

AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Sraith Nua lml 7 Uimhir 26 Deardaoin 27 Meitheamh Thursday 27th June 1985 (Britain 30p) Price 25p



● Victory smiles and congratulations for Pat Treanor after his election to Monaghan County Council

ON THE ONE ROAD

FOR FULL
ELECTION
ANALYSIS
& COVERAGE —
SEE PAGES
3, 10, 11 & 12



● Sean MacManus, Sinn Féin party chairperson, delivers the oration at the grave of Wolfe Tone

BODENSTOWN '85
—SEE PAGES 8-10

Mortar and bomb attacks

ON MONDAY, June 24th, IRA Volunteers in Derry placed two massive blast incendiary bombs in two business premises in the commercial centre of the city.

Just before 2pm an IRA active service unit placed the pre-primed bombs into position, one in the office of the Anglia Building Society, the second in the Leicester Building Society's office in The Diamond. Each bomb contained explosives attached to a container of petrol.

While armed Volunteers provided a back-up to secure the area, the Volunteers placed the bombs on the counter of each office and gave warnings. The area was cleared bringing Derry city centre to a standstill. After three hours the bombs were defused by the Brits.

BELFAST

On Tuesday afternoon, June 25th, IRA Volunteers in Belfast shot and wounded a Turf Lodge man, Ed Boyce. In a statement

shortly after the shooting, the IRA said:

"Approximately one year ago Boyce, who has a long history of involvement in anti-people activities, agreed to stop his criminal actions and was given an amnesty.

"Almost immediately, however, he broke this agreement and returned to his old ways. Within the last year he has been involved in break-ins and armed robbery.

"Boyce was not shot for anything he had done prior to the amnesty arrangement but because he broke that agreement and persisted in engaging in criminal actions."

CROSSMAGLEN

The South Armagh Brigade of the IRA carried out a daring mortar attack on a Wessex helicopter at Crossmaglen Barracks on Sunday, June 23rd.

A base plate carrying four mortars was fitted onto a blue Escort van, which had been specially adapted by cutting away part of the roof.

A remote-control firing device was attached to the mortars and time fuses were set, two at six seconds and two at seven seconds. The van was parked 130 yards from the landing pad, in the Dundalk Road area, and one Volunteer then waited for the helicopter to arrive.

As the Wessex came in to land, the Volunteer detonated the mortars. All four mortars landed inside the barracks, breaking the windows in the helicopter which, with considerable difficulty, took off again and flew back to Bessbrook.

A self-destruct charge then destroyed the remote-control unit to prevent it falling into the hands of the enemy.

In their statement, the IRA

"apologise for damage to houses in the vicinity caused by the explosion that destroyed the remote-control unit". Contrary to some news reports, no mortars exploded outside the barracks.



● The Escort van which was used in the IRA's mortar attack on the Brit helicopter in Crossmaglen Barracks

THERE is no doubt that the agreement on extradition signed on Tuesday, June 25th, by US and British government representatives, despite smokescreen references to "international terrorism", is directed exclusively against the national liberation struggle being waged by the Irish people.

The text of the 'supplementary treaty' has been kept a closely guarded secret, hoping to avoid the inevitable outcry from Irish Americans at this endorsement of British colonial repression in Ireland. The text will not be released until the treaty comes before the US Senate for its ratification. However, though the US State Department is being cagey on its provisions, with officials suggesting that it will make the situation of those fighting extradition "more difficult", the British government is claiming that the agreement will effectively abolish the right of fugitives to avoid extradition on the grounds that their alleged offences are political, a right recognised in the current 1972 British-US extradition treaty.

RETROSPECTIVE

The agreement will also attempt to make the provisions of the amending treaty retrospective, which could affect people who have already fought and won extradition cases in the US. Joe Doherty obtained an order refusing his extradition, sought by the US Attorney General at the request of the British government. The US Attorney General then appealed against the refusal to a higher court, which has just ruled that the US authorities do not have a

Extradition = Endorsement of repression



● Sinn Féin members picket the US embassy in Dublin on Tuesday, June 25th, to protest at the new US-British extradition agreement

right of appeal against an order refusing extradition.

However, Joe Doherty is still in prison in New York, awaiting likely deportation proceedings, again at the behest of the

British government. Should the amending treaty be ratified by the US Senate, the British could make a further request for his extradition, under the new provisions.

This political defence against extradition, it is important to remember, is a classic legal principle. As a motion passed at an international lawyers' convention last month in Paris stressed, re-

fusal to extradite people charged with political offences is "an essential safeguard of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to self-determination". The convention was, incidentally, strongly critical of recent developments in international and Free State law which, it said, have eroded this safeguard "to the point of extinction".

In British legal tradition, the principle has survived from the Napoleonic wars. But now, according to British Home Secretary Leon Brittan this week, between "two democratic countries" this democratic principle is not "suitable".

HYPOCRISY

The grim reality behind this hypocrisy is, of course, that both Britain and the US government are actively and militarily engaged in crushing democratic movements across the world — including Central America, where the democratically-elected government of Nicaragua is a major Reagan target, in the Middle East, through US backing for the Israeli regime and, of course, in the occupied six counties of Ireland.

The two governments' latest moves on extradition, coupled with similar offensives staged through the 1977 Council of Europe 'Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism', and recent collaboration between the French and Spanish governments concerning extradition of alleged ETA members, are clear examples of growing collaboration among the powerful capitalist states to crush any threat, however small, to their selfish political and economic interests.

Analysis of Sinn Fein's Election Performance

Definite advance

BY JACK MADDEN

MEDIA commentators have, throughout the past week, done their very best to belittle the performance of Sinn Fein in the twenty-six-county local government elections. Without any reference to the facts, they have made it appear that Sinn Fein had lost in terms of voter support and seats held.

This media distortion began on election night when RTE's *Today Tonight* programme compared the votes secured by various parties in 1979 and last year's Euro election. Sinn Fein, we were falsely told, had not stood candidates in 1979, so in each case the party's vote was an increase.

However, when the final tally was given *Today Tonight* incredibly claimed that the Sinn Fein vote had dropped by 1.8% overall. This claim had no basis in fact and ten minutes later — presumably after angry phonecalls — the programme presenter, Brian Farrell, admitted that something was amiss. How could the Sinn Fein vote have dropped between 1979 and 1985, if, as he had claimed, the party had not stood in 1979? With much humming and hawing *Today Tonight* reluctantly conceded that the 1.8% drop was a lie.

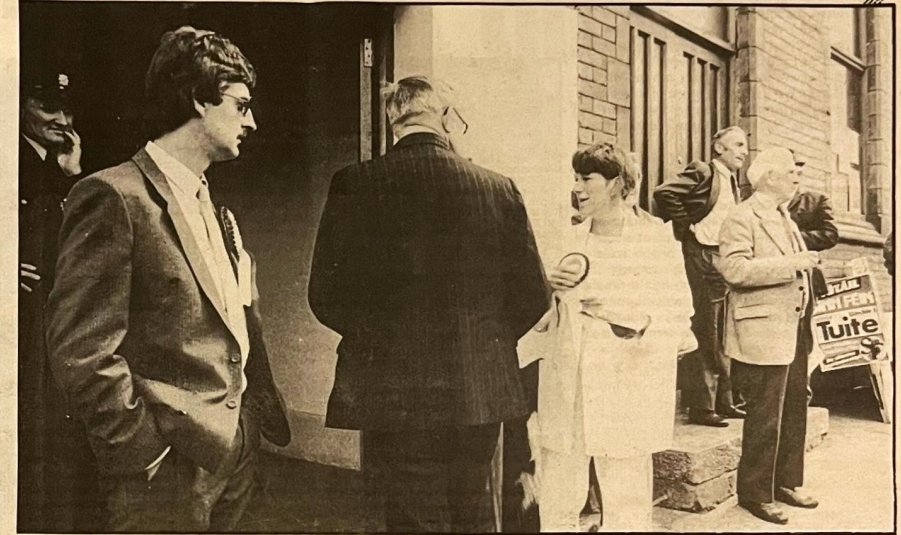
Had they bothered to check with Sinn Fein before the programme, they would have learned that in 1979 Sinn Fein secured 29,798 votes in elections to county councils and county borough councils and with the addition of urban council and town commission votes that overall vote amounted to nearly 34,000.

AND if they had then compared these votes to the Sinn Fein vote in the Euro elections then the latter, 54,672, showed a substantial increase. In fact, in 1979 Sinn Fein got about 2.5% of the vote across the twenty-six counties, while their share of the Euro vote was 4.8%.

While there was a substantial increase, this analogy is misleading because in 1979 Sinn Fein stood candidates in a limited number of areas while the Euro vote included every area. The only true analogy is to compare like with like, and if we compare last week's performance by Sinn Fein, we discover that the county council and county borough council vote has increased from 29,798 votes in 1979 to 45,054 votes in 1985.

If we add all the first preference votes from urban councils and town commissions (some of which have not been received as we go to press) the Sinn Fein vote rises by nearly 9,000 to approximately 54,000. This is not only a massive increase on the 1979 vote but, considering the limited number of areas contested, it was clearly an increase on the Sinn Fein Euro vote.

IN terms of seats gained, Sinn Fein in 1979 had 28 councillors holding 30 seats, today it has 36 councillors holding 39 seats. There can be no doubt from these figures that in overall terms Sinn Fein



● Getting the message across on polling day, Bredge Tuite in Balbriggan...



...And Harry Fleming (right) in Finglas

made significant advances and yet the media continued to suggest that ground had been lost.

'Fianna Fail and the Workers Party were winners and Sinn Fein along with Fine Gael and Labour were losers' according to the *Sunday Tribune*, while other newspapers and RTE simply lumped Sinn Fein into the category of 'others'.

The media in general seemed oblivious of the fact that Sinn Fein had maintained its position as the fourth largest party in the twenty-six counties. More likely they were deliberately magnifying the gains made by the Workers Party and making those gains appear to be at the expense of Sinn Fein as well as Labour. However, the figures state otherwise.

INDEED, even in Dublin city and county where the Workers Party made most of their gains, the Sinn Fein vote rose dramatically from 5,000 in 1979 to 12,446 this year. Again, candidates stood in a limited number of areas but even within those areas of Dublin where both parties fielded candidates, Sinn Fein polled exceptionally well.

In fact in five of the 15 areas of Dublin contested by both parties, Sinn Fein outpolled the Workers Party which has concentrated nearly all its resources in Dublin for the past 15 years. And in other areas, such as Ballyfermot, even Workers Party leader Tomas Mac Giolla found Sinn Fein candidate Jimmy Delaney snapping at his heels. Again, in the big working-class area of Ballymun in the Drumcondra constituency, Sinn Fein's Ann O'Sullivan outpolled the two Workers Party candidates.

There is no doubt that the hard work by Sinn Fein in working-class areas of Dublin has begun to pay dividends and the one seat now held by Christy Burke in the North Inner City, is an underestimation of the real and growing strength of Sinn Fein throughout Dublin city and county.

HOWEVER, the biggest gains were made by Sinn Fein in four of the five border counties: Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Louth. Within these counties, Sinn Fein's share of the vote rose by more than 100% from a combin-

ed total of 6,253 in 1979 to 12,702 in last week's elections.

Besides the extra seats won, Sinn Fein narrowly missed further gains in Louth, where Arthur Morgan in Carlingford and Frank Duffy in Dundalk needed only a handful of votes to take county council seats. In Monaghan, Rose McMahon almost succeeded in joining two other Sinn Fein councillors on Monaghan County Council.

Elsewhere in the twenty-six counties, Peadar Beecher in Cork, Jerry Walsh in Kerry, Paddy Ruane in Galway, John Crabbe in Dublin and a host of urban and town commission candidates narrowly missed election, but new gains came in areas like Kildare, where Paddy Wright won a county council seat, and in Carlow, where Kieran Foley became the first Sinn Fein urban district councillor for half a century.

ENTERING these elections, Sinn Fein stated that it was not forecasting a dramatic increase in seats or votes and that the primary objective of the election campaign was to test and strengthen its organisation. Both seats and votes have increased substantially and the 35-seat target which was predicted in this paper was surpassed.

More importantly, however, the second aim has also been realised. Both the strengths and the weaknesses of Sinn Fein in the twenty-six counties have been identified as never before, as has been the potential for further advances. In five county council areas, the Sinn Fein vote rose considerably as it did in major urban centres such as Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Cork.

Reverses in areas such as Galway and Wexford, where the Sinn Fein vote dropped considerably, need to be examined and acted upon, just as Sinn Fein workers in counties like Cavan, Limerick, Longford and Sligo, where there have been either slight gains or losses since 1979, must sort themselves out and then begin to move forward.

BY DONAL LYONS

THE PREMISES of Livingston & Spencer Ltd, hosiery manufacturers, in Clonard Road, Drimnagh, Dublin, has been occupied by the 110-strong workforce since Wednesday, June 19th. The staff, of whom 70% are women, took this action after management threatened to impose 35 compulsory redundancies.

