn up at the hearing.

The inquests, in Dungannon Courthouse before coroner J. P. Shearer, were scheduled to last two days but, on March 14th, had to be postponed when a representative of the Ministry of Defence said that of three soldiers (out of an unknown number) in the undercover unit, one had left the British army and the other two were not available. None of these three soldiers actually carried out the shooting.

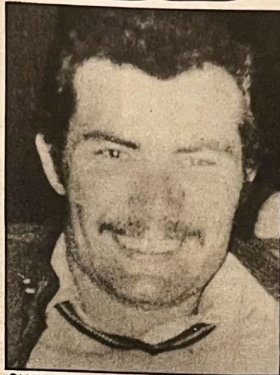
The two Volunteers, 19-year-old Brian Campbell and 23-year-old Colm McGirr, were shot dead on the afternoon of Sunday, December 4th 1983, when they went to inspect an arms dump in a field off the Clough Road, Coalisland.

The courthouse was packed with friends and relatives of the two men and a sizeable contingent of press people. After the adjournment, the families expressed disgust at the contemptuous way the inquest had been treated. They released a statement which said that both Colm and Brian had been threatened with assassination by the British army and the RUC, Colm no later than the week before his death, when he was held in Gough Barracks for three days.

STATEMENT

The statement went on:

"Both of our sons were Volunteers in the Irish Republican Army which, under British law, is a proscribed organisation

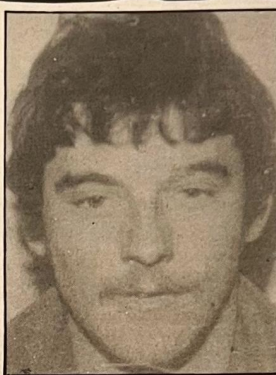


● VOLUNTEER COLM MCGIRR

and membership of which, upon conviction, could lead to a five-year jail sentence.

"Both of our sons were acknowledged as IRA Volunteers and were on their way to inspect or collect a number of guns, illegal possession of which, under British law, is again an offence punishable with a heavy prison sentence. The law stops there but the grim reality goes much further.

"Brian and Colm had alighted from a car on the Clough Road, crossed the road and got under a wire fence to begin crossing the field to where the arms were hidden. Without being called upon to halt, they were fired on from both sides of the road and were killed, in what must have been an act of premeditated murder by



● VOLUNTEER BRIAN CAMPBELL

unknown gunmen who have since been blessed by the law, as their actions have been defended by government representatives and they have not been and will not be prosecuted.

"We have absolutely no means of redress and have sought to have this statement read out at the inquest to at least put on official record the victims' side of the story.

SAVAGERY

"Both of our sons suffered horrific wounds and an act of savagery was carried out on the lifeless body of Colm McGirr.

"It is quite clear that our sons could have been captured and taken alive. They presented no threat to the armed men who

executed them. Those undercover soldiers probably took the precaution of unloading the hidden guns so that they would be in no danger. Having been taken alive, full provision exists within the British law to have charged and imprisoned Colm and Brian. Whilst we do not agree with Britain's involvement in Ireland, we recognise the cold-blooded fact that those soldiers had this option but, instead, chose to butcher the two unarmed men, sure in the guarantee of immunity from prosecution, even though they had broken their own law.

"Our sons were murdered as part of a shoot-to-kill policy, operated officially by British forces but having absolutely no legality since parliament has not sanctioned summary execution as the penalty for intention to illegally possess firearms — the only possible charge which could have been laid against Colm and Brian.

OFFICIAL

"That this shoot-to-kill policy is official can be seen from the consistent way it has been operated against nationalists in republican areas, either joy-riding, or in the vicinity of a cache of weapons, or actually carrying weapons.

"We accuse the British administration of murder and intimidation and of having no right to be in Ireland except through the use of brute force and illegalities.

"Other bereaved families have experienced cover-up after cover-up and one inquest has been adjourned indefinitely and the coroner has resigned over gross irregularities in RUC evidence.

"We are protesting now at the identity of our sons' assassins being officially covered up and we accuse the British government of operating a shoot-to-kill policy in the North of Ireland."

Protestors make their point

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

ACTIVISTS IN CORK lost no opportunity in drawing public attention to the issues of strip-searching, the use of plastic bullets, conditions in Portlaoise Prison and extradition, during St Patrick's Day events in the city.

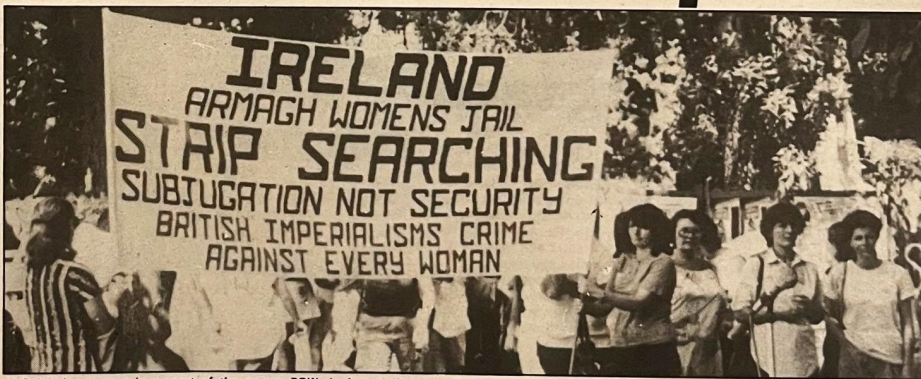
A picket was held outside Cork City Hall on Saturday evening, March 16th, where Tip O'Neill received the freedom of the city of Cork, and the city hall was again picketed on Sunday, March 17th, during the state banquet in his honour.

During Monday March 18th's St Patrick's Day parade in Cork, placards condemning plastic bullets, strip-searching in Armagh and extradition were held opposite the reviewing stand. Four Sinn Féin members joined the parade with a banner reading "Cork — 800 years of repression" but were dragged from the ranks by gardai and arrested.

In Dublin, the Tallaght Stop the Strip-Searches Committee displayed placards at the Sunday morning St Patrick's Day parade through Tallaght. When gardai tried to remove them, other on-lookers insisted that they be allowed to make their protest.

CHURCH-GATE MEETINGS

On Sunday, March 17th, church-gate meetings were held in both Cork and Kerry. Pat



● Solidarity protests in support of the women POWs in Armagh Jail — in Adelaide, Australia, on International Women's Day...

O'Leary and Peadar Beecher, both Sinn Féin candidates in the forthcoming local elections, spoke at Ballinacollig and Anthony Dempsey, also a Sinn Féin candidate for Cork, addressed meetings in Glanmire and Riverstown.

Former prisoner Breige-Ann McCaughy spoke at several church-gate meetings in Tralee, County Kerry, on Saturday and Sunday, and was also the speaker at a public meeting in Letterkenny on Tuesday, March 12th, where the video on strip-searching was shown.

The Dublin Stop the Strip-Searches Committee and the Women's Action Group against

Strip-Searching leafleted Dublin's St Patrick's Day parade and managed to walk some distance in the parade before being forcibly removed by gardai.

The Australian Aid for Ireland's anti-strip-searching group took part in an International Women's Day rally in Adelaide on Saturday, March 9th, and collected signatures on a petition.

A group of Glasgow women marked International Women's Day by hanging a huge banner from the roof of Sauchiehall Street shopping centre, in the middle of Glasgow, which read "Stop the Strip-Searches in Armagh Jail".



