



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

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VOTE FOR IRISH PEOPLE POWER



• THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

Vote Sinn Féin

THE CHOICE could not be clearer for the nationalist people of the occupied Six Counties when they go to the polls in the Westminster general election next Thursday. It is between a party with a plan for peace and the proven commitment to carry that plan through to success and a party which does not know where it is going or how it is going to get there.

Sinn Féin bases its stance on the right of all the Irish people to live in peace and freedom, confident of our people's ability to shape their own future.

The SDLP works to a British agenda, trailing between London and Dublin and Brussels, trying to convince nationalists that the British are neutral, that the charade of the Brooke Talks is still the only hope of peace and that the continuing conflict is the fault of the Irish people themselves and not of Britain, whose presence here has caused so much tragedy.

Sinn Féin has been the only party in this election to set out a plan for peace.

The SDLP has not addressed that plan or the issues raised in it. Nor has their manifesto raised the issue of the British Government of Ireland Act. The SDLP's claim that that Act is on the agenda for the Brooke Talks was refuted by unionist assertions that this is not, never was and never will be the case.

The SDLP's claim that the British are neutral was discredited again as Peter Brooke, ringmaster of the Stormont talk circus, asked people to vote for the British Conservative Party in the Six Counties in order to strengthen the union with Britain.

Sinn Féin has stressed the need for

dialogue that includes everyone. It has called for a radical new approach by the London and Dublin governments and a strategy by nationalists to help bring this about. The party has called on the SDLP to join with it in demanding that the British and Dublin governments create the conditions for peace by agreeing to end partition and initiate real negotiations excluding no section of the Irish people. The SDLP has refused to adopt a new approach.

But nationalists can make their voices heard on the need for peace and exercise Irish people power. They can do this by voting Sinn Féin which is working with confidence in this final week of the election campaign, confident that its mandate will be renewed and that it will emerge strong to pursue the path to justice and freedom. A strong vote for Sinn Féin is essential to increase the pressure for genuine dialogue leading to a real and lasting peace.

Help us win on April 9th

Any donation, large or small, towards the Westminster election campaign, will be gratefully accepted by the Sinn Féin Election Appeal, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. — *Ar aghaidh linn chun bua!*



News

Confident campaign enters final week

STEADY PROGRESS in reaching their election targets is reported by Sinn Féin election workers as canvassing continues. In a week that saw Sinn Féin's Director of Elections and Director of Publicity in East Derry arrested and held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre for two days, Six-County Director of Elections, Jim Gibney said that, like so many before it, this election campaign has seen a marked increase in harassment by the RUC and British forces "as they seek to disrupt our election efforts".

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, who is defending his West Belfast seat, responded to the call of British direct ruler Peter Brooke for the Six-County electorate to vote Conservative in order to secure the 'Union'. Describing the SDLP's electoral strategy as "exposed as a failure", Adams said that Brooke's remarks completely undermined the SDLP's mistaken view that the British are 'neutral', a view which has shaped its strategy. He continued:

"Clearly Brooke's canvass for Conservative votes to secure that union buries the SDLP strategy for good. It is therefore important that the SDLP and others now accept the need to develop a new strategy which can advance the cause of peace. Sinn Féin is advocating a non-violent campaign, a diplomatic offensive by all nationalist parties in Ireland, to put pressure on Britain to recognise that peace and reconciliation in Ireland are dependent upon its withdrawal."

And at a press conference in Dungannon on Tuesday, Foyle candidate Martin McGuinness joined party colleagues Councillor Francie Molloy, candidate for Fermanagh/South Tyrone, and Barry McElduff, candidate

for Mid-Ulster, in answering questions from the local media.

Francie Molloy challenged both Ken Maginnis and the SDLP's Tommy Gallagher to debate the issues which directly affect the people of his area and said that he was confident of winning the seat which is traditionally republican. Pointing out that of the 71,000 electors, ex-UDR major Ken Maginnis received 27,446 out of a possible 31,000 Unionist votes leaving 40,000 nationalist votes. Molloy said that even if the SDLP took 8,000 votes Sinn Féin could still take the seat.

This was in spite of the disruption and harassment his election workers were undergoing and he cited the humiliating case of a young man who was stripped of every stitch of his clothing by the British army last Saturday morning at 10.30am on the main Dungannon to Enniskillen road. The young man was left standing on this busy road totally naked with traffic passing him observing the British army indulging in their sick behaviour. This incident happened in the Clougher area, which also saw other British soldiers pulling down Molloy's election posters only half-an-hour after they had been put up.

Francie Molloy concluded by saying that this was the reality facing the nationalist people of Fermanagh/South Tyrone and noted that no other party was suffering this type of abuse. "The memory of Bobby Sands being elected from his prison cell was a strong one, in all parts of the constituency, and has strengthened our determination to work harder for a Sinn Féin victory next Thursday."

Turning to the constituency of Mid-Ulster, Sinn Féin's Barry McElduff described in detail how things were going in his campaign. Barry began by explaining the harassment suffered by his election workers, with constant disruption by the RUC and British army. In an incident in Cookstown while canvassing, he was stopped and held for over an hour by a combination of British army paratroopers, uniformed RUC and RUC Special Branch.

From the shores of Lough Neagh to Castlederg on the Donegal/Tyrone border, Barry and his enthusiastic team have been busy canvassing this large constituency.

Barry is confident of continuing the republican electoral tradition in the constituency next Thursday by taking the seat of sitting DUP MP William McCrea, despite the vote-splitting tactics of the SDLP. Barry told the reporters that he had offered publicly to stand down in favour of a unity candidate, but the SDLP's Dennis Haughey had refused to agree to this popular move. Haughey has been seen as a nationalist vote-splitter since his intervention in North Antrim when he opposed John Turnley, Irish Independence Party candidate (later assassinated by a pro-British death squad) and also in the Fermanagh/South Tyrone constituency when in 1973 he opposed



● Martin McGuinness and Francie Molloy on the campaign trail in Tyrone

Frank McManus, the independent nationalist candidate.

Haughey's claim to the 15,000 voters who have been abstaining in recent elections ring hollow as Barry described how the area is traditionally seen as a republican one and that these electors, if they vote at all, would be more likely to go to Sinn Féin. He ended by saying there was a "mood swing" towards Sinn Féin and away from the "carpet-bagging SDLP chancer" who had had to resort to the laughable claim of being the 'real republican party'. After the press conference was over the three candidates visited the Tyrone Crystal glass factory, which is one of the largest employers in the area, and got a good and humorous response from the workers.

The following day, Wednesday morning saw Martin McGuinness, Foyle candidate, open another press conference, this time in Strabane.

Alongside party colleague, Councillor Ivan Barr, Martin outlined the terrible unemployment figures which have been a fact for decades in the Strabane area. This predominantly nationalist town suffered particularly badly under the years of unionist misrule and this continues under direct Westminster rule. The town, over recent years, has seen money come into it — not to help alleviate unemployment, but rather towards the rebuilding of the RUC barracks and the British military checkpoint at the Camel's hump bridge.

The only major funding in the town outside of the British bases was spent on the construction of a flood wall, and this was only achieved after a good section of the town disappeared under flood waters a couple of years ago! McGuinness, expanding on this said that this was basic infrastructure work and should have been carried out long before the town was flooded, especially when it was known that high river

A ballot paper in one hand and a solution in the other

"IT IS the first real political debate since censorship was imposed and it is the first real debate about real issues. Censorship has played a significant part in frustrating open dialogue around the key issues creating conflict."

Said Sinn Féin's Foyle candidate, Martin McGuinness, describing the election campaign so far as "largely dominated by the controversy over what is or is not on the agenda for discussion at the Brooke Talks". He was speaking at the launch of the party's election manifesto in Belfast on March 30th.

Describing journalists as "frustrated by censorship" McGuinness told the packed hall that the experience of this election campaign provides clear evidence of the anti-democratic nature of censorship and the need for it to be lifted. Commenting on the 'talks' controversy, McGuinness said that it wasn't Sinn Féin's wish to score points over the parties involved in the talks by highlighting the confusions and contradictions between them:

The secrecy surrounding the talks has inevitably led to ambiguity and this has been used by the parties during this election campaign. What all this proves is the need for a clear agenda, no secrecy and public accountability for politicians. Without these and a commitment to inclusive

economic, environmental, cultural and political. He said that he was "pleased to be able to say that the Sinn Féin manifesto is much more detailed than those of other parties. This reflects our party's involvement with people and our unchallengeable record of solid constituency representation, a reality which even our opponents grudgingly accept."

"We have stood up for the rights, aspirations, needs and principles of citizens and I am confident that our

vote will be strengthened in this election. I am particularly confident about our prospects in Fermanagh/South Tyrone and Mid-Ulster and I remind the voters there that Sinn Féin is the only party which can unseat the bigots in these constituencies."

Describing the question of peace and how it is to be achieved as the primary question in this election, Adams said that Sinn Féin's demand for a process leading to a lasting peace focuses very sharply on the British government's record of failure:

"The Hillsborough Treaty of 1985 is not a solution any more than the Partition of Ireland was. All efforts have failed because they have rested on partitionist structures. A new initiative is needed, a real initiative. The British government is responsible for the political crisis here. They must end the politics of illusion and embrace the democratic option of inclusive dialogue."

"The human tragedy in the Six Counties imposes a moral imperative on the Dublin and London governments to adopt a new realism. It also demands that the Dublin government and SDLP join in the task of developing an Irish agenda for peace. Their negative stance to date has caused confusion. It has perpetuated the conflict."

Commenting on the international dimension, Adams said that the European Community and its institutions can play a constructive role in the resolution of the conflict. He continued:

"An Irish strategy for peace must be placed before it and also before the

UN. The United Nations has the authority and mandate to monitor the decolonisation process in Ireland. We believe the international community can play a valuable role in bringing peace to Ireland."

Reassuring the Protestant people that Sinn Féin's demand for British withdrawal is not aimed at them, Adams said that their participation is needed to give shape to a new Irish democracy which will reflect the diversity of all our people.

"Republicans, like all other citizens, have a vested interest in peace, and Sinn Féin's principle objective is for a peaceful Ireland with political and economic equality for all our people."

Responding to hostile comments by one journalist, Adams said that party colleague Danny Morrison had once used the phrase "a ballot box in the one hand and an armalite in the other" to push forward electoralism. The Sinn Féin president said that the party was continually trying to move forward.

"Sinn Féin is going forward in this election", interjected Martin McGuinness, "with a ballot paper in one hand and a solution in the other."

A vote for Sinn Féin, Adams concluded, will send a clear message to the British and Dublin governments and local politicians that a real process for peace should begin now. "A vote for Sinn Féin strengthens the Irish argument for a new and genuine initiative based on an Irish agenda. It will also ensure that the demand for a lasting peace in Ireland continues after the election."



● Sinn Féin election candidates Barry McElduff, Martin McGuinness, Gerry Adams, Francie Molloy and Seán Fitzpatrick at the launch of the party's election manifesto on Monday, March 30th

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levels had continually threatened the town.

McGuinness also revealed that in percentage terms Strabane suffered the worst unemployment in western Europe, and this has not been addressed by the sitting Foyle MP John Hume, who perhaps knows more about the restaurants of Brussels than the housing estates of Strabane. Following the successful press conference, McGuinness and Councillor Barr met with election workers and carried out a successful canvass, discussing the various community problems with the people who have to live with the repressive policies of British misrule.

East Derry candidate Pauline Davey Kennedy has hit out at what she described as "blatant political harassment" by the British crown forces.



● Seán Fitzpatrick, Sinn Féin candidate for South Down



● Sinn Féin election workers in Turf Lodge, West Belfast

Commenting on the recent arrest and two-day detention of key members of her election team, Pauline Davey-Kennedy said that it is "ironic in the extreme that my election agent should be arrested within 24 hours of the close of nominations given that he, Damien MacBride, was arrested at exactly the same juncture five years ago when he was also election agent for my late father Councillor John Davey."

Election agent Damien MacBride and his brother Oistín, Sinn Féin's local Director of Publicity, were arrested and taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre on Wednesday, March 25th, where they were held for two days. During the course of a series of four hour interrogations the two brothers were threatened with SAS shoot-to-kill and assassination by loyalist death squads. Damien MacBride said that

most of the RUC questioning was concerned with Sinn Féin activity.

Meanwhile, Sinn Féin candidate for the Upper Bann, Brendan Curran said that Portadown Catholic Terence McConville (see page 16) was an innocent victim chosen at random. He added that McConville's killing would further fuel speculation about collusion between loyalists and the British crown forces.

Sinn Féin South Down candidate Sean Fitzpatrick has said that lasting peace can only be achieved if all politicians set aside their preconditions and talk about their common future. "The

persistent exclusion of a section of the nationalist people from political discussions had hindered peace not helped it" he concluded.