The DCTU president, Ben Kearney, is the ATGWU official handling the negotiations and he told *AP/RN* that the workers are "incensed" at the lack of meaningful information about the future of the plant.

The factory shop steward, Tony Maloney, adds that those selected for redundancy by management have been unfairly picked, and the 'last in, first out' principle has not been applied. Some of those selected have up to 30 years service. Management have used a criterion of unsatisfactory performance, based on managing director Robert McCann's personal opinion.

In another example of the confrontative style industrial relations policy which employers are increasingly resorting to, McCann told his employees that if they didn't accept the redundancies and leave the factory, the plant would be permanently closed and orders transferred to the parent English company. The workforce have rejected this intimidation and say the occupation will continue until a proper voluntary redundancy package with favourable terms is negotiated.

Nearly 400 jobs in the south-east of the country are at risk, following the announcement that Irish Leathers has gone into receivership. The receivership affects subsidiaries in Carrick-on-Suir, Dungarvan, Portlaoise and Carlow. The loss of so many jobs will be a major blow to the already depressed economy of the region.

As these factories are the only shoe-leather tanneries in the country, the announcement drives a further and possibly final nail into the coffin of the crippled Irish shoe manufacturing industry. This whole sector has been in rapid decline since the advent of the EEC.

A scheme in the Free State, whereby post primary teachers can obtain career breaks, has been attacked by the ASTI as being "defective". Since the scheme was introduced in 1983, the union has found that teachers who take advantage of the breaks are not being replaced by temporary appointments.

Union general secretary Kieran Mulvey says:

"The scheme is largely meaningless and is only a thinly-veiled effort to further reduce the number of teaching posts in secondary schools."

After much pressure from the trade union movement, the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) has agreed to provide finance for unemployment centres, to be set up by local trades councils under the auspices of the ICTU. In an agreement with Congress, the YEA will provide £11,000 towards the running of these centres. Two such centres — one in Belfast and one in Finglas, Dublin — have already been established.

The Dunnes Stores strike fund received a welcome boost when a delegation of Welsh miners came to Dublin, and presented them with a cheque for £600. The presentation took place in the Norseman pub in Essex Street and the strikers say the money will go towards their trip to South Africa.

The cheque was presented by James Kavanagh, auxiliary bishop of Dublin, who in the course of a short speech said:

"It is unfair to expect the Dunnes workers to go back to work without first establishing a code of practice. These workers have demonstrated their moral integrity on a question of conscience."

The strike at Prince O'Brien cold-room manufacturers in Inchicore, Dublin, is still running. There is no sign that management are prepared to enter into mean-

ingful negotiations.

Official pickets were placed on the Gorta office in Upper Mount Street, Dublin, on Friday, June 21st. The pickets were placed after the two remaining paid fund-raisers employed by Gorta received compulsory redundancy notices.

Just a reminder to readers that the lock-out of 90 print workers is continuing at the EPC plant in Coolock, Dublin. As the plant is owned by Robert Maxwell, we ask our supporters to express their solidarity with the workers by not buying Mirror group newspapers.

Tá oifigeach taighde ceaptha ag Comhairle na gCeard Chumann i mBéal an Átha ar feadh tréimhse sé mhí. Sé a bheith de chúram air na suirbhé a dhéanamh i measc oibreathoirí atá ar imirce i Sasana le féachaint an mbeadh fonn orthu filleadh abhaile chun obair thionscail a dhéanamh. Foilseófar torthaí an taighde seo do lucht gnó tionscail a bheadh ag smaoineamh ar chur fúthu i mBéal an Átha.

The union negotiating team at the Irish Steel plant in Cork had meetings last week with both management and Coalition representatives. Peter Barry met the team and he was pressed by Sinn Féin member Donal Varian about his commitment to the future of the plant. Barry replied that he would support the future of Irish Steel if it proves viable.

The union position is that there must be a full investigation into the affairs of the plant, with a view to a further financial input from the state. As Irish Steel is a vital national asset, the demand from Sinn Féin is that it be brought under state ownership.

Managing director of the Irish Press group, Eamon de Valera, circulated staff with a notice saying that if the unions did not accept the new work practices the company would permanently close from 6pm on Wednesday, June 26th.

Socking it to them!



● Striking smiles from smiling strikers at Livingston & Spencer Ltd, Dublin

The IPU have described this as an attempt to "bludgeon" their members into accepting management dictates. As we go to print, last-minute negotiations are in progress to thrash out an acceptable formula for a work resumption. Management have indicated that they will accept the Labour Court recommendations and IPU members are being balloted before the 6pm deadline.

Negotiations have broken down between the MPGWW and Dublin Cargo Handling (DCH) regarding future staffing levels and work practices in the deep-sea section of Dublin Port.

DCH are demanding 50 redundancies by Friday, June 28th, otherwise they will lay-off all the workers. Coalition Minister for Labour Ruairi Quinn has recommended acceptance of DCH's demand but, given the militancy of the deep-sea workers, who are to meet during the next 24 hours to discuss the proposal, it is unlikely that they will acquiesce.

The ineffectiveness of the Fair Employment Agency regarding equality of employment for nationalists was demonstrated this week when planemakers Shorts revealed that the percentage of Catholics taken on in their East Belfast works has actually dropped since they undertook to adopt the FEA's affirmative action programme in 1983.

Between April and December 1984, the number of Catholic applicants had risen to 26%, but the number of Catholics taken on was only 14%, which represented a decrease of 3% on the previous six months.

Shorts said in a statement that there had been a "flattening off" in the number of Catholics employed and that they could offer "no specific explanation" for the figures.

The union recognition dispute between AGEMOU and McMahon & Nagle has now entered its ninth week. Larry Doyle, official representing the 17 striking workers, contacted the Con-

struction Industry Federation (CIF) in an attempt to apply further pressure on management. However, managing director Nagle rejected CIF mediation overtures and persists in his anti-union prejudice.

Labour Court chairperson John Horgan has assured the ICTU that barristers who frequently appear for employers in that court will not be given any special privileges because of their qualifications and will not normally be allowed to cross-examine witnesses or make lengthy legalistic submissions.

Congress see the use of barristers as giving employers an unfair advantage, because workers are unlikely to be able to afford equal representation. Many cases are brought by non-union members and so cannot even be represented by a union official.

The twenty-six-county social welfare system has been described by a leading psychiatrist, Ivor Browne, as insane and based on famine legislation, and Victorian Poor Law attitudes.

He highlighted the fact that in our society the majority of citizens receive a meagre portion of the country's wealth through channels such as the dole, disability allowances, old age pensions and single parent allowances. These grants are given grudgingly and those in receipt of them are treated as failures.

A lively debate is assured at this week's TGWU conference in England. This union, which is organised as the ATGWU in the twenty-six counties, is tabling a motion sponsored by five separate branches that "this conference supports the full unity and independence of Ireland and calls for the withdrawal of British forces from Ireland".

Although conference is unlikely to adopt the motion, and will probably opt instead for support of the Better Life for All Campaign, it is significant that this debate should be raised in a union which has the largest single block vote in the British Labour Party.

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

UNIONIST coat-trailing took a nastier turn last week with talk of "backlash", threats of "civil war" and calls to "kill the killers" — their euphemism for random assassinations of Catholics.

Enraged by the RUC's proposed ban of Twelfth parades through a Catholic area of Portadown, and by recent republican successes, both political and military, the unionists ran to Stormont on Tuesday, June 18th, for a 'fire and brimstone' emergency debate.

"I will shoot them dead myself if the government is not going to do it", DUP Assembly member George Graham said of Sinn Féin councillors, and coined a new slogan: "better dead than green", while Third Force commander, the Rev Ivan Foster said he would "feel no sorrow" at Sinn Féin or IRA members being shot, and asked "God to stir the Protestant people and raise them up", presumably to all join the UVF, the UFF or even the UDR. Official Unionist Assembly members tried their best to keep up the tone of the debate with threats of "growing anger" and of "backlash".

The next two days were to see more of the same and smash completely the facade of constitutionalism which the British government had been building around unionist politicians since the Assembly's opening back in 1982. OUP Assemblyman Robert McCartney spoke of "vigilante groups" being formed if "nothing was done", and DUP's George Graham went one further by declaring he was prepared to "stand by the UVF and fight".

OUTBURST

The cause of the outburst, DUP leader Ian Paisley explained, was the recent killing of RUC men by the IRA, which he said was designed to "help Dublin's case" in the London-Dublin summit talks. A slightly more honest explanation was given by OUP leader James Molyneux on Thursday, June 20th, when he attributed unionist rage to the presence of Sinn Féin on the councils, and the re-routing of Orange parades, which he called the last straw.

The RUC's decision to re-route several Orange parades in Portadown was announced to unionist party leaders on Thursday, June 20th, by British director Douglas Hurd. Paisley and Molyneux were meeting Hurd to call on him to intensify repression against nationalists and to stress their total opposition to anything like 'joint courts' between Belfast and Dublin.

But the British response was quite humiliating for the bellicose unionists; the present British 'security policy' was to continue for the time being, as were the talks between the Free State and British

Fire and brimstone unionist threat



● The DUP's deputy-leader Peter Robinson and chief whip Jim Allister

governments, and furthermore the unionists' 'right' to terrorise nationalists under the guise of commemorating the Boyne really was not on — bad for the image and all that. Hurd's words sent the unionists into a frenzy.

Orange Order Grand Master the Rev Martin Smyth called the ban "unacceptable" and threatened there would be "trouble" if it went ahead, Molyneux

blamed the ban on a "handful of agitators" — republican ones, of course — and his bigoted deputy and Lambeg drummer Harold McCusker called on "150 years" of tradition to defend the Orangists right to march through 'The Tunnel' area of Portadown.

SYMBOL

But far from being "the last straw", the

parade ban is in fact the main reason for unionist anger, as they view the Twelfth as a symbol of their domination over the six counties and an opportunity to remind Catholics of whose boot is on whose neck in this Orange statelet.

However, those strident displays of hatred and bigotry do not really suit the Brits at a time when they are trying to sell a few minor concessions to Dublin in exchange for increased collaboration by the Free State against republicans. And indeed, at a time when the Brits and the Americans are signing an extradition treaty, anything which might remind people in the South and in the States that there is an oppressed minority in the six counties is unwelcome.

Hence Hurd's insistence that 'security' is improving "all the time" — to keep unionist politicians at bay — alternating with calls on Dublin for increased collaboration every time the IRA carries out a successful operation.

DOMINATION

But unionists are not worried about moves to bring together the RUC and the Garda. Meetings between those bodies are looked upon approvingly, as would be a right of 'hot pursuit'. Anything that increases the repression of republicans is acceptable as long as unionist domination of the six counties is not infringed.

Similarly, recent unionist threats linked to the London-Dublin talks is nothing more than the unionists realising that the talks are collapsing and trying to claim responsibility for scuttling them. Banning an Orange parade, however, is a different story, as is the presence of a Dublin judge in a Belfast court.

Loyalism thrives not on some abstract British identity but on the privileges and the power given to a million unionists by Britain, to enjoy and exercise at the expense of half a million nationalists and of the entire Irish nation.

Recurring theme of bigotry

BY JANE PLUNKETT

SDLP VACILLATIONS and continuing unionist attempts to disenfranchise Sinn Féin voters have been the recurring theme of the past week's council meetings in the six counties.

Loyalist-dominated Lisburn Council, which has already excluded Sinn Féin from council committees, at Tuesday night's meeting barred the party's two councillors from even speaking. The unionists' pretext was that Sinn Féin's Pat Rice and Damien Gibney had refused to stand during a sectarian 'tribute' to crown forces killed by the IRA. The unionists spent the next 90 minutes demanding the party's immediate proscription.

Other solidly loyalist councils, it seems, have been eager to join in the Sinn Féin-bashing antics. This week both

Newtownabbey and Ballymena councils voted to ban Sinn Féin from their premises — though the party is represented on neither council. DUP chief whip Jim Allister asserted that the Newtownabbey council chamber had been "desecrated" last week by the presence of the Sinn Féin chairpersons of Omagh and Fermanagh councils at a Housing Council meeting held there.

Elsewhere during the past week, Sinn Féin councillors have continued to challenge such exclusions. Cookstown unionists' exclusion of Sinn Féin — by transferring council business to special committees — is to be reviewed at a special council meeting tonight (Thursday).



● Sinn Féin Councillors Pat Rice and Damien Gibney

Sinn Féin, which is the major nationalist party, was supported in requisitioning the meeting by the SDLP members.