● ...and in Tallaght, County Dublin, on St Patrick's Day

IN A REPORT published a fortnight ago, the North's Fair Employment Agency (FEA) revealed that Protestant schoolchildren perform better in examinations than their Catholic counterparts.

However, when performance in grammar and secondary schools was compared separately, the FEA discovered a marked difference, with Catholic children achieving just as well, or slightly better, than those children in Protestant schools.

The results of this survey confirm a bias within the education system which goes beyond religion. Since there is little difference

between the achievement of middle-class Catholic and Protestant schoolchildren, the discrimination is clearly class-based.

The proportionally larger Catholic working class in the six counties reflects the position of working-class children throughout Ireland, at the bottom of the education system.

In this article, *Charlie McFadden* examines both the obvious and the not so obvious forms of class discrimination within primary education in the twenty-six counties and concludes that major changes are needed if working-class children in all of Ireland are ever to achieve their full potential as pupils.

BY CHARLIE MCFADDEN

"THE MAJORITY must be engaged in unskilled work, for which, whatever doctrinaires may say, over-much education totally unfits them, if only by making them discontented."

So wrote the Reverend Andrew Murphy, the then secretary of the Irish Catholic Headmasters' Association, in the early part of this century while outlining his views — and presumably those of his association — on the position of the working class within the Irish education system.

Thus, while the 'lower classes' were provided with a limited form of primary schooling, second and third level education were considered the exclusive domain of the wealthier classes.

The principle effect of this system was to reinforce middle-class dominance in Irish society. A suitably-educated workforce would pose a threat to the status quo, and so there were always those with a vested interest in ensuring that this system of schooling continued.

According to John Coolahan, an historian for the period:

"Schooling was not viewed as a means of achieving greater social equality; rather the poor and the working classes were largely seen by leaders of church and state as a self-perpetuating sector of society for whom a limited education in literacy and numeracy was deemed sufficient."

FEATURE

Over 70 years later, inequality of opportunity is still the most outstanding feature of the education system, and while the various teachers' organisations have become more receptive to the educational needs of working-class children, few, if any radical political initiatives have been taken to alleviate the problems which these children encounter.

True, a dramatic increase did occur in the numbers attending second and third level following the introduction of the so-called 'free education scheme' in the South in 1967.

However, in the twenty-six counties, as elsewhere, this increased participation was (and still is) highly class-selective, with many working-class children dropping out immediately after — if not before — the compulsory school-leaving age of 15. The resultant increase in educational expenditure has therefore gone disproportionately to the better-off parents with the lower-income families not benefiting in real terms from 'free education'.

REPORT

The latter theory was explained by Professor Dale Tussing of Dublin's Economic and Social

Research Institute (ERSI), in a report published ten years after the scheme was introduced. Tussing maintains that with the advent of free education, parents were no longer required to pay school fees at secondary level. Thus, money allocated by the state for education "acted, in effect, as an increase in the disposable incomes of the families involved, and presumably went for housing, clothing, recreation etc, rather than for education. While there may be exceptions, these families are, in the main, among the more advantaged members of society".

The inference is that since working-class children did not attend second level in any significant numbers prior to the free scheme, the "disposable incomes" of their parents did not increase to any great extent in the aftermath of its introduction.

INEQUALITY

Increased expenditure and increased participation rates did not serve to reduce educational inequality. This led researchers to take social and cultural factors into account — in addition to the obvious economic reasons — while examining the problem of class bias within the education system.

It is now generally accepted that class inequality in education emerges at an early age and that these inequalities result from external as well as internal barriers in the education system.

External barriers include adverse social conditions such as poor or over-crowded housing conditions, low parental income and family climate as well as the limited aspirations of both pupils and parents. Internal barriers consist of high pupil/teacher ratios, poor school facilities, limited aspirations of the teachers and the school curriculum.

ATTITUDES

The problems of children who experience inequality in educational opportunity have come to be classified in terms of 'educational disadvantage' by a child being so defined "if for socio-cultural reasons he/she

comes to school with knowledge, skills and attitudes which impede learning and make adjustment difficult".

This definition, it should be noted, does not imply that the personal characteristics of disadvantaged children are different in any manner when compared with a middle-class child. It does suggest, however, that the working-class environment and the school itself do not offer these children the same advantages in order that they might develop their inborn intelligence.

VALUES

School is essentially a middle-class institution and the school's ethos tends to reflect the values of this dominant class. A working-class child will thus experience a discontinuity between the home and the school environment.

The pupil will first encounter this in the transition between the home and primary school, in going from a working-class environment to one where language, attitudes and climate are all different from those experienced at home.

John Carr, an executive member of the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO), maintains that not only is the language of the disadvantaged child different from, though not inferior to, the school's middle-class language, but that these children also tend to have a low self-image.

NEED

The INTO sees an immediate need for the introduction of a three-year infant cycle with the first year spent concentrating on building up the child's language and self-confidence.

Carr was a member of a special committee which examined the educational needs of disadvantaged children. The committee's findings were that the whole environment of these children is one of deprivation and Carr says:

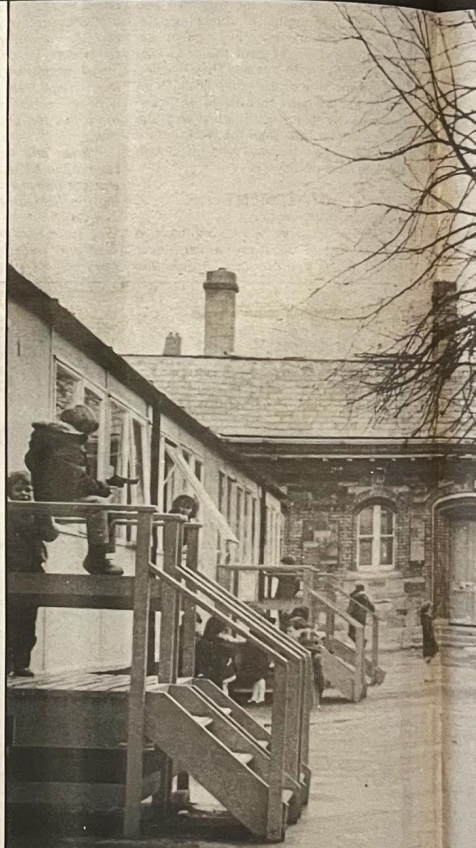
"As they grow older they don't see the future in the same terms as a child from a better area. They can see no way of escaping this deprivation."

"The problem is self-perpetuating since the poor self-esteem of their parents (who have been educated in similar circumstances) is reflected on their children who then grow up with this same self-image and this affects their attitude to schooling. They say to themselves, 'what good is school to me; my parents got nothing out of it, why should I?'"

ALIENATION

Thus, a process of alienation

EDUCATION - the class



● Situated in the grounds of the Dublin government's Department of Education, dilapidated prefabs has been used as a school for these working-class children for years. This is one of the few state-run schools in the twenty-six counties but nothing restore the original school (in the background) which was completely destroyed by fire.

sets in, both on the part of the pupils and their parents. Seeing no gainful benefits in the continuation of his/her 'education' the pupil drops out at the earliest opportunity in search of employment, thus continuing a vicious cycle, with the pupil's offspring encountering the same problems.

