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POLITICAL WEEKLY 

PHOBLACHT

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Bluster in Blackpool — butchery in Belfast

LAST WEEK the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool heard Britain's direct ruler in the Six Counties Peter Brooke and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd play the oldest card in the Tory deck — the Orange card. "We will stand by Ulster through thick and thin" boasted Brooke, while Douglas Hurd won applause for his assurance to unionists that Irish unity was definitely not on the agenda. At the same time in Belfast, Irish people were paying with their lives for the Conservative government's maintenance of Britain's sectarian unionist state.

In a succession of attacks in the short space of eight days by loyalist gangs, five Catholics were murdered and attempts were made on the lives of others, some of them being very seriously injured. The attacks were random, the victims singled out simply because they were from nationalist areas. The logic behind the killings and shootings was that such terror keeps nationalists in their place, keeps them from demanding their civil and national rights and so helps stabilise the Six-County state.

The British government shares them by the use of its own crown those very same aims. It pursues forces, by the use of the loyalist

killer gangs themselves, and by its political strategy as expressed at Blackpool. Loyalist killings in Belfast and pro-unionist pronouncements in Blackpool are two sides of the one coin.

Addressing the Tories, Brooke went on record as the first British minister to publicly call for the deletion of Articles Two and Three

(continued on page 2)

Myth of 'tit-for-tat'

ATTEMPTS to portray the killings and shootings of the last week as 'tit-for-tat' retaliation are exposed when the full list of attacks by loyalist death squads against people from nationalist areas is seen:

● Monday, October 7th:

Taxi driver from South Belfast fired upon in Ravenhill Road.

● Tuesday, October 8th:

Taxi driver from South Belfast foiled murder attempt when he spotted masked gunmen at his Ava Crescent home.

● Thursday, October 10th:

Black taxi driver shot dead at the wheel of his vehicle in the Old Park area, North Belfast.

● Saturday, October 12th:

Two men escape injury at a bus stop outside a North Belfast hospital when the gunman's weapon jams. Eighteen-year-old Catholic teenager shot in the back.

● Sunday, October 13th:

Man shot dead walking home in South Belfast.

Man abducted from Ardoyne and beaten with breeze blocks by loyalist gang.

● Monday, October 14th:

A taxi driver lured to his death in the loyalist Taughmonagh estate.

A man discovered shot in the head in a stolen car in East Belfast is on a life-support machine in a Belfast hospital.

A garage attendant fired upon by three men in a car at an Andersonstown petrol station.

● Tuesday, October 15th:

Worker from Lenadoon shot dead at an East Belfast timber yard.

Support Tony Sloan, Michael McKee and Paul Magee

Picket Supreme Court, Dublin, 10am, Tuesday, October 22nd

NO MORE EXTRADITIONS

OPINION



Fightback by the unemployed

"THE illegality, corruption and avarice that is so much evident in the 'higher' reaches of our society is not wrong for some abstract moral reason, is not 'unethical' in some dry academic sense, but is evil because day to day it cripples the lives of the million who live in poverty."

With these words Mike Allen launched the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed's (INOUE) Campaign For a Better Deal in Dublin on Tuesday, October 15th.

The state-wide campaign is demanding the implementation of eight key recommendations of the 26-County Commission for Social Welfare Reform — including an increase in basic social welfare rates to £64 per week.

The campaign will run from now until the 1992 budget and the first four weeks will involve intensive leafletting of employment exchanges and post offices across the 26 Counties to set up campaign groups of unemployed people in every town.

According to its general secretary, the INOUE campaign: "seeks to challenge the current agenda of public issues....It rejects the question 'What shall we cut?' as the most important political question and asks 'What must we do to stop so many of our people suffering?'."

"The public's attention is currently on the greed of the rich. We need to turn it to the mirror image — the need of the poor", he said.

CHEATED & ROBBED

For a number of weeks the 26 Counties has been rocked as the underhand activities of the 'golden circle' are revealed on a daily basis. The most powerful individuals in the Irish business world have never before been so discredited in the eyes of the public. The political clout which they have wielded for many years to disastrous effect, must now be confronted by the power of those they have cheated and robbed.

The INOUE campaign will give a forum to unemployed people throughout the 26 Counties and will seek to mobilise the political power of over 260,000 people. It deserves the support of all those who seek to change the political agenda in Ireland. Current public outrage at the inequities in the economic structure must not be let ebb away. Radicals and progressives must seize the opportunity to turn the tide against the powerful private interests and help in giving a voice to those of our people who have been silent and excluded for so long.

Border gun battle



VOLUNTEERS of the Fermanagh Brigade of the IRA fired over 600 rounds at British troops during a gun battle which raged on the edge of Derryvallen village, on Sunday evening, October 13th.

The Volunteers who were armed with two general purpose machine-guns, engaged the troops who had been airlifted into the area to seize machinery from local people preparing to reopen a border road previously damaged by British army engineers.

During the fire fight, British troops were pinned down for ten minutes on low ground several hundred yards from the site of the road reopening.

TWO RUC MEN INJURED

Two RUC men have been injured and were extremely lucky to survive when they staggered from a stricken RUC vehicle in the County Antrim village of Carnlough.

The pair were passing under a bridge in the village on Friday evening, October 11th, when their patrol car took a direct hit from a single grenade dropped onto it. Although injured in the blast, both managed to scurry from the vehicle just before it was engulfed in flames.

RATHFRILAND BOOBY-TRAP

An RUC man foiled an attempt on his life on Saturday, October 12th, when he discovered a semtex bomb attached to the underside of his car. The discovery, which led to a day-long clearance operation by British bomb technicians, was made in the County Down village of Rathfriland at around 8.30am as the RUC man prepared to leave home for work.

MORTAR FIRED

The IRA's West Tyrone Brigade said that its Volunteers fired the horizontal mortar at a crown forces mobile patrol in the village of Castlederg on Tuesday, October 15th. The mortar overshot its target.

BELFAST ATTACKS

The IRA in Belfast said that its

Volunteers have carried out a series of five operations over the past seven days during which at least one British soldier was injured and widespread damage was caused to a number of commercial targets.

The attacks commenced on Wednesday evening, October 9th, when a 50lb bomb was left at Central Station. This device was defused during a clearance operation. As this was going on a further three devices, this time elaborate hoaxes, were placed at North Queen Street, Antrim Road and Oldpark Barracks where 40 shots were fired at British soldiers providing back-up to bomb disposal teams.

Friday evening saw a similar hoax device being placed at a bus depot in the Short Strand area. As a clearance operation got under way at least one British soldier sustained blast injuries when a grenade exploded at his feet. At the time of the attack he was standing near four other soldiers all of whom fell to the ground. The RUC, however, have claimed that only one of the five was injured.

The following day saw six incen-

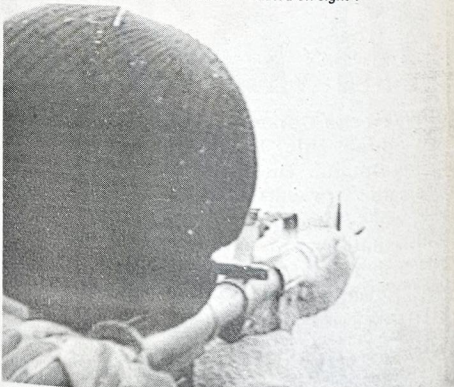
diary devices explode at a variety of commercial premises in Belfast, Bangor and Derriagh. Extensive damage was caused during the early morning attacks and the cost to the British exchequer of these latest attacks has provisionally been estimated in tens of millions of pounds.

On Tuesday, October 15th, hundreds of crown force personnel were redeployed to deal with a day-long series of bomb alerts which affected all the main roadway bridges in Belfast. Other hoax devices were placed outside Grosvenor Road Barracks, the RUC's area sub-divisional headquarters in the west of the city, forcing its temporary closure.

DRUG-PUSHERS WARNED

The IRA in Derry, in a statement issued to the media on Friday October 11th, said that it has ordered a total of 17 people involved in supplying and pushing drugs to leave the city or face "military action".

The statement which gave details of drugs dealing in the greater Derry city area, named two people as the main suppliers of drugs in the area and warned that should these two fail to heed the warning to leave then they would be "executed on sight".



● IRA Volunteers pinned down British soldiers during Sunday's border gun battle

Bluster in Blackpool — butchery in Belfast

(continued from front page)

of the 1937 Constitution. He gave the backing of the Conservatives to the unionist campaign to force the people of the 26 Counties to abandon both their demand for Irish uni-

ty and their fellow nationalists in the Six Counties. Douglas Hurd declared that "the discussion now focuses not on the border or the unification of Ireland but on how Northern Ireland can run its affairs

within the United Kingdom..." This is the bottom line of British policy: it exposes the claims of the SDLP and Dublin government that the British are right when they say they are neutral in the conflict.

As the British court the unionists again and unleash their killer gangs, republicans will not allow themselves to be drawn into a sectarian war. Once again their analysis that Britain is the root cause of division and conflict has been proven to be right.

LOYALISTS ESCALATE RANDOM ATTACKS

AS LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES pursue the well used British strategy of employing brute force in an attempt to terrify the nationalist community into submission, nationalists in the Six Counties are bracing themselves in the wake of the escalation of random attacks on their communities by loyalist death squads.

The latest wave has seen eleven reported attacks in the last eight days, in which four men from nationalist areas have been shot dead, another critically injured and a further two seriously injured. This comes against the backdrop of a steady escalation of random attacks on the community by loyalist paramilitaries over the last year. The description of the carnage of the last week as tit-for-tat killings defies logic when the full list of random attacks against Catholics is seen. Attempts to portray all this as a response to an attack on a Belfast bar by the renegade IPLO group in which a member of a loyalist prisoners' group was killed, and another shooting by them in Newry, are ludicrous.

Following unsuccessful attempts earlier in the week on the lives of two Belfast taxi men in South Belfast, loyalist killers struck again on Thursday, October 10th. Their victim, a North Belfast black taxi man, was shot dead at the wheel of his vehicle as he drove out of Rosapenna Street in the Old Park area. Hugh Magee, a married man in his 50s with one son, died instantly from a gunshot wound to his head.

Passengers in the taxi at the time of the attack, including a pregnant woman and a toddler, escaped injury. A number of people passing by, including a two-year-old child also narrowly escaped injury when the dead man's vehicle veered towards them. The lone gunman escaped on foot towards the loyalist Shankill Road area. Magee is the second black taxi driver to have been killed in loyalist attacks this year. In July, in full view of a British army observation post, Thomas Hughes was killed in his cab at traffic lights near Divis Street.