DERRY

Meanwhile in Derry, some of the boycotting unionist councillors appear increasingly restless at their self-imposed isolation. At Tuesday night's monthly council meeting, two Official Unionists put in a two-hour stint, and nominated several fellow loyalists for committee places.

the respectable middle-class councillors of the controlling SDLP group remain more worried about preserving their cosy 'you scratch my back' relationship with the unionists, than with defending nationalist interests. On Monday night, June 24th, the SDLP spurred the IIP candidate and block-voted to elect an OUP chairperson of the council's finance and general purposes committee.

SDLP members, who in recent meetings have abstained rather than support Sinn Féin, on this occasion evidently found no problem in voting alongside self-appointed UVF mouthpiece George Graham.

MAGHERAFELT

And in Magherafelt the same night, the SDLP, intimidated by loyalist fury at the IRA's execution of an RUC man in Killea two weeks ago, actually proposed a motion of "sympathy" and, capitulating again

to loyalist pressure, refused to back a non-sectarian motion from Sinn Féin sympathising with all those who have suffered bereavement as a result of the British presence in Ireland.

Variations on the issues raised in Magherafelt and Newry and Mourne seem set to become a regular occurrence on councils where Sinn Féin is represented, and their significance should not be underestimated.

The RUC will not be alone in interpreting the SDLP's capitulation to loyalism in Magherafelt as a callous snub to the sufferings of the oppressed nationalist people.

Sinn Féin's entry onto the council scene has meant that for the first time in 63 years of unionist rule and blatant repression, there are now people in the councils who are prepared to stand up — sometimes as the lone republican representative — and consistently challenge loyalist supremacy.

NEWRY AND MOURNE

Over in Newry and Mourne,

Call for action on strip- searching

THE STRIP-SEARCHING of women prisoners in Armagh Jail was the subject of a meeting organised by the Irish Council of Trades Unions in the O'Lehane Hall, Dublin, on Wednesday, June 26th.

The meeting was chaired by Inez McCormick and speakers included: Christina Carney, LGPSU; Helen O'Mahony, Stop the Armagh Strip-Searches Campaign; Matt Merrigan, ICTU; Free State Senator Mary Robinson; P. McKeown, ICTU; and former Armagh prisoner Eileen McKearney.

Christina Carney questioned the motives of the strip-search procedure, saying that it was an attempt to break the bodies and the spirits of prisoners. Women trades unionists in particular must take up the issue as "by our silence we endorse it", she added.

Strip-searching was "institutional violence" said Matt Merrigan, "a deliberate and obscene attempt to break people who want Ireland united". He called for a trade union campaign to be set up that night to fight all degrading and inhuman practices and pointed

CHRISTINA CARNEY, EILEEN MCKEARNY & INEZ MCCORMICK

out that the Northern Ireland Committee of the ICTU accepted that strip-searching was a violation of human rights.

FEMINIST ISSUE

This is an important feminist issue, declared Mary Robinson, as any additional suffering impinged on all of us, especially women. She had tabled a motion to the Free State Senate that day, she said, calling for Coalition Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry to raise the matter with Douglas Hurd. It had been signed by all women senators except Treas Honan, who wanted to sign it but could not because she is acting chairperson of the Senate.

The urgency of the situation was stressed by every speaker, who pointed out that trade unionists should act immediately to put existing resolutions and motions into practice and work to end strip-searching.

Former prisoner Eileen McKearney gave an account of being strip-searched when she was five months pregnant. She had already endured 12 such searches during her imprisonment. She was forced to strip naked, and stand while prison warders scrutinised her body, then she was ordered to turn around in a semi-circle and then a full circle. Eileen McKearney had to stand naked for a full five minutes while her pregnant, naked body was stared at. "These searches are a weapon the British government use against women prisoners. I appeal to everyone to join the Anti-Strip-Search Campaign committees and to voice their objection to this treatment," she said.

The audience of over 100 trade unionists were urged to condemn the strip-searching in Armagh and call publicly for its cessation at the ICTU conference in Killarney next week.



Section 31 exposed

SEAN MacMANUS, Sinn Fein national chairperson and candidate in last week's local elections to Sligo Corporation and County Council, appeared in a Sligo court on Friday, June 21st, on a charge of non-payment of a TV licence.

MacManus and the other Sligo Sinn Fein candidate, Timmy Newell, told the judge that they were refusing to pay their licence fees in protest at the political censorship of Section 31, which bans Sinn Fein spokespersons from RTE airwaves.

Judge Gilvarry fined MacManus £30 or two weeks in jail and Newell £50 or two months imprisonment.

PROTEST

There was a large protest by Sligo Sinn Fein outside the Teel-

ing Street Courthouse during the hearing. With the increase of the republican vote and the number of Sinn Fein councillors around the county, the blatantly undemocratic nature of Section 31 will be further exposed in the months ahead.

MacManus and Newell have pledged that they will not be paying the fines or the licence fees in accordance with Sinn Fein's principled stand for free speech.

Pensioners snubbed by GAA

TEN old-age pensioners fell victim to GAA bureaucracy on Sunday, June 23rd, when officials refused them access to the stands in Croke Park.

One of the group was veteran republican Bill Davitt and he expressed anger at the attitude of the officials. The GAA is supposed to allow free access to senior citizens to the stands at this and other venues. Last Sunday, however, the pensioners, some of them in their 90s, watched the Leinster hurling semi-finals from Hill 16.

When asked to comment on this shabby treatment of life-long GAA fans a spokesperson at GAA Ardchomhairle offices denied any knowledge of the incident. Small consolation indeed to the disappointed and limb-weary pensioners who have a right to expect more from the sporting body they have supported for so long.

Cabra activist victimised

A 24-YEAR-OLD Sinn Fein activist from the Cabra area of Dublin approached the Irish Council for Civil Liberties on Wednesday, June 26th, and outlined the continuous garda harassment he has suffered within the past year.

Martin Kearns has been arrested and taken to Cabra Garda Barracks three times in the last eight months and threatened that he would be charged with offences with which he was unconnected.

The first occasion was eight months ago, when three uniformed gardai arrested him at his home for alleged breaking and entering. After three hours he was released

without any charge.

Three months later he was again arrested, this time accused of 'car theft'. Once more he was back on the streets within three hours, uncharged.

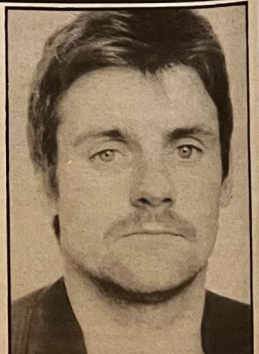
SECTION 30

Then on Wednesday this week gardai called to his home at 5.45am and arrested him under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act, even though he was told that his alleged offence was 'car theft', which is not a scheduled offence. When he reached the barracks, however, the grounds for his arrest were changed to the alleged possession of shotgun cartridges in a car which had allegedly been stolen. And when Tony

O'Flaherty, Sinn Fein community worker in the area, got a solicitor to contact the barracks on behalf of Kearns, the solicitor was told by gardai that Kearns would be charged with 'malicious damage', no mention being made of shotgun cartridges or stolen cars.

A half-hour after the solicitor called and five hours after his original arrest, Kearns was released without any charges being laid against him.

Commenting on the arrests, Tony O'Flaherty said that in none of these cases had the gardai any grounds for arresting Kearns, and that their only aim appeared to be to harass and intimidate a known Sinn Fein activist.



MARTIN KEARNS

Dungannon inquest

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AT an inquest hearing in Dungannon on Monday, June 24th, the North's corrupt legal system was once again exposed when the British government's infamous shoot-to-kill policy was unashamedly endorsed.

The inquest concerned the cold-blooded shooting, on December 4th 1983, of IRA Volunteers Colm McGirr and Brian Campbell from Coalisland, County Tyrone, who were killed by members of the SAS undercover squad.

The Volunteers, who had been about to check an IRA arms dump, were killed by a fusillade of over 70 shots. Brian Campbell, a 19-year-old motor mechanic, was hit twice in the back and died a short time later, and Colm McGirr, a 23-year-old bricklayer, was hit a total of 13 times in the back, thigh, leg and arm. Another Volunteer was also injured in the ambush but was able to make his escape by car.

ABSENT

At Monday's inquest only one of the six Brits actually involved in the shooting was called to give evidence — the others conveniently absent to avoid the risk of inconsistencies in their statements being exposed under cross-examination.

In the Brits' submitted statements, their account of uncovering the IRA dump, of staking the area out for almost three days, of watching as the Volun-

teers arrived and then allegedly challenging them to halt before firing on them, was a carefully concocted story obviously intended to keep them well within the yellow card guidelines. This was strongly emphasised by the solicitor for the dead Volunteers' families, Paddy Duffy, when he extracted from a soldier (identified only as 'Soldier F') the fact that all the Brits involved in the shooting had met an army solicitor within hours of the incident and discussed their version of events before making statements to the RUC. It also emerged that no fingerprints had been taken from either the IRA weapons or the Brits because it "had been raining", and no hand swabs were taken from the Volunteers.

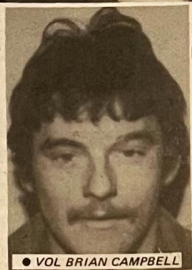
DANGEROUS

Asked the obvious question as to why the IRA weapons in the dump had not been rendered harmless when first discovered by the undercover squad, thus avoiding the need to shoot anyone handling them, RUC Detective Superintendent Scott, forgetting that the dump had been thoroughly searched by the Brits, made the inept reply that "it would have been very dangerous in the dark to remove the magazine".

It also emerged from Scott's cross-examination that in comparison to the way civilian suspects are interrogated when a



● Patrick McGirr (left) and Brendan Campbell, the fathers of the dead Volunteers, outside Dungannon Courthouse after the inquest.



● VOL BRIAN CAMPBELL



● VOL COLM MCGIRR

shooting incident has taken place, the RUC had used kid gloves when questioning the Brits. The families' solicitor also put it to Scott that he had not investigated the so-called "evidence" supplied by the Brits in the same way as he would have other evidence. Scott's give-away reply was:

"I can't go any further as far as army matters are concerned."

Another RUC detective under cross-examination agreed to the possibility that both weapons could have been placed beside the Volunteers after the shooting, but all references to the Brits having shot the Volunteers without warning was dismissed by Ministry of Defence solicitor Piers Grant on "lack of evidence".

MEDICAL HELP

Disparities in the Brits' evidence also came to light over the issue of medical help for the shot Volunteers. An ambulance man told the court that an ambulance had only been summoned 30 minutes after the

shooting. When they arrived at the scene at 3.45pm, it was then a further 20 minutes before he was allowed by the RUC to check the bodies. A pathologist's report conceded the possibility that Brian Campbell was still alive for some time after he was shot. This deliberate delay in summoning expert medical assistance, even though there were doctors in nearby Coalisland, Stewartstown and Dungannon, further reinforced the view that the Brits were interested only in killing and not arresting the Volunteers. It also emerged that a priest who was at the scene was not permitted access to the Volunteers until 6pm.

WHITEWASH

The almost totally loyalist jury spent less than 1½ hours deciding that the Volunteers had died as:

The result of gunshot wounds sustained by army action while they were in the process of retrieving guns and paramilitary clothing.

They ignored the inconsistencies in the Brits' evidence and raised no objection to the deliberate murder of two young unarmed men, apart from some token criticism of the delay in providing a doctor to examine the Volunteers.

The families of Volunteers Campbell and McGirr issued a joint statement after the announcement of the verdict in which they accused the British army and RUC of a deliberate whitewash of the truth. During the inquest, Patrick McGirr ensured that it was recorded in the evidence that both Volunteers' lives had been threatened a week before their deaths by these very people.

Show-trial victims highlighted

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE need for intensified public protest in support of imprisoned victims of the paid-perjurer system was the theme of an informative and well-attended meeting in West Belfast's Conway Street Mill on Sunday afternoon, June 23rd.

The meeting was organised to highlight, in particular, the fact that nearly two years after the end of the Christopher Black show-trial, the judicial appeals by defendants in the case still have not begun.

Platform speakers pointed out that a number of Black's victims are serving lengthy sentences — including life imprisonment — on the sole basis of uncorroborated and contradictory "evidence" by Black — "evidence" bought by the North's colonial authorities with cash and the inducement of immunity from prosecution. When the appeals finally begin, next autumn, many defendants will have already served the equivalent of an eight-year jail term.

INJUSTICE

Among the speakers were Ardoyne man Desmond Breslin (already released, having completed his six-year sentence on Black's word) and Phil Mulgrew (sister of another of Black's victims). Both described vividly their personal experiences of the blatant corruption and injustice of the show-trial system. Citing one of many instances from her bro-

ther's case, Phil Mulgrew said: "Kevin was sentenced to life plus 962 years, mostly for incidents that we don't know ever took place, only Christopher Black said they did."

Since November 1981, speakers pointed out, over 500 men and women have spent long periods on remand through this latest British method of mass imprisonment. Some 29 men, all nationalists, are currently serving lengthy jail terms.