Welcoming the restoration of the funding to the Irish language group Glór na nGael, Sinn Féin candidate for East Belfast, Joe O'Donnell called for grant aid to be returned to some 25 other blacklisted groups. He continued:

"To continue to implement this undemocratic policy of political vetting of community groups is a disgrace."

Lagan Valley Sinn Féin candidate

Pat Rice has called for the extension of homelessness legislation to include single people and couples without children. In the Poleglass and Twinbrook areas there are currently 600 families on the housing waiting list, with over 3,000 in the Greater West Belfast area. On top of this, it is estimated that up to 200 young people are becoming homeless within the area every year. Commenting on the figures, Rice said that despite the present acute housing shortage the Housing Executive budget has been cut by £40 million over the next three years.



DALY STICKS HIS CROZIER IN

YET AGAIN Cardinal Cahal Daly has let his pro-British views interfere with the election process by indicating who people should vote for.

Speaking at a Lenten Mass in Dublin's Pro-Cathedral on Thursday, March 26th, he directed a large part of his homily towards the election. He said that those people who were in the process of deciding whether or not to vote for Sinn Féin candidates should "reflect very carefully, not only on the vote that they are going to give, but on the possible and probable interpretations put upon their vote".

While not coming out openly and saying that people should not vote Sinn Féin he nevertheless left no one under any illusion what he was hinting at. At no time did Daly mention how the votes of any other party might be interpreted. There was no mention of the British Conservatives, standing in the Six Counties while their government's massive amount of armed forces support the anti-democratic partition of Ireland, nor indeed of the various shades of

unionists with their own brand of 'loyal armed supporters'.

Daly continued by saying that almost a million unionists in the Six Counties felt "liberation and self-determination had been won when the island had been partitioned in 1922". Good democrat that he is, Daly overturns the majority vote on the future of Ireland and agrees that the minority view in Ireland must prevail.

Gerry Adams, referring to the Cardinal's reference to the "unfinished business of 1922" and the "expulsion of one million Protestants", said that Cahal Daly should take account of his recent ard theis speech.

"We are in fact aiming at the coming together of Protestants, Catholics and Dissenters and that republican demands for British withdrawal include the full involvement of northern Protestants in building a new Ireland."



● CAHAL DALY

When asked how he viewed the Cardinals comments about voting he said: "It is a matter of perpetual disappointment that he continues to advise republicans on how they should vote. This is a gross interference with the right of people to elect representatives of their choosing. He does not advise those who vote for the other parties, and, for example, he makes no comments upon the meaning of the DUP slogan 'smash Sinn Féin'."

Daly's remarks from a pulpit in Dublin can only have further reduced his credibility among nationalists in the Six Counties, whose democratic wishes he has always refused to recognise.

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Parties' commitment sought on transfers

CANDIDATES in the forthcoming Westminster election were called on to support the campaign to have Irish prisoners transferred to jails in the North at a press conference on March 31st, organised by the Committee for the Transfer of Irish Prisoners. "The campaign to allow all Irish prisoners serving long sentences in England to be transferred to jails here in the North is a long running one with a considerable range of professional, political and legal support", said Irene Sherry.

Of immediate concern to the Transfer Committee is the refusal of the British government to release the Ferrers Report which it itself commissioned to investigate the effects of travelling to England on prisoners' families and which has not yet been published.

The Transfer Committee called on Lord Ferrers to make a public statement explaining the fate of his report and to hold a meeting with prisoners' families with the aim of setting out his agenda for action on the issue.

Speaking to the press conference, from the floor, Kieran McAvoy from NIACRO (Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders) said that his organisation

was a constituent part of a group of the bodies NAPO (National Association of Probation Officers), ICPO (Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas) and the CAJ (Committee for the Administration of Justice). This grouping supports the transfer of prisoners to jails closer to their families who suffer through having to travel on long and expensive journeys to English jails. The estimated cost of the journey to the Isle of Wight is £463. This prohibitive cost, said Sinead McCotter, sister of Liam McCotter means that the families are restricted to, at most two or three visits a year.

McAvoy also expressed disappointment that the Ferrers Report had been put in abeyance and said that the pro-

fessional bodies he was involved with would be putting pressure on the British government to explain its position.

Letters were sent by the Transfer Committee to all the political parties asking them to support in their policies the transfer of prisoners. Although politicians from all parties have voiced concern on the issue none have actually backed this support up in policy. However in a letter to the press conference Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said that "Sinn Féin supports the aims and objectives of the campaign and commits itself to raising the issue during the election campaign".

Francie Molloy, Sinn Féin's spokesperson on prison issues stressed the importance of the transfer of prisoners to make visiting easier for elderly and infirm relatives. "The European Court of Human Rights", he said "is to examine the cases of a number of Irish prisoners and is investigating the matter to see if Britain is in breach of Article Eight of the Convention which emphasises respect for the right to family life".



• Sinead McCotter, Irene Sherry and Jackie McMullan at the press conference held by the Campaign For The Transfer Of Irish Prisoners

Crooks going to Hong Kong?

Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Máirtín O Muilleoir stated that he would withdraw a motion which he has tabled for discussion in Belfast City Council on Wednesday, April 1st, censuring junkets abroad by councillors if the Parks Committee Chairperson, Official Unionist Party Councillor Margaret Crooks, pulls out of an all-expenses-paid trip to Hong Kong to view wildlife reserves, a trip which would cost in the region of £10,000.

"My motion before the council on Wednesday night condemns the expenditure of £10,000 on free trips in the last financial year at a time when the council is set to shed 600 jobs and cut back on its services," O Muilleoir said. His motion also calls on the council to declare a moratorium on all junkets until the end of October, which would effectively torpedo the Hong Kong trip.

O Muilleoir is willing to withdraw the motion if Crooks agrees to the deal which will save £10,000 but he has pledged to continue his long-running campaign against unionist councillors'

foreign trips if she refuses. Crooks was quoted in the Irish News in February attempting to justify her trip. She said: "I work hard as a chairman (sic) of a committee, so there is nothing wrong with playing hard."

According to O Muilleoir: "Even the unionists in City Hall acknowledge that Mrs Crooks' comments caused deep embarrassment in their ranks and that she has been spoken to privately by her colleagues."

Among unionist councillors last year Frank Millar and Jim Proctor went on eleven trips, Herbert Ditty ten and Fred Proctor eight, while the then



• MAIRTIN O MUILLEOIR

Lord Mayor, Fred Cobain, had a 20-day spree through Europe taking in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

IN BRIEF...

Political repression in Limerick

Sinn Féin in Limerick picketed Garda Headquarters at Henry Street on Saturday, March 21st, to protest at the intensified harassment of local members over the past 13 months.

Since February 1991 numerous homes in Limerick city and county have been the subject of Garda raids and in the city alone over 40 people have been arrested and detained for periods of up to 48 hours. They have been questioned almost exclusively about their own and others' personal lives and the political work of Sinn Féin. Personal and political papers have been seized and despite representations, never returned. Limerick Sinn Féin Secretary Sarah Duggan has been arrested and had her home raided three times.

A particularly sinister aspect of the recent repression has been the targeting of friends and neighbours of republicans and of community organisations in which Sinn Féin members are active. The owners of premises in which Sinn Féin has held functions have been visited and warned not to allow such events.

In statement Pádraig Malone of Limerick Sinn Féin said the campaign was clearly part of the politically orchestrated witch-hunt that has resulted in the party being barred from the airwaves and in attempts to prevent it holding its annual ard feis.

Malone continued: "In the North this campaign of attempted criminalisation has had even deadlier results. In the past six years eight Sinn Féin members, including three councillors have been shot dead by loyalist death squads.

"Limerick Sinn Féin are determined to resist all efforts to break our party. We have a democratic right to organise and exist without police harassment and interference. We call on all who claim to support democracy to back us in our opposition to police state tactics. Today Sinn Féin are the victims, tomorrow it could be anybody else who incurs the wrath of the powers that be."

Call for change in rape laws

Launching its tenth annual report on Wednesday, March 25th, the Belfast Rape Crisis Centre called for rape to be put on the political agenda and said that politicians should state where they stand on tougher penalties for rape and child sexual abuse.

"Some of the political parties aren't even sure what their policies are on sexual violence or sexual abuse of children", said Una Gillespie, spokesperson for the Centre.

Urging women to ask politicians canvassing on the doorstep about their policies Gillespie pointed out that whilst first time contacts for rape and child sex abuse had decreased in 1991 follow-up calls were running at 654 per year. Actual visits to the centre had increased by 50% to 308.

Taken together these figures show how widespread rape and incest is. The Rape Crisis Centre demands a "complete overhaul" of legislation dealing with rape, including the widening of the very narrow legal definition of what constitutes rape.

This controversy over the definition of what rape is extends to the practise of strip-searching. Events in Maghaberry prison on March 2nd when 21 women were forcibly strip-searched have brought the practice back to public attention. Like rape it is a practice which involves coercion, violence, subjugation and humiliation.

De Rossa group attacks Articles Two and Three

Democratic Left was the new name adopted on Saturday, March 24th, by the group led by Pádraig De Rossa who three months ago failed in their bid to gain overall control of the Workers' Party and steer it in a different direction.

Dogged by accusations of links to the so-called Official IRA and discredited methods, the De Rossa faction felt the WP was an ineffective vehicle for their parliamentary ambitions and sought a reconstituting of the party. But through bad judgement and ineptitude in preparing the political ground the six TDs led by De Rossa failed to wrench the reins of power from the WP Old Guard led by Séan Garland. Following their defeat and the rejection of a significant part of their reform programme they then had no option but to leave.

On their departure Pádraig De Rossa, Pat McCarron, Eamon Gilmore, Pat Rabbitte, Joe Sherlock and Eric Byrne announced the formation of New Agenda which has now voted for a new name change.

The extent of the De Rossa faction's failure can be measured by the fact that they have lost access to party offices, money and back up to fund parliamentary activity, full-time party employees and the money which accrued from their stances as a party as defined by Leinster House — seven or more TDs.

Pádraig De Rossa was elected leader of the new party whose pro-British political hue became clear in his speech closing the conference. He attacked Articles Two and Three of the 1937 Constitution and called for the formation of a "peace movement" which by his one-sided remarks about the "killing of policemen and soldiers" he clearly meant merely to be an anti-republican grouping.

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Victory for Glór na nGael

EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, in August 1990, the British government politically vetted Glór na nGael, withdrew their funds, wrecked their jobs and attempted to destroy the organisation. On Friday, March 27th, the British government admitted defeat when it unconditionally restored funding to the Irish language group.

The return of the money to Glór na nGael is a significant victory for the group which by refusing to compromise forced the British government to admit that it was wrong. It will also raise the hopes of all the other community groups, such as the Conway Education Centre, who lost funding as a result of the political vetting system introduced by former British Secretary of State, Douglas Hurd, in 1985.

Noirín Úi Chléirigh, Glór's chairperson was delighted with the announcement but refuted the assertion Peter Brooke made when he announced the return of the group's funding. He said that circumstances had "changed significantly" since August 1990 when the money was axed. "Glór na nGael membership has not changed during the fight to clear its name," Úi Chléirigh said. "I still can't understand why we were black-listed."

She went on to say that the past 18 months were particularly difficult but they carried on their work with the aid of considerable support from home and abroad and despite their difficulties. West Belfast carried off the Prize Winners' Prize in the Glór na nGael National Competition. However, she wondered, "what more could have been achieved if adequate funding had been available"? And putting the achievements of Glór in perspective, she said, "On top of its work to promote the Irish language, Glór na nGael



• PAT RICE

has had to mount a major campaign to have its funding restored and bring an end to the policy of political vetting. Today's decision must surely signal the death knell of the policy of political vetting."

Sinn Féin Councillor and Westminster candidate for Lagan Valley Pat Rice, welcomed the restoration of the grant to Glór and congratulated its members for their "determination in fighting this politically discriminatory decision". Rice went on to call on the British government to "immediately restore funding to the many



• The cultural future of these children is now a little more secure

other groups effected by political vetting. Everyone knew, especially the British government who perpetrated this act of blatant political vetting, that there was no substance to the allegations levelled against Glór na nGael."

Political vetting, according to Rice, is the means used by the Northern Ireland Office to silence groups who hold legitimate, independent views on social, cultural and political matters

that the British government doesn't like.

The attitude of the British government to the Irish language in general was also questioned by Pat Rice and Noirín Úi Chléirigh. "Brian Mawhinney wants to treat Irish as a foreign language," said Rice, while Úi Chléirigh said that, "the British government must now re-examine its attitude to the Irish language and for the first time put the development of Irish

medium education on a secure footing".

Groups and organisations from trades unions to the CAJ (Committee for the Administration of Justice) welcomed the British government's decision to restore Glór's funding. NUPE spokesperson, Inez McCormack, praised the work of all those who fought to force the NIO to retract its decision and thanked them for their support.