Heavily-populated areas such as Dublin, Belfast and Cork

will, needless to say, have high percentages of educationally-disadvantaged children, but this is not to suggest that the above disadvantage is non-existent in rural schools.

Any intended remedial action must take school location as well as the pupil's individual disposition into consideration. In addition, the education system should take adequate account of both

EDUCATION

Class system



Education, this cluster of children for the past three years has been done to by fire

the external and internal barriers that prevent able, or potentially able, students from the lower-income groups of taking full advantage of their inborn intelligence.

RATIOS

Many teachers state that lowering the pupil/teacher ratio would be a major asset in tackling the problems of the dis-

advantaged. A low ratio would enable teachers to give individual attention to pupils and would help in building up a stronger relationship with the children. At present there are about 70,000 children in classes of over 40 pupils. The INTO are looking for an average ratio of one teacher to 25 pupils.

Teachers also maintain that

a home/school liaison teacher should be appointed to the staff of each disadvantaged school to foster among the parents of disadvantaged children a positive interest in education and to mitigate hostility or suspicion. It is envisaged that these teachers would help parents to understand their role and realise their potential as educators.

The INTO stress the need

for a development of a suitable curriculum which would bridge the gap between the child's home experience and the experience in the school. This could not mean providing an alternative curriculum but merely adapting the present curriculum to suit the particular needs of disadvantaged children.

COMMITTEE

The need for the above provisions was outlined in the 1979 report of the special committee set up by the INTO to examine the problem.

This recommended that, "special educational provision should be made where a high number of children have been designated disadvantaged and that provision should include:

- a programme of home/school liaison
- pre-schools
- special staffing arrangements
- specialised training for the teachers
- adaptation of the curriculum and
- extra facilities and equipment."

The Dublin government eventually responded in December 1983 when, as a token gesture, they announced their intention to allocate £500,000 (out of a total educational budget of one billion pounds) to assist disadvantaged schools. This sum was later described by Gerry Quigley, general secretary of the INTO, as "derisory" and "laughable". He said:

"It works out at about one penny per pupil per day, if we assume that about ten per cent of all pupils are disadvantaged."

SURVEY

A further £½ million was allocated in the 1985 Book of Estimates but again this is in no way adequate to tackle the problem or the needs of areas such as Dublin's inner city, where a recent survey found that as many as 20% of the population are illiterate.

A major problem which disadvantaged schools experience is finance or rather the lack of it. At present there are about 1,000 in debt. The largest single allocation (£200,000) from the 1984 grant to disadvantaged schools was paid directly to the diocesan authorities in Dublin, Cork and Limerick to alleviate management debts.

At present most primary schools are state-aided and are in receipt of a capitation grant. However, 25% of their revenue must be raised from local sources before they get any state money. In 1984 the above grant amounted to £21 per pupil subject to £5.25 being paid by locals.

BASIC

This system of financing is insufficient to cover the running cost of most schools. Teachers have to pay for basic equipment out of their own pockets and fund-raising projects are continually carried out by parent-teacher organisations. In many cases requests have been made to parents to help alleviate school debts.

The situation is more acute in disadvantaged schools where, because of the high rate of vandalism, a large proportion of the capitation grant goes on insurance.

In addition, the high concentration of unemployment and poverty means that the level

of local funding is not as great as that of better-off areas. One effect of this is that projectors, taperecorders etc — common teacher-aids in most schools — are, more often than not, absent in disadvantaged schools where they are required most.

'PROGRAMME'

It has been suggested that since inequality in the system is first encountered at primary school and since the majority of all pupils (62%) are found at this level, it is in this area that state aid should be concentrated. However, Coalition Education Minister Gemma Hussey states in her so-called 'Programme for Action in Education':

"The goal must be to maximise the opportunities for our young people within the possibilities which financial constraints permit."

What this means in real terms is educational cutbacks. Cutbacks in school transport, career guidance teachers and the raising of the school entry age are just a few of the areas where Hussey is trying to 'maximise opportunities'.

PRIORITIES

John Carr maintains that education, and especially primary education, is very low on the Dublin government's list of priorities and that the needs of the disadvantaged are not being taken seriously. According to Carr:

"The reality is that extra resources are not being channelled into the primary sector... a lot of money went into the DART rapid rail transport system and other non-essential areas. This was political money put into these areas for political expediency and while you can't divert this money now, there should be more prudent government expenditure so that they could allocate money to the education system."

CONSIDERATION

Another obvious area for consideration is to cut state aid to fee-paying secondary schools. These schools receive a capitation grant and have the salaries of their teachers paid by the state.

This money, estimated at about £20 million, would be better employed in the form of positive discrimination in favour of disadvantaged schools.

Hussey also states in her 'action programme' that "our education system will have failed, if at the end of the day, the young person leaving school or college has not been able to achieve his/her potential."

Given this reasoning, it must be blatantly obvious, even to Gemma Hussey, that the present education system is a failure. According to a recent ESRI report which examined social mobility in the twenty-six counties, this failure manifests itself "not simply with a minority of disadvantaged children and schools who have obvious social problems, but rather with the wider problem posed by the vast majority of working-class children who achieve significantly below their potential."

Any genuine reform of the educational system must respond to the analysis and the demands which the INTO has made. Education cannot be examined or treated in isolation from the social and economic system. To effect real change then, it is vital that both the external and internal barriers to equality are broken.

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Applications for speakers at Easter commemorations should be made as soon as possible to:
An Runai,
Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta,
44 Cearnóg Pharnell,
BAC 1.

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies available from:
Mrs Peg King,
29 All Saints Park,
Raheny, Dublin 5.
Price: £15 per 1,000.



EASTER LILY metal badges are available from:

Republican Publications,
2a Monagh Crescent,
Belfast. Tel: 620768

Price: £1.30 each or 90p each for bulk orders over ten.

Republican Publications,
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1. Tel: 747611
Price: IR£1.50 each or IR£1.10 each for bulk orders over ten.

Torthaí crannchur

An Cumann Cabhrach Central Committee

Super Draw: £200: Paul Crawford, Raphoe, County Donegal; £100: Maurice O'Rourke, Browns Road, Waterford city; £50: Catharina Boland, Tullamore, County Offaly; Portlaoise craftwork: Aine Ní Chobhainn, Rathmines, Dublin; seller of 1st prize ticket, £50: c/o Tony McDaid, Lifford, County Donegal. Sincere gratitude to all who gave us their support.

An Cumann Cabhrach Dublin Committee

February: £100: No. 397, £50. 145; £25: 382; £10: 87, 253, 261, 379; £5: 26, 398.

Loch Garman Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair

February: £50: Pat Walsh, Camille, New Ross; £25: John Cooney, New Ross; £15: J.B. Kane, New Ross.

POW Department bus fund:
1st prize: No. 207, Eddie Geoghean, c/o Davy Tolán (unclaimed); 2nd: 778, Shane Creighton, Fairlawn Road, Finglas South; 3rd: 976, John Magee, Campion Crescent Kildare; 4th: 269, Jim Mooney, c/o Mick J. (unclaimed).

Shannon Sinn Féin
£25: No. 87; £10: 42; £5: 25

Family connections

A dhúine uasal,

During comments on Ruairí Quinn in a recent issue of *AP/RM* I noted a reference to my father Pádraig and my uncle Sean, my father, who was an intelligence officer in the IRA - under Richard Mulcahy until 1921 - was made chairman of the Northern Army Council and was also quartermaster-general for the five Northern divisions in the Civil War, as well as being adjutant to Frank Aiken.