Stop the Show-Trials committee member Bernadette McAliskey, drawing lessons from internment and the 1980 and 1981 hunger-strikes, stressed the need for "coordination" and "maximum unity of purpose" among nationalists opposed to the show-trials.

IMMORAL

Speaking next, Fermanagh priest Fr Joseph McVeigh condemned the RUC's use of paid-perjurers as "institutional violence". Adding that the "undemocratic and immoral" six-county statelet should not be "propped up in any way by people who call themselves Christians", McVeigh strongly criticised the Church hierarchy who, he said,



● Bernadette McAliskey (left) addresses the Conway Street STSTC meeting. Also on the platform are (left to right) Maura McCrory, Desmond Breslin, Fr Joseph McVeigh, Phil Mulgrew and Ellis Kelly

were "united against change because they are afraid of the ordinary people."

The final speaker was Belfast lawyer Ellis Kelly, who cited examples of blatant injustice from the McGrady, Quigley and other show-trials. She concluded that "the quality of the evidence,

the standard of proof, in such cases is no higher than internment", though with the "important difference" that "some are serving life or very long determinate sentences".

In the course of the meeting, STSTC chairperson Maura McCrory read out messages of sup-

port from, among others, British Labour Party MPs Tony Benn, Joan Maynard and Chris Smith, and Euro-MPs Richard Balfe and Alf Lomas.

PAMPHLET

A new pamphlet, drawing together a wealth of informative detail on the Christopher Black show-trial and the cases of individual defendants, was published this week by the Stop the Show-Trials committee.

Entitled *Victims of the 'super grass' system*, this booklet is available from the committee, c/o 49 Dermotill Road, Belfast 11. Price 30p (45p outside Ireland) plus 15p postage and packing. Discounts for bulk orders are available on request.



UMBRELLAS AND RAINCOATS were left aside last Sunday when, after days of incessant rain, the sky cleared and brilliant sunshine shone on the thousands of people who assembled on the route from Sallins to Bodens-town, in County Kildare, for the annual Wolfe Tone Commemoration.

BY JACK MADDEN

Earlier that morning, it appeared from the overcast sky that the picnics and the carnival atmosphere, which make the Bodens-town Commemoration a social as well as a political occasion, would be absent this year. Happily, however, this was not the case.

The colourful parade gathered at a new field on the Bodens-town side of Sallins, while bands from Scotland and throughout Ireland provided their usual lively entertainment for family groups who stood along the parade route.

The main topic of conversation amongst the crowds seemed to be the Sinn Féin performance in the local government elections during the week. Because of the parochial nature of such elections, very few people had an overview of the situation throughout the twenty-six counties.

SUCCESS

Groups from County Monaghan, flushed with electoral success, led the Sinn Féin cumainn along the route. They, in turn, were led by a republican colour party and contingents from Cumann na mBan and Fianna Éireann.

At Bodens-town churchyard, ceremonies were chaired by Joe Cahill who congratulated Sinn Féin's election workers on their success, adding that the good humour throughout the parade reflected the confidence of republicans.

A short and spirited speech was delivered by Jimmy Andrews, a veteran republican from Dublin, and he was followed on the platform by Dan McCormick from San Francisco, who was one of those honoured at this year's Republican Testimonial Dinner.

Sean Fitzpatrick of the National Graves Association announced that the third edition of the highly popular *Last Post* had been produced and added that small memorials to Volunteers murdered by Free Staters in 1922-23 would be restored within the coming years and that funds would be needed to do this.

The oration was given by Sean MacManus, Sinn Féin party chairperson, who said:

Comrades,
We have marched here today along a familiar route, along roads traversed by many other republicans in different generations, some of whom were executed by British firing squads or Free State assassins, and others who have given their lives in this phase of the struggle on the streets and in the jails.

We left our homes yesterday or this morning to make our annual rededication to republicanism at the graveside of Wolfe Tone who gave us our ideology and political faith. Some of us came from the six counties and had to travel through checkpoints set up by British gunmen, others have come from every corner of the twenty-six counties, and even here the British have us under surveillance through their Free State lackies.

We are glad and proud that they fear us.

They are right to consider us a threat to the security of British rule in Ireland, because we represent the desire of the Irish nation to achieve nationhood and to have permanent peace and justice once and for all.

TOTAL INDEPENDENCE

We are the risen people and we will stop for nothing short of total independence, and we will not

be happy until the main prop of the border and of foreign rule in Ireland — the British crown forces — are sailing down Belfast Lough destined for England, as the sun finally sets on the last outpost of the British empire.

That is a day which we will see, that I can assure you. It is a day which all sections of this movement are building for — principally through the armed struggle of the IRA, but also through the growth of a powerful Sinn Féin — and for which many sacrifices are being made daily.

In this last year, Volunteers have been killed in operations in East Tyrone, in Newry, in Fermanagh and Armagh, in Derry and Strabane. Nationalist

civilians have been assassinated by loyalist paramilitaries and, in one incident before the international press, the sectarian RUC, in their most publicly bloody action since Derry's Duke Street baton charge in 1968, attacked peaceful demonstrators in West Belfast killing John Downes and seriously injuring several others.

In the councils in the North to which Sinn Féin had

59 councillors recently elected, the uncontrollable sectarian and indeed

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59 councillors recently elected, the uncontrollable, sectarian and in-deed

'racist behaviour of the loyalists has exposed them to the world. They are eroding whatever outside sympathy exists for their cause, they have embarrassed their British government patrons and have ensured, beyond our expectations, that the British would find it extremely difficult to devote more power to the councils.

In the twenty-six counties, Sinn Féin is the only party with a realistic analysis of the forces at play in the struggle for a united, democratic Ireland. The Coalition government and Fianna Fáil have been humiliated by Thatcher's school-mistress-like dismissal of their Forum report — the so-called bible of constitutional nationalists. The authors of the Forum report deliberately left out the last chapter — what to do when the British government says "Out, out, out!". They omitted that because they have nothing meaningful and effective to advocate beyond continuing their policy of propping up the border, repressing republicans and perpetuating Free Stateism.

It would not have been so bad if it were only Messrs FitzGerald, Spring, Haughey and Hume who were snubbed and humiliated, but they had presented the report claiming to speak for the majority in Ireland. Ordinary people were

PART AND PARCEL

In recent days, the Orange judiciary in the North has shown that it is part and parcel of the unionist establishment by stepping into the talks going on between London and Dublin and by opposing judges from the South sitting along with them in political trials.

FitzGerald had hoped that such a development could be presented as a major role for Dublin in Northern affairs to guarantee fair play for nationalists. The paranoid Orange judges and the loyalist parties fear that any erosion of their hegemony is the slippery slope to a united Ireland.

That is certainly not the case, and FitzGerald is left — 2½ years after endorsing the Forum process as the only way forward — with not a crumb of comfort to show for it.

And still politicians like FitzGerald and Haughey haven't learnt the lesson, haven't got the measure and nature of British rule in Ireland. They lack the moral courage to do what is required and see events through to a conclusion which leaves this country controlled by its own people.

TRAMPLING OVER

Thatcher continues to humiliate the Irish people by ignoring and trampling over the wishes of the vast majority of people in Ireland who

desire to live in peace and prosperity.

And that is why a 100lb bomb roared through the Grand Hotel in Brighton. That is why mortars rained down on Newry Barracks, that is why a car-bomb exploded in Belfast last week and exploded the British propaganda myth that a gloss of normality can be brushed over the brutal conditions which our people endure there.

Wolfe Tone bequeathed to history and to Ireland his views and writings on the contemporary political conditions in the country. He identified the crown in Ireland as being "the ever-falling source of all our political ills". He saw the dangers of sectarianism and correctly advocated the unity of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter as being a powerful weapon against continued British rule.

SECTARIANISM

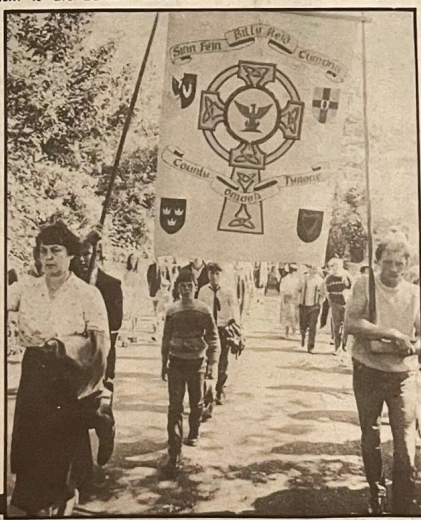
Today, the greatest, single continuing source of sectarianism is the border. Sectarian-

ism advocated by loyalists, whose veto is, in turn, supported by Britain, has divided Catholic from Protestant. It has been tried and it has been proved impossible this side of British rule to win significant numbers of Protestants to the cause of national independence. We can do nothing about this beyond seriously regretting it and assuring those people that the independence which we are fighting for will — despite their refusal to consider it — guarantee them civil and religious liberty and will guarantee peace, prosperity and stability. In those conditions the cause of sectarianism — privilege and ascendancy based on division — will wither and will eventually be eliminated.

Many loyalists with their insane talk of repatriation clearly can see the writing on the wall. The nationalist people of the North are not prepared to accept or tolerate British rule and its accompanying ills. Through the Irish Republican Army they are prepared to struggle and fight until the resolve and commitment of Britain is shattered.

ELECTION RESULTS

The struggle in which we are engaged has many facets. This week, the election results are a boost to our commitment to



build a relevant and revolutionary political organisation. It is a slow hard task but we can see the dividends. On the election trail we raised the national question, the Free State's treatment of the Portlaoise political prisoners, and British repression in the form of shoot-to-kill policies, plastic bullets, show-trials, military prisons and the strip-searching of the Armagh women prisoners.

At this point I would like to briefly comment on a few aspects of the elections, and in particular, the media distortion of the percentage vote gained by Sinn Féin.

Despite the fact that we only stood candidates for approximately one third of the seats available, RTE and the daily papers insist on basing our percentage vote on the total twenty-six-county area.

This is obviously unfair as it hides the fact that the Sinn Féin percentage is closer to 7 or 8% than to the 3.1% being quoted in the media.

'OTHERS'

We must take issue with the way which we are continually lumped into that anonymous group known as 'others', despite being the fourth largest party in the Free State.

Section 31, with its inbuilt bias against Sinn Féin, must also be held responsible for the distorted information which is reaching the public.

The final point about these elections which we should remember is that — unlike other parties — Sinn Féin candidates, whether elected or not, will continue to work and help their local communities.

We also confirmed during these elections what we have realised for some time and that is the damage which partition has done in terms of the thinking of the public. The difference between the North and South is that 64 years divide most of the people of the twenty-six counties from the reality of an armed British soldier and the vulgarity of the sectarian RUC and UDR, who are cosily referred to by some as our 'fellow Irish countrymen'.

Attempts by successive Dublin governments to turn the twenty-six counties into a 'nation State' have failed, though not without a price. Again, Section 31 has ensured that people receive sifted and selective information about events in the North.

OBSTACLES

The task thus facing repub-

licans is a hard one. But we must not become lethargic or apathetic. There are ways around all the obstacles placed in our way. Attempts to make us political lepers have failed — as the election results have shown — and we can make up for official ostracism by rooting ourselves even deeper among the working class of this country.

We have to develop radical political policies and we have to extend further afield those successful campaigns which we have already been involved in, for example, our opposition to the proposed water rates, our support for the Concerned Parents' efforts to alleviate drug pushing and the horrors which it creates, and ongoing campaigns for ample and adequate housing, and the right of every person to full and secure employment.

The future for republicanism is sound, of that we are sure. We are a growing movement, supported by increasing numbers of people North and South, who will break the back of British rule in Ireland. We continue to grow and will have a major bearing on political events and developments in Ireland.

STRENGTH

We draw great strength from the victories of people around the world who struggled and threw off foreign rule and native oppressors. From Vietnam to Nicaragua and Zimbabwe, the ordinary people organised themselves, fought against tremendous odds and emerged victorious.

In Ireland the Irish Republican Movement is on the same path. We know that Britain and its forces will throw yet more violence and oppression against us for daring to challenge their rule. We know that there are dark days ahead, we know that there are sacrifices to be made and that we will sustain heart-breaking losses. But we will go on until real and lasting peace is achieved.

It is such determination which maintains the morale of our prisoners, particularly our comrades in British jails. It was such drive that sustained the blanketmen and then ten brave hunger-strikers through their 7-month-long protest in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

On this Bodentown Sunday, let us leave here determined to organise more actively, and with the advice once given from this graveside by Padraig Pearse, that we will go out and follow up our words with active deeds.

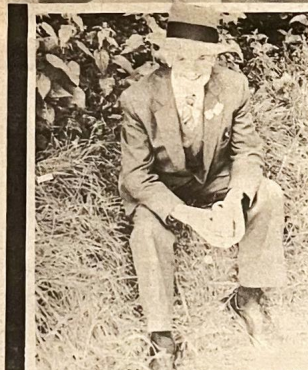
We will have our independence, we will emerge victorious. We know it. The Free Staters know it. The loyalists know it and we will be making sure in the days ahead that Britain comes to realise it as well.