No freedom of movement in '92

BORDER ROADS ARE OPENED "not for crack but for need...it's a human rights campaign". So said Michael McPhillips of the escalating campaign to breach Britain's Berlin Wall.

This was the theme at a meeting of the Dublin '68 Committee on March 26th. The events of the previous weekend's border opening at Swanlinbar, where the RUC launched an unprovoked attack, abducting two border road workers, were raised. One of those detained, Jimmy Murphy, who was later charged in Enniskillen Barracks with "assaulting" an RUC officer, spoke to the meeting.

The community associations are, according to Michael McPhillips, non-party political organisations "whose membership includes farmers, business people and concerned residents". The action on border closures began with border villages starting action groups picketing border check points, which imposed "curfew conditions" on local communities.

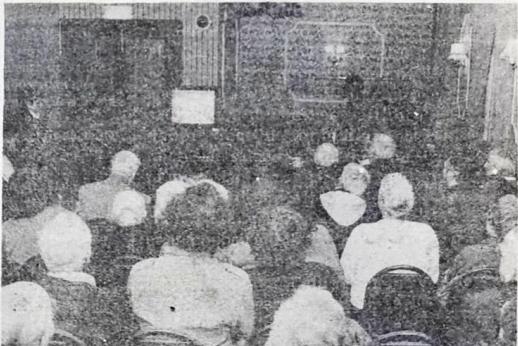
McPhillips gave an example of one community, Derryker, where 17 houses were locked in at night as their local checkpoint often closed for the night. He highlighted the case of farmers who have 25-mile trips forced on them two or three times a day when the fields they want to visit are actually only three or four miles through the



• MICHAEL MCPHILLIPS

closed border road. McPhillips explained about the drop in cross-border trade as those in the 26 Counties were discouraged by the road closures, the waiting at checkpoints and the intimidation by British army and the RUC at checkpoints. Border trade "fell apart".

The community associations began



• Some of the crowd in Buswell's Hotel listening to the experiences of those involved in demolishing Britain's Berlin Wall

with picks and shovels but they now have a JCB excavator, a bulldozer and they plan to buy a heavy tractor to tow the machinery. One road has been opened 30 times over the last two years. The Lackey Bridge road has been opened 17 times. In McPhillips' own area 27 out of 31 roads are closed, those that are open are basically fortified British checkpoints, where it can often take hours to pass through a checkpoint.

It takes the British government between two and three days of continuous 24-hour work to close a border road. It is a process which involves a Wessex helicopter permanently in the sky, lorries and diggers operated by army personnel, while hundreds of

other soldiers are drafted in to "secure the area". After such an operation it is often hard to figure out where the road was. In one case a crater 300 yards long was created by the British to frustrate any further attempts to open the road.

Those who highlight the border closures are "immediately targeted", their cars are pulled apart at checkpoints and their personal documents and belongings are searched. Michael McPhillips gave a litany of personal examples where he himself had been the target of harassment and intimidation.

Michael McPhillips also emphasised the role played by the 26-County government in its compliance and col-

lusion with British government plans to close border roads and militarise the border.

Last September 26-County troops and helicopters were involved in a non-stop operation. McPhillips said "hundreds of 26-County troops and garda were involved at the southern end of a border road closing".

Irish National Congress chairperson Robert Ballagh pointed out that "freedom of movement within the EC was supposed to be one of the benefits of the Maastricht Treaty". He pointed out that the Treaty of Rome which all EC member states had signed, guarantees the right to move freely.

Both McPhillips and Ballagh criticised the 'national' media for their failure to cover British border fortification, harassment of locals and the border openings initiated by the community associations.

The meeting ended with a brief contribution by Jimmy Murphy, one of the two people snatched by the RUC the previous Sunday at Swanlinbar. Murphy, from Kilkenny, had intervened when the RUC snatched Brendan Doran and was taken to Enniskillen Barracks where he was refused access to a doctor, solicitor or a telephone call. Murphy was charged with technical assault and resisting arrest. Murphy stated that "At no time did I ever expect to become involved in any trouble at the crossing". He called on everybody to "support and help these ordinary people who have the same rights to their livelihoods as the rest of us".



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

2nd April 1992

■ RIGGING OPINION POLLS

OPINION POLLS have over the past 15 years reached a position of central importance and influence not only in Ireland but throughout the world. An invisible 1,000 people, supposedly representing all the socio-economic, regional and age groups of a particular society, have become a political force. The poll survey is in itself a useful and worthy exercise. However, polls can easily be biased, twisted, unrepresentative and manipulated. In the case of polls concerning Sinn Féin, and issues such as British withdrawal, national unity and the Brooke Talks, this bias has become glaringly obvious.

The 1977 Leinster House election was the first occasion political surveys were published in the print media. Though the 1977 surveys wrongfully predicted a return to government for the Fine Gael/Labour coalition the opinion poll survey had carved out a place for itself in the columns and headlines of the national media.

The opinion poll has become in many cases the arbiter and initiator of government policy decisions. The current Westminster election exhibits a slavish devotion to polls by the British media and political parties. Parties daily tailor their programmes and policy to the recommendations of poll results. BBC's *Newsnight* programme even goes so far as to commission a Poll of Polls which averages the weekly crop of newspaper and television polls into one overall survey. The poll survey has become a news event in its own right, an essential element in circulation battles between papers.

The Six-County newspapers publish considerably fewer polls than their counterparts in Dublin. The *Irish Times* publishes polls consistently as do most of the other 26-County papers. However, the *Irish Times* seems determined to use the poll survey as a political weapon to target and isolate Sinn Féin and republicans. *Irish Times* polls on national issues such as divorce, abortion and political party support have been supplemented over the past year with questions on the issue of unity and the Brooke talks.

There has been considerable criticism of these polls both in AP/RN and within the letters page of the *Irish Times*. However, this has not deterred the *Times* from continuing with their biased surveys.

The *Irish Times* has taken the opportunity of the British Westminster election to tag on questions about Irish issues to British political opinion surveys. The target of the *Irish Times* was the consistently surveyed majority support among the British public for military withdrawal from the Six Counties.

The *Irish Times* published surveys on January 27th and March 25th. The March 25th survey did not ask those questioned, should there be British withdrawal. Instead they asked the British people three questions "Do You think that Northern Ireland should form some sort of union with the Republic?; Should Northern Ireland become an independent state?; Should Northern Ireland remain part of the United Kingdom?"

Twenty three per cent of those questioned were in favour of union with the 26 Counties, 31% favoured an independent Six Counties, while only 29% favoured the Six Counties remaining part of the UK. Of those questioned, 17% expressed no opinion on the issues. The *Irish Times* titled this page one poll story with the "Poll finds British electorate divided on North's future". Simple maths shows that 54% of those questioned did not envisage a role for Britain in the Six Counties. If we adopt the favoured tactic of *Irish Times* pollsters and "exclude the don't knows" we get a 65% total who do not see a role for Britain in the Six Counties.

The *Irish Times* saw fit not to interpret the figure this way and such is their right. However, their treatment of questions on Sinn Féin's participation in talks on the future of the Six Counties was even worse. Voters were asked "In the talks on the future of Northern Ireland, should the IRA, represented by its political wing, Sinn Féin, be included or excluded in your view?" 31% wanted Sinn Féin included while 58% wanted them excluded.

It seems that it is beyond the capacity of the *Irish Times* to ask "Should Sinn Féin be included in the talks process?" In January those questioned were, according to the *Irish Times*, informed that "Sinn Féin's exclusion was supported by the main political parties in Britain and Ireland". The *Irish Times* are manipulating poll surveys to push the London and Dublin governments agenda of exclusion of Sinn Féin.

The *Irish Times* has, through its editorial columns, endorsed the view of the British and Dublin governments and is entitled to hold that opinion. However, the misrepresentation and prejudice against Sinn Féin and on the conflict in the Six Counties, not only undermines this survey but all other surveys that the *Irish Times* undertakes.

Feature



• ANGELO AND MARY FUSCO

Angelo Fusco and the classic political offence

In May 1980 an SAS squad attacked a house held by four IRA Volunteers. In the resulting exchange of fire an SAS captain was killed. The four were captured and all were sentenced to life imprisonment. They were subsequently among a group of eight republican prisoners who escaped from Crumlin Road Jail just two days before their sentences were handed down.

ANGELO FUSCO (35) was one of these men. He was later arrested in the 26 Counties and tried for the escape under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. He received a ten-year sentence. A later escape attempt while in Portlaoise Prison resulted in another two years and three months being added to this sentence. Just before Christmas Angelo Fusco was due to be released from prison. However, he was served with British extradition warrants. He is facing a return to the Six Counties to serve the recommended 30-year life sentence imposed by a Diplock Court in his absence.

AP/RN reporter LIAM O COILEAIN spoke to Angelo Fusco at his home in Tralee where he is currently living with his wife Mary, and their three children, Elaine, Joseph and Maria. Fusco is on bail awaiting his High Court appeal against a District Court decision that he should be extradited.

AP/RN: Was your family political to start off with?

No, our family would not have been political. My father was born of Italian parents. He considers himself Italian first. During the internment swoops my father was among those who were arrested. They arrest-

ed everybody in the street. I don't know exactly what happened but it scarred him for life. At that time my father must have been near 60, or in his late 50s anyway. He had never been arrested in his life for anything. He was quiet. He never had any reason to be worried about the powers-that-be. He got a bit of a hammering. I don't know exactly what happened to him, my father would never tell us. I think it hurt him, psychologically anyway. He was never the same after. I hate to say about my father that they damaged him or broke his spirit but they did. They were kicking our door in every second day and wrecking the house. Folks were

afraid to have a bath in case the Brits would walk in on them.

It was John they were looking for. I was only going on 15. It ended up with John on the run down in Dublin. Things were that bad, they hassled the family that much that my mother decided to leave Belfast for a time. This was in January '72. Anyway, down we went to live in Dublin for a number of years.

My father's younger brother Alfie was murdered in his shop on the York Road, in '72 as well, a pure sectarian killing. They came in looking to kill his sons. He was standing behind the counter and they pursued him into the back of the shop and shot him. They machine-gunned him. They destroyed him, it was a closed coffin. We were living in Coolock at the time. I remember my father heard it, he was lying back on a seat watching the news when he heard his brother was shot dead. That had a major impact on the whole family because we were all close.

AP/RN: At what stage did you become involved?

I became involved in 1977. I joined the IRA then. I knew Goose [Robert Russell, extradited to the Six Counties in 1987] and all at that time. The first time I was ever in Castlereagh was because Goose was in the car. I gave him a lift and because he was in the car I ended up getting scooped too. I was held for three days. Shortly after that I was on the run until I was eventually arrested on the Antrim Road in May 1980.

AP/RN: Can you say something about the ambush?

There was heavy military traffic on the road because they were building the New Antrim Road Barracks at the time. We had come across the town for the operation. Joe Doherty was one of the local lads and he was on it because we were coming into their area. It was nice to have someone from the locality on the operation. At that particular time there wasn't much weaponry floating around Belfast. We were probably the most heavily armed team. At that time on the New Lodge

Feature

Road I think the only rifle was an SKS or something like that, and the RUC and the British army would have known what was there, because any time shots were fired it would have been with that particular weapon. There was an element of surprise. They hadn't got a clue that that particular team was there with an M-60. They weren't expecting it. They knew that the IRA had taken over the house but they didn't for one minute consider that it was a squad from West Belfast or that the sort of weaponry we had was going to be there. Otherwise, I don't think they'd have tried to storm the house. I think they thought they were going up against very few weapons and possibly inexperienced people. They said it themselves in their depositions that they realised at a certain point that they couldn't effect entry to that house because there was a machine-gun covering the doorway. The end result was that we had to surrender.

AP/RN: The next thing then was the escape?

I remember, even that day in the Antrim Road, Fat [Robert Campbell] saying to me, try to get into such and such a wing, because the last time he was there — the last time Fat was in jail, he was always thinking ahead, looking at angles for such an eventuality, maybe not that particular scenario, but something anyway, that he might need to avail of. But Fat

was certainly looking ahead. Without that particular group of bodies in the place at that time we couldn't have effected the escape. We had always acted as a team anyway, so everybody knew each other, and knew their job, that was it. At the time we considered the escape as just another IRA operation.

AP/RN: Did you think the South was a so-called 'safe haven'?

No, I knew before the escape that if I was arrested down here I could be tried for the escape under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. Extradition didn't enter into it. Never in a million years did I think... well, I never thought the Brits would try to extradite me, because it would be a hopeless case for them, which proved to be the case at the time. They opted for the Jurisdiction Act. They knew they had a prima facie case, they didn't have to prove anything practically. One minute I was in the jail and the next day I wasn't.

AP/RN: As the extradition law stood it was a political offence.