'EASY TARGET'

Commenting on the killing Jim Neeson, manager of the West Belfast Taxi Association said the driver had been picked by his loyalist killers simply because he was "an easy target". He continued:

"The truth is that he was killed simply because he was a Catholic and a black taxi driver."

Following an earlier incident in which two people standing outside the Mater Hospital in North Belfast escaped a loyalist murder bid when the gunman's weapon jammed, an 18-year-old youth was shot in the back as he walked home along Clifton Street late on Saturday night. The youth who asked not to be named, although seriously injured, remains in a comfortable condition.

In the early hours of the following morning 33-year-old Karl Hegney became yet another victim in the loyalist sectarian terror

campaign. The father of four was returning to his Markets home from the Rose and Crown Bar when he was shot in the back as he walked along the Ormeau Road. The fatally injured man was discovered lying on a footpath and was rushed to hospital but died a short time later.

Commenting on the death of her husband, Pauline Hegney, whose two uncles, one as recently as last April, were also shot dead by loyalists, said: "Karl was shot simply because he was a Catholic. He happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

In a second incident on Sunday, a 27-year-old man was abducted from nationalist Ardoyne by a loyalist gang. The man who remains seriously ill in hospital, was taken to waste ground in Danube Street, which leads onto the Shankill Road, and beaten with breeze blocks.

KILLED AT RANDOM

On Monday night the sixth taxi driver from nationalist areas to be killed since April, was lured to his death in the loyalist Taughmonagh estate in South Belfast. Fifty-four-year-old Hugh Conlon was found dying of gunshot wounds to his head in his cab at Finnis Drive shortly after 10pm. A married man from Blacks Road in West Belfast, Conlon was employed by an Andersonstown taxi company and is believed to have been shot either by a passenger or by a gunman lying in wait. Commenting on the taxi man's death, local Sinn Féin Councillor Alex Maskey said the driver was an innocent victim killed at random by loyalist death squads who simply "phoned up a Catholic for assassination".

In a second incident on Monday night Brian McCabe, another Catholic, claimed by his assailants to have been a republican, was discovered shortly after 10pm, shot in the head and left for dead in a stolen car parked in a loyalist area off the Newtownards Road in East Belfast. The vehicle, a black Ford Fiesta, was stolen from the Dundonald area on Sunday night. In a statement claiming responsibility for the shooting the UFF said that McCabe had been abducted and interrogated for several days prior to the shooting. As *AP/RN* goes to press Brian McCabe lies in a Belfast hospital on a life-support machine.

In a third sectarian murder bid on Monday night, a Catholic attendant at an all-night petrol station in Andersonstown escaped injury when three men in a car drove into the garage and opened fire.

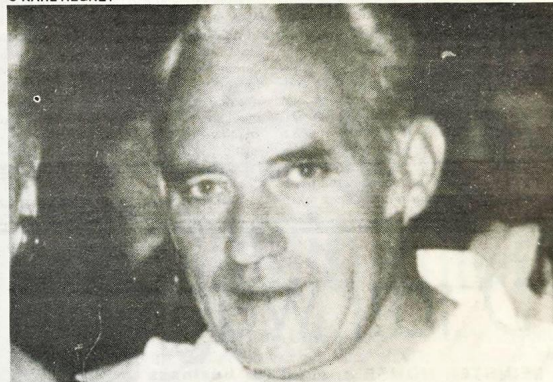
Shortly after 1pm on Tuesday, October 15th, two loyalist gunmen walked into Morrow's timber yard on the lower Ravenhill Road and fired at close range hitting a 24-year-old Catholic several times in the chest. John McGuigan from Lenadoon, who had worked for the firm for seven years, was immediately rushed to hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

CYNICAL RUC

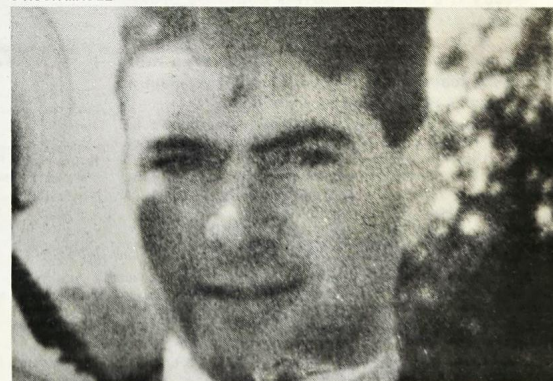
In the wake of this week's sectarian killings by loyalist paramilitaries, the RUC cynically announced the creation of a new special support group which they claim is intended to combat sectarian attacks, particu-



● KARL HEGNEY



● HUGH MAGEE



● JOHN MCGUIGAN

larly in the beleaguered community of North Belfast. The fact that the RUC response has only materialised after over 800 sectarian killings of ordinary Catholics by British-inspired loyalist death squads during the current phase of the conflict in the Six Counties, is a clear indication of how seriously the

RUC 'initiative' should be viewed.

Clearly, in the wake of continuing collusion revelations, the RUC are engaged in yet another cosmetic political exercise to publicly distance themselves from the groups they pass information to and assist in the sectarian murder of nationalists.

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

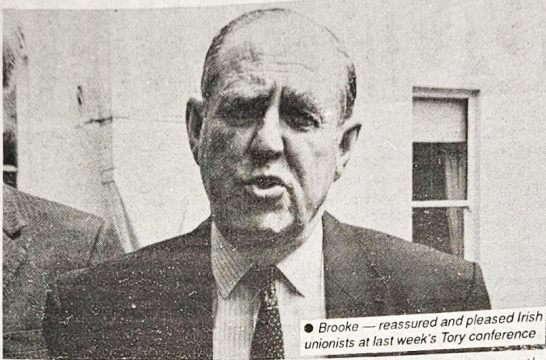
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the British Conservative Party, which took place last week in Blackpool, heard two government ministers spell out the British agenda. And it is, not just in rhetoric but also in content, very much a unionist manifesto.

"We will stand by Ulster through thick and thin," cried Peter Brooke to much applause. Churchill-like outbursts on the IRA went down well too: "What sort of people do they think we are?" That was the rhetoric — nothing a colonialist government would not say, even if it was about to ditch its colony. But rhetoric aside, there was much in what Brooke and the Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said last week which reassured and pleased Irish unionists. And this, very probably, by design.

Outlining what would be on the agenda of a fresh round of talks, should one materialise, Brooke declared that Articles Two and Three of the 26-County Constitution would have to figure. This reinforces a point Brooke had made at the end of September in a lengthy interview with the *Irish Times*, in which he had said those articles were "unhelpful" and "overtly at variance with Article One of the Hillsborough Agreement" (in which the Dublin government officially accepts that no change will occur in the constitutional status of the Six Counties unless a majority clearly expresses the wish that it should).

Regarding the place of the articles in London-Dublin relations in the last decade, Brooke is actually the first British minister to publicly ask the Dublin government to amend them. The recently published autobiography of former Dublin premier Garret Fitzgerald outlines how the British government, throughout the secret talks which led to the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement, refused Fitzgerald's repeated offer of a constitutional amendment in exchange for some form of joint Dublin-London authority in the North. The scrapping of those articles is very much a unionist battle. The British realise that successive Dublin governments since Sean Lemass in the '60s have considered these articles to be nothing more than a token

A VERY UNIONIST AGENDA



● Brooke — reassured and pleased Irish unionists at last week's Tory conference

nod to latent nationalist feeling in the South.

INTEGRATIONIST

Brooke also pointed out that another theme on a talks' agenda would be "to improve the scrutiny of Northern Ireland's primary legislation and the wider relationships between any new institution in Northern Ireland and the Westminster parliament". This nod to the 'integrationists' in the North must have sounded like music to the ears of Official Unionist leader James Molyneux, who has been arguing for the last six years that devolution was not practical and that the British government should instead give some powers of scrutiny to Six-County MPs over new legislation, which under direct rule has been railroaded through by means of 'Orders in Council'.

Former direct ruler, and now Foreign

Secretary, Douglas Hurd gave another glimpse of his government's strategy on the North. Dublin was "not a rival for sovereignty" he said, "but a partner in ending political violence". And again: "The discussion now focuses not on the border or the unification of Ireland but on how Northern Ireland can run its affairs within the United Kingdom, taking into account the identities and wishes of both the majority and minority communities."

These uncompromising affirmations of British sovereignty over part of Ireland, and requests that the Dublin government should eradicate from its Constitution any mention of sovereignty over the North, are not the sign of a new departure. After all, within days of the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement, and with the SDLP cock-a-hoop and describing it as a step towards Irish unity, another British minister, Tom King, had described the agreement as a "bulwark

against Irish unity". The SDLP and the Dublin government have constantly argued that the Agreement was a 'framework' for political change, yet in that *Irish Times* interview Peter Brooke poured cold water over any desire to extend the working of the Agreement: "The Anglo-Irish Agreement will overturn itself if it tries to carry more weight than it is at any time capable of carrying."

COURTING MPS

What all these declarations represent, however, is a public endorsement of the unionist position, a few months ahead of a general election. Talks between Northern political parties and between them and Dublin are not going to happen in the near future. But the possibility of a narrow Conservative majority, as indeed of a narrow Labour one, will cause the two main British parties to court the unionist MPs, whose 13 votes may be crucial in the next parliament.

What these declarations by British ministers do not mean is a ditching of the Dublin government: they realise that Dublin's support and collaboration, and that of the northern Catholic middle-class, are essential to their attempts to stabilise the Six Counties. But they also know that Dublin is not about to publicly confront and challenge the British over their role in the North. And so it is back to courting the unionists, and short-term gains in Westminster.

Northern nationalists, meanwhile, will be kept in check by the unleashing of loyalist attacks: this seems to be what the British government intends. British ministers keep pointing out the 'retaliatory' nature of such attacks, and in a speech last Monday Brooke pointed out that it was the IRA which was the "principal threat to the fabric of society". From a government of a country which has killed, plundered and divided Ireland and its people for its own selfish ends, these words have got to deserve an award for hypocrisy. In the context of the current spate of killings by loyalists, they are nothing short of callous.

PD tail wags Fianna Fáil dog

BY MICHAEL MORRISSEY

AS LEINSTER HOUSE opened for business on Wednesday the political parties could be broken down into those in government, those who couldn't make up their mind, those who aspire to government, those who want to expose even more government scandal and those who want an election that they won't get blamed for causing.

The Progressive Democrats were attempting to grab the centre stage as they renegotiated the programme for government with their coalition partners Fianna Fáil. Drama, hot air and the usual eleventh hour brinkmanship were the now familiar elements of the negotiations.