Contrary to your article, he was never wounded by the Tans to my knowledge; if he was, the wound must have been superficial. Indeed, the Tans do not seem to have figured up North, though this does not apply to the Auxiliaries.

Sean was O/C 4th Northern Division and Malachi, Ruairí Quinn's father, was also an officer of this division. Three days before the end of the Civil War, the three brothers, Pádraig, Sean and Malachi, were hiding out in a house in Tallanstown, seven miles from Dundalk. The only visitor was the local curate and the night subsequent to his visit, the house was surrounded by Staters.

Malachi, Ruairí's father, got away along with some others. My father got out safely and was pointing his gun at an outlying picket when he was distracted by a shot, a cry and a crash onto gravel. It was his brother, Sean, who had been hit. The Stater managed to turn his rifle and shoot my father in the thigh.

Neither brother was seriously wounded, but they were left lying on the gravel for, I believe, five or six hours, before being taken back to Dundalk Jail. Since they were under automatic sentence of death, it presumably didn't matter much how they died. To quote Churchill, who came over to ensure Erskine Childers was executed: "And such be the end of all our enemies."

The curate, who arrived to minister to the two, told my father that before giving him formal absolution he was to indicate by nodding or shaking his head that if he ever got better, and "there was no chance" of him getting better, that he would never take up arms in the same cause again.

When my father shook his head - he was unable to speak at this stage - the priest said he was unable to give him absolution.

Although only wounded in the thigh, my father survived gangrene and osteomyelitis and spent nearly three years in Bricin's Hospital. Initially, the Free State authorities refused to allow him out to receive medical treatment, nor



mála poist

RACISM

A Chara,

On March 8th, International Women's Day, a delegation of 120 women from England, Scotland and Wales came to Belfast to learn more about the political situation in the six counties, to make contact with local people and to show their solidarity with the republican women prisoners in Armagh Jail who, for more than two years, have been subjected to the inhuman practice of strip-searching.

The delegation included, among others, representatives of various black women's groups. These women, like nationalist women, have borne the brunt of British government policies, of discrimination, prejudice and violence directed against them because of their race and their sex.

Like nationalist women, they have fought back, and the majority of people they met here during their short stay recognised this and welcomed them as sisters and comrades in struggle.

However, there were some others who subjected them to the same racist and sexist attitudes they have always found in Britain. In one incident one of the women was threatened with what looked like a gun by two youths in a nationalist area who

would they allow anyone in to see him.

Sean, also not seriously wounded, died from his injuries inside a month. Again, proper medical attention was refused him.

Ruairí Quinn's father, Malachi, served over two years imprisonment on the *Argenta* in Stranforough Lough. He was also sentenced to six months in 1935 for reading the proclamation at an Easter commemoration and alluding to the murder of three women by crown forces.

Eventually, he had to leave Nevry in 1940 because of a general round-up of republicans. He was still associated with the IRA.

Sean Quinn,
Dun Laoghaire,
County Dublin.

Workhouse memorial

A Chara,

Más ceadmach dom, bheinn buíoch ríont spáis a tháil don smaoinneadh seo.

On April 11th 1923, six men were executed in the workhouse in Tuam, County Galway. Earlier in that year, five men had been executed in Athlone by the Free State forces.

The workhouse itself has now been demolished but the wall where the men were shot still stands. At present, renovation work is proceeding and a plaque has been erected. It is hoped to have the memorial unveiled later on in April or May.

It is also hoped that the commander of the division which lost so many men, General Tom Maguire, will be present to unveil the workhouse memorial.

A booklet is being printed to be released soon and republicans from all over Ireland



said "Let's shoot that nigger".

Nor is this kind of thing only done to visitors or delegates. Black people who come from or live in the six counties face similar harassment day and daily, as do

are invited to help, either by being present on the day or by sending financial donations for the renovation to be undersigned.

Cllr. Frank Glynn,
Milltown,
Tuam.



Bold words

A Chara,

How unfortunate for Communications Minister Jim Mitchell that his speech criticising "mid-Atlantic" culture was published on the same day as a Dublin language enthusiast was bundled off to Mountjoy Prison for refusing to pay for his television licence.

Mr Mitchell, who is ultimately responsible for RTE broadcasting, tried to disown the station's constant promotion of that same Coca-Cola culture when opening Feis Maitid in Cork. He told *Gaeilgeoirí* that improvements in communications technology should be used to "improve our cultural inheritance rather than swamp it". Bold words indeed from the man who does his own bit to preserve

those Chinese and Oriental families and their Irish-born children who work in take-away food bars, and who are often subjected to streams of racial abuse from their customers, especially at night.

All racism, whether anti-Irish, anti-black, anti-Chinese, is the product of imperialist domination and oppression. Like sectarianism and sexism, it divides those who would otherwise unite against the common enemy.

We recognise that the influence of the British media is one of the causes of racial prejudice in nationalist areas, and that the effects of partition, military occupation, sectarian discrimination and violence are all factors which may lead a small number of people to take out their frustration and alienation in the form of racism, just as it leads them also to denigrate and oppress women.

As republicans, we understand all too well the pressures that the nationalist people suffer, but we call on that community to unite with all our comrades in struggle, regardless of race, religion, sex or sexuality. We all have a common enemy, and we must reject the divide-and-rule tactics of our oppressor.

An Runai,
North, South and
East Belfast Sinn Féin
comhairle ceantair.

our cultural inheritance with a meagre 2% of television programmes in Irish.

At the Feis, Mr Mitchell said "mid-Atlantic mass culture" was epitomised by the screen world of *Dallas*, *Dynasty* and *Kojak*. He might have added that the rejection of things Irish associated with Anglo-American culture was also epitomised by the refusal of Garret Fitzgerald to answer a question in Irish at the infamous post-Chequers press conference.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir,
Spokesperson on Cultural Affairs,
Sinn Féin.



Bobby Sands

A Chara,

The Bobby Sands Memorial Committee was founded to honour and perpetuate the memory of Bobby Sands and his comrades who died on hunger-strike in the H-Blocks, Long Kesh, for the freedom and independence of Ireland.

The projects or activities promoted or sponsored by the Committee will be in keeping with the ideals for which these young men sacrificed their lives. These may include educational, social, cultural and economic projects etc., undertaken by them or on their behalf or with their approval.

It will be the duty of the Committee to ensure that at all times, all activities organised or funded by the Committee or on their behalf are motivated by the highest ideals.

Membership of the Committee is composed of individuals only.

1. There will be two sums of up to £600 each available for expenditure in 1985.

2. These will be used to partly fund projects organised by nationally minded people (especially nationally minded youth). Projects relating to the Irish language and culture will be especially welcome.

3. Allocation of funds is the responsibility of the Committee who will make their decision on a democratic basis following advice and consultation.

4. The allocation of funds will be announced on May 5th.

Applications and submissions should be made to the address below not later than May 5th 1985. Applications should include such information (re other funding, objectives, progress (if any) so far, etc.) as possible in the form of a comprehensive and concise report.

Winners will be announced on Bodensdown Sunday, June 23rd 1985.

All submissions to:
An Rúnaí,
Bobby Sands Memorial Committee,
c/o 8 Chalmers Parade,
Ballybough,
Dublin 3.