Under the 1965 Act it was a prima facie political case. I'd have hoped that they would have tried to extradite us but they didn't because they knew they didn't have a leg to stand on. I wouldn't have a problem in the world today if they had tried it then.

Mary moved down here

with me [Tralee]. We were living in another estate where I was eventually arrested. I had a job. We planned on the youngest child, Maria. Because, we thought, all things considered, if worst came to the worst, in a number of years time I'd be released and we'd just carry on again. That we'd have some sort of life. We used to talk about that in our letters.

And then of course we had the '87 Act.

We were all arrested within a few months. Joe Doherty was in the town. After I was arrested Joe left. Gerry Sloan was only arrested in 1989. He got a long run.

I don't think any of us were terribly worried after the charges we had faced and were sentenced on, knowing we couldn't be extradited for them, then as I say, anything after that was going to be some relief. Obviously any sort of incarceration is unpleasant but once you'd already faced those charges and felt you'd skipped them, it's hard to get excited over something relatively minor.

The ten years they gave us was sort of unprecedented for that sort of thing and the reason they gave us such a big sentence was, I believe, they knew we had skipped the extradition on a very large sentence. So they gave us the maximum. Seven and a half years is generally what is considered a life sentence for a non-political offence down here so in fact we served a life sentence.

AP/RN: So it was obvious to you that extradition was a policy the Dublin government was going to pursue?

Yes. After the McGlinchey ruling, they had just changed the rules a wee bit so that certain things could no longer be considered political. Of course the Supreme Court overturned that in Finucane's case but it was used against Goose Russell. I thought the political exemption was gone, that I had lost the protection of that because of the McGlinchey ruling, even under the 1965 Act. And then the Robert Russell ruling confirmed it, although I had already attempted to escape at that stage. At one time, I suppose, none of us were absolutely convinced that they were or weren't going to go for us because we had been done under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. We thought it was double jeopardy that the state had the option of extradition or that act. It was designed that way but it was never written in. Unfortunately it was one of the loopholes used against us. We never really knew but certainly things were looking worse all the time. I wasn't going to take the chance. It was proved to be right at the time. When Pete Ryan [killed on active service on June 3rd 1991] got out we thought we were all going to get out. They didn't move on Pete. He hadn't been sentenced. Any charges they had against him they should have proceeded with within a

reasonable period of time. We were already convicted.

AP/RN: How has your family coped?

My kids have all grown up in Tralee. They've been here eleven years. The youngest, Maria, was born here, and Joseph was only a toddler. The last couple of years have taken a heavy toll on Mary and them, with the exception of Joseph, he's very optimistic. Elaine, the oldest girl, is the ultimate pessimist. I suppose I can't blame her. She hasn't had much grounds for hope.

Mary knows the situation is not good. If I am extradited there is the whole problem of uprooting our family from where they have grown up or facing traveling the length of the country for visits. Even now we find it hard to talk about it. A lot of times I can't talk to her about it because she breaks down. In some ways she doesn't want to face it; she knows she has to but she can't talk about it. We get to a certain point... and it seems that we only have a series of non-options, we don't have options and underneath it all she's totally realistic and that's obviously why she can't even talk about it, because she knows, she can't fool herself, and I wouldn't attempt to fool her. Things aren't good and that's it.

I don't even know what I can say about extradition because I think anybody who's

remotely interested in it or knows my situation knows that Dingus and Fat and myself are all connected and know what the bottom line is. It's a political issue. It doesn't matter. They can't depoliticise the act. They can deprive me of it as an offence but they can never depoliticise it. Even people who aren't of the same political persuasion as ourselves, they won't have a problem with it, it was a straight military operation, it was a classic example, a classic case, I suppose; and I don't have a problem with it, the Dublin government does, I don't.

AP/RN: How do you feel about the part the Dublin government has played in your case?

I think, this case of mine, being so overtly political; if any case can cause them embarrassment, if there's any shred of nationalism in them at all, it has to.

I don't think anybody can be comfortable with it. People who do things they're uncomfortable with may try and fool themselves but it has to prick their conscience. I refuse to believe that people don't have a conscience. They have to think about it.

I think they realise that I served ten straight consecutive years in this state. There's people in there doing life sentences who have been released, even political prisoners doing ten, eleven, 12 years and I have served a life sentence in this state. Plus I have over a year served up above, eleven years served.

AP/RN: The one thing the anti-extradition campaign has achieved is that every case has been publicised.

Of course it has. And well publicised. You can do so much, you can tell people and if they want to listen they will listen.

I don't think they can push the cases through rapidly on the scale that they might like, you hear the unionists complaining about it, saying it has failed, that they are not getting the numbers that they want. First and foremost, I don't think the Brits have the required evidence, because if they had, every one of them could be tried under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. The state has no qualms whatsoever about trying somebody under the act.

AP/RN: Do you have any message for anti-extradition campaigners?

I would hope that the people who are involved don't lose heart, because all things change and the political situation in this country will eventually swing around in our favour, but it will swing around quicker if we don't let up, if we keep the pressure on. People can be disheartened because people like myself can be thrown across very easily and things like that can set you back but I would hope that they wouldn't lose heart. Things will change. If I thought for one minute that it wasn't going to change I would pack everything in and so would everybody else.



● Three families in the same small Tralee estate are affected by the Dublin Government's extradition policy. Pictured here (left to right) Marie Magee, wife of extradition victim Paul 'Dingus' Magee, Sharon McCann (née Doherty) sister of Joe Doherty, and Mary Fusco

Parties Sinn Féin is out of the present

Guinness

Martin McGuinness interviewed
by Hilda MacThomas



as returns show a Sinn Féin vote that is solid - a testimony to the constituency service

to the question of who claims over the retained in the Government of Ireland Act and

politicians have said they their position in West advance their own agenda in the event of a government. What effect

this would be disastrous for the Irish people, as it is disproportionate to a dozen or so of

internment camps. A pact with the unionists would bring northern nationalists nothing but repression and hardship. It is the 'nightmare scenario'!

AP/RN: The SDLP has accused Sinn Féin of wanting to support unity candidates in Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh/South Tyrone with the sole purpose of allowing it to concentrate its resources in West Belfast. Is this true?

M McG: No. This is a mischievous argument peddled by the SDLP. By the same token, had the SDLP agreed to unity candidates, they too could have concentrated their resources in West Belfast, or more probably, in South Down. Sinn Féin recognises the deeply held desire of nationalists in these two constituencies to unseat Willie McCrea and Ken Maginnis. We have consistently and publicly for ten years now asked the SDLP to discuss the possibility of agreed candidates. The SDLP has consistently and publicly refused. The SDLP are the vote-splitters.

However, we are convinced that these two constituencies have the potential to return Sinn Féin MPs. We are working very hard to maximise our vote.

AP/RN: The SDLP claim that votes for candidates who will not take their seats in Westminster are wasted votes. Do you agree?

M McG: It is absurd to suggest that the Westminster parliament represents, in any

shape or form, a democratic forum for Irish nationalism. It is, and always has been, the instrument of British interests and has consistently hindered the development of an Irish democracy.

The SDLP's own record at Westminster is ample illustration of the ineffectiveness of attendance. Mr Hume rarely attends himself. Sinn Féin at least has the honesty to declare that it will not attend Westminster. Our mandate is based upon this position.

AP/RN: How do you think Sinn Féin will fare on April 9th?

M McG: The early canvass returns show a Sinn Féin vote that is solid. Many people are clearly angry at the failure of the Hillsborough Agreement to deliver all that the SDLP promised it would. The Hillsborough bubble has well and truly burst. People are cynical about the Brooke Talks, especially this recent escapade at



● MARTIN MCGUINNESS

a few constituencies, but right across the board, as a percentage share of the total votes cast, a strong Sinn Féin vote

...For 23 years, nearly a generation, the British have opted for war...

Stormont at the beginning of March. I believe this will be reflected in the votes cast on April 9th.

AP/RN: Why is it important for people to vote Sinn Féin next week?

M McG: Well, I happen to concur with Cardinal Daly: people should make sure their vote contributes to peace in Ireland. As such they should seriously consider casting their vote for Sinn Féin's peace proposals.

Alone of all parties Sinn Féin is clearly mapping a way out of the present impasse. A strong Sinn Féin vote, and I don't mean just in

will say to the British government, put real peace talks on the agenda. It will say to them, talk to all the sections of the population and their representatives.

It will also say to them, we don't want continued harassment of our children on the streets, we have had enough of your repressive laws, and we know your anti-discrimination laws have failed.

The Sinn Féin vote says to the Dublin government: Irish nationalists are not prepared to accept the dropping of Irish unity and independence from the political agenda. It will

say: we are not prepared to tolerate any tampering with Articles Two and Three. It will maintain the pressure on the Dublin government — and indeed on the SDLP! — to keep the issue of the British claim on the North, that is, the Government of Ireland Act 1920 and all subsequent acts, to the fore of any talks with London.

Finally, the Sinn Féin vote has an historical importance, in that it expresses the historical continuity of the Irish struggle for freedom. When you vote Sinn Féin you are acting in a consistent way with the demands expressed by the Irish people struggling against British domination down the ages.

For 23 years, nearly a generation, the British have opted for war, they have failed. They must be made to recognise that failure now. People will do that, and will help to bring about a just peace in our country by voting Sinn Féin.

...The SDLP must now accept that the British government is not 'neutral'...

Reviews

Nice one Imran!

■ BY BREANDAN MAC RUAIRI

CRICKET, that most aristocratic and imperialist of sports, mercifully, knows little interest or support in this country. Yet I am sure there are many of us who couldn't resist following the progress of last Wednesday morning's World Cup final in Melbourne, when the apparently invincible English XI met their match.

I must admit to deriving considerable pleasure at Pakistan's victory. I mean defeat at the hands of cricketing high-flyers such as Australia or the West Indies would be intolerable enough for our crestfallen neighbours, but to have to play second fiddle to Imran Khan's fighting men is indeed a bitter pill to swallow. The "restless natives" have certainly forgotten their place, while John Major's election team are definitely not amused.

Wednesday afternoon saw my attention move to Lansdowne Road and the 26-County soccer team's latest outing against Switzerland. While these friendly matches are absolutely essential for team-building purposes, they are a nightmare for the fans. The lack of entertainment is further exacerbated by the insistence of the FAI in charging high admission prices. A gesture of goodwill in this area is urgently required.

As usual at the rugby headquarters the game was spoiled by a bumpy pitch and a swirling wind, but there were some redeeming features. Paul McGrath, captain for the day on his 50th international, demon-

strated once more his status as Ireland's most complete player. His future positioning at centre-back is an imperative. Terry Phelan is an exceptional full-back while Tommy Coyne, on his debut, looked a striker who could do a good job for Ireland. What struck me most about the team, on reflection, is the quite awesome strength in depth of the squad. Jack Charlton will have a most difficult task in selecting a side if ever he has all the players at his disposal. The recent friendlies may have been poor fare but I think we must be optimistic that when the World Cup campaign gets underway in earnest next month, this team will be well-equipped to do well.

There was an abundance of international friendlies on the same night. Several of the countries going to Sweden in June would have been content to come out of their respective games as well as Ireland.

A lethargic Scotland team struggled to a 1-1 draw with lowly Finland at Hampden Park. A fine goal by Celtic's Paul McStay was the only highlight of the night.

England travelled to

Czechoslovakia but can have derived little comfort from the sojourn. Although the Sasanagh managed a 2-2 draw, they were outplayed for long periods and their goal-keeping difficulties are more acute than ever. England's capacity of late to get results even when confronted with superior opposition is the only part of their game to merit admiration. The degree of instability in the team formation must be a further cause of alarm for their followers. Manager Taylor has tried so many players in so many positions that predicting the shape of his preferred eleven is well-nigh impossible.

World champions Germany also had little to cheer about as Italy defeated them 1-0 when Juventus maestro Roberto Baggio converted a late penalty. We shall consider in detail the European Championship Finals later but I feel it's worth noting the number of footballing powers who have failed to make the final stages. Italy is an obvious example but famed soccer nations such as Spain, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Portugal will also be absent. Jack's army still occupies the realms of the mighty.

Space has not permitted me to return to the All-Ireland club championships which came to a conclusion last Sunday when Kiltormer of Galway scored a fine victory over Offaly champions Birr in the hurling decider. By all account it was a splendid affair and a fitting finale to what has been an excellent series of matches in both the football and hurling

competitions.

I was fortunate enough to be in Croke Park on Saint Patrick's Day when the Galway team overcame Cashel King Cormacs in an epic semi-final second replay encounter. The spirit and skill that Kiltormer displayed that day was a firm indicator that the experience of a number of highly competitive games would give them the edge over gallant Birr.

Saint Patrick's Day was another glory day for Kerry folk at head-quarters, when courageous Dr Croke's held off Thomas Davis' second-half rally. Alan Tallaght's dream must wait at least another year and while the Dubliners will rue a missed penalty and a string of unforgiveable wides early in the second half, the Killarney side's victory was well-deserved.