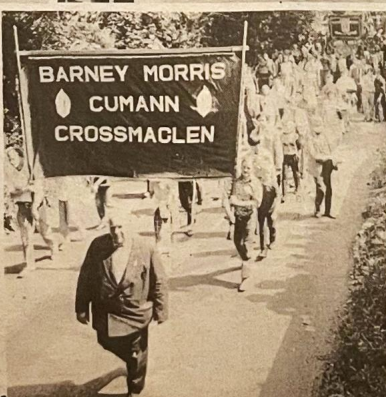
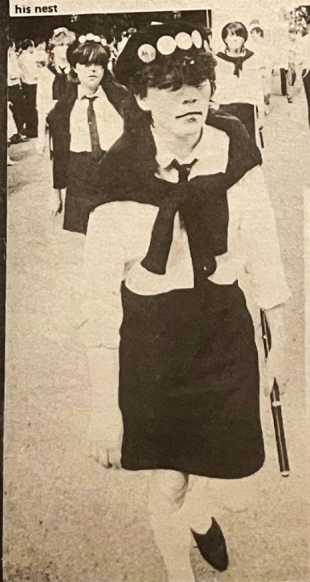
BODENSTOWN 1985



● Councillor Peter MacAlear on the road to Bodenstown



● Gerry Doherty — 'The Bird' takes a rest far from his nest



ELECTION '85



● Pictured at the Monaghan count are (standing, left to right) Councillors Caoimhghin O Caolain and Pat Treanor and (seated, left to right) Brendan McKenna, County Monaghan director of elections, and Rose McMahon, who narrowly missed election

Well-earned victories

SCENES OF JUBILATION in count centres throughout County Monaghan on Friday and Saturday, last week, reflected the electoral success of Sinn Féin in that area and nowhere was that sense of achievement greater than in the county council count centre where two Sinn Féin candidates, Pat Treanor and Caoimhghin O Caolain, were elected and a third candidate, Rose McMahon, battled all the way for a seat before being narrowly defeated.

Nine candidates stood for Sinn Féin in County Monaghan, three of these contesting county council seats and the remainder contesting seats on urban councils in Clones, Castleblayney and Monaghan town. Of those nine, seven were elected, five on the first count and two of these topping the poll in their respective areas.

Indeed, for a long time during the counts it looked like a clean sweep. The third Sinn Féin candidate for Clones UDC, Bill MacLoughlin, missed election by only four votes, while Rose McMahon in South Monaghan seemed set to join Treanor and O Caolain on the county council until late on Saturday afternoon when transfers from an independent candidate and three Fine Gaelers allowed a Fianna Fáil candidate to overtake her for the seat.

In Monaghan town, Sinn Féin beat Fianna Fáil on first preferences and the two candidates, Owen Smyth and Pádraigin Uí Mhurchadha were elected on the first count. Smyth, with 416 first preferences and Uí Mhurchadha with 290, easily surpassed the quota and their votes suggest that Sinn Féin might have won a third seat on this council had another candidate stood.

LARGEST PARTY

And in Clones town Sinn Féin emerged as the largest party, securing 24.46% of the vote as against 24.29% for Fianna Fáil and 20.43% for Fine Gael. Peter MacAleer was elected on the first count and he was joined on the fifth count by Fintan MacPhillips. Despite this performance, there was disappointment that all three candidates had not been elected, especially as the party vote clearly shows that three seats were possible.

In Castleblayney, where Sean McGinn stood as the sole Sinn Féin candidate, there were no disappointments when he romped home on the first count

with 11.8% of the poll.

There was great satisfaction at each of these results, but nowhere more than in Monaghan town where, in recent years, the last council refused to co-opt a member of Sinn Féin to replace Councillor Jim Lynagh who was imprisoned in Portlaoise. Furthermore that same council had done everything in its power to stop the Sinn Féin advice centre in the town operating effectively.

Everybody was agreed that the crucial seats were those on the county council, where Sinn Féin had had no seats since 1979. A strong team of tally-workers arrived at the count centre early on Friday but an incomplete tally was done on the South Monaghan boxes which were opened first.

When the boxes for the Clones and Monaghan areas were opened, however, the tally-workers could predict that Pat Treanor from Clones had secured no less than 886 votes in the four-seat area, while Caoimhghin O Caolain had secured no less than a whopping 1,675 in a six-seat area which would leave him topping the poll.

Both of these figures were slightly under the true score which gave Treanor 906 first preferences, coming second behind a sitting Fianna Fáil Leinster House deputy. This was a 100% increase on the 1979 Sinn Féin vote and almost a 50% increase on the vote secured by Caoimhghin O Caolain in the same area during the last year's Euro election. It was enough to give Sinn Féin a seat in an area which has proved a bogey over the years. Treanor, who had run a determined campaign throughout, was elected on the fourth count with 1,071 votes.

HIGHEST VOTE

His victory was followed on Saturday with the election of O Caolain with 1,700 votes which, according to reports at the count centre, is the highest vote ever

achieved by a single candidate in the North Monaghan area. Again, through hard work on the ground and good organisation, Sinn Féin had doubled its 1979 vote and held the big Euro vote which O Caolain had secured in this area last year (when he was the only local candidate).

Only one count remained — that for the South Monaghan area — but this was to prove the most intriguing contest of all. An incomplete tally had been done for this area the previous day and Sinn Féin workers were slightly worried about the Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil-inspired rumour that Rose McMahon had done badly, with between 200-300 votes.

This rumour was scotched, however, when the first preference votes were counted and it was announced that Sinn Féin had achieved 562 votes. As the count progressed, McMahon's vote steadily improved, so much that by lunchtime it was clear that she could possibly take the final seat in this five-seat area.

STRAIGHT RACE

Tense Sinn Féin tally-workers watched the race between four candidates for this final seat (three candidates had already been eliminated). Finally, it was a straight race between McMahon and a Fianna Fáil candidate. They were neck and neck and the next transfers would come from an eliminated Fine Gael candidate and two of his colleagues, who would subsequently be elected with fairly large surpluses.

The establishment stuck together and the Fianna Fáil candidate did marginally better on transfers, giving her the final seat. With 912 votes on elimination, Rose McMahon had established that with hard work Sinn Féin will take this seat next time round.

All in all, the Sinn Féin achievement was substantial. Entering this election they had only two seats in this county and these were on urban councils. Now they have seven and two of these are county council seats. But besides the seats, Sinn Féin in Monaghan knows its areas of strength and weakness and with this knowledge they have established a secure base to build for the future.



● (Above) Three more successful Monaghan candidates — Councillors Peter MacAleer, Pádraigin Uí Mhurchadha and Fintan MacPhillips. (Below) Christy Burke (centre) canvassing on election day at Seville Place, Dublin



Historic breakthrough

BY BRENDAN KERR

LOUD CHEERS and cries of "Tíocfaidh ár lá!" filled the air at Bolton Street College on Friday, June 21st, as it was announced that Sinn Féin's Christy Burke had been elected to Dublin Corporation to represent the North Inner City.

The relief after a long, gruelling day of election counts was evident but the sense of achievement outweighed everything else.

"It's a historic breakthrough," said Councillor Christy Burke.

Sinn Féin in the North County Dublin town of Balbriggan also reaped the rewards of political agitation combined with community involvement when Bredge Tuite was elected to the town commission. (Formed only a year ago, the Balbriggan cumann now runs a community centre which offers facilities to numerous local groups and clubs.)

TRANSFERS

Lack of transfers from other candidates cost Sinn Féin a number of seats and nowhere was this more clearly shown than in the South Inner City and Dun Laoghaire.

After the initial count in the South Inner City, Sinn Féin's John Crabbe, in his first electoral outing, held fourth place

in this five-seater with 1,095 votes, more than 300 ahead of the Workers Party's Andy Smith, who has been taking part in elections on the Southside since the late Sixties. However, transfers enabled Smith to snatch the last seat in a nail-biting 17th count.

Moving out into South County Dublin, Sinn Féin faced a similar situation in Dun Laoghaire, another five-seater, where transfers once again ruled the day despite Kevin Fitzpatrick polling over 1,000 votes and taking third place after the first count.

GREAT PROMISE

Despite the understandable frustration felt at being 'pipped at the post', these results hold great promise for the future and the same can be said of areas such as Cabra, where Tony O'Flaherty gained 9% of the vote in a tough three-seater, outpolled the 12 opposition candidates in Cabra West, and

(continued on next page)

ELECTION '85

(continued from previous page)
came within 50 votes of knocking out Fianna Fail deputy Tom Leonard; Ballyfermot, where Jimmy Delaney came sixth with over 1,000 first preferences in this four-seater; in Drumcondra, where Ann O'Sullivan topped the poll in the working-class Ballymun flats end of the constituency; and the four-seat Artane district where Terry Hughes took enough first preferences to put him in fifth place after the first count.

There was some disappointment in Tallaght/Rathcoole when John Noonan lost out on the third seat there, but the overall Sinn Fein vote in the Tallaght region has almost doubled in the space of a year and has the Labour Party's chief whip, Mervyn Taylor, worried about Sinn Fein challenging him in the next Leinster House elections.

NO COMPLACENCY

The results in all 16 Dublin constituencies provide a sound base on which to build, but there's no complacency about the future. As Sean Crowe, Dublin Sinn Fein's organiser, told *AP/RN* after the victory celebrations were over:

"We made history this week but there's a long way to go yet. The next few years will be a test of Sinn Fein members' commitment throughout the twenty-six counties. Although the elections are over, the real work is only just beginning."

Advance in Louth

BY MARTIN MAC DIARMADA

LOUTH republicans gathered at the Dundalk counting centre on Friday morning for an exciting day which was to see a strong advance for Sinn Fein in Louth. The atmosphere at Louth Technical College was tense as the count wore on.

Arthur Morgan, who was released from the H-Blocks eight months ago, topped the poll in the Carlingford area with 875 votes. His vote was as high as 76% in some of the polling districts. Though he topped the poll, he got few transfers and, on the final distribution of surplus votes, he was piped at the post by Michael O'Donnell, an independent. O'Donnell and his supporters were too numb to show triumph. Only the ever-present members of the Special Branch were jubilant at the narrow defeat for Arthur Morgan.

Morgan commented:
"We will continue to work for all the people of the area. It was a great vote and it signals the revitalisation of Sinn Fein in North Louth."

REVITALISATION

That revitalisation was attested to with the election of Fra Browne to Louth County Council, on the third count for the Dundalk Urban area. He polled third highest with



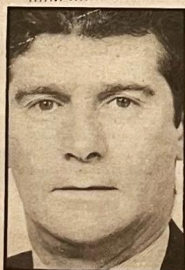
● Kildare County Councillor Paddy Wright is cheered and chaired by jubilant supporters after his election. He was also elected to UDC with the highest vote in that body's history

Urban District Councillors

Athy UDC	Paddy Wright
Birr UDC	John Carroll
Buncrana UDC	Eddie Fullerton
Bundoran UDC	Joe O'Neill
Carlow UDC	Kieran Foley
Cashel UDC	Mick Browne
Castleblayney UDC	Sean McGinn
Clones UDC	Fintan MacPhillips
	Peter MacAleer
Dundalk UDC	Fra Browne
	Frank Duffy
Listowel UDC	Donal Kelliher
Midleton UDC	Charlie Ronayne
Monaghan UDC	Padraigín Uí Mhurchadha
	Owen Smyth
Nenagh UDC	Jimmy Nolan
New Ross UDC	Jim Dwyer
Tipperary UDC	Finbar Kissane
Tralee UDC	Sean O'Callaghan
Trim UDC	Jimmy Peppard

Town Commissioners

Ardee TC	Seamus Rooney
Balbrigan TC	Bredge Tuíte
Ballyshannon TC	Anthony O'Malley-Daly
Gorey TC	John Sheahan
Kilkee TC	Coireall O'Gradaigh
Loughrea TC	Pat Hynes
Passage West TC	Jimmy Mee
Shannon TC	Michael McKee



● FRA BROWNE

1,114 first preferences. In the Dundalk Rural area Frank Duffy polled 880 first preferences. He topped the poll in Dundalk UDC South Ward, and won a seat, joining Fra Browne on Dundalk UDC.

Paddy Kerr was narrowly defeated by 12 votes in the Seatown area. In the Middle Ward Sean Kenna also polled well.

Seamus Rooney was a seat for Sinn Fein on Ardee Town Commission.

Keeping their heads low at the count were Tim Morgan and his supporters of the Work-



● SEAMUS ROONEY

ers Party, who only managed to poll 126 votes in the Dundalk urban area, second lowest of the 12 candidates.