Artwork

A Chara,

I wonder if anyone from the Voluntary Services Board (VSB) could explain the recent spate of graffiti that has appeared on the walls of Ardoyne? This graffiti is somewhat different from what we have come to accept as the norm, but not entirely. My understanding is that its purpose was to cover some unsightly graffiti.

What has happened, in fact, is that we have walls covered in abstract coloured shapes, totally meaningless to the people of the area. I can't help but wonder if there is a hidden motive for it? Prior to this, the walls in the area had been used (although not entirely) for the painting of political slogans and murals.

Has it come to the notice of the powers that be, in Bryson House, that these murals attract a great deal of attention from the visitors to this area? It is a well-known fact that the photos of the murals in this district have appeared throughout the world. Is the next step for the VSB to replace the murals with the unsightly artwork we have seen up to now?

Gerard McGuigan,
Ardoyne.

The Liam Óg column

Only the best!

HARRY'S GAME AUTHOR Gerald Seymour was being interviewed about his new book *Field of Blood* in one of Dublin's evening papers. As a former news reporter for ITN, Seymour covered the wars in Israel, Rhodesia, Cyprus and Palestine. As a "terrorism specialist" he was asked how he rated the IRA against "the others you have seen in action".

"The best," Seymour immediately answered.

THE cost of a round of drinks for RUC personnel in the border town of Aughnacloy, County Tyrone, must have risen steeply since Garda Sergeant Hugh Coll, a native of Carrigart, County Donegal, now based in County Monaghan, decided to do his bit to improve cross-border relations.

Tired of speaking to his RUC mates whenever they crossed the border at Moy-

bridge, Hugh (obliging man that he is) has been returning the visits by travelling into Aughnacloy and sharing one or two or lots of pints with them.

What with the chat and crack, it was, perhaps, inevitable that on one return journey his car ended up as he felt - smashed.

Maybe it was the men from Aughnacloy who put the whiskey in his tea after all.

A NOT-SO-CLEVER letter was sent to newspapers in London this week threatening dire consequences for English sportspeople visiting Ireland.

The letter, which purported to come from the Republican Movement, was addressed from Sinn Féin "Kevin Street", the hoaxer being apparently unaware that Sinn Féin headquarters moved from that address a decade ago.

RESIDENTS of Wick in Caithness, Scotland, will have a different attitude to the climate in future. Apparently it was only Wick's wetness that saved the area from being chosen as a site for nuclear bomb tests in the 1950s.

The plan was discovered when a 30-year-old paper from the Harwell Atomic

Research Centre was made public at the London hearing into Britain's bomb tests in Australia. Scientist W.G. Marley, the author of the paper, had noted that "one of the most powerful arguments against the Wick site is the question of wetness" and Australia was chosen for the honour instead.

sonally thanked staff of the Grand Hotel at a reception in No. 10 Downing Street last Monday night. Present among the catering staff, waiters and barmaids was Paul Boswell, the hotel manager, who wisely retired from the hotel after the bombing and who refused a desperate Mrs Thatcher's offer to open the Falkland's new airport next May.

SENIOR officers at Newry RUC Barracks are thinking ahead. They have run out of space on the guardroom's roll of honour and

now have plans to extend it to cater for recent fatalities. They are somewhat perplexed at where to stop.

SENIOR officers in the Spanish national police are convinced that Ireland lies somewhere in the sea between Poland and Pennsylvania, though after that things get a bit confusing.

Last August, detectives arrested a Dublin businessman, Brendan Flynn, for the alleged murder of his Belgian business partner. In a document lodged with the High Court, the police said:

Flynn may be secretary of the political party Fianna Fáil/Gael and they would be sympathetic to the IRA."

Ireland wouldn't exactly be Madrid's Chief Constable Jose Hermon's specialist subject on *International Mastermind*. Nevertheless, if I were Garret or Charlie I wouldn't head to the Costa del Sol this summer.

THERE'S a smart alec in the rates office of the DoE in Dungannon who prefaces the address of the local Sinn Féin advice centre so that letters received read "M60 Irish Street, Dungannon".

The Tyrone Brigade of

the Inland Revenue Association with a reciprocal sense of humour are considering re-locating the address of the Market Square rating office to the nearby M1, just a bomb away.

TWENTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD British army Private Mark Green paid dearly for mistaking Germany for Ireland. Green, from Weston-super-Mare in England, shot dead a West German taxi-driver near his barracks at Wulfen last December and was sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

THE Tricolour, over the coffins of executed republicans, is banned from Catholic churches in the North.

Armed men in paramilitary uniform, however, are another matter, as was the case in St Gabriel's Church, Enniskillen, on Tuesday fortnight, at the funeral of RUC Detective

Sergeant Hugh McCormac.

Rows of pews were filled with uniformed RUC men, soldiers and shaken RUC cadets from the training centre in the town who provided the Union Jack-draped coffin with an escort as it left the church.

More hypocrisy and double standards.

THE British Labour Party's shadow foreign secretary, Denis Healey, who was in Dublin last week, was sharply rapped on the knuckles by Fine Gael backbencher John Kelly over comments that he made.

Healey poured lavish praise on the Dublin Coalition and said that things would not be so good under another administration, meaning Fianna Fáil. Kelly chastised Healey and said that amounted to a kiss of death:

"The last thing any Irish party wants," he said, even though he felt the praise for Fine Gael was justified, "is an expression of approval from a British politician."

It would only have the effect of creating sympathy for Fianna Fáil, asserted Kelly.

But Stormont minister Nicholas Scott appears not to have learnt the lesson. Chiding the Catholic Archbishop of New York, John O'Connor, for attacking "the oppression of British rule", Scott said the archbishop would be better off listening to the politicians who belong to the "Friends of Ireland" (sic) group and who regularly condemned the IRA.

A DRUNKEN RUC man who thought he was on the doglegs was fined over £84 after being found guilty of careless driving at Craigavon Court last week.

Brian Connor, aged 33, from Craigavon Barracks was armed and transporting a consignment of 166 milligrammes of alcohol in his bloodstream down West

Street in December 1983, when the rubber road suddenly narrowed and a parked car jumped in front of him, forcing him to take evasive action by writing off an oncoming vehicle.

Fortunately, a passing samaritan, who just happened to have a flask of brandy in his waist-pocket and seeing the shocked

and dazed condition of Mr Connor, administered some liquor and this explained why he was not in a tee-total state when asked to give a urine sample.

The latter explanation resulted in the more serious charges of driving while under the influence of drink and being drunk in charge of a loaded firearm being dismissed.

THE champions of security and a robust security police, the Democratic Unionist Party, had their East Belfast headquarters broken into this week and their local government electoral strategy documents were stolen. They had no night-watchman or alarm and Commandant Ivan Foster's kennel was being repaired.

IRA units all over the country are keeping their fingers crossed that the British government takes up any advice that the DUP gives it on securing the border.

THE Racial Reclassification Board of the Pretoria government in South Africa has just released its annual figures. Reclassification can have a major bearing on the level of discrimination applied to a person under the apartheid system.

And recently the paranoia of the white racists was revealed when Pretoria protested at an academic study which showed that a lot of intermarriage had occurred between blacks and the old Afrikaaner families in the past.

Nearly 800 people were reclassified during the past 12 months. They included

518 Coloureds who were officially reclassified as whites, 14 whites who became Coloureds, seven Chinese who became white and two whites who became Chinese.