In 1989, negotiations between the two parties went on for days before they formed a coalition. This process was repeated in November 1990 as the PDs called for Brian Lenihan's head. Weekly scandals which have rocked the government have played into the hands of the PDs who have been renegotiating their 'Programme for Government' with Fianna Fáil since the beginning of the summer. Fianna Fáil stalled the talks not knowing the succession of scandals was going to blow up in their faces. In the first half of the week it became clear just what was on the PD shopping list; tax re-

form (yes again!) changes in public expenditure, local government and electoral reform.

Now it is unclear just who is in government. Well, it's obvious that Fianna Fáil are in government. That's why they have been pilloried hour to hour and day to day over the last six weeks on subjects as diverse as unemployment, exchequer returns, tax reform, assorted scandals and now the return of the opposition parties favourite topic, Larry Goodman. What's not clear is whether or not the Progressive Democrats have been in government since Leinster House closed its doors for the summer. They have avoided in large part all the political trauma that Fianna Fáil is now undergoing.

CONFUSED PDS

As we go to press the Progressive Democrats have still to decide whether they are in government or

not. Over the weekend, Mary Harney declared that there were "only so many rockets any government can sustain and stay in office with credibility". 'Minister' Harney didn't seem to realise that she is a member of the self-same government that can't "sustain credibility". This confusion was repeated in an *Irish Times*/MRBI poll. Sixty-three per cent of those questioned felt that Haughey should resign and 74% felt that political standards had fallen. However, Des O'Malley's personal popularity had risen since the last poll in June, while the PDs poll standing was unchanged. Fianna Fáil dropped 4% to 41% in the poll.

Fine Gael were also intent on a share of the political limelight as they tabled a motion of no confidence in the government. John Bruton was particularly scathing about PD proposals for electoral reform, despite the fact that the PD proposals are close to those put forward by Fine Gael in 1987.

The Workers' Party stole the show on Sunday with the publication of a leaked letter allegedly from Dermot Desmond to Mr Jacquiell, Director-General of Pernod-Ricard. The letter covered reasons as articulated by Desmond as to why Pernod-Ricard should pay NCB £2 mil-



● Mary Harney — confused

lion for services rendered in Pernod-Ricard's takeover of Irish Distillers.

STICKY SITUATION

This information was released over the national airwaves on the same Sunday programme Charlie Haughey uses to dismiss public ser-

vants. It prompted the chairperson of the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party, Jim Tunney, to ring the programme and criticise de Rossa for trying to "base facts on allegations". Tunney asked de Rossa whether if on the same basis he was to "believe programmes on television that linked his party to the Official IRA, bank robberies, and the manufacturing of money".

Dick Spring on behalf of the Labour Party attempted to stall the motion of no confidence until Thursday. It is he and his party who have remained above the current spate of financial and corporate scandals. The MRBI poll showed that his party's standing had risen to 15%. Dick Spring was deemed also the most popular leader in the 26 Counties, ahead of Des O'Malley by 10%. His party success in the local elections is still holding up. It's a difficult position to be in. Labour are the only party which could benefit in an election. Yet if they are seen to provoke an election the high levels of support they now enjoy will evaporate. The real problem for Labour is that those of us who don't have short memories (generally those who never held political office) do remember the last time Labour was in government.

Mourners assaulted as UFF claim fresh victim

WHILE a loyalist death squad was murdering nationalist John McGuigan on the Ravenhill Road at 1.05pm on Tuesday, October 15th, a joint RUC/UDR mobile patrol was busy accosting two relatives of loyalist murder victim Karl Hegney.

Paul and Michael McGuigan (no relation to John McGuigan) were making their way to the funeral of Karl Hegney at 1pm when they were stopped and detained less than 200 yards from where John McGuigan was to die.

British soldiers of the UDR began to verbally and physically abuse the two men when informed of their destination. Both became angry at the jibes concerning the death of Hegney and it was at this point the RUC intervened, arresting them and taking them to Mountpottinger Barracks.

While in the RUC Barracks the brothers heard details of the murder of John McGuigan being transmitted over the RUC radio, and were then forced to endure the taunts and laughter of the RUC who jeered "We've just got another one."

American Consulate Picket

A CROWD of around 50 protesters mounted a picket on the American Consulate in Belfast's Queen Street on Wednesday afternoon, October 16th, to coincide with world-wide protests marking the opening of the US Supreme Court case of Belfast man Joe Doherty who despite nine years in a US jail and numerous court victories is still fighting attempts to have him extradited to Britain.

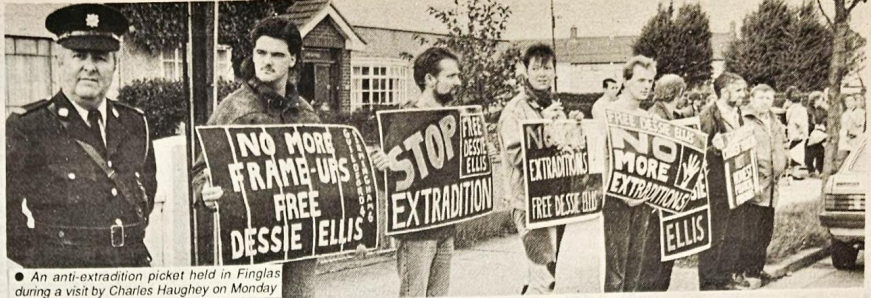
The picket, during which one protester was arrested by the RUC, was organised by the broadly based Campaign for Human Rights group.

Controversy surrounds May Inquiry

DESPITE all of the revelations to date about flawed evidence, one of the senior prosecutors in the original trial of the Maguire Seven has told the May Inquiry into their wrongful convictions that he still believes it was proper to proceed with the trial even in view of the extremely tenuous nature of the 'evidence' in the possession of the Crown Prosecutor's Office.

The evidence of Michael Hill QC, was delivered to the inquiry in the form of a written statement and was one of the factors which led to Alistair Logan, lawyer for the Maguire Seven, walking out of the inquiry in protest.

Speaking after having left the inquiry on Wednesday, October 9th, Logan said that he felt it was unrealistic to continue to attend when he and others appearing for the Maguire Seven were being denied access to relevant papers and being denied the right to cross-examine any of the witnesses.



● An anti-extradition picket held in Finglas during a visit by Charles Haughey on Monday

THREE FOR SUPREME COURT

BY
LIAM
O COILEAIN

THE LONG BATTLE against extradition to the Six Counties for three Ballymurphy men, Tony Sloan, Michael McKee and Paul Magee, will reach its final stage when the men appear before the Supreme Court in Dublin on Tuesday next, October 22nd.

In February, the High Court ruled that McKee and Sloan couldn't be extradited on possession of weapons charges but that Sloan should be extradited to serve time for the further conviction standing against him of "unlawfully imprisoning" supergrass James Kennedy. The supergrass's discredited testimony was the sole basis on which they were con-

victed in a Diplock court.

The High Court also ruled that Paul Magee should be extradited to serve the sentence imposed on him for his part in the shooting of SAS Captain Herbert Westmacott during an abortive British army ambush on a house in North Belfast in May 1980.

In court, counsel for the Dublin government will be ap-

pealing the High Court's decision that Sloan and McKee can't be extradited on the possession charge, while Sloan and Magee will be appealing against their extradition orders. The Supreme Court hearing should last two to three days but a decision is expected to be reserved.

In June 1981, all three extraditees escaped, with Joe Doherty, (whose conviction for the killing of the SAS captain has been described by a US judge as "the classic political offence") from Crumlin Road Jail in Belfast. All three have already served ten-year terms in

Portlaoise Prison for escaping from Crumlin Road. The Dublin government would now extradite them for offences committed eleven years ago and which were clearly covered by the political exemption existing in Irish extradition legislation at that time.

The Irish Anti-Extradition Committee has called on everyone concerned about justice to come along to the Four Courts in Dublin on Tuesday morning, October 22nd, to support the three men and show the strength of public opposition to political extradition.



● The new plastic bullet guns to be issued to crown forces will be safer for the user but just as lethal as the present version which has been responsible for 17 deaths, including eight children, and countless injuries

Safer gun for plastic killers

NEWS THAT the British government is to equip the crown forces with a new plastic bullet gun next year to prevent injuries to those who are firing them was described by a spokesperson from the United Campaign against Plastic Bullets, Clare Reilly, as "adding insult to injury".

Protests and renewed calls from nationalist politicians and relatives of the victims for the banning of the weapon, followed the announcement that the British army, including the UDR and the RUC, are being issued with new plastic bullet guns because of problems with misfires and breach explosions which have been inflicting injury on the crown forces user.

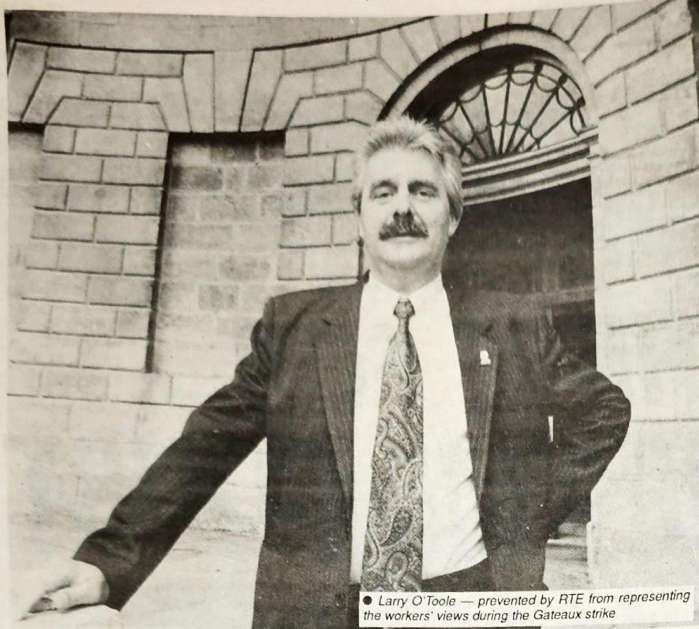
The UCAPB said that the British government continued to ignore the fact that these lethal weapons had killed 17 people, including eight children, and seriously injured hundreds of others. Clare Reilly continued:

"Not one word of sympathy or apology has ever been received from the RUC or British army, and no action has been taken against those members of the British forces who have bla-

tantly failed to adhere to their own regulations."

Pointing out that the Catholic Church, European Parliament and the recent Helsinki Watch report had all called for the banning of these dangerous weapons, West Belfast MP Gerry Adams said that the plastic bullet is a weapon which, however it is used, will always cause death and injury.

"It is no accident that, despite 17 deaths and countless injuries, only one member of the RUC has been charged and he was acquitted. However hard the British government attempts to sell the introduction of this new improved version, the fact remains that in the hands of the RUC and British army and now the UDR, this lethal weapon will continue to kill and maim."