Meanwhile, outside the technical college republican supporters waited to greet their candidates. When they emerged, all four candidates were cheered to the echo and, led by the local republican band, were carried through the town to the Sinn Fein centre in Clanbrasil Street. *Amhrán na bhFiann* was played and the Sinn Fein workers dispersed to rest after their hard-fought campaign and to celebrate their well-deserved victories.

COUNTY COUNCIL RESULTS

Area	Candidate	First Preference Vote	% Poll	Valid Poll	
CARLOW					
Carlow	Kieran Foley	265	5%	5,308	
CAVAN					
Ballyjamesduff	Joe Ennis	277	4.3%	6,508	
Belturbet	Peter McGovern	218	3.6%	5,989	
	Peadar Neary	402	6.7%		
Cavan	Charles Boylan	651	8.6%	7,555	
CLARE					
Miltonmalbay	Patrick Burke	1,408	17.5%	8,033	Elected 1st count
					Topped poll
CORK					
Schull	Tomas Coughlan	183	1.9%	9,887	
Skibbereen	Donnacha O Se	371	2.4%	15,508	
DONEGAL					
Buncrana	Eddie Fullerton	1,384	11.1%	12,447	Elected
Donegal	Anthony O'Malley-Daly	1,012	7.9%	12,751	
Glenties	Brendan O Rahallai	264	2%	13,431	
Letterkenny	Liam MacElhinney	1,321	9.1%	14,474	Elected
Millford	Martin Monaghan	309	3.5%	8,838	
DUBLIN					
Dublin Fingal	Bredge Tuíte	363	3.9%	9,213	
Dublin Belgard					
Clondalkin	Hugh Boyle	573	8%	7,110	
Greenhills	Cliona Nic Mhurchu	489	7.3%	6,705	
Tallaght/Oldbawn	Stan Clarke	608	9.5%	6,388	
Tallaght/Rathcoole	John Noonan	794	12.6%	6,309	
Dun Laoghaire					
Ballybrack	Mick O'Brien	454	4.8%	9,377	
Dundrum	Don Bagley	313	4.2%	7,402	
Dun Laoghaire	Kevin Fitzpatrick	1,063	8.7%	12,168	
GALWAY					
Galway	Paddy Ruane	1,157	11.8%	9,803	
Loughrea	Michael Loughrey	380	2.4%	15,998	
Tuam	Frank Glynn	1,145	8.2%	13,979	Elected
KERRY					
Kilgorglin	Dave O'Shea	255	2%	13,026	
	Derrick McKenna	217	1.7%		
Listowel	Jerry Walsh	1,473	9.5%	15,573	
Mid-Kerry	Matt Leen	556	5%	11,259	
Tralee	Sean O'Callaghan	880	9.3%	9,493	
KILDARE					
Athy	Paddy Wright	875	12.8%	6,835	Elected 9th count
LEITRIM					
Ballinamore	John Joe McGilr	706	14.8%	4,782	Elected 1st count
Carriack-on-Shannon	Martin McTiernan	322	7.3%	4,409	
Drumahair	Mel Farrell	472	12.3%	3,846	Elected 6th count
Manorhamilton	Michael Colreavy	354	8.8%	4,022	
LIMERICK					
Rathkeale	Donnchadh O Nuallain	240	2.6%	9,313	
LONGFORD					
Drumlish	Sean Lynch	455	17.4%	2,610	
Granard	Liam Brown	97	4%	2,421	
Lougstard	Seamus McDonnell	93	2.6%	3,585	
LOUTH					
Ardee	Jackie McGahon	521	7.4%	7,040	
Carlingford	Arthur Morgan	875	17.9%	4,896	
Drogheda	Frank Duffy	880	12.3%	7,162	
Dundalk	Fra Brown	1,114	16.2%	6,896	Elected 3rd Count
MAYO					
Swinford	Joe McHale	388	5.2%	7,424	
Westport	Mary McGing	377	3.5%	10,761	
MEATH					
Dunshaughlin	Tommy Johnston	224	3%	7,475	
Navan	Jimmy Lynch	303	3.5%	8,599	
MONAGHAN					
Carriackmacross	Rose McMahon	562	8%	6,973	
Clones	Pat Treanor	906	17.4%	5,197	Elected 4th Count
Monaghan	Caoimhghin O Caolain	1,700	21.9%	7,769	Elected 1st Count
					Topped poll
OFFALY					
Birr	Pat Grogan	299	4.5%	6,675	
ROSCOMMON					
Boyle	Kevin Earley	296	5.4%	5,448	
Strokestown	Dermot Mullooly	652	12.7%	5,118	
SLIGO					
Sligo	Sean MacManus	321	6.8%	4,720	
TIPPERARY (SOUTH RIDING)					
Cahir	Jimmy Maher	138	2%	6,616	
Fethard	Edlie O'Doherty	461	5%	9,127	
Tipperary	Finbarr Kissane	302	4.2%	7,157	
WATERFORD					
Dungarvan	Seamus O'Cuillín	216	2.9%	7,407	
KillmacThomas	Jackie Whelan	219	4.5%	4,839	
WESTMEATH					
Athlone	Gerry Farrell	230	2.5%	9,306	
Mullingar	Billy Cleary	105	2.7%	3,897	
WEXFORD					
Newross	Jim Dwyer	455	4.6%	9,787	
Wexford	Sean Fin	320	2.6%	12,273	
WICKLOW					
Baltinglass	Gerard O'Neill	315	5.8%	5,393	

Increased support in Donegal

BY MAIRTIN MAC DIARMADA

SPEAKING to the assembled republicans at the Letterkenny count centre, victorious candidate Liam McElhinney summed up the feelings of all the Sinn Féin candidates and workers in Donegal when he thanked the voters for kenny area in 40 years.

McElhinney polled an excellent 1,321 first preferences and, at 9 o'clock on Friday evening, he took the seventh seat in the Letterkenny area. In his speech Liam saluted comrades incarcerated in Irish and English jails and all those who had fallen in the freedom struggle.

Sinn Féin support showed itself strongest in the Buncrana area where sitting councillor Eddie Fullerton was elected to the county council, polling third of the 12 candidates with 1,384 first preferences. Fullerton was also elected to Buncrana Urban District Council with 22 votes short of the quota of 155.

BONUS

Another bonus was the picking up of a seat by Anthony O'Malley-Daly (with 127 votes)

on Ballyshannon Town Commission. Joe O'Neill retained his seat on Bundoran Urban District Council, giving Sinn Féin five seats in the Donegal area. Anthony O'Malley-Daly polled a respectable 1,012 in the Donegal urban area.

Sinn Féin workers expressed disappointment at the failure of Sean Gallagher to win a seat on Letterkenny Urban District Council. They are confident, however, that the vote achieved can be built on and as with all candidates, elected or not, people of the area will continue. This was the feeling at all count centres on Friday last in Donegal. An increase in the Sinn Féin vote and a widening of the republican base of support augurs well for the future of Sinn Féin in Donegal.



● Liam McElhinney (right) gives a victory salute after his election to Donegal County Council

CORPORATION RESULTS

Area	Candidate	First Preference Vote	% Poll	Total Valid Poll
Cork Corporation				
North Central	Don O'Leary	262	3.9%	6800
North East	Anthony Dempsey	298	4.9%	6124
North West	Sean Walsh	347	5.1%	6821
South Central	Peadar Beecher	465	6.8%	6806
South West	Pat O'Leary	214	2.9%	7288
Dublin Corporation				
Athlone	Terry Hughes	890	6.7%	13,285
Ballyfermot	Jimmy Delaney	1,019	8.3%	12,332
Cabra	Tony O'Flaherty	1,097	9.4%	11,730
Crumlin	Michael MacConmara	714	5.3%	13,493
Drumcondra	Ann O'Sullivan	966	6.7%	14,428
Finlas	Harry Fleming	796	6.6%	12,087
North				
Inner City	Christy Burke	1,222	7.8%	15,744
South				
Inner City	John Crabbe	1,095	8.4%	13,094
Limerick Corporation				
Ward Two	Des Long	322	4.9%	6567
Ward Three	Dan Greaney	177	3.6%	4870
Sligo Corporation				
West Ward	Sean McManus	218	9.8%	2214
North Ward	Timmy Newell	101	5.1%	1987
Waterford Corporation				
No 1	Noel Ryan	273	5.5%	4986

Kerry-strong gains in Tralee

WHEN it was announced that Sean Callaghan was elected to Tralee UDC, there was cheering and applause from the Sinn Féin election workers gathered in the Tralee count centre.

As the result was declared, Fianna Fáil's Denis Foley turned to defeated Workers Party candidate Donal Tobin, whose one transfer vote helped Sean get elected, and congratulated him on electing the first republican councillor to Tralee UDC since the Sixties.

Sinn Féin topped the poll in Fenit in the county election, a fact that must be making Labour Party leader Dick Spring particularly unhappy. Spring's sister Máevé had previously commanded the highest vote in

that area.

In the contest for Kerry County Council, Callaghan beat three sitting councillors and polled 880 first preference votes. But, as in other areas, transfers were slow to come and he was eventually eliminated. The combined Sinn Féin vote in Mid-Kerry for Callaghan and his running mate, Matt Leen, was 1,436 first preferences.

Donal Kelliher was elected to Listowel UDC on the first count, gaining 233 first preference votes, but the results for the other Kerry candidates were disappointing. Jerry Walsh, who was standing in the Listowel electoral area, got an excellent vote of 1,473 first preferences. Again, the lack of transfers during the closely-fought contest prevented him from retaining his seat on the council. (He had been co-opted to fill the vacancy left by Sinn Féin's Robert Beasley last year.)

Despite the disappointments, Kerry Sinn Féin are already working to expand on their base in the county and have gained valuable experience during the campaign.



● KIERAN FOLEY

Imeachtaí

SINN FEIN FUNCTION
Music by Silver Shadows
9pm Thursday 27th June
Svan Lake Hotel
MONAGHAN

IRISH SOCIAL NIGHT
9pm Friday 28th June
Rambler's Rest
Clanbrassil Street
DUNDALK
Taillé E1
Organised by
An Cumann Cabhrach

ANTI-STRIP-SEARCH CAMPAIGN
SIX-COUNTY MEETING
3pm Sunday 30th June
St Patrick's Hall
DUNGANNON
County Tyrone
All committees, local representatives and involved people are invited to attend

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST US AID TO 'CONTRAS'
6.30pm Thursday 4th July
US Embassy
Ballsbridge
DUBLIN
Organised by the
Irish Nicaraguan Support Group

PUBLIC MEETING
'Labour, Ireland and the PTA'
Speakers include
Ken Livingstone, Dr Maire O'Shea
8pm Monday 8th July
Cricklewood Hotel
Cricklewood Broadway
LONDON NW2
Organised by Brent East
Labour Party and
West London Labour Committee
on Ireland

PUBLIC MEETING
11am Saturday 20th July
McLellan Galleries
GLASGOW
Creche available
Organised by the
Campaign Against the PTA

Belfast Graves

BELFAST GRAVES, a beautifully-produced book recording the sacrifices of Belfast republicans down through the years, especially in the present, final, phase of the liberation struggle, is now available.

The book incorporates biographies of all the republicans who have fallen during the past 15 years and will be of considerable interest to all members and supporters of the Republican Movement. Belfast republicans will find the book especially interesting, but it will prove an invaluable possession for republicans all over the country.

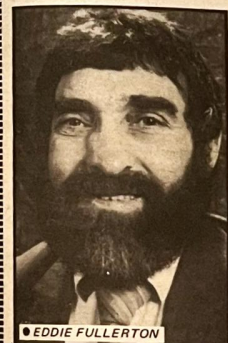
Belfast Graves, price £3.50 Sterling (plus 50p postage) and Ir£4 (plus 60p postage), is available from the following republican outlets:

The Book Shop, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin
The Craft Shop, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast
Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Belfast.

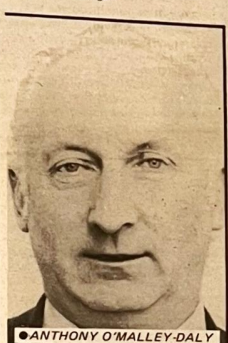
T-SHIRTS

'Freedom' and 'Brit-busters' T-shirts are now available, price £3.75 each. Prices for bulk orders are available on request. Prices including postage are as follows:

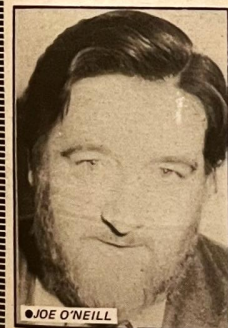
Europe: £4.50
Britain: £4.10
USA: £4.75
Order through 2a Monagh Crescent, Belfast.