There were also three Malays who became white and one white who became an Indian, 50 Indians who became Coloureds, 54 Coloureds who became Indian, 17 Indians who became Malay, four Coloureds who became Chinese and a Malay who became Chinese. There were 89 blacks who became Coloureds and five Coloureds who became black.

THE lengths to which RUC men will go to avoid landmines in County Tyrone is incredible. In the second similar incident in three weeks an RUC man has appeared in court charged with crashing his armoured patrol car through the hedge and into an adjacent bog, ten feet below the road.

Four weeks ago, another constable was acquitted of performing a similar stunt outside Dromore. In this latest incident 25-year-old Reserve Constable Thomas Reid from Beragh Barracks was fined £25.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AN PHOBLACHT REHABILITATION Mews
44 PARNELL SQ
DUBLIN 7

27/02/85

REMINDER: LICENSING OF DATSUN/NISSAN
REG. NO. 670 JEN

IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS DOCUMENT AND RETURN IT WITH ANY NECESSARY

AP/RN's social role has been recognised at last. A reminder for car-tax arrived at the AP/RN offices in Dublin from the Free State Department of the Environment. It was addressed to An Phoblacht Rehabilitation Mews, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 7.

AFTER Brighton, Margaret Thatcher is taking no chances. Next May, the new Falklands Airport will be officially opened as part of a £2,000 million commitment to the South Atlantic sheep-run. But will Margaret be there for the honours? No sir-ee!

Instead, she is sending along Buckingham's Biggles, Prince Andrew, whose cardboard cut-out sat perched on automatic pilot in a Sea-King helicopter throughout the short war

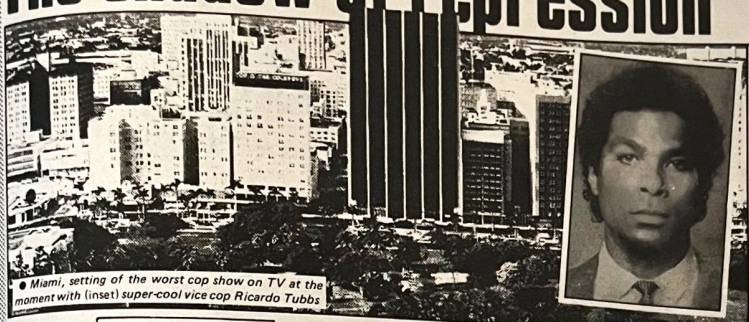
while he watched videos and played dominoes on Ascension Island.

If the *Mail on Sunday* is to be believed, the incapable conclusion is that she considers her survival more important than the Soho Kid's. The paper said: "The prime minister decided the opening honours should go to the prince - who risked his life in the conflict - after it was decided on 'security grounds' that she herself should not go."

WHILST on the subject of Brighton, Mrs Thatcher per-



The shadow of repression



● Miami, setting of the worst cop show on TV at the moment with (inset) super-cool vice cop Ricardo Tubbs

BY AINE MARTIN

THE WOMEN'S PROGRAMME on RTE last Friday night dealt with the problems of the Irish in Britain. Daireann Ni Bhriain was the presenter and we saw a vox pop on the streets of Leeds, a cross-section of British society being asked what they thought of the Irish. It was encouraging to see how members of the Black and Asian communities associated with the hardships of the Irish in Britain.

Then there was a discussion with a studio audience, numbering about a dozen, mostly Irish women or English women of Irish extraction.

The women discussed experiences of the reactions of British people on finding out that they were Irish. These ranged from normal acceptance to hostility and humiliation. When comparing the two countries, the women concluded that, all in all, you had it tough if you were poor on either side of the Irish Sea.

Despite the presenter's best

efforts to avoid the issue — "We'll discuss all this later..." — the subject of politics arose and took up a good deal of the programme. The most powerful emotion to come from the audience was fear. Fear of the PTA, fear of going through a port or airport in case you'll disappear for a week, fear of mentioning that you have an Irish family background, fear even of speaking with an Irish accent.

This was an almost universal experience with vigorous nodding and a loud murmur of assent whenever the shadow

of state repression was mentioned. It may not be something that the women could articulate very well — indeed if they did, RTE would soon edit their efforts — but they understood it well enough.

Miami Vice, on RTE1 on Saturday and BBC1 on Tuesday, has got to be one of the worst cop shows on TV at the moment. Indeed it's probably among the worst TV shows ever made, with all due respect to RTE, who admitted responsibility for *The Price*.

Each week, the inane plots revolve around two detectives, both handsome and wholesome, who go around in an ultra-luxurious car dressed in the latest fashions.

The women in the programme are all beautiful, healthy, scantily-clad and usually smirking idiots. Not a whiff of reality is ever allowed to intrude on this idyl of banal-

ity. These guys are supposed to be going around breaking up prostitution and drug-smuggling rings and sure enough they do, with great gusto and much mindless banter.

But there's never a glimpse of the misery and degradation that is part and parcel of the criminal underworld industries involved in drugs, prostitution and pornography.

No, the facts should never get in the way of the style and the glamour that this show demands. But there's nothing stylish about addiction to heroin, there's nothing glamorous about prostitutes getting savage beatings from their pimps, nor about young girls and children forced into the degradation of pornography. No place for reality here — reality is out, out, out.

Made during an era of post-Watergate paranoia, *Three Days*

of the Condor (Saturday, BBC1) was an excellent, suspense-filled thriller starring Robert Redford and Faye Dunaway. Redford is a lowly CIA researcher who upsets some of his superiors by asking the wrong questions. Retribution is swift and brutal and Redford is forced to go on the run. The tension is kept high with several twists to the tale and Redford discovering that there are traitors among the upper echelons of the CIA.

The film differs from several others of this kind and is superior to them, in that it doesn't have their blind faith in the power of the press. Usually the message is that if you go to an understanding media hack and tell your incredible story, all corruption will be revealed, the baddies exposed and you'll live happily ever after.

This solution, having little to do with real life, was always a bit hard to swallow but it made a convenient enough target to aim for, a boost for the audience's faith in the American Way of Life — the free press protect the free people, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and all that. The bigger and more powerful the newspaper, TV or radio network, the bigger and more powerful the interests behind it. Look at Tony O'Reilly and Independent Newspapers, see how the main national British daily papers and Sunday papers are owned between them by three men.

And so it was satisfying not to be given the usual 'I've told the media, so everything's OK' ending in *Three Days of the Condor*. Redford hints that he's told the *New York Times* the whole story and his ex-chief just smiles, tells him he's dumb and asks "Do you think they'll print it? Do you really think they'll print it?"

music



● BIG SELF

Covering success

BY PHIL TONER

ON THE FRONT COVER of the latest issue of rock magazine *Rolling Stone*, you'll see Young Fine Gaelers U2. Being on the front cover of *Rolling Stone*, more than any other rock magazine, means that you've made it to the top.

Politics aside, U2's success proves that Irish artists can make it to the very top in the rock world. So what young Irish bands are likely to achieve similar success and international acclaim in the future? There are at least three contenders.

The Blades have, for a long time, been the finest band operating out of Dublin. Their music is soul influenced, the sound reminiscent of The Jam circa *Beat Surrender*, the lyrics full of very observations on life in Ireland today.

Their songwriter, Paul Cleary, produces music of tremendous range and outstanding quality. So far the Blades have released five excellent singles and are unlucky that none of these singles proved

successful across the water.