● Larry O'Toole — prevented by RTE from representing the workers' views during the Gateaux strike

HIGH COURT HEARS CENSORSHIP CHALLENGE

BY
ART
MACEOIN

A DUBLIN TRADE UNIONIST has challenged RTE's interpretation of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act which he says was wrongly used to exclude him from the airwaves. The High Court heard the case on October 11th and judgement has been reserved.

Larry O'Toole, a member of the executive of the Bakers Union, was a spokesperson for the striking Gateaux workers during the dispute at the company's Finglas factory last year. He was prevented from representing the workers' views when RTE decided to extend the use of the political censorship order to cover him because of his membership of Sinn Féin.

At the High Court hearing before Justice O'Hanlon on Friday, October 11th, counsel for O'Toole contended that the provisions of Section 31 do not forbid the broadcast of material from people solely because of their membership of Sinn Féin. Any such interpretation of the Act was, O'Toole said, a misconstruction of the law.

Sinn Féin is one of a number of organisations listed under Section 31. A Ministerial Order under the section forbids RTE to broadcast the words of spokespeople or representatives of the listed organisations

but doesn't specifically exclude ordinary members who fall into neither of these categories. This was clearly the case with Larry O'Toole when he was speaking in his capacity as elected chairperson of the Gateaux Strike Committee. However, guidelines from the RTE Authority warn staff that no member of Sinn Féin may be allowed on air.

NO FURTHER INTERVIEWS

During the Gateaux dispute an interview with Larry O'Toole was broadcast on RTE radio. But when the station learned that he was a member of Sinn Féin, no further interviews were carried and an interview which was already recorded, was shelved.

Frank Clarke SC, barrister for Larry O'Toole, said that while he recognised that his client had no statutory right to be broadcast, he did have a right not to be "excluded

arbitrarily' by RTE. At the time of the dispute O'Toole was an ordinary member of Sinn Féin and was acting merely as a spokesperson for the striking workers.

Peter Shanley, representing RTE, said O'Toole had no legal right of access to the airwaves and therefore could not complain that his interviews were not considered for inclusion. He contended that in reality, the application for a judicial review was an application on behalf of Sinn Féin.

To try to justify RTE's exclusion of broadcasts with Sinn Féin members speaking on any subject, he claimed that it was part of Sinn Féin's policy to agitate around social and economic issues with the aim of "overthrowing the legitimate organs of the state". He also attempted to use the fact that O'Toole was a Sinn Féin candidate in the local government elections to say that he was in fact a spokesperson for the organisation. Frank Clarke protested at the use of this argument by RTE's counsel, pointing out that the elections took place some ten months after the Gateaux dispute.

No date has yet been given for the delivery of judgement.

Ambushed and beaten by British soldiers

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE were seriously injured when they attempted to intervene during a malicious attack by a British army foot patrol on a teenager from the Turf Lodge area of West Belfast early on Monday morning. Two of his family were also beaten and a number of people at a nearby Chinese takeaway were injured when plastic bullets were fired.

Eighteen-year-old Paul Morris was returning home from a disco shortly before 1am on Monday, October 14th, when a group of British soldiers hit him in the face with a rifle, dragged him across the road and into a garden. The patrol of eight British soldiers had been lying in wait in an entry less than ten yards from his home. The teenager said he clung to a drain pipe as soldiers tried to drag him down behind the side of a house. He said:

"When I turned into the street everything was quiet and there seemed to be no-one about. As I walked past an entry opposite my home, a soldier jumped out and hit me in the face with the butt of his gun. Four of them dragged me across the road into a garden where I was kicked and punched."

When Paul's elder brother Martin, also returning from the disco, tried to intervene, he was hit in the face with a rifle butt and beaten. He later required ten stitches to a head wound.

"Blood was pouring from Martin's head, two of the soldiers were punching and kicking him. The soldiers made no attempt to arrest us, they were just out to give us a beating. When my father heard all the rumpus and opened the front

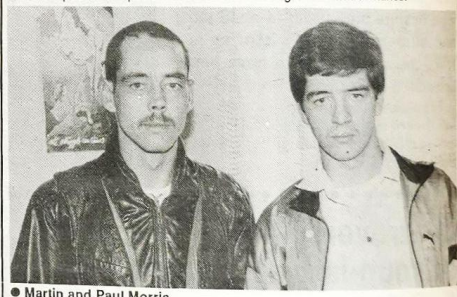
door, a soldier punched him in the face," said Paul.

PLASTIC BULLETS

A number of people who were standing at the nearby takeaway were injured when the patrol opened fire with plastic bullets, hitting at least three people, two of whom required immediate hospital treatment. Twenty-year-old Thomas McNeill lost two front teeth when he was struck in the mouth and a second man suffered a dislocated wrist when he was struck by a plastic bullet.

Commenting on the attack on her husband and two sons, Margaret Morris said that the British soldiers who carried out the attack appeared to have deliberately waited on her sons returning home.

"My family has been tortured by British crown forces over the last few months. Paul is always being stopped, abused and harassed by the RUC and British army. It's got to the stage where he can hardly leave the house without being stopped. He already has a case pending for harassment against the RUC. He was recently threatened by British soldiers who told him they were going to give him a hiding. They don't give the kids a chance."



● Martin and Paul Morris

Derry woman "living in terror"

A YOUNG DERRY WOMAN, sexually assaulted last week by a plainclothes RUC man attempting to recruit her as a paid informer, said that as a result of the man's threats she is now "living in terror".

Distressed by the ordeal, Jacqueline McFadden described how she and a friend had been sitting in a car on the Letterkenny Road on Tuesday night, October 8th, when, at around 10pm, two men in plainclothes knocked at the window, produced RUC identity cards and told her to get into the back of their unmarked car.

The RUC men then made it clear to McFadden that they wanted her to watch certain individuals in Creggan and threatened to "sort her out if she didn't show up with names" at the Waterside Railway Station the following Thursday night.

While she was in the back of the car one of the RUC men put his hand up her skirt and assaulted her.

Derry Sinn Féin Councillor Dodie McGuinness said that this obscene incident illustrated the fact that the RUC were engaged in a widespread trawling exercise, targeting people they perceived to be weak and vulnerable and coercing them into action as paid informers. "There is a sinister element in this case in that the RUC men were prepared to sexually assault this young woman in order to put her under more pressure."

"Despite the increasing evidence that a widespread RUC campaign of forcing people to work for them has been undertaken locally, there has been no response from either the Catholic Church or the SDLP. Are they prepared to continue ignoring this escalating problem which is bringing nothing but grief and worry to the RUC's victims?"

1791-1991 — The revolutionary legacy

IRISH REPUBLICANISM was born 200 years ago this month with the foundation of the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast on October 14th 1791. This important anniversary was marked by contemporary republicans with a number of ceremonies around the country.

In Belfast, Sinn Féin held a commemoration ceremony at the graveside of two of the leaders of the United Irishmen, brother and sister Henry Joy and Mary Ann McCracken, in Clifton Street Cemetery. The proceedings on Monday, October 14th, were chaired by Sinn Féin Councillor Paddy McManus and an oration was delivered by recently elected Sinn Féin Councillor for North Belfast, Joe Austin. Austin said:

"Today, as two more victims of this tragic conflict are buried the message of the United Irishmen is as relevant as it was 200 years ago when Belfast democrats came together to meet the challenge posed by the lack of a national government for Ireland and to work for the 'removal of absurd and ruinous distinctions'."

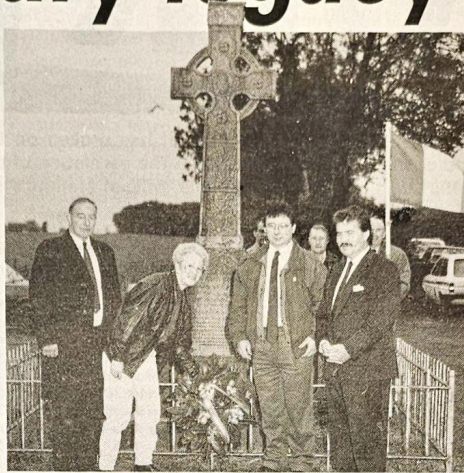
He outlined the aims and objectives of the United Irishmen and

said that their goals were no less central to the final establishment of peace in Ireland today. Sinn Féin, he said, stood by those objectives:

"We remain convinced that British interference in the North blocks any hope of peace. Today, like 200 years ago 'we are ruled by Englishmen and the servants of Englishmen, whose object is the interest of another country.'"

Austin went on to say that while many things had changed since the era of the United Irishmen, the root cause of conflict in Ireland—Britain's involvement—and the divisions it has encouraged remain unchanged. He concluded:

"For the United Irishmen their commitment to uniting 'the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions' was absolute. To achieve national self-determination they saw a clear choice between 'Union or separa-



● (Left to right) Pat McCabe, Lydia Cumiskey, Joe Reilly and Tommy McDonnell at the wreath-laying ceremony at Croppy Cross, Wilkinstown, Navan, County Meath

tion...between slavery and independence."

DUBLIN

"What miserable slaves are the gentry of Ireland...They see Ireland only in their rent rolls, their places, their patronage and their pensions..." These words of Theobald Wolfe Tone and their continuing relevance were recalled at the Dublin United Irishmen bicentennial ceremony on Monday.

The commemoration organised by Dublin Sinn Féin at the Wolfe Tone statue in St Stephen's Green was chaired by John Doyle. Doyle said that Tone's criticisms of the propertied classes and the Irish political establishment were very appropriate to the current situation in the 26 Counties with greed and corruption on a massive scale being highlighted by recent and ongoing scandals.

A wreath was laid on behalf of Dublin Sinn Féin by Seán Crowe and an oration was delivered by Micheál Ó Muireagáin. He recalled

weeks later, on November 9th, the Dublin branch of the United Irishmen was founded by Tone and Russell, with James Napper Tandy as secretary. From Dublin it began to spread out slowly and steadily through the entire country and soon had a branch in Cork and in other provincial centres.

The resolutions and manifesto drawn up by Tone were adopted by the United Irishmen. Reform of the Dublin parliament, justice for the Catholic majority, representation of the whole people and unity of every creed and class for the attainment of these aims, were the principal features of the new policy.

In 1794, as a result of disclosures made by an informer to the Dublin Castle authorities, following the arrest of the Rev William Jackson, an emissary of the French government, and his 'trial' and death the following April, the United Irishmen were suppressed and declared illegal. Tone and other leading United Irishmen were forced to leave Ireland to avoid arrest.

Driven underground, the United Irishmen reorganised and became a se-

cret revolutionary organisation to overthrow British rule in Ireland and established an independent Irish Republic by force of arms. Their aims and objects now were, as Tone later wrote:

"To subvert the tyranny of our execrable government, to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils, and to assert the independence of my country — these were my objects. To unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishmen, in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter — these were my means."