● EDDIE FULLERTON



● ANTHONY O'MALLEY-DALY



● JOE O'NEILL



● SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

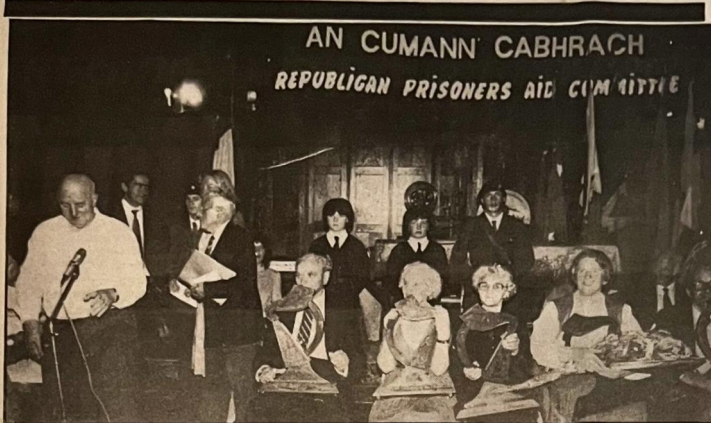
Carlow—result of hard work

THE ELECTION of Kieran Foley to Carlow Urban District Council means that for the first time in 50 years there will be a Sinn Féin councillor in Carlow.

According to sitting Fine Gael councillor Eileen Brophy, who lost her seat, Foley's victory marked the "blackest day in Carlow politics for 60 years" — for Fine Gael, that is. Foley outpolled the combined votes of the two Workers Party candidates and the two Labour candidates, one of whom was a sitting councillor.

Sinn Féin's success in Carlow is "a direct result of the hard and consistent work of the local O'hanrahan/Lillis cumann over the last two years", says Kieran Foley.

A weekly newsheet has been distributed to every home in the town for the last year and a half, and during the election campaign an intense canvass of selected areas was carried out.



● After being presented with their testimonial harps, the five honourees (seated, left to right), Dan McCormick, Brigid Hannon, Mrs Paddy McWeeney, Margaret Langsdorf and Gearoid MacCartaigh, listen while Joe Cahill (left) addresses the guests at the Testimonial Dinner

Cumann Cabhrach Testimonial Dinner

THE annual Testimonial Dinner on the eve of Bodenstown was held this year in the Park Lodge Hotel, Dublin.

The five republican veterans honoured were Maggie Langsdorf, Leinster, Gearoid MacCartaigh, Munster, Dan McCormick, USA, Brigid Hannon, Ulster, and the late Paddy McWeeney, Connaught.

Joe Cahill chaired the proceedings and introduced each honouree, giving a brief outline of each one's contribution to the republican cause. A large harp, made by republican prisoners in Portlaoise, was then presented to each veteran by young members of Fianna Éireann and Cumann na nGaeil. Paddy McWeeney's harp was accepted by his wife.

Entertainment was provided by the Ferryman, Gerry Carr and the Eamon Ceannt Ceili Band, and the highlight of the evening was the appearance of Christy Moore, a surprise guest.

A special welcome was extended to the delegation from Norway, which included two of Dan McCormick's granddaughters on a first visit to Ireland. Although they had been "well drilled" in republican history by their grandfather, and indeed their first memories were of being on demonstrations with him, the reality of life under British rule and the effects of partition struck them particularly.

Mary, aged 20, was shocked by the poverty and living conditions in Divis flats during their visit to Belfast. Kathy, who is 21, said that she was very conscious of the border dividing Lifford (where they were staying with relatives) and Strabane, and added, "Two towns with so much in common yet cut off from each other by a false border". She was also shocked to see children begging in Dublin. The sisters work in the office of the Plumbers Union in San Francisco.

Pat O'Connell, National Director of Irish Northern Aid, and Mary McCormick, took the occasion of the Testimonial Dinner to present An Cumann Cabhrach with cheques totalling \$25,000.

The veterans

BRIGID HANNON

BRIGID HANNON joined Cumann na mBan in Belfast in 1936. She worked for the Prisoners Dependents Fund right through the Thirties and Forties.

In 1956, when the IRA renewed its campaign against the forces of occupation, Brigid once again was one of that small band of active women who worked for prisoners' families. Throughout the Sixties, she remained loyal, a steadfast beacon of republicanism in Belfast. In 1970, she helped to re-organise the Prisoners Dependents Fund, and was a founder member of Green Cross, set up in 1973.

When asked to accept the honour at the Testimonial, she said that she would accept it not for herself, but on behalf of all those who had died for the republican cause and on behalf of the prisoners.

PADDY MCWEENEY

PADDY MCWEENEY died just a few weeks before he was to be honoured at An Cumann Cabhrach's Testimonial. He joined the IRA in 1921, and was interned in Arbour Hill in 1928. He was captured again in 1940, and interned in the Curragh. On his release he immediately set about the reorganisation of the Movement in Leitrim and was one of the first to volunteer for service in the 1956 campaign. He continued to work for the Republican Movement until his death, and was president of Leitrim Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair when he died. Paddy McWeeney was represented by his wife, who accepted the honour paid to his memory.

MARGARET LANGSDORF

MAGGIE LANGSDORF was born in Rathfarnham, Dublin, one of a strong republican family. Her grandfather, Peter Doyle, was an Invincible and her mother was an active member of the Prisoners Dependents Committee. Maggie joined Cumann na nGaeil in 1935. In 1937, she transferred to the Ranelagh branch of Cumann na

mBan, and was involved in all aspects of the republican struggle. She was interned in Mountjoy in 1941, and was released in 1943. Throughout the Forties and Fifties Maggie continued to work tirelessly for the Republican Movement and was O/C of Cumann na mBan from 1947 to 1956.

In 1951, she married Fritz Langsdorf who had been imprisoned and interned several times for his republican activities. They had one daughter, Grainne. In 1970, Maggie helped to set up a cumann of Sinn Féin in Rathfarnham, now the Martin Forsythe cumann, and is still an active member of that cumann.

GEARÓID Mac CARTHAIGH

GEARÓID MACCARTHAIGH is one of Cork's best-known republicans. He joined Fianna Éireann in 1931, and Ogligh na hÉireann in 1937. He was arrested in Dublin in 1940, and spent four years in the Curragh. In 1945, he married Agnes, a life-long member of Cumann na mBan.

Gearoid was arrested in 1957 in Donegal, while he was on the run. He was sentenced to three months in Mountjoy and was rearrested on his release and interned in the Curragh for two years. He was jailed again in 1971, in Limerick Prison, and in 1974 was sentenced to 12 months in Portlaoise Prison. He took part in a 56-day hunger-strike in 1975. In November 1981, Gearoid MacCartaigh was again imprisoned for six months for an oration at the grave of Dermot Crowley.

Gearoid MacCartaigh's one wish is to live to see the fight finished and Ireland free, and all the years of internment and imprisonment have not deterred him from that ideal.

DAN MCCORMICK

DAN MCCORMICK was born in Strabane, County Tyrone. His father was a member of the Volunteers. At the age of eleven, Dan was helping in the 1918 elections. He was active in the Republican Movement until 1927, when he was forced to emigrate to Scotland. He went to Canada in 1929, and then to San Francisco, his present home, in 1933. He was an active trade unionist all his life and helped to organise the Warehousemen Union in San Francisco.

In 1970 Dan McCormick was a founder member of the San Francisco unit of Northern Aid, and has been president for twelve years.

WORLD VIEW

El Salvador

ON TUESDAY EVENING, June 18th, members of El Salvador's revolutionary army, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), carried out one of the most daring raids seen in the capital, San Salvador, for a number of years.

During the well-planned operation, four US marines and two US 'computer' experts were killed, whilst sitting in cafes in San Salvador's fashionable Zona Rosa district. Also killed were four Guatemalans, a Chilean and five Salvadoreans. The US marines were all guards at the US embassy, whilst the two 'computer' experts were employed by Wang Laboratories, a company which has close involvement with the CIA.

Recent US military casualties occurred in 1983 and 1984. Four CIA 'advisors' were killed when their plane crashed in mountains last year. The FMLN afterwards claimed responsibility for bringing it down. In May 1983, the FMLN shot dead the deputy head of the US military command in El Salvador, Lieutenant Commander Albert Schaufelberger.

BROADCAST

In a broadcast by the FMLN's 'Radio Venceremos', a statement was issued declaring that:

"The first marines are starting to fall. The first results of the Yankee invasion of our country are beginning to be paid by deaths."

Later a statement was issued claiming responsibility by a group within the FMLN, the Mardoqueo Cruz (Central American Revolutionary Workers Party). The Mardoqueo Cruz declared that the successful operation was part of an ongoing campaign entitled 'Yankee aggressor in El Salvador: Another Vietnam awaits you'. The statement went on to declare that further attacks would be carried out against US military targets, CIA agents and all their allies.

US President Reagan's reaction to the daring attack was one of uncontrollable fury. Reagan immediately ordered the stepping up of

supplies of military equipment to the Duarte regime, and declared that he was ready to use the emergency powers at his disposal to increase the US military presence in El Salvador.

The US claims that it has 55 military advisors in El Salvador, but evidence shows that in the past year this figure can be multiplied by at least 10. In fact, a team of US politicians and journalists touring El Salvador last year claimed that Reagan was lying about the numbers of US personnel involved in the country.

VITRIOLIC

At a ceremony at Andrews airforce base receiving the bodies of the dead marines, Reagan, shedding crocodile tears, launched into a vitriolic attack against the FMLN. He pledged to bring "the men who murdered these sons of America" to immediate justice, and even more unrealistically declared that he would "move any mountain and ford any river to find the jackals and bring them and their colleagues in terror to justice".

US officials are less enthusiastic about taking action. Reagan's national security advisor Robert McFarlane went so far as to say that although "It's a time of testing for the US" he did not envisage the use of US military force in El Salvador.

And on the subject of the Duarte regime defeating the FMLN, the same officials are less than enthusiastic. Despite the fact that the Salvadorean army is better equipped (compliments of the US) than the FMLN, it has made no significant inroads into rebel areas, and in fact has suffered a number of crushing defeats since the beginning of 1985.

South Africa

THIS MONTH marks the ninth anniversary of the massacres committed by the South African regime during the Soweto uprising of 1976.

During the Soweto protests, which began as a countryside campaign against a forced inferior education for black people, over 600 people were murdered, the majority children and youths. As news of the massacre at Soweto filtered through, many black people throughout South Africa took to the streets in protest. This resulted in many more being killed and wounded by the South African police and military.

Nine years on and nothing has changed. Scores of black people have been murdered by the racist regime this year. On Sunday, June 16th, the first day of the Soweto anniversary, four black youths were shot dead and a number wounded by the police. Reports of daily acts of aggression against black people are being carried in the world's media.

PREPARING

The South Africans have been preparing for the Soweto anniversary for months, moving in vast amounts of police, soldiers and equipment. The police chief of Soweto said that soldiers on horseback would be used in a "clean-up operation" if there is trouble in the area.

Despite a blanket ban on arms sales to South Africa, imposed by the United Nations, the regime has purchased four new helicopters and at least a dozen "sophisticated water cannon vehicles" from an unnamed country. The military helicopters are being "fitted for use in



civil unrest", and are to be deployed in areas such as Soweto. The South African Law and Order Minister, Louis Le Grange, who is responsible for the purchase and use of the vehicles, refused to reveal the country of origin, as "it would embarrass that country's government". This statement is giving rise to speculation that the supplier is a member of the special 'contact' group of countries which includes Britain, West Germany and the USA. The 'contact' group was set up to 'ease' diplomatic tensions and act as a watch-dog on a virtually isolated South Africa.

Death of George Gilmore

THE death occurred on Thursday, June 20th, of veteran republican and socialist George Gilmore. Born in 1898 near Portadown, he had a life-long involvement with radical and republican politics.

He was active in the IRA from 1916 onwards and was a member of the Army Council during the 1920s and early 1930s. He served several terms of imprisonment under the Coercive regime and he led and organised the mass escape of republican prisoners from Mountjoy in 1926 — one of the several escapes in which he was to the fore.

In the 1930s he was a leading figure in Saor Eire which gave expression to a new social radicalism in the Republican Movement.

He parted company with the IRA

in 1934 with the formation of the Republican Congress. The split in the Congress was to leave Gilmore on the fringes of the Republican Movement. Despite their differences, he was recognised by all shades of republicans as one of the most resilient activists and influential thinkers of the revolutionary years of the 1920s and 1930s.

George Gilmore was laid to rest in St. Finian's Cemetery, Sutton, Dublin, on Saturday, June 22nd.

I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

The battle of St Matthew's

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE Battle of St Matthew's in June 1970 saw the IRA, for the first time since its reorganisation six months earlier, take action against the UVF in defence of the Short Strand area of Belfast.

In the early afternoon of Saturday, June 27th, following an orange parade on the edge of Ardoyne, rioting broke out and a fierce gun-battle erupted. Three people, all loyalists, were shot dead.

As news of the deaths spread around Belfast, loyalists parading in the Short Strand area of East Belfast swore that they would be back that night, "with more than beer bottles and stones".