Soccer fanzines are very much a growth industry these days. Hailed as the authentic voice of the supporters, they can be sometimes informative and often humorous if not always for the prude.

The latest one to come my way is Derry City supporters' new offering, quaintly named *Brandyballs*. As journals of this nature go it's quite a lavish production — nothing wrong with that of course. One is, however, left with a sense of disappointment on going through its content. Many of the articles are too long-winded and the jokes a little stale. I can't believe Derry fans are really this verbally tame and politically neutral. So come on *Brandyballs*, you can dispense with the halo!



OUR PROPER PLACE IN THE WORLD

■ BY MARY DELANEY

Is Ireland a Third World country? This was the theme of a conference that took place in Dublin last year. At the conference leading community and political activists, intellectuals, writers and others came together to discuss the position of Ireland and the Irish in the world today. In particular, they focused on what it means to be Irish, on the struggle to be Irish and on the presence and impact of imperialism and neo-colonialism on a people struggling to gain control over their lives.

This is a timely work. In an Ireland in which the powerful seek to revise and distort history, to jettison all of the ideals of the 1916 Rising and the struggle against the British, in which those in political and economic control attempt to deny the existence of real poverty in Irish society in the 1990s, this collection of essays and workshop reports serves as an important reminder that a radical perspective and analysis is necessary if one is to understand what and where we, the Irish people, are.

A central theme of the work is that Ireland, despite being ranked in the top 30 richest

industrial countries in the world, shares much with the developing countries both in terms of the political and economic structures and the continuing influence of imperialism on Irish society. One is struck by the inadequacy of the term 'Third World' when dealing with the Irish experience. The concept itself is a notion imposed on the emerging countries by their former colonial masters, and by those in control in western society today. Basically, it attempts to divide the world into categories according to wealth with the First World defined as north western Europe, the USA,

Japan, Australia and New Zealand, the Second World as comprised of southern Europe and the former Soviet Union, with the rest of the world portrayed as a homogeneous mass of poverty-ridden countries which rely upon aid and economic assistance from the more wealthy countries.

Abdullah Osman El-Tom points out in his contribution that such distinctions fail to reveal the true nature of wealth distribution and control. In the so-called 'rich' countries the division between the rich and the poor is no less than that in



POPULATION

According to the 1981 Census, the following are the most densely populated areas in Ireland:

British to such an extent that it becomes almost impossible to raise issues of human rights, freedom and justice. Contributors point out that the British occupation and oppression of the Six Counties is discussed only with difficulty; with censorship, media and government bias and state repression used throughout all of Ireland as weapons against those who struggle to reveal the truth. Thus it becomes possible to write about and support freedom struggles and human rights issues throughout the world, except in relation to Ireland.

We are constantly told by those such as John Hume that we must seek to establish relationships between the different sections of the people of Ireland and between Ireland and Britain, and the analogy of a marriage or a 'bond' is continually used. If we can forget the past, embrace 'forgiveness and reconciliation' things will be fine.

Carol Coulter in her article uses a much more meaningful and accurate analogy — rape. According to Coulter the appropriate image for the Irish experience is that of rape and multiple rape at that. Thus, the innocent victims of this forced relationship, the Irish people, are made to feel in some way guilty of the crimes of the oppressor. To deny our past and the reality of the British presence in Ireland today, leads

only to confusion and to a misunderstanding of what needs to be done if Ireland is to achieve true freedom.

The central and significant theme of this series of essays is the idea that the Irish experience is a classical example of a country which is struggling to overcome imperialist domination. It therefore has much more in common with those countries and peoples who have suffered from colonial exploitation and who are effecting their own liberation struggles.

Reading through Caitriona Ruane's article on the solidarity between struggling peoples I came across a good example. Ruane quotes Peter Beresford Ellis's *History of the Irish Working Class*:

"On October 25 (1920) Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence MacSwiney, poet, dramatist and scholar, died on the 74th day of a hunger strike while in Brixton Prison, London. A young Vietnamese dishwasher in the Carlton Hotel, London, broke down and cried when he heard the news. 'A nation which has such citizens will never surrender.' His name was Nguyen Ai Quoc who in 1941 adopted the name Ho Chi Minh and took the lessons of the Irish anti-imperialist fight to his own country."

● Is Ireland a Third World country? The Report of a conference organised by the centre for Research and Documentation, Beyond the Pale Publications, £4.50.

Radio Times

ENGLAND'S DIFFICULTY

■ BY DANNY MORRISON

OUTSIDE THIS CELL, Geordie Hagan's giving birth, grunting, on the ground doing stomach exercises so that his kids will recognise him when he gets out.

In the cell opposite, Bl snoring, a man who hasn't got out of bed in 16 years, and whom I only recently discovered was on the wing. I thought he had gone to England looking for work in 1976.

In the cell adjacent to mine, Kevin McMahon, headphones strapped to his head, him singing Pavarotti at the top of his voice. Doing an Open University course in communications.

Next to him Conor Gilmore, politically correct, learning to play the penny whistle. Tone deaf. Made the mistake during a discussion at the dinner table on Tuesday of claiming that upon reflection he now believes he has been a feminist since the age of 5%. I find this hard to believe but in case it's true we now respectfully refer to him as Ms Gilmore.

Cell opposite Ms Gilmore's, Susie Breslin. Speaks Strabane. Learning to play the bodhrán like a lambeg drum. Next cell, Micky Tic Tac is closing in on the culprit who leaves teabags in sink and coated blobs of margarine, jam and burnt crumbs on the knives. Chief suspect — Gerry D. Wrong. Crane doesn't hoist Gerry out of bed until eleven: teabags have been found as early as nine. Conclusion: GD is innocent but would like several other offences (the miracle of the missing loaves and fishes, for example) to be taken into account.

From the landing, the crackly reception of cricket on the radio all the way from Pakistan. Around the radio two avid fans who shall remain nameless. For a few paragraphs.

First visitor of the day, Tim Brannigan, armed with a notebook and a dictionary. Has that pestle look about him. First thought: what does he want that I have?

"Dan, have you got a minute? Pick a page at random. Don't argue. Look, just pick a page, okay? It won't take a lifetime. Are you gonna pick a page at random or what? Look, this will help you as much as me. What's that you're writing? Is that your article for AP/RN? Have you still got yesterday's *Irish Times*? Have you picked a page yet? Is that a new book? Get it with your parcel? Are you planning to read it immediately? I learnt to speed read at University, you know. Oh good, you've picked a page."

He takes the dictionary from me and begins asking me the meanings of the words. For half-an-hour we argue over how accurate is my first answer.

"Tim, go away, please."

"Oh, is that it. You don't want to help. You're in a selfish mode. And what are we — commoners? Cannon-fodder?"

"What's all this for?"

"It's for a project I'm doing for my teacher. You pick half a dozen pages at random..."

"Half a dozen pages!"

"Yes. It's only an average we're after. I can extrapolate from there. Your vocabulary is roughly equal to the number of words in the dictionary times the fraction of words in the dic-

tionary that you know, divided by the fraction of words in the dictionary that you don't know. Don't you want to know how much you have in the bank?"

"What bank?"

"Your word-bank, silly!" Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee...

"Dan, you're annoyed aren't you? I've spent you. Don't deny it. I can see it in your tears. I should have been more considerate. But this'll only take a jiffy. Next word: Zoilism. Well?"

"Zoilism!"

"You picked the page Dan. Don't blame me, don't deny it."

Outside, the wind seethes through the steel wire fencing.

Outside, the sound of electric-saw cutting through bolts, followed by a sheet of corrugated iron crashing to the ground: unobstructed views of the exercise yard being created to facilitate a new observation post.

Outside in the yard, crunch, crunch. The sound of two men sitting on the ground breaking stones into small pebbles. The pebbles are to be washed, dried, selected, then glued to a cardboard chassis and varnished to become model stone harps or Celtic crosses. If only I could glue.

A warden jokes: "Youse think we're stupid, don't you? Youse are really digging a tunnel and sending the rubble out as harps."

I step over Geordie Hagan's who at this stage is badly in

need of pethidine, and go down to the boiler to get hot water for a cup of coffee. Ned Flynn cheers. Pakistan has scored a try or a goal or else it's Pakistan's advantage for match point. It must be Pakistan who scored because England has Ned in here. Griff — that's Peter Griffen from Derry — smiles at England's difficulty.

On my return from the boiler I am captured by Skeet Hamilton's Siamese twin, Brendy Mac, who of late has been like a cat on a hot tin roof because he's due out next Tuesday (or last Tuesday to you).

"What do you think, Dan? Tell the truth."

All the furniture in his cell has been formed into a semi-circle, like seating arrangements in an amphitheatre. Light from the window streams on to a little altar, illuminating a jeweller's box on the lid of which is inscribed 'Maria'. I can hear an angel's trumpet calm the stormy heavens. Here is a labour of love.

I gingerly lift the lid and admire the velvet-cushioned, temporarily-empty, compartments.

"Why doesn't it play a tune?" I ask. Brendy smiles.

"Open the box! Go on! Open the box!" he shouts at me, making me feel like a contestant on 'Take Your Pick'. I open the box — or drawer — which contains a beautiful good wedding ring and no sign of a finger — and the chime begins to play Scott

Joplin's 'The Entertainer':

"Deedee deedee, dee-de, dee-dee"

"Dee deede, deede dee de, dee dee, dee..."

"Brendy, I don't mean to alarm you but that's the theme tune from 'The Sting'. Shouldn't it be 'Love Story' or 'Lara's Theme' from 'Dr Zhivago'? You know: 'Somewhere my love, we'll meet again some how...'"

"That's what it is," he says.

"Isn't it? Well, isn't it?"

I place my fatherly hand on his shoulder, try to set aside for a few moments my anger at the damage that Conor Gilmore and Gary Breslin have done to eardrums the length and breadth of this block, and explain:

"Brendy, I'm extremely sorry. You must be very disappointed after all the work that your Marty has done on this jeweller's box. Fortunately, however, I might have the very solution. I happen to know a girl called Maria who would be more..."

"Ah Brendy!" says Tim, as he sidles through the door with his covetous eye on the jeweller's box. "Pick a page. Any page at random..."

In the landing somebody exclaims:

"It's a boy! Geordie! It's a boy!"

Upon hearing the good news Gerry D rolls out of bed: "I hope this means we'll have to have a party! Yum-yum! I love parties!"

TELLING IT LIKE IT WAS

■ BY DARA MACNEILL

FAMINE is never accidental. However much we may choose to delude ourselves there is today a general recognition — concealed or otherwise — that the root cause of, say much of Africa's present misery lies in the exploitative nature of the relationship between the First and Third World.

Yet that recognition is of a severely limited nature, limited insofar as it is never carried to its logical conclusion. If it were the present world economic order would not last a day longer than necessary. But as it was in the First World who benefit from the status quo, it is hardly surprising that we choose to ignore reality. Instead, we rely on farcical events such as Live Aid to solve our consciences.

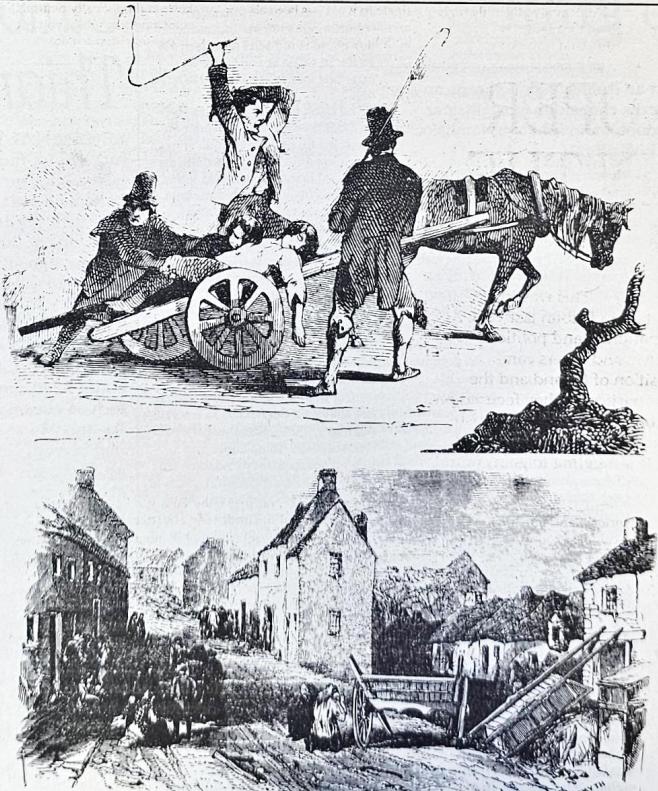
In a curious way, that 20th Century delusion has been utilised by the revisionist school of historians in order to prop up an already transparent thesis. The Great Famine in Ireland they say, throwing their hands in the air, well it was just one of those things! An act of God, a trick of fate, whatever. A tragedy.