During the following years, the *Northern Star*, the paper of the United Irishmen, was suppressed and many of the leading members of the society were arrested and imprisoned. By the time the long-planned United Irish rising began on May 23rd 1798, most of the principal leaders, including Thomas Addis Emmet, Art O'Connor, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the brothers John and Henry Sheares and Samuel Neilson, were in jail.

● Micheál Ó Muireagáin addressing the United Irishmen bicentennial ceremony at the Wolfe Tone statue in St Stephen's Green in Dublin

Despite the arrests, the failure of the promised French expedition to Ireland and the capture of large quantities of arms, the United Irishmen rose in rebellion and fought with distinction and courage. After a month the rising, which was crushed with ruthless severity by the British, had ended and many of the leaders and insurgents were either executed or transported to the penal colonies.

The founding of the United Irishmen dramatically altered the course of Irish history. For two centuries, generations of Irish republicans, from Thomas Davis and the Young Irelanders of the 1840s, James Stephens and the Fenians of the 1860s, Pádraig Pearse and the men and women of 1916, right up to the present generation engaged in the struggle for freedom, inspired by the teachings of Tone and the United Irishmen, have fought "to break the connection with England", and to establish an independent Irish republic.

The Society of United Irishmen was formally established in Belfast on October 18th, 1791, 200 years ago this week.

remains that the Republican Movement's argument is not with the Protestant people but with the British imperial war machine.

DONEGAL

In County Donegal on Sunday, October 13th, a wreath laying ceremony was held at the old pier in Buncrana where Wolfe Tone was brought ashore after his capture on board the *Hoche* in Lough Swilly in 1798. Sinn Féin Councillor Jim Ferry laid a wreath on Lough Swilly and in an address to the gathering the chairperson of the Donegal Commemoration Committee, Liam McElhinney, traced the foundation and development of the United Irishmen.

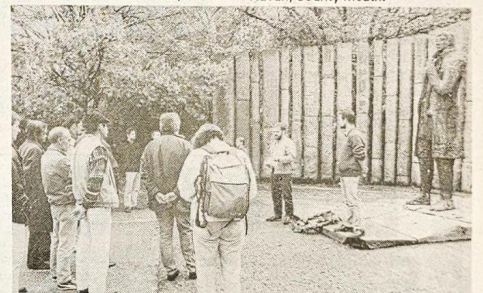
McElhinney urged all present to renew the pledge of Wolfe Tone "never to desist in our efforts to establish independence for our country" and to abhor and reject any form of sectarianism.

Speaking to Sinn Féin members after the ceremony, Councillor Ferry noted the irony of the fact that on Monday, October 14th, 200 years to the day after the United Irishmen were formed with such high ideals, the only hope open to young Irish people for employment was the lottery of the Morrison Visas to the United States. Referring to the Dublin establishment he said:

"Their cynical and insulting claims that 'this small island cannot hold us all' stands in sharp contrast to the millions of pounds that are being stolen from the Irish people by various business people with political connections both locally and nationally."

MEATH

Also on Sunday 13th, Sinn Féin held a wreath laying ceremony at the Croppy Cross at Wilkinstown, Navan, County Meath.



● Micheál Ó Muireagáin addressing the United Irishmen bicentennial ceremony at the Wolfe Tone statue in St Stephen's Green in Dublin

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● Richard Campbell laying a wreath at the grave of Henry Joy McCracken in Belfast

REMEMBERING THE PAST

The United Irishmen

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN, or the United Irishmen as they became known, initially set up to achieve parliamentary reform, was to become, within three years of its formation, a secret revolutionary society with the aim of establishing an Irish Republic through force of arms.

The French Revolution of 1789 had a profound effect on many European countries, including Ireland. Inspired by the doctrine of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, a young Protestant Dublin barrister, Theobald Wolfe Tone, who believed in complete separation from England, published a pamphlet in 1791 entitled *An Argument on Behalf of the Catholics of Ireland*, which urged parliamentary reform and advocated the granting of Catholic emancipation.

Later that year, Thomas Russell, soon to become one of the United Irish leaders, wrote to Tone and asked him to

come to Belfast, where republican ideals from America and France were spreading rapidly, to speak at a celebration marking the second anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. Following discussion with leading Protestants and Presbyterians, including William Drennan and Samuel Neilson, it was agreed to found a non-sectarian organisation to work for parliamentary reform.

The inaugural meeting of the new society, named at the suggestion of Neilson, The Society of United Irishmen, which had 42 members was held in Belfast in mid-October 1791. Three

Cork

— unemployment behind the sh

BY LIAM O COILEAIN

THE BACKGROUND to the recent wave of scandals that has broken on the political and financial world of the 26 Counties has been the escalation of unemployment throughout 1991 to unprecedented levels, official statistics exceeding the 260,000 level for the first time.

Cork city, which the Dublin government has often attempted to make a showpiece for the success of its industrial policies, has some of the worst unemployment blackspots in the country and the story of its industrial decline in fact offers many examples of the failure of those policies.

The people of Cork city, and particularly the northside of that city, which is a predominantly working class area, have certainly suffered more than most from failed economic policies and the resultant human misery caused by unemployment. There are over 16,000 people on the live register in the city, 32% of the workforce, with levels of 70% in many corporation housing estates.

Cork's problem is one of structural unemployment, with traditional industry breaking down and the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) failing to replace this industry with viable alternatives. Cork lost Ford, Dunlop and Verolme shipyards with a resulting loss of jobs on the docks. Sunbeam, the last major textile firm has now followed the North Infirmary Hospital into oblivion. But the IDA's policy of attracting the new computer and electronics industry to the region has run into its own share of difficulties, due to bad planning and the folly of investing in foreign-based firms which have no stake in the region. The industry attracted to Cork by the IDA is not labour intensive. Many of

these companies are highly successful but their profits leave the country and do little to help the area where they are based. The arbitrary closure of Concurrent Computers is a case in point, with the closure of Western Digital now seemingly imminent.

The closure of the North Infirmary Hospital a few years back is indicative of the neglect of Cork and its northside in particular. The North Infirmary had 4-500 beds at one stage. Across an eight-mile by four-mile area is a network of working-class estates, with no local hospital to serve

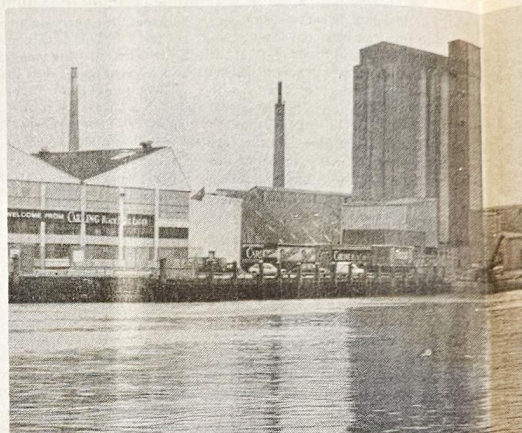
their needs.

For young people growing up on these estates there is very little chance of securing a full-time job. The main employer on the northside is the Apple complex in Hollyhill but only a tiny fraction of its workforce is drawn from the locality. The closure of Sunbeam last year put the area deeper into the depths of economic and social deprivation. Even Cork Corporation has shed jobs. There is no third-level institution on the northside; both UCC and Cork RTC are south of the Lee.

In such a situation the black economy is forced on people, all of which works in favour of building contractors, pub and hotel owners who can get away with paying a pittance.



● Blackpool flats — in spite of Cork's housing crisis existing accommodation is being neglected



● Cork Docks, once a major employer, is another example of traditional industry brought to its knees. Wages in the construction industry have plummeted because of this.

There is also a housing crisis in Cork city. The corporation has a waiting list of 1,200 people, with 400 more waiting just to get onto this list.

Much of the existing accommodation has been neglected with certain areas used as dumping grounds for undesirable tenants, with no consideration given to existing tenants. The Blackpool flats are a case in point. Many of the flats in the Antrim, Glenties and Immal blocks are boarded up. The corporation has issued conflict-

ing statements regarding the future of the complex, threatening to knock them for the proposed Mallow Ring Road and at other times to refurbish them.

Pat and Elizabeth Kelleher live in the Blackpool flats. A chef by trade, he has been unemployed for the past five years. He finds that he can get no work because "restaurants and hotels are just not interested in hiring a qualified chef when they can pay a young fellow a pittance to do the work".

"It's a case of the more qualifica-

ELECTRONICS & COMPUTER SECTOR

Frank Wallace is branch secretary of SIPTU's Number Six Branch in Cork. He spoke to AP/RN in Connolly Hall about Cork's "blue chip" industry, the electronics sector. This now employs over 3,000 people, a reflection of the IDA's policy of attracting foreign companies through generous tax breaks and grants rather than concentrating on building up native or state-owned industry. As recent events in the industry demonstrate, everything in this multinational-dominated garden is far from rosy.

The situation in Western Digital demonstrates the fragility of the IDA's policy. The company produces electronic components for the computer and related industries. The slump in the international market due to worldwide recession hit Western Digital badly and it laid off 181 people in July, stating that the future of the remaining 352

workers was dependent on a takeover bid. Four potential buyers were originally interested but this has now whittled down to one. Wallace is hopeful that a buyer will be found but others in Cork are not so optimistic. Sinn Féin's Don O'Leary said that he would be very surprised if the company lasted into the New Year.

Another blow to employment in the electronics sector was the closure of Concurrent Computers, a company which, according to Frank Wallace, had an excellent industrial relations record and which had a good product. Its closure had nothing to do with the viability of the Cork operation but was due solely to the US-based parent corporation's decision to cut down on its overseas operations in response to defence cutbacks in the US. The US Defense Department had been its major customer.

The parent company announced the factory's closure in July 1990, just three months after a visit from the company's vice-president, who had promised that everyone's job was secure. He had even mentioned plans for expansion. The announcement of the decision to close was so out of the blue that even senior management at the Cork plant didn't know. At the time

Frank Wallace told AP/RN:

"This has exposed the grim face of capitalism in Ireland, with shut-downs only a phone-call away."

One hundred and fifty people lost their jobs. Thirty three jobs were saved as the factory kept open a small 'service centre'. Of course, once there had to be cutbacks, the Cork operation, the company's only overseas factory, was the first to go. Concurrent had received £3.6 million in grants from the IDA but this did not buy any corporate loyalty to the people of Cork.

"That closure sent shockwaves through the whole electronics and computer industry in Cork," says Frank Wallace today. "If they could do it in one then they could do it in others."