Preparations were immediately made to defend the area, a small ghetto of 6,000 nationalists surrounded by a loyalist stronghold of 60,000 people. As darkness fell, the local O/C and a company of 14 IRA Volunteers, armed with two Thompsons, one Sten gun, one "grass-gun", a number of .303 rifles and a number of semi-automatic pistols and revolvers, along with a local defence group, who were similarly armed, took up their assigned positions.

THRUST

At 10.30pm dozens of loyalists, watched by the RUC, who were un-

willing to disperse the attackers, gathered on the Newtownards Road and under cover of sniper fire began to petrol-bomb St Matthew's Church, which commanded the entrance to the Short Strand. Other parts of the area came under short arm and rifle fire, but the main thrust of the loyalist attack was against the chapel and this would have been the prelude to the burning of the entire area.

The IRA and the Catholic Defence League went into action and in a major gun-battle which lasted until dawn, four loyalists were shot dead, two fatally wounded and dozens more injured. One of the defenders, Henry McIlhorne, was killed and the IRA brigade O/C was wounded. A request by an opposition MP for the British army to intervene was turned down because the grounds that the firing was too heavy. Instead, they sealed off the entire Short Strand area to try to prevent IRA reinforcements reaching the area.

Finally, as dawn broke, the last shots were fired. By morning, the feel-

● IRA Vol Henry McIlhorne, who was shot dead in the battle to defend the Short Strand

ing of anxiety soon faded to relief, then pride. The weeks and months of preparations had not been in vain.

The heroic defence of the Short Strand on the night of June 27th 1970, 15 years ago this week, showed the fruits of all the re-organisation and training that had followed August 1969. The IRA could and would defend the oppressed nationalist people of Belfast.

Irish Lesson

132

Bailligh leat as an teach seo — Get out of this house.

An bhfuil cead agam imeacht anois? — Have I permission to go now?

Fan anois — Stay there.

An bhfuil ann duine istigh? — Is anybody in.

Beidh me ann in am don tae — I will be there in time for tea.

Tar abhaile liom — Come home with me.

Fag an teach seo — Leave this house.

Teach deas cluthar — A nice sheltered (comfortable) house.

Is fearf Gaeilge bhriste na Bearla cliste i mbeal Ghaeil. — Broken Irish is better in the mouth of an Irish person than clever English.

UTP. From Noreen, Pam and everybody.

QUINN, Frankie. (H6). Thinking of you always, Frankie. We love you always. UTP. From your loving wife

QUINN, Frankie. (H6). Best wishes. UTP. Love from Tommy, Clare and family, Ballyshannon.

QUINN, Frankie. (H6). Happy birthday, Frankie. Thinking of you all the time. See you soon. Thank all the boys for signing my card. God bless

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BROWN, Dinny. MAILEY, Jackie. MULVENNA, Jim. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Dinny Mailey, Jackie Mailey, and Jim Mulvenna, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who gave their lives for Irish freedom on June 21st 1978. To mourn them is to organise a movement big and strong, with Armalite and ballot box, with music and with song. From the Sean McCaughy/James Saunders Sinn Fein, cumann, Ardoyne.

BROWN, Denis; MAILEY, Jackie; MULVENNA, Jim. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Denis Brown, Jackie Mailey and Jim Mulvenna, Ogligh na hEireann, who gave their all in the fight for Irish freedom. Always remembered with pride by the staff, members and patrons of the Smyth/Cassidy club, Belfast.

CARLIN, Tommy; COYLE, Joe; MCCOOL, Tommy. (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Tommy Carlin, Joe Coyle and Tommy McCool, Derry Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who were killed on active service on June 27th 1970. Fuair slad bas ag troid ar son saoirse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

CARTY, Patrick; CROWLEY, Dermot; LOUGHRAN, Sean. (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Patrick Carty, Dermot Crowley and Sean Loughran, Ogligh na hEireann, who were killed by a premature explosion while on active service on June 25th 1973. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the East Tyrone Brigade.

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DOHERTY, Brendan. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Brendan Doherty who died on June 3rd 1984. Kerry will always remember. Always remembered by his comrades in Portlaoise, Long Kesh, Armagh and English jails.

FINUCANE, John. (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols John Finucane and Tony Jordan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who were killed on active service on June 28th 1972. Ar dheis De go raibh a nam. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

FINUCANE, John. (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Finucane who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. Masses offered. You left us all with words unspoken, may he rest in peace. Always remembered by his loving son Patrick Pearce.

FINUCANE, John. (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Finucane who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. Sweet Jesus, have mercy on his soul. Deep in my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered by his loving brother Seamus (Long Kesh).

FINUCANE, John. (13th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Finucane who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. St. Martin, pray for him. He will kill the revolutionary, but never the revolution. Always remembered by his loving brother Dermot and family.

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ADAMS, Dominic. (Crumlin Road). Birthday greetings to our son, Dominic. God bless. From Father, Mother, sisters, brothers, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews and nieces.

ADAMS, Dominic. (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday, Dominic. Thinking of you on this special day. All the best and lots of love. UTP. From Anne, Eamonn, Eamonn og, Flionnula, Sean and Bronagh. xxx

ADAMS, Dominic. (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday, Dominic. Make the best of it. We'll send you a cigar (or a ha!). All the best. UTP. Love from Brian, Ann and all the McCaughy family. xxx

CAMPBELL, Bobby; HOLMES, Paul. McFADDEN, Cor. (England). Birthday and solidarity greetings to our brave comrades, Bobby, Paul and Ann. From the Glasgow Irish Republican POW Committee.

DEMPESEY, Derek. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday and best wishes, Derek. From Mumm and Tania.

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Beannachtaí

py Birthday, Derek, and all the best. From the James Connolly Sinn Fein cumann, Ballyfermot.

DEMPESEY, Derek. (Portlaoise). Best wishes and good luck on your birthday. From the Comerford/Price Sinn Fein cumann.

DEMPESEY, Derek. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday and best wishes. From the Quinn family.

HAYDEN, Vivion. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Vivion. You're the best. From there. From Jim and Therese Gorry and family.

KELLY, Tony. Happy birthday to our 'tutir' Irish cat from our 'tutir' American cat. From Garfield, Virginia, USA.

KELLY, Tony. Wishing you a very happy birthday. Go easy on the Southern Comfort. Hal! Hal! Take a walk on ze wild zide! All our love.

QUINN, Frankie. (H6). Thinking of you always, Frankie. We love you always. UTP. From your loving wife

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COMHBHRÓN

of his father. From the relatives of Irish POWs in English jails.

DONNELLY. The Dublin Sinn Fein POW department extends deepest sympathy to Vincent Donnelly and the entire Donnelly family circle on the death of his father.

DONNELLY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Vincent Donnelly and the Donnelly family on the death

Hynes, re-elected member of Loughrea Town Commission, whose brother Bernard died suddenly at the age of 44 in Rathcoole, County Dublin, on Monday. We also extend heartfelt sympathy to Bernard's wife Pauline.

KIRKE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Kirke family, Donagh-

moine, on the recent tragic death of Martin. RIP. From the Meegan/Harvey Sinn Fein cumann, Carrickmacross.

MCCAFFREY. Deepest sympathy to the McCaffrey family of Knocknacree, Roskeel, on the recent death of Patrick. From the Leonard/Aherne Sinn Fein cumann, Roslea.

MCCAFFREY. Deepest sympathy is extended to my dear friend Gerard McDonnell, his sisters, loved ones and family on the recent death of his dear mother Eileen McDonnell. My

prayers and sorrows are with you and your dear family. From Frank Connors, Charlestown, USA.

O'SULLIVAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Diarmuid O'Sullivan who died recently. From the Padraig O'Pearl Sinn Fein cumann, Wexford.

ROONEY. The Leonard/Aherne Sinn Fein cumann, Roslea, County Kerry, extends sympathy to the Rooney family of Derrygonn on the death of Gerard.

The Liam Óg column

Happy birthday

LAST SATURDAY, June 22nd, was the 300th anniversary of the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire who are presently based in South Armagh.

Celebrations were planned with hampers, including a special birthday cake, being airlifted into the various barracks at the border at the weekend.

On Sunday the IRA had the honour of blowing out the candles when two birthday cards in the shape of mortar bombs arrived by airmail at Crossmaglen. They read:

"Happy birthday to you,
"Happy birthday to you,
"Happy birthday dear Charlie,
"Happy birthday to you."

COMPENSATION claims for damage to property by the IRA car-bomb in Belfast's city centre two weeks ago so far total £1million although the final bill is expected to be over £3million. One office which suffered severe structural damage was that of the prospering RAC which in last May's edition of the *Constabulary Gazette* was offering 'special motor insurance discount for police officers, civil servants and prison service employees'.

FOLLOWING the application from Sinn Féin Councillor Eddie Fullerton to Donegal County Council for planning permission to erect a dwelling on Ireland's North Atlantic island, Rockall, which is presently occupied on behalf of Britain by ex-SAS man Tom McClean, a County Wicklow firm has also made an application to the council.

Kintract of Enniskerry, wants to erect a Tricolour, a flagstaff and a concrete base on Rockall, which Britain laid territorial claim to in 1972 when the potential mineral and oil wealth around the island was realised.

Commenting on the possibility of planning permission being granted, a British Foreign Office spokesperson said:

"We would take action of this kind very seriously indeed. I'm sure they remember the Falklands."

How will Donegal County Council react to this gun-point diplomacy?

WITH Ballyporeen and last well behind him, Ronald Reagan has stepped up



● Carmelites and ballot boxes?

support for loyalism in the North.

The secretary of the Official Unionist Party, Frank Millar, has been in Africa for the past few weeks on an all-expenses-

paid trip sponsored by the State Department. This week DUP deputy-leader Peter Robinson goes out for a similar sponsored month-long junket, his itinerary including meetings

with Congress representatives, Senators and industrialists to promote the cause of loyalism.

A few years ago loyalist politicians visited Is-

rael and were shown around its border areas by government officials.

The line-up is taking shape along a frontier pattern.

"HE isn't really like that anyway," she shrugs. "Really he's a very gentle sort of man — he just has to holler sometimes to get a point across. I mean, I've done my bit of shouting down Sinn Féin councillors at meetings too — only I haven't got such a loud voice so I revert to my toy trumpet."

— 'Jazzy' artiste, Councillor Rhonda Paisley, on her nice dad and the tribulations of being a fascist.

DIRECT-RULER Douglas Hurd refused to meet two members of Paisley's DUP because of statements that they had made supporting the shooting of Sinn Féin councillors and supporting the UVF. The two were part of a DUP delegation which pulled out of the talks on Monday last.

Accusing Hurd of adopting a "nonsensical attitude", and apparently totally oblivious to the irony of his position, DUP chief whip Jim Allister said:

"Who does Mr Hurd think he is, to say which elected representatives are going to be on a delegation?"

WHAT a dozy friend UDR soldier Wilfred Knox from Dungannon turned out to be. He and a companion had been out imbibing during the evening and decided to make an after-midnight visit to the town's UDR base at Killymeal Road. His friend, who drove the car, while Wilfred took 40 winks, alighted to talk to the guard at the gate.

Wilfred awoke from his slumbers and, believing himself to be in a World War II RAF Spitfire fighter, jumped into the cockpit and on to the runway at Thornhill. However, the car, lacking a turboprop engine, only managed to lift a few feet off the ground and left the road, somersaulting and crash-landing in a nearby field.

For wrecking his friend's car, for taking it without his permission, for careless driving and not having insurance cover, Wing-Commander Knox was fined £175.

NEWS this week that the RUC is planning to run Irish language courses during the summer at Garnerville Barracks, has caused an outcry from some members of the DUP who have accused senior officers of "losing their senses".

Already the RUC is trying to understand a variety of foreign languages including English, Chinese, French, German, Russian and Divis (spoken by ex-blanketman Fra McCann).

However, Sinn Féin cultural officer Máirtín O Muilleoir, when asked for his reaction, said:

"This is an amazing breakthrough and one for which I take no small credit after years of campaigning, including spending hours on end at RUC checkpoints. I just hope your ordinary rank and file Sinn Féiner recognises this sterling achievement when it comes to the elections at the Ardheis. "Gee, it's really something..."

A GARDA sergeant at Dublin's American Embassy on Tuesday evening was so adamant that there are two Sinn Féins, not one, that republicans picketing there almost started to believe him.

But then he went and blew it all by claiming that Michael Noonan had something to do with justice.

THE Workers Party's Andy Smith was noticeable by his absence from the Kevin Street election count last Friday when he became a councillor for Dublin's South Inner City. Party colleagues finally tracked him down at home where he was recovering from one of his notorious

'constituency clinics' in a well-known Southside bar. Somewhat 'tired and emotional', Citizen Smith had to be woken from his semi-comatose state to be given the unexpected news.

Could this be what they mean by 'out for the count'?