In more unguarded moments, they try to lay the blame on the native Irish; they let their population grow too fast, they should have realised that outright dependence on the potato was bound to lead to disaster! And after all, they say,

didn't the English do their best to aid the stricken Irish, once they realised the full horror of what was happening. That the colonial order imposed by imperialist Britain might have had a part to play is never acknowledged.

Why Ireland Starved is a major four-part *Radiocelt* series which looks certain to blow that myth clean out of the water. In the first episode, broadcast on RTE 1 (Wednesday, March 25th) the roots of the famine were dealt with, the endemic poverty of the indigenous population. Using a good mixture of accounts from contemporary visitors a comprehensive picture of pre-famine Ireland was built up, a country where, as one writer remarked, "I have never seen misery so intense, nor physical degradation so complete."

That misery was placed squarely within the context of the prevailing economic order; in other words, the Irish were not blamed for their own misfortune. They were victims of a colonial system which, as pre-



senter Peter Kelly said, sought to ensure that "John Bull's oth-

er threat" to England. Thus the causes of Ireland's poverty were succinctly outlined. Laws

to make the people poor; laws dating from Penal times framed with the express intent of

depriving the indigenous Catholic population of access to land, the only source of wealth in pre-industrial society. Thus, the price of land became vital and, with the system of landlordism that operated here, gave rise to unscrupulous middlemen, who acted as go-betweens for the landlord, so driving up the price and forcing the peasantry into ever smaller holdings.

The export of wealth from Ireland to England is an issue rarely touched upon. Yet it is crucial to any understanding of what happened. In 1779, for example, £732,000 left the country in rent revenue, at a time when the country's total annual wealth was a little over £1 million. And the irony of it all, is that this is the very capital which played a large role in transforming England into the industrial power it became.

Also examined was the manner in which the British manipulated the Irish economy as they saw fit. Thus, in one period exports of cattle to England were banned as they were competing with English produce. Later, when domestic shortages occurred, Irish cattle were in demand. A familiar story. Familiar to anyone who has the slightest knowledge of how imperialism works, of why it works. Watching this programme one cannot but be struck by how simple and straightforward a story it is. But then, the truth always is. Watch the final two episodes, they may fill the gaps in your official education. They're on RTE 1 on Wednesday evenings.

Nuacht/Léirmheas

Scléip na hOíche Phádraig sa Cheis

MAR NOS atá ar an taobh amuigh bhíomar ag céiliúradh Lá Phéilí Phádraig ach faraor níor fluchadh béal na bhfear mar a fluchtar taobh amuigh é. Ach diomaité de sin bhí an-oíche de craic, ceol agus drámaíochta againn.

Tá cosaíomar imeachtaí ar an Luan le cluiche ceannais 'Pool' idir Eugene (Ceannfort) Gilmartin agus Darren Crossan, ach chonaíochas dona buachaillí gur ligeadh don ceannfort an bua a fháil ach chulathas, nódúradh linn gur fíor bhagairt a dhúibhearthá féná a ghéill Declan dó.

Maidin Phéilí Phádraig féná s'eacht an peil Ghaelach a chuir tú le imeachtaí an lae, agus ba é Barney Campbell, as Tir Eoghain, an fear is fear ag an peil sa champa a d'fhág a rian ar an cluiche agus d'éirigh le foireann Barney an láthair in uachtar a fháil. Thug an lucht feáchaná fa' dheara (Richard Murdoch, bainisteoir ar foireann Barney in a measc) go raibh scot na peile ag teacht ón seánfhí, Raymond McCarter, Beef Murray, Louie McNally agus Barney Gallagher. Agus ba chúis gáire iad an gasúr Alphonus Doyle, Yam Morrison, Martin Gervin, Pat Meehan agus Michael McNaught ó taobh imirt de! Comh luath agus a shéid an réteoir a fhleadag le deireadh a chur leis an cluiche cuireadh tú leis an eitphéil.

Bhí fear sírithe amháin an-faitiosach roimh tú na h-eitphileachtaí an is oiread mórtáis a rinne sé thatar an deireadh seachtaí stíl. Sean Smythe atá i gcesit anseo: "Is eit-

peiladóir den scot mé srl." Ar a chead iarrach ar an láthair ó dhá bhualadh, thír sé ar a thóin; ar ndoigh thosaigh sé mar a bhí de nös aige leuntínt ar aghaidh.

Dir sin agus túis imeachtaí na h-óiche féná bhí barráchocht le h-eagrú agus a chuir in ord. Bhí an bia á ullmhú, an t-ardán á chur suas srl. Ar oscailt na geilleann bhí gach aon duine óna dhá sciatáin ballithe in aice leis an ardán, iad gléasáid réidh ina gcuid éadair is gile le haghaidh gráinngrafanna. Thosaigh Raymond ag scairteach aúach cén grúpa in a mbeadh na fir éagsúla. Nuair a bhí na gráinngrafanna tóigha cuireadh tú le imeachtaí na hóiche.

Bá é Naomh Pádraic — Brian Gillen — fear an tí agus chuir sé Eddie and the Streamers (Eddie McClelland, Steve Conlon, Bik McFarlane, John Duffy agus Barra McKeown) in aithne duinn. Caithfidiú me a admháil gurb é Eddie (McClelland) an béal is binne ag gabháil *Spancil Hill* dár chuala mé riamh. Go direach ar a shála tháinig Stevie agus leagann d'chuid fein de *I use ta' love her* leis na Saw Doctors. Ba chuma leis na fir nódúbhí 'acha'n duine san trítí gáire. Tarraingiodh an brat.

Nuair a ardaíodh an brat arís rad-

harc seomra suite amach romhainn. Seisear a bhí ann idir mná (Harry Murray agus Paddy McGilloway) agus fir (Stevey Conlon, Dee McKay, Eddie McClelland agus Gerry Rice). Ba dheacaír a rá cad é bhí ag dul ar aghaidh nódúbhí an lucht feáchaná ag déanamh an t-ioread sin de gáire ciontú is na gothair agus cleasa na n-aisteoirí nar chulathas móráin de na línte féná.

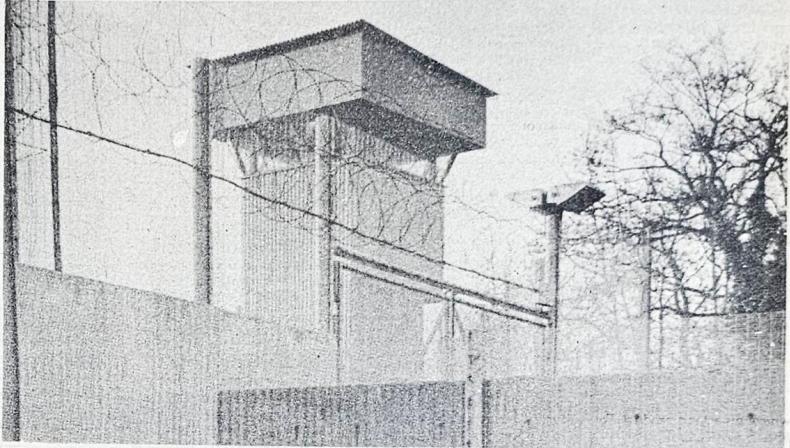
Bhí ag t-ádh leis na haisteoírf nach raibh an scriobhneoir Séamai Storey i láthair chun eisearacht agus feáchanáir ar a doigh a láimhsgíbh na buachaillí an dráma, *Double Trouble*. Ach ar a láthair eile bheadh Séamai féná san trítí ag amharc ar an iomlán.

Criocháinodh an óiche le ceolchoirm ó Bik McFarlane agus Paul Moran, agus aoiúcheoltóir speisealta

óna Stait Aontaithe Joe Doherty. Thug sé óráid i nGaeilge, agus chan sé amháin cùd do an ócaid *Deportes agus Irish Ways and Irish Laws*. Fuair sé bualadh bos mórt óna fir.

Ag tarraingt ar dheireadh na siamsaí thosaigh Bik a chanadh an t-amhrán úd, *What would you do if I sang out of tune? go direach ansin, agus i nganfhios dó féin, phreab Mickey Collins ins sheasamh agus amach an doras leis; bhris gáire orainn go léir. Ní dhéarna Bik ach miongháire, agus searradh a bhaint as na guaillí.*

— H3



Ocras do ghrá

■ LE EOGHAN MAC CORMAIC

SÉ CIOCRAS an t-ainm atá ar an tríú leabhair ó phéann an Athair Pádraig Standún, sagart a chónaíonn faoi láthair ar Inis Thiar, agus a mbíonn a scriobhnoíreacht agus fómhaíocht lonnaíthe i gConamara agus i nGaillimh.

A nuraidh rinnéadh aistríochtaí. Béarla dá fhíorchair Súil le Breith faoin teideal Lovers. A bhéag nód a mhór, pléann an t-úrsceal nua seo an cneist cheanna: grá agus gaoltas idir sagart agus bean, aonchúna, agus nádúr an duine. Ach i gCiochairs tagann gné eile isteach sa scéal. In áit don bhean nód an tsagart mhaireachtáil leis an gcuairt i gceall agus an mbréag, cíneann síos imeacht toisíoch bhifhúil an sagart toiteanach a phúasadh (nó a ghairm mar shagart a tréigíeadh), agus déanann seisean amach go dtíordúidh sé in aghaidh an aoncúinna té stáile ocras a fhulaingt chun aird a tharraing ar an suíomh agus brú a chur ar an Phápa agus an eaglais lena rialleacháthu.

Is cinnte go mbeidh daoine ag déanamh tuairimíochtaí faoil phróibhái deach Standún, ag sagart a bhíth nach mbeadh ag

smáointeann faoina imeachtaí seo bheadh sé ina chónaí mar aonarán. Is ceist suimíúil an cheist faoi lóistí gairmeacha chuir ag sagartóireacht, agus chun an cheist a chuir i gcoróillar séal sagairt a stáile ocras, árdaíonn sé ráta eacraitheán úrsceála. Eirinn le Standún aird an leitheoir a choinneáil beo ó thíos deireadh le h-úsaid comhrá idir na daíone áitiúla sa cheantair ag plé na stáile, ach le firinne blónn Standún rúb beag ró-fhlaitheáil leis na tuairimí a chuireann sé i mbéal na phobail. Ba dheacaír a shamhailt go mbeadh daoine in iarthar na tire seo

ochras atá sa leabhair ach tá scéala eile agus téama eile ag sníomh tríd. Mar shampla tá caintíleáreach Nuaiteas na Phápa, tá feall agus isleacht an iiriseoir — cé nach míonnan an t-údar cá tuige go raibh aitíseoir, Eugene Johnstone, chomh fhéalacht... (B'fhéidir nach bhifil gá do chúin in aítheáire nódúbhí an chéad agus éinne a oibríonn do na tablóidí). Agus ar ndóigh tá scéala Treasa Ní Caireáit.

S céal Peait Bairéad agus a stáile ocras atá sa leabhair ach tá scéala eile agus téama eile ag sníomh tríd. Mar shampla tá caintíleáreach Nuaiteas na Phápa, tá feall agus isleacht an iiriseoir — cé nach míonnan an t-údar cá tuige go raibh aitíseoir, Eugene Johnstone, chomh fhéalacht... (B'fhéidir nach bhifil gá do chúin in aítheáire nódúbhí an chéad agus éinne a oibríonn do na tablóidí). Agus ar ndóigh tá scéala Treasa Ní Caireáit.

agus a hiníon Jennie, fáth na stailce agus mar sin eochair reiteach na stailce. In gach cás cruthaíonn Standún caraitéar atá incheadte don chuid is mó aích imbealach atá go láir in eascaí ar rud éigin. Ní caraitéar iomlán iad i ndeireadh na dála.

Ní raibh fíorchróich leis an leabhair, dár liom. D'fhág an t-údar an cheist ina luf oscailte go fóill. Níor éirigh leis áitiú orm go dírlíodh an fíor shaol mar a tharla sé ina leabhair, agus in áit reiteach don stáile — a bhí mar agóid in éadan na lúbáireach — tagann reiteach atá ina eacraí lúbáireachta féin. Seachas an bhean, is feidir nach dtágann éinne — neachair an sagart, a espag, an nuintees, ná ná tuairisceoir — as an scéal le móráin círeidintí fáighí acu. Deiridh daoneach ionadach é sin nódúbhí an chéad agus ciúin. Ní raibh siad ag cur isteach ar an phobail áitiúil. Mar shámpla, rinne bean amháin obair chun loch sa cheantar a athnuachaint. Ar dtú bhí sean gluaiseáin ann mar screap. Ghlan an bhean sin an áit amach, d'athraigh sí cursa abhainn isteach ann agus bhí loch déas ann in ionad brúscar.