However, their soon-to-be released album, *The Last Man in Europe*, should help them achieve the commercial success which has long eluded them. Such is the anticipation for their album here in Ireland



● U2

that it was voted No. 5 best debut album in *Hot Press* magazine.

Personally, I can't wait to hear it and review it as soon as it hits the shops — it could well be the Irish rock album of the year.

BIG SELF

Big Self is a Northern band which has been around for about five years. They have released two singles — *Don't Turn Around* and *Ghostshirts* — and are, at the moment, resident in London. They too have an album coming out soon, called *Beyond The Pale*.

I saw them live last year and they really impressed me with their powerful no-holds-barred music for the heart and the feet. Because of problems with the management of their English record company, it looked as if Big Self's album might not have seen the light of day.

But it will appear soon and should prove that Big Self are



● IN TUA NUA



● THE BLADES

every bit as good, and better, than the bands which are featured week in and week out on television.

IN TUA NUA

In Tua Nua are a County Dublin band, who seemed destined for the top. They have a strong U2 connection since both Steve Wickham (fiddle) and Vinnie Kilguff (pipes) have played on U2 albums.

In Tua Nua have a very distinctive modern sound based around the siren-like vocals of Lesley Dowdall. But their big advantage over other Irish bands is their U2 connection. Rumour has it that Island Records were persuaded (ahem)

to sign them by Bono. Since U2 are Ireland's biggest selling act, they (Island) could hardly refuse Garrett's mate.

True, In Tua Nua is a talented band, but not as talented as the Blades or Big Self. However, talent doesn't always attain commercial success, and to make it in the music business, you need a lot of luck or the right connections.

In Tua Nua have the necessary connections and their success in 1985 can be confidently predicted. Good luck to them.

As for the Blades and Big Self, who knows what the next year will bring? Better luck to them!

Imeachtaí

'SAME AS IT EVER WAS'
DUBLIN VIDEO SHOWINGS
9.30pm Friday 22nd March
Sunset House

Summerhill Parade
9.30pm Tuesday 26th March
County Bar
Ballyfermot
9.30pm Thursday 28th March
County Bar
Rialto

SINN FEIN
EDUCATION AND YOUTH
SEMINAR

10am to 4pm Saturday 23rd March
Jackson's Hotel
BALLYBOFEY
County Donegal
Everybody welcome

AN CUMANN CABRACH
SALE OF WORK
12 noon to 5pm
Saturday 23rd March
BCA Hall
BALLYFERMOT
Dublin

In aid of republican prisoners

SINN FEIN
CULTURAL DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL MEETING

1.30pm Saturday 23rd March
44 Parnell Square
DUBLIN
One delegate from each
comhairle limistéir to attend

ANTI-APARTHEID
MONTH OF ACTION

PICKETS: BOYCOTT SOUTH
AFRICAN GOODS
Saturday 23rd March
Various venues
Details from JAAM.
Telephone 895035

IMPRESSIONS FROM
NICARAGUA
SLIDE-SHOW

4pm Saturday 23rd March
Just Books
7 Winetavern Street
BELFAST
Taille 50p

CONCERT
(Featuring Ann and
Francie Brolly)

9pm Saturday 23rd March
Urbleshanny Hall
SCOTTSTOWN
County Monaghan
Taille £2

IRISH CLASSES
7.30pm every Tuesday
Nicholas Court

NEWRY
County Down
8pm every Wednesday
Technical School
Quay Street
SLIGO

'THE NICARAGUAN
REVOLUTION'
VIDEO & DISCUSSION

7.30pm Wednesday 27th March
Fleet Bar
Fleet Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN
TRADE UNION GROUP
MEETING

8pm Thursday 28th March
44 Tara Park
SHANNON
County Clare
Ard comhairle member
will attend
All Sinn Féin members
and supporters welcome

FUNCTION
With traditional music
10pm Saturday 30th March

No. 5 Club
Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taille £1
Organised by Inner City
Sinn Féin

STRIP-SEARCH
SEMINAR

3pm Sunday 14th April
Forresters Hall
ENNISKILLEN
County Fermanagh
Speakers: Sean McBride, Des
Wilson and ex-Armagh POW



● Special Branchmen fiercely attack mourners at the funeral of Vol Tom Smith in 1975

Tom Smith - a tribute

LAST SUNDAY, St Patrick's Day, marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Vol Tom Smith who was shot dead by Free State soldiers during an escape attempt from Portlaoise Prison.

Tom Smith, a native of Dublin, was born and reared in Harold's Cross, on the southside of the city. Shortly after the beginning of the present campaign in the North, he joined the IRA and was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the Dublin Brigade.

A dedicated, deeply committed and highly active and able Volunteer, Tom worked tirelessly for the Army, taking part in Battalion and Brigade activities.

In November 1973, along with Volunteers Michael Fox and James Callaghan, he was convicted before the Special Court in Dublin, sentenced to life imprisonment and moved to Portlaoise Prison.

During an escape attempt by prisoners on Monday, March 17th 1975, St Patrick's Day, a hole was blasted in the door of the recreation room leading to the large prison yard on the northern side of the prison. Tom was shot in the head by Free State soldiers who opened fire on the escapees as they entered the yard. He died instantly.

His body was eventually removed from Portlaoise to Dublin the following Thursday, escorted by a guard of honour from the Dublin Brigade IRA. The removal of the corpse the following day and the funeral on Saturday, March 22nd, attended by thousands of republicans, was harassed all along the route from St Joseph's Church, Berkeley Road, to Glasnevin

Cemetery by over 1,000 gardai in riot gear and backed up by a company of heavily-armed military.

BATONED

As the front of the cortege entered Glasnevin, armed Special Branchmen forcibly closed the cemetery gates and, wielding clubs and batons, fiercely set upon the mourners, savagely beating men, women and children. Throughout, mourners, stewards and organisers exercised remarkable restraint, in consideration for the mourning family and respect for the dead Volunteer.

Despite the savage assault on the mourners, Volunteer Tom Smith was buried with full military honours. Derry republican Sean Keenan officiated at the graveside and Joe Clarke of Belfast gave the oration.

COMMEMORATION

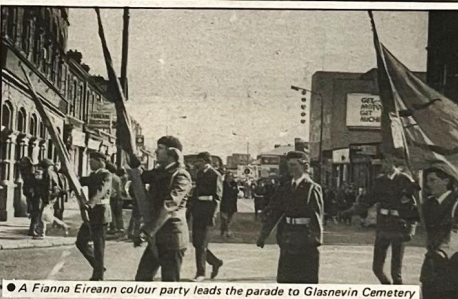
The tenth anniversary commemoration to mark his death fittingly saw the debut of the new Dublin republican life and drum band which has been named after Tom Smith.

Following the traditional route from Berkeley Road Church to Tom's grave at Glasnevin Cemetery, the parade, led by a 30-strong Fianna Éireann colour party and the Volunteer Tom Smith Memorial Fife & Drum Band, was a reminder to many people in town for the annual festivities of the past and continuing sacrifices being made in the struggle for freedom.

The graveside ceremony was chaired



● Former Portlaoise prisoner Micheal O Muireagain gives the oration at the graveside



● A Fianna Éireann colour party leads the parade to Glasnevin Cemetery

by Joe McDonagh of Dublin Sinn Féin's POW Department. After wreaths were laid on behalf of Dublin Brigade IRA, Tom's family and the Tom Smith

Sinn Féin cumann, Finglas, a minute's silence was observed.