Bourns Electronics has been in Cork for some 12 years, employing 550 people. It shut down completely for a week in July and 85 people were laid off temporarily. In September, the remaining workers were again stood down for a week. At this stage 40 of the 85 have been recalled and SIPTU says there are prospects for others to be recalled.

There are a large number of smaller companies in this sector but one success story in

Cork is Apple computers, which has gone from strength to strength. It now employs some 1,100 people. The sector as a whole employs up to 3,000 people and, with the demise of all the traditional areas of employment in the city, is now its main employer.

Wallace believes that, worldwide, the general computer and electronics centre is coming out of a slump. He is hopeful that the future for Cork in this area at least, is looking good.

Others are not quite so optimistic. Cork Sinn Féin feels that the emphasis is wrong. Many of the companies that have been attracted are small, employing unskilled workers, mainly married women, to assemble items. Low wages are the order of the day while unions are tied to agreements before the companies even agree to move in.

IRISH STEEL &

THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

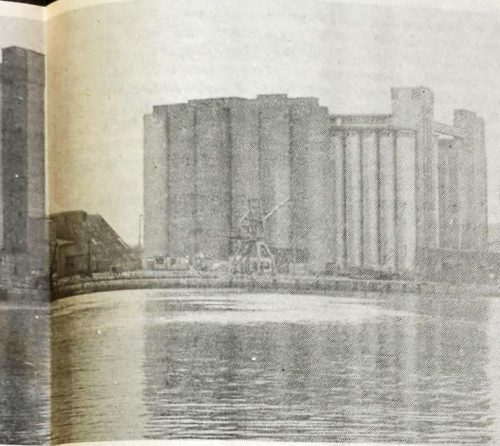
Wallace also represents SIPTU members working for Irish Steel, in Cobh. Irish Steel employs some 650 people at present and it keeps over 300 more people,

such as... rectly. In Roadfre... But there... over the

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Industry breaking down with the resulting loss of jobs

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...you have the less chance you have of a job," he says. The couple have to survive on £85 a dole. They are four years living in the flats. His address is another bar to gaining work. "Employers just stop listening to you as soon as you mention the flats," he remarks. He has a seaman's ticket and is hopeful of work on the boats but this means leaving his wife for long periods in a flat complex which can be dangerous. "There are too many empty flats," says Kelleher. "They should make up their minds to either knock them or fill them. They

just draw undesirables the way they are neglected at the minute. We often feel we are the forgotten people of Cork."

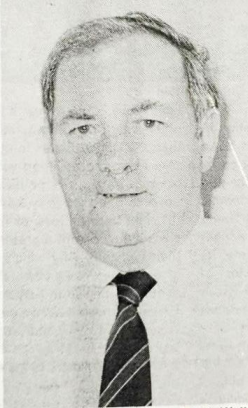
At 8pm on Monday, October 21st, a meeting will be held in the Grosvenor Hotel in Cork to discuss the setting up of an Unemployment Action Group. Welcoming this development, Kevin Wallace of Cork Sinn Féin said: "It is about time the dispossessed majority made their voices heard in this city. This government, their elected representatives and the IDA have let them down too often."

ECTOR

such as hauliers, in work indirectly. Irish Steel is one of CIE Roadfreight's main customers. But there is a big question mark over the company's future.

The plant was supposed to have been bought from the state by a German industrialist, Dr Willy Korf, as part of the Dublin government's privatisation policy. A deal was practically worked out but when Dessie O'Malley became Minister for Industry and Commerce he wasn't happy with Korf's financial guarantees. During the delay in cutting the deal through Korf was killed in a plane crash and the deal never went through.

The company now faces extensive 'rationalisation' proposals with the loss of 96 jobs. Under EC law the state is prevented from subsidising the steel plant. Irish Steel has now been two years waiting on a buyer. The investment in much-needed new technology was delayed. Everyone concerned is waiting for a definite government statement in its policy towards the company. If a buyer can't be found Irish Steel's future is in serious jeopardy.



● SIPTU branch secretary Frank Wallace

The future of car salerooms and garages in Cork is also giving cause for serious concern. Ultimately up to 100 jobs could be lost due to the importing of re-conditioned Japanese cars. This has affected the new and second hand car trade. The threat to traditional jobs lies in the lack of any back-up service for these cars. Garages just don't have the parts should they need repair or a service.

SUNBEAM SCANDAL

Jim Cronin was chief shop steward at the Sunbeam textile factory in Cork city. The textile industry was once the major employer in the city, especially for people on the northside. It employed over 3,500 workers. 25 years ago, Sunbeam alone employed 1,800. But over the last 20 to 30 years the textile industry has all but disappeared. Sunbeam was taken over by an English company, Response, a number of years ago. The IDA was involved in the transfer and the employees' jobs were guaranteed. However, there was a £1.5 million loss and the company was in trouble.

The workers got together with the company and came up with a productivity deal. The loss was turned around and a £500,000 profit was projected for this year. Jobs were lost, but mainly in the management sector. As Cronin puts it: "We were carrying more passengers than CIE."

Instead of making a profit in 1991 the company was shut down in April 1990 with the loss of 500 jobs. Response ran into financial difficulties in England which had nothing to do with the Sunbeam plant. Nevertheless the banks foreclosed and the receivers were called in in January 1990.

In March, the workers staged a six-week sit-in to prevent over £2 million of stock from being removed by the receiver and to protect their jobs. Up to 3,000 people marched to the factory, demonstrating the strength of local support for the workers.

They received a guarantee that the plant would be kept open and not just sold to a property developer. The workers' representatives had meetings with Charles Haughey, Dessie O'Malley, Brian Lenihan and Albert Reynolds. Cronin recalls his



● JIM CRONIN

meeting with Haughey, who whispered to him: "Smile for the cameras."

"I've nothing to smile about. I've no job," Cronin replied.

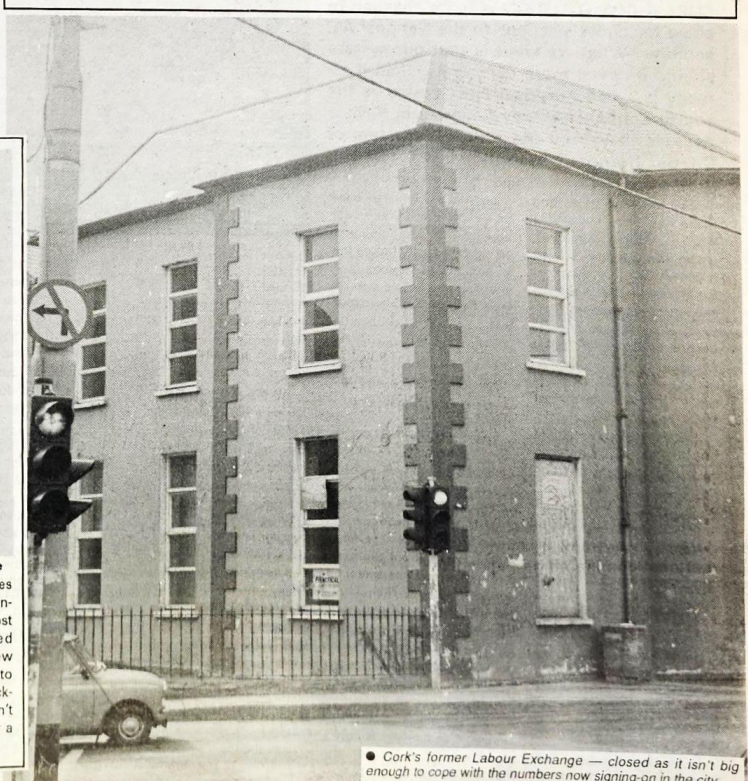
In April 1990 the plant closed. The workers had supported a plan by management at the plant to take over the running of the operation. Cronin believes that this would have been the best solution and that with minimal government assistance the

company could now be making a profit and 350 workers' jobs saved. Sunbeam cost the government £1.5 million in statutory redundancy. The workers, anxious to save their jobs and confident that the plant could be made profitable, asked that this money instead be given to the existing management.

However, the government instructed the IDA to back the Westport-based clothing company, Larbaun, which promised that when the factory re-opened it would provide just 100 jobs. A property developer, Robert McGrattan, who is close to Fianna Fáil, was involved initially with the Larbaun bid for the site but now owns the property. Wages have been slashed to subsistence level and still the company is losing money.

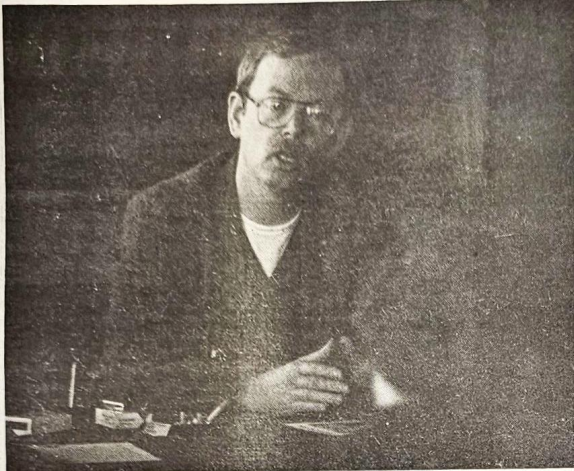
According to Jim Cronin the Sunbeam property alone has been valued by a Cork auctioneer at £11.5 million. The developer bought the site for £4.5 million. There was £2.5 million of stock on the premises at the time and he also received an IDA grant of £2 million. Not bad work if you can get it! There are now rumours afloat that Ben Dunne is looking at the site as a possible location for a store.

Cronin is bitter at the role played by the trade union movement. He says that it takes money from its members but does nothing for the unemployed. He believes that the union frightened the workers in Sunbeam into signing away their jobs. He believes that they could have held out for more. He views the PESP and its forerunner the Programme for National Recovery as "the National Disaster Plan".



● Cork's former Labour Exchange — closed as it isn't big enough to cope with the numbers now signing on in the city

Australians hear call for freedom



● Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard McGuigan who has successfully broken down the web of British censorship in the southern hemisphere

THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA have been hearing calls for peace and self-determination for Ireland during the visit of Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard McGuigan, from Belfast, who has successfully broken the web of British censorship and disinformation which reaches into the southern hemisphere.

Interviewed by Melbourne's leading daily newspaper, *The Age*, McGuigan said Australian media coverage of the conflict in Ireland was severely restricted. He described this as an extension of censorship at home which, in barring Sinn Féin elected representatives, amounted to "a subtle form of dictatorship which every fascist state in the world would practice".