A níos cad atá ag tarlú? Tá cúpla fadhb ann. An chéad ceann ná an Seanadóir Denis O'Donovan. Tá seisean ag rú go bhifil na 'hippies' ag díol drugganna. Duirt ceann amháin de na 'hippies' leis go raibh níos mó ná 400 cloigeann ag caithreamh cannabis. Ní aontaithe an chuid is mó de na daíone áitiúla leis an seanadóir. Maidir leis na 'hippies' se an Roinn Leasa Shoistíalach ag fadhb is measa acu. Le garid, tá an roinnt ag baint an 'dóle' dena hippies. Cén fáth? Cómhraí idir oifigeach den Roinn agus hippie?

Oifigeach: Cén fáth go bhfuil tú anseo? Hippie: Táim ag iarráidh post a fháil. Oifigeach: Nil post ar bith le fáil sa cheantair seo agus bhí thios ag sin nuair a tháinig tú anseo. Mar sin ba cheart duit dul abhaile mar is soileáir go bhfuil tú anseo mar stocaire ar an stát.

Ciníochas i gCorcaigh Thiar

LE DEANAI bhí áltanna sna nuachtáin faoi na 'hippies' i gCorcaigh thair. Seo duit an cúrár. Le tamaill fada anois bhí daoine ag teacht go dtí an áit sin chun saoil nua a thosnú, go háirithe daoine óga. Bí cíntte de nach raibh siad saibhir; mar a dúirt mé ní raibh siad ach ag iarráidh saoil nua a fháil san áit deas agus ciúin. Ní raibh siad ag cur isteach ar an phobail áitiúil. Mar shámpla, rinne bean amháin obair chun loch sa cheantar a athnuachaint. Ar dtú bhí sean gluaiseáin ann mar screap. Ghlan an bhean sin an áit amach, d'athraigh sí cursa abhainn isteach ann agus bhí loch déas ann in ionad brúscar.

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Hippie: O man!

Chomh maith le sin bionn na gardai ag cur brú ar na hippies. Lá amháin bhí an chuan duine cuairadaithe agus iadsan ag dul go Beanntrá.

Ach cad faon na hippies fhéin? Tá said ag úr anois go bhfuil siad lán sásta lá nódúbhí lá sa seachtain a chaitheamh ag déanamh obair chomhphobal, saor in aise. Duirt fear amháin go bhfuil difri ann idir na hippies agus na strainséirí a druidéanta bealáit achtáilte agus srl. Duirt sé go mbíonn siad ag cur crainn agus tuille sort rudáil mar sin, ag glanadh suas brúscar, mar shámpla, agus go bhfuil siad lán sásta leanúint ar aghaidh mar sin.

Letters

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

Articles Two and Three Paddy's Day Parades 2

A Chairde,

Mary Harney's assertion that Taoiseach Albert Reynolds' inclusion of the Government of Ireland Act in any future discussions on the North is 'unrealistic' and that the discussion of this act 'strikes' at the heart of unionism, is proof of the continuing pro-British stance of the Progressive Democrats. Mary Harney has no qualms whatsoever in diluting or deleting Articles Two and Three from the Constitution to appease both unionists and the British government — despite the fact that Articles Two and Three were overwhelmingly endorsed by the vast majority of people in the 26 Counties in 1937, contrary to the Government of Ireland Act which was imposed in 1920 just two years after an all-Ireland election which overwhelmingly supported an Ireland free from British rule.

It seems that in her efforts to appease the British government and underline their undemocratic nature in this country Mary Harney would have us hanker back to the 'old days' of British imperialism of which this act is a product. For British politicians to sustain and defend their imperialist presence in this country is hard enough to swallow but to hear an Irish TD support that claim by giving legitimacy to this act leaves me wondering how nationalists north of the border can expect anything else but the continuation of the awful tragedies of the past 20 years. Ursula Quinn, Sinn Féin Publicity Dept.

Paddy's Day Parades 1

A Chairde,

Congratulations on your forthright editorial in the last issue of AP/RN supporting the right of the Irish Lesbian & Gay Organisation (ILGO) to take part in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade in the face of opposition from the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH). Your strong editorial gives clear leadership, undermines prejudice and gives heart to lesbians and gay men.

The New York Parade grew in resistance to ethnic hostility against Irish immigrants, according to Irish-American historian, Walter Walsh (*Irish Times* March 16th). "Since the beginning of the last century, the parade has been a day of minority celebration in spite of majority discrimination... In 1992, it is the ILGO and not the AOH who stay true to the heritage and tradition of the St. Patrick's Day Parade."

Kieran Rose, Dublin 9.

A Chairde,

It was most unfortunate to compare the Ancient Order of Hibernians of New York, with the organisers of the Cork City St Patrick's Day Parade, in last week's editorial.

The AOH made a most courageous significant historic decision, in face of world wide condemnation from British allies, when they made Joseph Doherty freedom fighter, Grand Marshall of the New York Parade.

Did the organisers of the Cork City parade make Don O'Leary honorary Grand Marshall of their parade, when he was jailed for five years for possessing a poster? — No.

In contrast to the AOH of New York over the years, they have done nothing to raise the nationalist consciousness of the people in that city, and further, on the justness of the cause of the freedom struggle.

In fact they have done the exact opposite.

On a number of occasions, when groups did attempt to highlight the plight of the hunger strikers and the nationalist people of the Six Counties at the Cork Parade, they were forcibly removed with the aid of the Free State forces.

It was even more regrettable that *An Phoblacht* should portray the AOH as backward and ignorant in preventing the gay community to march.

Nobody was denied their right to march but the AOH did decide and rightly so not to permit these people, to use it as a platform to publicise their sexual behaviour.

Those views expressed in *An Phoblacht* do not represent the vast majority of Irish republicans, and if this is the bandwagon *An Phoblacht* seems to be jumping on they are out of touch with the grassroots.

We can only conclude they are playing to a liberal elite group, or perhaps it's just the personal opinion of the writer. Please publish this letter.

Jo O'Shea, Drumadoon, Skibbereen, County Cork.

Lack of progress in 26 Counties

A Chairde,

The non-development and lack of progress of Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties is obviously a source of major concern for republicans and their supporters. The restraints exercised on Sinn Féin through the effectiveness of censorship is by now well documented and acknowledged. Even allowing for the great hindrance represented by Section 31, the future of Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties rests ultimately with the lead-



Padraig Flynn — urged to hold an inquiry into the death of Brendan Seery

ership of the Republican Movement, and the development of relevant policies.

Since the '80s we have been constantly reminded that the ultimate goal of Sinn Féin is a 32-County socialist republic! What exactly is this brand of socialism? We have been told over and over that British withdrawal and the restoration of our right to self determination is in itself some form of solution. This is a throwback to the "Brits Out" solution that prevailed in the earlier days of this present phase of the struggle. In the event of a withdrawal by the Brits what will the message from Sinn Féin to the people be? Will pan-nationalism be the order of the day. Since Sinn Féin classifies itself as a revolutionary party, what is the revolutionary message to the people of the Free State?

The present situation that prevails in the Free State, mass unemployment, wholesale corruption, alienated youth (and indeed parents), a state being represented by the multinationals, are circumstances that cry out for revolutionary guidance and leadership.

The war against the Brits and their affiliated murder gangs is obviously of prime concern to Sinn Féin nationally and more so in the Six Counties where members are in "the front line". But as Sinn Féin presents itself as a 32-County party greater emphasis must be placed on the development of the party throughout the island.

How do republicans intend to transform Irish society and

its economy. Presently over 300,000 people (including those on FAS courses) are unemployed. The multinationals and indeed our own home grown capitalists are enjoying a period of unprecedented exploitation. Do Sinn Féin policies envisage curtailment/wholesale nationalisation or will the status quo prevail? In highlighting what the party finds unacceptable it then becomes necessary to outline the alternative options upon which support can be built.

In a recent interview with the publication, The Starry Plough Vo 1 No 2 Sinn Féin activist Larry O'Toole highlights the problem that arises when activists are confined basically to community politics, single issues etc, resulting in support for the individual as distinct from the party, which they represent, to state that the national question distorts Irish politics is not sufficient.

Some time back I attended a public meeting where a leading republican in reply to a question from the floor, stated that the problems presented by the multinationals, etc would be tackled when the national question had been dealt with/resolved. Such an attitude only serves to further hinder the development of Sinn Féin. The struggle for socialism in our country demands that the destabilisation of the Free State be given greater priority through political activity.

Failure to develop economic and social policy will contin-

ue to confine the role of Sinn Féin in the 26 Counties to that of agitational activities and indeed cheerleaders for the IRA and whilst the battle against the Brits may be won. The ultimate war will be lost!

Supporter, Cork.

Open letter to Padraig Flynn

Minister for Justice, Carrowbrinogue Lodge, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Dear Mr. Flynn,

As a Mayan and an Irish republican, I call on you as Minister for Justice to hold a public inquiry into the facts surrounding the death of Brendan Seery.

Brendan Seery was a Republican POW in Portlaoise Prison and he died there on Wednesday, February 19th 1992.

I believe that Brendan Seery's death is a result of medical neglect and also that medical facilities in Portlaoise Prison is a matter of great concern.

I expect, Minister Flynn, that your Department will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that no other republican prisoners will ever die in prison again because of the lack of proper medical facilities in Portlaoise Prison.

Seosamh O Maolchroin, Cathair na Mart, Contae Mhaigheo.

Meath gurriers?

A Chairde,

In the "Indo" supplement of March, 16th Vincent Hogan "enlightens" us with the unenlightened intelligence that a certain (anonymous) Meath GAA player considers, that he and some of his team-mates reckon "a lot of the Dublin players are total gurriers".

Quite apart from the fact that such violent insulting and night racist language is a provocation to a breach of the peace, the very idea emanating from members of a team who in recent years have managed to make Bloody-Bill-Anderson-Band look like the Luton-Girls-Choir-outfit, is to stand the truth on its head with a vengeance. This coming from a team who had to have players sent off by the official for disreputable sport. Some who even stooped to striking opposition players when their backs were turned and off the ball, as can be plainly proven by reference to the TV files.

One, I suppose, should not be too appalled at the arrogance... or ignorance... given its source. The dirtiest team to disgrace the noble game since the Kerry team who broke up "The Golden Boy" in the thirties.

Perhaps the team member

in question will have the courage of his biased convictions and stand over his assertions publicly... or will he? His ludicrous, louish, indecent and backward charges could then be treated with the wrists they deserve.

J O'Leary, North Strand, Dublin.

These lads are innocent!

A Chairde,

On August 2nd 1991, there was a coffee jar bomb attack on a joint RUC/British army mobile patrol, on the junction of the Springfield Road, and Divismore Crescent.

A short time later there was a house to house raid in the Divismore Crescent area, during this raid a friend of mine Tony Garland (17) was arrested. He was brought to Castlereagh, where he was tortured and forced to sign a confession connecting himself and his friends to IRA related operations.

A few days later Hugh McLaughlin (18) and Michael Beak (18) were arrested, tortured in Castlereagh, and forced to sign statements implicating themselves in these IRA related operations.

On August 8th 1991, the RUC, British army and Special Branch carried out a house raid on my home; they claimed that they were looking for "explosives and ammunition". Luckily I wasn't at home; the Special Branch asked my mother for my whereabouts, and my place of work; they then demanded my date of birth. As soon as they found out this information and learned that I wasn't in, they left, but the RUC and British army carried on with the raid.

As soon as I learned that the Special Branch and RUC were out at my home looking for me, I went into hiding across the border to the South. I was hiding for 145 days, I came back to spend Christmas with my family, and I was just scared, I had no reason to hide. At the present time, Tony Garland, Hugh McLaughlin and Michael Beak have spent 252 days on remand awaiting trial in Crumlin Road Jail. These lads are innocent! If anyone would know this, I would, because they are my friends. I hung about with them. They are definitely not IRA men, and they played no part in any bombing. These lads just wanted to enjoy themselves. There is no reason why these lads should be in jail. These lads like a lot of others, should be out living life to the full. The British establishment in this country has taken the most important years of these lads lives away, "their youth".

Best wishes to all those innocent in jails around the world.

Danny Petticrew, Belfast.

Notices

REMEMBERING THE PAST PETER O'NEILL CROWLEY

■ BY PETER O'ROURKE

ALTHOUGH the main Fenian Rising lasted for just over 24 hours, isolated attacks on the enemy continued for several weeks. The last action of the rising took place in County Cork at the end of March 1867.

SOME of the most successful engagements of the Fenian Rising took place in County Cork. On the night of March 5th, over 2,000 Fenians under J. F. X. O'Brien, Michael O'Brien and William Mackay Lomasney captured the RIC barracks at Ballynoeckane and later sabotaged sections of the Great Southern and Western Railway, according to the guerrilla plan, tearing up rails, destroying points and cutting telegraph wires.