Micheal O Muireagain, himself a former republican prisoner in Port-

laoise, gave the oration. Outlining Tom's background and the events which led to Tom's death, O Muireagain highlighted the plight of Mick Kinsella and those republican prisoners in Portlaoise who are serving life sentences but have still not been given any release dates.

GREATER EFFORT

Calling for a greater effort on the political front to complement the gains of the armed struggle, O Muireagain said:

"For republicans in the twenty-six-county neo-colony, the task before us is clear cut. A true revolutionary socialist, republican alternative must be provided to the state and bankrupt policies of the establishment.

"We owe it not only to ourselves and our children but to those like Tom Smith who have made the ultimate sacrifice and whose names appear on the Republican Movement's Roll of Honour."

Slad ar uisceí na hÉireann

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

IS FADA uainn anois laethanta órga na ngeallúintí nuair a dúradh linn go ndéanfadh an CEE leas na tíre seo. Níor baol do fostaíocht a dúradh linn. Bheadh ré órga romhainn a dúradh linn agus ar an dtaobh eile den scéal ní raibh aon rogha againn. Sheas Fianna Fáil agus Fine Gael gualainn le gualainn chun an muc i mála a dhíol leis an bpobal.

Ó shin scriosadh tionscail traidisiúnta na hÉireann, méadaíodh ar an difhostaíocht. Tuigeanann na feirmeoirí nach aon phróca éir é an CEE. Admhaíonn fiú iad siúd is mó a mhol dúinn dul isteach san CEE go bhfuil díomá orthu toisc a laghad aird is a tugadh dos na réigiúin is mó bochtainneachta.

Leannann an slad ar acmhainní aiceanta na hÉireann agus is cosúil anois go bhfuil uisceí na hÉireann faoi shúile sanntacha an CEE arís.



Aithnítear go bhfuil tionscail na hiascaireachta lag in Éirinn. Dá mbhead ceart i réim bheadh an tionscail á neartú chun breis fostaíochta a chur ar fáil, ar mair

agus ar tí i dtionscail próiseála. Tar éis an tsaoil tá fiche cuig faoin gcéad d'uisceí an CEE ag Éirinn.

Ach ghlac rialtas na sé chontae fichead le sócrú a fhág nach raibh acu ach níos lú ná cúig faoin gcéad den méid eisc atá ceadaithe a thabhairt i dtír in aghaidh na bliana. Sar i bhfad scaoilfidh an CEE, le lánchead rialtas na sé chontae fichead, cablach iascaireachta na Spáinne isteach in uisceí na hÉireann.

Tá cabhlach ollmhór ag an Spáinn. I gcomórtas leo níl cabhlach na hÉireann ach mar a bheadh linn i gcomparáid le leon. Cén seans atá acu dul i gcomórtas leo.

CEANGAILTE

Cheana féin tá rialacha an CEE lúibha agus briste ag tíortha an CEE ach fós glacann rialtas na sé chontae fichead leis an gcoir, is fuirist a fheiscint cad a tharlóidh.

Diadhaí ar ndiaidh rachaídh tionscail na hiascaireachta ar cúl sa tír seo. Beidh slad déanta ar uisceí na hÉireann. Seachas fostaíocht bhreise a chur ar fáil is amhlaidh go mbeidh iascairí díomhaoin.

Bá chóir go dtuigfeadh rialtas na sé chontae fichead go bhfuil sé thar am slán a fhágáil leis an CEE. Ach níl aon neamhspleáchas ag an rialtas sin. Tá slad ceangailte go huile is go hiomlán leis an CEE.

Má tá athrú le teacht beidh gá le brú mór ón bpobal.



DERRY PRISONERS' DAY

BY JOE BRADY

THE SINN FEIN POW Department in Derry organised several impressive events to mark Prisoners' Day, March 18th.

On Sunday, March 17th, almost 1,000 people took part in a march and rally which began at the bottom of Westland Street and walked to the Guildhall Square. In spite of a heavy and provocative RUC presence, no incidents occurred.

Susie O'Hagan of Sinn Fein told the crowd that the march was to mark Derry Prisoners' Day and asked them to remember all republican prisoners in prison in Ireland, Britain and America.

The following day, Monday, March 18th, an exhibition entitled 'A Spirit of Freedom' was held in Derry Guildhall. The exhibition featured the use of display boards, with photographs, newspaper cuttings and artwork on the various issues of the prison struggle. Among the issues covered were extradition, segregation strip-searching, repatriation, the use of informers and internment by remand.

The introduction board covered the historical record of the prison struggle from the Tan War to the present day and included internment, the blanket protest, the hunger-strikes and prison escapes from the *Maidstone*, *Crumlin Road* and *Long Kesh*.

TALENTS

The craft section produced a magnificent collection of tables, lamps, clocks, pictures, musical boxes, leather purses and handbags, reflecting the creative and practical talents of prisoners. Among the exhibits was a beautifully carved solid oak table, made in Portlaoise by the late Volunteer Danny Doherty shot dead at Gransha Hospital in December 1984.

The exhibition was officially opened by Fr Padraig O Fichail, who himself served ten years in various prisons in England. Fr O Fichail congratulated the organisers of the exhibition on the quality and high standard of the work displayed and said that



such events were a tribute to the courage and endurance of those imprisoned.

The guest speakers were Pauline Deery, from Belfast, recently released after serving nine years in Armagh and John McCloskey, recently released after a ten-year sentence in England.

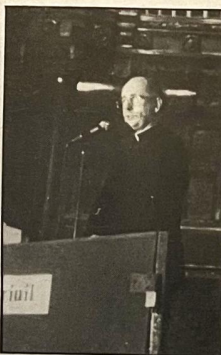
Pauline Deery spoke movingly on the conditions for women within Armagh Prison and gave a stark account of the strip-search procedure.

John McCloskey gave a harrowing account of Irish prisoners held under Category 'A' in England. He specifically highlighted the case of those innocently convicted and asked that a concerted campaign be directed towards their release. He denounced those priests and politicians who sought to further their own careers and public image by using the sufferings of prisoners and their relatives.

VISITING-BOX

The centrepiece of the exhibition was undoubtedly the replica of a visiting-box at Portlaoise

● Ex-prisoners and their relatives take part in a representation of a typical visit in Portlaoise Prison



● FR PADRAIG O FICHAILL

Prison. This portrayed the inhuman visiting conditions which still exist there and during the day a re-enactment of a visit was performed by ex-prisoners and their relatives.

The Prisoners Dependants Board gave an account of the 15 years of work of the PDF on behalf of the prisoners and the names, sentences and prisons of Derry prisoners.

Of great interest to the general public was the display of letters smuggled out of the various prisons over the years, including the original tracts of Bobby Sands' writings and poems.

During the day-long exhibition, videos on the issues of strip-searching and shoot-to-kill were shown at hourly intervals.

Closing the exhibition, Barney McFadden, chairperson of the POW Department, thanked all those who worked to make Derry Prisoners' Day an event worthy of the sacrifices of the prisoners and their relatives. Over 600 people signed the visitors book and he thanked the hundreds of others who came and helped to make the day a union in spirit with those who couldn't be there but who represent the true spirit of freedom.



● JOHN MCCLOSKEY