As well as *The Age* McGuigan was interviewed on several radio stations and his visit has also been covered on TV. On September 30th, the day after his arrival in Melbourne, he was interviewed by Australia's national broadcasting station ABC. Listeners also heard him when he visited Tasmania two days later where he met with representatives of students and the unemployed and the

Building Workers Industrial Union. Back in Melbourne he met with leaders from the Aboriginal Advancement League.

CENTRE LAUNCHED

The McGuigan visit has been providing a central focus for Irish solidarity activity and he has been meeting with Australian Aid for Ireland (AAI) activists at every stage. On October 5th, he launched the Phoenix Club at the Emerald Hall in southern Melbourne which is expected to become a centre of Irish political and social activity. Before leaving Melbourne he spoke on AAI's radio weekly radio broadcast *Behind the Green Curtain*.

In Sydney, on October 8th, McGuigan met the Mayor Frank Sator and two days later was interviewed on a national tv news programme and addressed the Trades Council body which represents workers across New South Wales. His visit is continuing throughout this week.

During the course of his tour McGuigan has highlighted the fact that the British SAS uses Western Australia for training. "We think Australians should lobby the government to stop it because that is giving direct military aid to a situation which they should at least be neutral about," he said.

CUBA'S DEMOCRACY EXTENDED



CUBA'S CONSTITUTION is to be changed to allow for direct elections to the National Assembly. "What we want is that our system should be even more democratic than it already is," said President Fidel Castro as the Fourth Communist Party Congress in Havana decided to extend the country's system of "poder popular" [people's power] at the weekend.

The decision to extend democracy occurs at a time when the Cuban revolution is facing its severest-ever test. It shows the confidence of the leadership that it has the support of the immense majority of the Cuban people, despite constant efforts by the United States government and the CIA to overthrow Latin America's most radical administration.

Since the 1959 revolution, the US has maintained an economic blockade of Cuba to try and bring the country to its knees. The Caribbean island is only 90 miles off the Florida coast and was a virtual US colony for 61 years. Almost all its trade was with the US. Sugar became its sole major crop and the capital Havana was turned into an off-shore centre for US drug-smugglers and prostitution-rings. Fulgenicio Batista operated a blood-stained dictatorship with the full support of Washington.

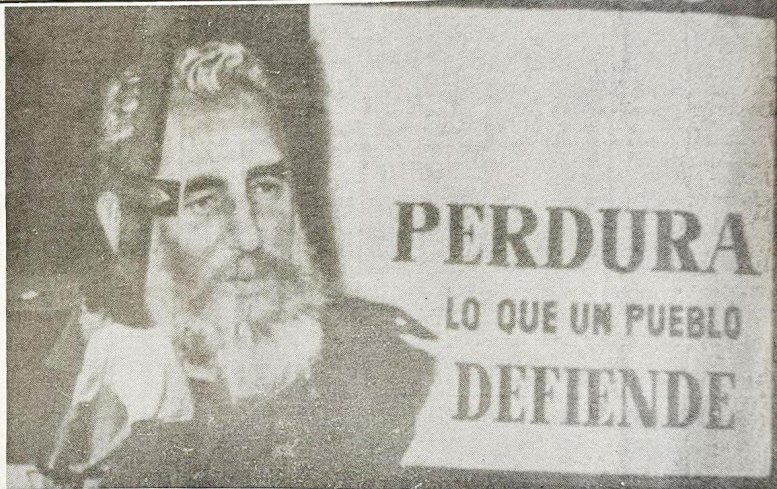
But today, the only link between Cuba and its former

masters is a US military base on Cuban territory at Guantanamo Bay. The base was set up by a treaty before the revolution and Castro's government has allowed it to remain because the alternative was an all-out confrontation with the US military. It remains a permanent threat to Cuban freedom.

RESTRUCTURED ECONOMY

The break with the US meant that the entire economy had to be restructured. Cuba could not have done this without the support of the USSR and the Eastern European countries. Around 90% of its trade was redirected towards the COMECON countries of Eastern Europe. Soviet oil was bartered for Cuban sugar and a generous aid package from Moscow helped the country emerge from crushing poverty.

US destabilisation proved ineffective. A Pentagon-sponsored invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 was driven back.



● Fidel Castro — has put his faith in the hands of the Cuban people

The following year, the US navy surrounded the island with nuclear missiles, threatening to obliterate it. Soviet ships bringing military aid to Cuba were turned back and nuclear war was averted only at the last minute. The CIA even came up with a plan to cause Castro's beard to drop off in the ridiculous hope that this might reduce his support.

Cuba was able to develop a welfare state which became the envy of the Americas. Its citizens received better medical treatment than those of the US and unemployment was virtually eradicated. The Caribbean island became a beacon for the world's oppressed and a huge political thorn in Washington's side. Castro had proved that Third World nations did not have to consent to US dictates.

But, deprived of its natural markets in the American

hemisphere and harried by the most powerful nation in the world, Cuba has been forced to rely heavily on its links with the USSR. The present political and economic turmoil in the Soviet Union poses a tremendous danger to the Cuban economy. Its source of oil is in danger of drying up and US pressure has cut the vital assistance from the Soviet Union. Consumer goods are in short supply and Cuba has a hard-currency debt of \$1 billion. The US invasions of Grenada and Panama are clear warnings to the Cuban people that they could be next.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

That is what makes the weekend's changes so important. In the face of danger and shortages, the leadership is turning to the people. Castro's boast about Cuban

democracy is quite true. It is objectively more democratic than the United States in the sense that more Cuban voters take part in the political process and that they have the right to recall local politicians if they do not represent their demands. Any criticism of the Cuban one-party state should be placed in context. Instead of having a 'two-party system' in which both parties exclusively reflect the interests of big business (as in the US) Cuba has one political party which represents the interests of workers and farmers.

Up to now, Cuban democracy has rested on the local government level. Voters select their candidate from a number of hopefuls to form the first tier of 'poder popular' — that of the 150 municipal assemblies. Deputies to the provincial assemblies and to the National Assembly

have been elected by the local representatives.

The changes made at the weekend's party conference mean that the voters will now choose directly between candidates in National Assembly and provincial elections. In addition, the party has made large changes in its central committee. Around half of its members have resigned and there has been a massive influx of new blood.

There is clearly no place for Castro in George Bush's 'new world order'. The US president wants to crush Cuban rebelliousness. But he will have his work cut out for him. For every one of the last 32 years, the odds have been against the survival of the revolution. It has persevered in spite of that. Millions of people throughout the world are determined it will do so again.

Trí shúile an chime



Beidh leagan úr den ghunna marfach phléir phlaisteacha á úsáid ag fórsaí na Breataine an bhliain seo chugainn

Contúirteach — go h-oifigiúil

SILIM go n-aontóidh gach duine liom gur maith an scéal a chualamar an tseachtain seo go bhfuil sé cinnte ag rialtas na Breataine a ngunnaí piléir phlaisteacha a chur ar leataobh. Faoi dheireadh thiar aontaíonn siad go bhfuil na gunnaí seo contúirteach.

Ní bheidh a fhios againn choíche an méid dochar atá déanta ag an arm seo: an uimhir do-áiríte d'oifigigh RUC agus saighdiúirí a gortaíodh toisc gur phléasc an piléir sa chraos. Cá mhéad a d'fhulaing dóanna púdarí don aghaidh nó don lámh? Níor chóir go mbeadh ar dhúmharfóir páiste, ar fiú a mheachán i salann, obair le trealamh lochtach!

£10,000 ag Sinn Féin!

Le tamall anuas tá comhairleoirí Sinn Féineacha i mBéal Feirste, ag iarraidh an tsli a nochú atá comhairleoirí aontachtaíthe ag cur airgid ina bpócaí feín.

Anois tá an frithphoblachtóir urrúnta sin, Frank Millar, ag déanamh iarrachta an taoide a chasadh. Tá sé ag rá go bhfuil comhairleoirí Sinn Féineacha ag cur na mílte punt ina bpócaí. Leis an ráiteas seo a neartú chuir an OTE in iúl gur iocadh coistais de £10,000 do chomhairleoirí s'againne.

Bhain an tsuim sin preab asam ar dtús, mar a bhí an OTE ag iarraidh a dhéanamh, is dóigh liom. Bíodh sin mar atá, shin mé mo lámh chuig m'áiritheoir chun suim indibhidiúil a obair amach: £10,000 roinnte idir 42 comhairleoir (an méid a bhí againne sna Se Chondae), ansin scoilte idir 52 seachtain. Mar sin tugann sé suim sheachtainiúil de £4.58 do gach aon chomhairleoir dár gcuid. Cá mhéad a bhfaigheann tú a Frank?

An t-Ord Nua Domhanda

Anois ar nuacht idirnáisiúnta, feicim go ndearna an t-aerfhórsa Turcach ionsaí buamála don triú uair ar ghrupaí Coirdineacha go domhain isteach sin lae.

Feictear dom gur chuimhnigh mé idirghabháil mhíleata dhíreach ag na Poncanagh agus na Sasanaigh i gcoinne na hIaráice toisc gur ionsaigh siad na Coirdinigh. Tá ionadh orm an ndéanfaidh na Poncanagh nó na Sasanaigh ionradh ar an Tuirc agus an gcuirfidh siad críos ar bun chun na Coirdinigh a chosaint ó ionsaithe Turcach?

— Le Joe McQuillan (H7)

Imeachtaí

FREE DESSIE ELUS PICKET

2-3pm every Saturday
British Embassy
Merrion Road
DUBLIN
Organised by the Dublin Anti-Extradition Cmtee

ANTI-EXTRADITION MEETING

meets 6.30pm every Tuesday
Dublin Resource Centre
Crow Street
DUBLIN

PICKET ON US EMBASSY

opposing US policy in Central America
11.30am-1pm
every Saturday
Ballsbridge
DUBLIN

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET

5.30pm-6.30pm
Every Tuesday and Friday
During Ellis trial
O'Connell Bridge
DUBLIN

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET

9.30-11am
Every Monday
During Ellis trial
Old Bailey
LONDON

ANTI-EXTRADITION RALLY

Saturday after Ellis Verdict
2pm British Embassy
DUBLIN

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET

Night of Ellis Verdict
5-6pm O'Connell Bridge
DUBLIN

CAMPAIGN

Free speech for
Mary Robinson campaign
Weekly meetings
3pm-4pm
Every Thursday
An Siol Brion
Mac Curtain Street
CORK

PUBLIC MEETING

The Poverty Scandal
Speakers: Ursula Barry
(Author of *Who Owns Ireland?*
and *Lifting the lid*)
Cathleen O'Neill
(Kilbarrack community activist,
Member of KLEAR)
Brendan Archbold
(trade union activist)
Ursula Quinn (community activist,
member Sinn Féin)
8pm Thursday 17th October
Kinlay House
Lord Fitzgerald St
DUBLIN

BENEFIT FUNCTION

Featuring: Erin's Pride
Guest Speaker
Friday 18th October
The Granite
RIHARNEY
County Westmeath
Organised by Westmeath Sinn Féin

CHE GUEVARA

COMMEMORATION

Debate & videos

"Che Guevara: His importance and relevance to the world"

Speakers: ...oree,
Hosea Dugdale,
Robert Ballagh

8pm Friday 18th October

Connolly Hall

Essex Street

DUBLIN

PICKET

Broadcasting Ban Anniversary
Speakers: from NUJ
and CPBJ invited
3-4pm & 5-6pm Friday 18th October
Outside the BBC, Oxford Road
MANCHESTER
Organised by Manchester TOM

FUNCTION

Featuring The Irish Brigade
Saturday 19th October
The Lawns
BALLYFERMOT
(continued on page 12)

Cara scéalach sa chúirt

LE MAIRIÚN O MUILLEOIR

NACH iontach i ndiaidh 60 bliain agus corradh beag de streachailt chorrachtaítheach ó thuaidh gur ó thaobh na mbreithiúna is túisce a thagann cur síos liteartha ar imeachtaí na gCúirteanna Diplock.