Also in Cork, in one of the most successful attacks of the rising, a party of Fenians under the command of Peter O'Neill Crowley, raided the Knockadoon coastguard station, some ten miles from

Youghal, imprisoned ten coastguards and captured their rifles.

On learning of the failure of the general rising throughout the country, Crowley dispersed his men, while he, John McClure and Edward Kelly retreated to Kilclooney Wood, County Tipperary.

Crowley, one of the oldest of the local Fenian leaders, was born at Ballymacoda, County Cork, in 1832.

When the Fenian Movement was launched in County Cork, he was one of the first to join. A popular farmer, who had great influence with the local people, he became head-centre of the

Ballymacoda IRB circle, which numbered about a hundred men.

On the last day of March 1867, at Kilclooney Wood, where Crowley and his comrades had remained in hiding for over three weeks, the last action of the Fenian Rising was fought.

The three were surprised by a large force of military, but refused to surrender. After a fierce fight, which lasted several hours, Crowley was killed, having been hit with several bullets. McClure and Kelly were arrested, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Both, however, were released in the general amnesty of 1871.

Crowley's funeral in Ballymacoda was one of the largest seen in County Cork for more than a generation.

"Peter O'Neill Crowley", wrote John Devoy in his recollections of an Irish Rebel, "was one of the best men in the Fenian Movement, and Ireland never gave birth to a truer or more devoted son. His devotion to the cause of Irish liberty was sublime and his courage dauntless."

The last engagement of the Fenian Rising took place on March 31st 1867, 125 years ago this week.

HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD — WEAR AN EASTER LILY

- The Easter Lily is the National Emblem.
- The Easter Lily represents the North and South united in an expression of appreciation of the principles for which the heroes of Easter Week gave up their lives.
- The Easter Lily is an emblem of hope and confidence in the ultimate realisation of every Irish person's dream: "Ireland free from the centre to the Sea".

WE APPEAL TO THE NATION AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE YOUNG, TO WEAR AN EASTER LILY

Easter Lilies are available from:
Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Poblachta,
44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1,
at £17.50 per 1,000

CUMAINN SHOULD ORDER THEIR LILIES NOW

Join Sinn Féin

SINN FEIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied Six Counties, the re-unification of our country and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin fill in the form below and send it to Sinn Féin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. am 1st of my buildings oileacháin ÁRÚL

Name.....

Address.....

Tel:.....

Age:.....

■ SINN FÉIN'S DEMANDS

Sinn Féin's ultimate objective is to create the political conditions necessary to secure a true and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by:

- The ending of partition arising from British rule in Six of Ireland's 32 counties;
- British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;
- The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;
- The disarming and disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;
- The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder;
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

Imeachtaí

ANTI-EXTRADITION MEETING:
Meets 6.30pm every Tuesday, USI,
16 North Great Georges Street,
DUBLIN

PICKET ON US EMBASSY: Opposing US policy in Central America, 11.30am-1pm, first Saturday of every month, Ballsbridge, DUBLIN

FUNCTION: An Evening of music and comedy in aid of The Friends of Oscar Breathnach, Wednesday April 8th, National Concert Hall, DUBLIN. Programme includes comedy from Niall Tóibín and The Craic 90's and music from Donal Lunny, Paddy Glackin and Tony McMahon. Tickets available from The National Concert Hall at £10, £8 & £5 (concessions).

(Credit Card bookings Tel 711533). For parties of more than 10 people there is a discount of 20%.

PUBLIC MEETING: End police frame-ups. Speakers: Cardiff 3 Campaign; George Silcott; Manchester Martyrs Commemoration Committee; Pakistani Workers Association. 7.30pm Thursday 9th April, Church of Ascension, Royce Road, HULME.

PUBLIC MEETING: "Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland" Remembering James Connolly and Bobby Sands. Speakers include: Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Féin Councillor, Derry, 2pm Sunday 10th May, Northway Hall, Red Lion Square, LONDON WC1 (Holborn Tube). Admission by official programme £1 from AP/RN sellers. Organised by the Wolfe Tone Society

COMMEMORATION: Gerard Casey

3rd Anniversary wreath-laying ceremony, Prominent Speaker. 2.30pm Sunday 5th April, St Mary's Chapel, RASHAKIN.

1916 PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: Available for hire from Michael Nolan or Ursula Quinn, 44 Parnell Square. Ph: 726100

BANDS WANTED: Newry Easter Parade. Expenses shared. Contact Newry Easter Commemoration Committee, Newry 68538

BANDS WANTED: For Drogheda Easter Commemoration, Sunday 11th April. Contact Hugh McShane, Tel: 041 35567

NEW BAND: A new band is forming in Finglas. For information contact: Pat Bell at 308783. All welcome. No experience necessary.



I n Díl Chuimhne

CARR, Robert; CASEY, Gerard; HENDERSON, Tony; McDERMOTT, Sean; MARLEY, Laurence. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Gerard Casey, Robert Carr, Tony Henderson, Sean McDermott and Laurence Marley. "If you strike at us, we will still evoke a spirit that will thwart you, and mayhap, raise a force that will destroy you." — James Connolly. Proudly remembered by their friends

and comrades in the Republican Movement.

CASEY Gerard (3rd Anniversary). In loving memory of my husband Vol Gerard Casey, North Antrim Brigade, Oglach na hEireann, murdered by pro-British thugs on April 1989. "In sleeping and waking, we love you, miss you, and need you." Always loved and never forgotten by his wife Una and our four children, Paul, Kevin, Tara and Geraldine. Always sad and loving memory of our dear precious son Gerard. Our Lady,

Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Holy Mass offered. Always remembered by your loving parents. Always remembered by your loving brother Dessie, Terese and family. Remembered by Bernie. Remembered by Kieran, Moira and family. Never forgotten by Veronica and Bebhinn. Always remembered by Danny. Remembered by the Hogan family. Remembered by Mag, Paddy and family.

Remembered by Bernie and Shorty. Remembered by Rosie, Brian and family. Remembered by Bridget, Sean and family. Remembered by Malachy and Geraldine. Remembered always by his aunt Annie. Remembered dearly by Kevin, Kathleen and Gerard. Always remembered by his niece, Natasha. Always remembered by Ann,

Eamonn and Francesca.

MARLEY, Larry (5th Ann). In proud and loving memory of my husband and devoted father Vol Larry Marley who was killed by Loyalist assassins on April 2nd 1987. loved and remembered always by his wife Kathleen and sons. St Martin, pray for him. Sadly missed and always remembered by your friend Eileen. Always remembered by Rab, Terry and kids. Always remembered by Séan Mag Uidhr.

Comhbhrón

O'DONNELL. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Dessie (Southill, Limerick). From their friends Mark Cronin and Joe Lynch (Portlaoise).

MONTGOMERY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Sean Montgomery on the death of his mother. From Sammy, Doris, Pat, Mary and all in the Ballymun Sinn Féin Cumann, Dublin.



● The Ford Sierra car in which one RUC member was killed and another seriously injured by a Mark 12 Mortar

RUC member killed in Newry rocket attack

A MEMBER of the RUC was killed in an IRA ambush in Newry at the weekend. The attack destroyed the armour-plated car carrying the two RUC personnel, the second of whom was seriously injured.

The South Down Brigade of the IRA claimed responsibility for the rocket attack on the mobile patrol at Merchants Quay, Newry, on Friday, March 27th. In a statement the IRA said:

"Volunteers operating under our command launched an armour piercing mortar at the first of a two-vehicle RUC patrol from the boot of a commandeered vehicle. The device, containing 3lbs of Semtex and triggered by remote control, scored a direct hit and Volunteers observed that the RUC Sierra car was completely devastated."

The attack, which took place around 11.30pm, killed an RUC woman and seriously injured a male RUC officer. Colleen McMurray, who had worked for the RUC for 15 years, is the fifth member of the British crown

forces to be killed in horizontal mortar attacks.

CROWN FORCES UNDER FIRE IN BELFAST

In a series of IRA attacks, British

crown forces came under pressure

throughout Belfast. On Thursday,

March 26th, shots were fired at a

mobile patrol emerging from Mus-

grave Park Military Base. Claiming

responsibility for the attack the IRA

said that 60 shots were fired by their

Volunteers. There were no reported

casualties. In a second IRA attack on

Thursday night, in the New Lodge

area of North Belfast, shots were

fired at a British army observation

post on the top of Templar House.

Claiming responsibility for the attack the IRA said that its Volunteers had taken up a number of positions and fired over 50 rounds at their target.

Meanwhile, in West Belfast, IRA Volunteers mounted a further attack, opening fire on the New Barnsley RUC Barracks. There was no return fire from the base. Also in West Belfast, two improvised grenades exploded as an RUC mobile patrol was passing through Poleglass estate.

In an attack on the Old Park RUC Barracks in North Belfast on Sunday, March 29th, IRA Volunteers fired 20 rounds at the new sangar.

Keeping the pressure up on the British crown forces deployed in Belfast, on Monday, March 30th, the IRA mounted a further attack, this time in the Beechmount. Around 11pm a bomb exploded as an RUC Land Rover, which was part of a joint RUC/British army patrol, passed along Beechmount Avenue. The blast,

WAR NEWS

which was heard throughout the west of the city, blew out a number of windows in the immediate vicinity. Claiming responsibility for the attack the IRA said that an RUC jeep had been immobilised after being hit by an improvised grenade. Four RUC men were injured in the attack.

NOT INVOLVED

Following a series of deliberately misleading media reports — including a front page story in the *Irish News* — which had attempted to link the IRA with the death of a 15-year-old youth who died following fighting among young people in the New Lodge area of North Belfast, the IRA issued a statement denying any involvement in the death of Patrick Harmon from Upper Meadow Street. Pointing out that the IRA does not punish people under the age of 17 years, the Belfast Brigade statement continued:

"We call on the community to ensure that this could not happen again, and we offer our fullest assistance to those who are

working to ensure that conflict between young people in the New Lodge area is resolved. We will take action to ensure that a recurrence of this kind of activity is not possible."

FOOTBALL BOMB DISCOVERED

A booby-trap football placed inside the perimeter of Sion Mills RUC Barracks in County Tyrone was defused when the device was discovered. The barracks was devastated during an IRA bomb attack last year.

DERRY BARRACKS BLASTED

Derry Brigade, Oglach na hÉireann, claimed responsibility for the improvised grenade attack on Rosemount RUC Barracks on the evening of Saturday, March 28th. In their statement the IRA said that a number of their Volunteers approached the heavily-fortified barracks and lobbed the grenade over the perimeter wall.

RUC attacks 'peace rally'

A STUDENT RALLY has aroused controversy after the RUC — for reasons best known to themselves and inexplicable to the organisers — employed bully-boy tactics to pull some young people out of the march and trample on their banners.

The March Against Violence, held on Tuesday, March 31st, was attended by second-level students from schools and colleges in the Six Counties. Two incidents occurred along the march in which RUC officers "physically

hauled" teenagers out of the parade, according to Peter Hadden, a member of the Labour and Trade Union Group.

In the first such incident, teenagers from Newry were pushed around by the RUC and had their Young Socialist banner which read "Smash Sectarianism", seized, thrown to the ground, trampled upon and the poles smashed.

This incident occurred outside the Sean Graham bookie shop on the Ormeau Road where five Catholics were killed by a loyalist death squad in February.

"This behaviour is entirely out of place in today's demonstration, one objective of which was to ensure free-

dom of assembly," said Hadden.

The second assault happened at Belfast City Hall when a boy and a girl with a corresponding banner were also dragged out of the march by an RUC officer. A spokesperson for the legal firm, Madden and Finucane, has confirmed that a complaint is to be lodged with the RUC over the two incidents.

The prospect of the RUC attacking people on a march which the Northern Ireland Office and pro-British elements would hope to use as anti-republican propaganda is deeply ironic and does not augur well for those who are seeking a re-run of the ill-fated 'Peace' People of the 1970s.

Sectarian gang kills Portadown man

"There was nothing about him which could motivate an attack. He must have been killed simply because he was a Catholic." These were the words of the Protestant wife of a 43-year-old father of three killed in a sectarian attack by loyalists over the weekend in Portadown.

The UVF have admitted responsibility for the killing of Terence McConville. In the early hours of Sunday morning, March 29th, a masked gunman smashed his way through the front door of a house in Bann Street, off the Tandragee Road in Portadown. The gunman ran upstairs and into a child's bedroom before entering the main bedroom and shooting McConville several times at close range.

Joan McConville, wife of the victim, chased her husband's killer out of the house and along the street. A priest was called to the side of the fatally injured man who died after receiving the Last Rites at the scene of the attack. Commenting on the shooting dead of her husband, Joan McConville said that he was a quiet family man.

McConville leaves three children, Terry (22) Sharon (18) and three-year-old Ashton.