Níos iontaí arís, b'fhéidir, gur scéaltai taitneamhacha atá i dhá novella *Balbh go Mailíseach*, fiú más léir gur leis an mheán-aicme Caitliceach agus chan leis na lucht obre phoblachtánach, a bhfuil sé ag scríobh orthu, a liúnn bá an údair. Suillean an t-údar, faoina ainm deite Alec Bán Mac Conaill, an dá ghearrscéal i mBéal Feirste sna luath-seachtóidí agus pléann siad beirt le hionraicteáil di agus an baol go ndéanfaí duine a chiseadh san éagóirigh.

I bhFianaise Imhoiseach tá an sclábhaí Gaelach as an Lóiste Uir i dtuaisceart Bheal Feirste, Peadar Mac Cana, sa Oirp agus é le triail as marú saighdiúra Breitanaigh. Is náisiúntóir maith é ár leasra sa mhéid is gur cuireadh i mbráighdeánas é ach ní as siocair é a bheith sna hOglaigh ach de bhrí go raibh a aithre laetha leis an gheallach. Fear gan locht lá d'óirde dá bheainín agus an bheir sé ag Gaeilgeoireacht leo go dílis

i gCumann Chluain Ard. Má tá cuma na simplíochta agus na míréadúlacha air sin uilig, maithfidh tú don údar é as ucht an dea-scéil agus soiléireacht a innse.

De réir a chéile faigheann diodóir ionraic Mhic Chana amach cé ba chúis lena chur i bpríosún agus téann an léitheoir leis ar a thuras gum-shoed-óireachta. Amanna tá an plota agus an cur síos géar agus inchreidte, amanna eile tá sé chomh soineanta agus plásmasach sin gur deacair creidheáil gurb é an scríbhneoir amháin atá ag scríobh an dá chuid. Mar shampla, cá háit, seachas an *Sun*, a bhfuil sé cur síos tarcaisneach mar seo ar phobal náisiúnaíoch na Lóiste Uire?

"agus na clocha síoraí... ar ghnách leis na páistí an-óga a chaitheamh, mar chleachtadh, b'fhéidir, ar rudaí níos 'troime' amach anseo! Thug sé faoi deara fosta na fuinneoga gan ghlanadh, leacacha na bhfuinneog gan phéint, dí-

mua agus bochtánas san aer a d'análofa."

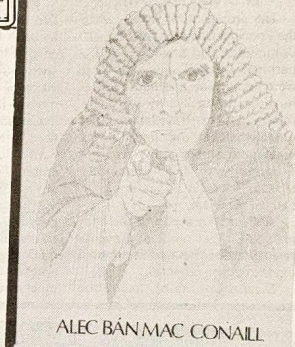
Ach tá na sleachta sin fiú inmhaite mar ghlaclar leis gur seo an saol náisiúnaíoch mar tchíteir é ó Bhóthar Mhá Luain — agus seans leis gur mó an leargas a thabharann sé duinn ar an mheán-aicme Caitliceach agus go háirithe ar na diodóirí agus na breithimh Chaitliceacha ná thabharann sé duinn ar na príomhcharachtair bhochta.

AN FUADACH

Is góirde go maith *Balbh go Mailíseach* ná *Fianaise Imhoiseach*, agus níos fearde as ar son a ghiorachta.

Séamus O'Neill an t-ógánach náisiúnaíoch atá ós comhair na cúirte an iarraidh seo as cailín óg a fhuadadh do na hOglaigh mar chuid de róbaíl bainc. Agus, m'anam go deo leis, is ag diúltú labhairt leis na péis nó leis an chúirt atá an Séamus céanna. Ach an balbh go mailíseach atá sé mar mhaíonn an choróin nó ann ag cosaint rúin atá sé. Tugtar siar muid go dtí pháirt Séamus sin fhuadach nó a mhalairt le fíos an scéil a fháil agus cuirtear síos ar an troid cúirte ar a shon. Teiptear in amanna ar ghréasán an scéil agus muid ag preabadh ón am atá thart go dtí an seomra cúirte ach tríd is tríd, eiríonn leis an

BALBH GO MAILÍSEACH

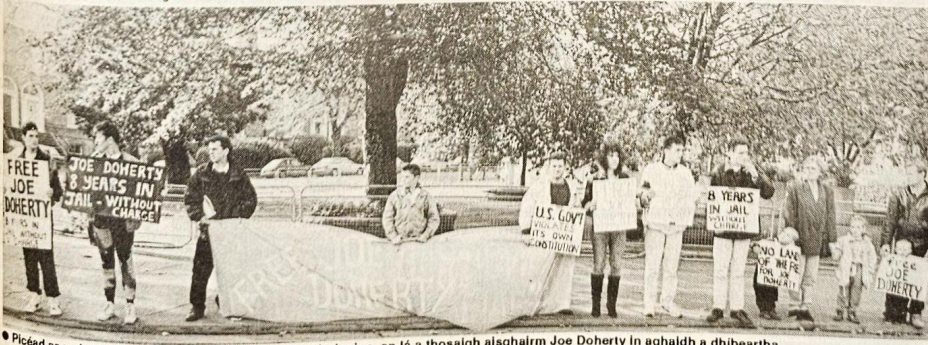


ALEC BÁN MAC CONAILL

údar an plóta a shnáidhmhadh go sáslu.

Níl ach £4 ar *Balbh go Mailíseach* agus is cinnte gur fiú an t-airgead sin ar ag duine ar bith ar mian leis ceann den fhiortheagán leabhair chruthaitheacha faoin chogadh ó thuaidh. Má tá locht amháin domhaire ar an saothar is é sin go bhfuil an chuma air gur scríobhadh é sna seachtóidí (nach fiú go bhfuil Starksy and Hutch luaithe) agus gur fághadh an dá scéal ina lui gan foilsíu le 15 bliain anuas. Cuirtear céad iarracht eile an Scarlett Phippenell Ghaelach seo i gcló i bhfad níos gaiste.

Balbh go Mailíseach, Alec Bán Mac Conaill, Coscóm. 116 lch. £4.



Pícced ar ambasáid SAM i mBaile Átha Cliath De Céadaoin, an lá a thosaigh aisghairm Joe Doherty in aghaidh a dhibeartha

Imeachtaí

(continued on page 13)

ANTI-FASCIST CONCERT
Music: The Way It Is
Saturday 19th October 8pm
Barnstormers Pub, Capel St
DUBLIN

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET
Fianna Fail Bodensdown
Commemoration
11.30am Sunday 20th October
Bodensdown Graveyard
SALLINS

THE UNITED IRISHMEN
— A BICENTENARY SEMINAR
Saturday, 19th October,
Westgate Tower
2.00pm - Official Opening
2.15pm - Dr Kevin Whelan — The
United Irishmen — An Overview
2.45pm - Dr Thomas Graham —
The United Irishmen — The Dublin
Dimension
3.15pm - Mr John Gray — The
United Irishmen — The Northern
Experience
3.45pm - Mr Brian Cleary — The
United Irishmen — The Wexford
Situation
4.15pm - Coffee
4.45pm - Open Forum
6.00pm - Conclusion
8.00pm - Informal Social Evening
in the Crown Bar
There will be a cover charge of £2
for the seminar.
Sunday, 20th October
Eigse McCall
10.30am - A Tour to Vinegar Hill
with Mr Brian Cleary
12 noon - Lunch
2.15pm - Interdenominational
Service at Duncormick Church
3.30pm - Ceremonies at
McCall Cottage
4.30pm - Lecture: The United
Irishmen, The Wexford-Dublin
Links by Dr Thomas Graham: in
Rathangan Parish Hall
5.30pm - Tea, followed by Social
Evening at the Lowland Inn.
Organising Committee: Brian
Cleary, Jarlath Glynn, Richard
Roche, Kevin Whelan.
For further details contact: Jarlath
Glynn, c/o Wexford County Library,
Abbey St,
WEXFORD

PUBLIC MEETING
The Unemployment Crisis
Speakers: Senator Brendan Ryan
Jo Hampshire
(Editor, *Cork Women's News*)
Jim Cronin
(ex-shop steward Sunbeam)
8pm Monday 21st October
Windsor House Hotel
MacCurtain St
CORK
Organised by the Cork
Unemployed Ad Hoc Committee

MASS PICKET
9.30-11pm Monday 21st October
(and every following Monday
during the Ellis trial)
Old Bailey
LONDON
Banners and Placards provided

ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET
Case of Tony Sloan, Michael
McKee and Paul Magee
Tuesday 22nd October 10am
Supreme Court
DUBLIN

**HUNGER-STRIKE
COMMEMORATION
CONCERT**
Dublin City Ramblers & guests
8.15pm sharp
Tuesday 22nd October
Town Hall
DUNDALK
Adm: £4

PUBLIC MEETING
Justice for Dettie Ellis Campaign
7pm Tuesday 22nd October
Caxton House
129 St John's Way
LONDON N19
All welcome
(continued on page 13)

Council attack on Travellers

BY
ART
Mac EOIN

A RECENT management proposal to Dublin County Council has caused outrage among representatives of the Irish Travelling community. The proposal to evict Traveller families from unauthorised sites was made at a meeting of Dublin County Council on Thursday, October 10th.

It is intended to force families from camps and herd them to the Dublin county boundary where according to council officials, they would be ordered to return to the "counties where they are normally resident". This is designed to pass responsibility for their accommodation to the local authorities in the respective areas.

The meeting was told that the situation of Traveller accommodation in Dublin has reached crisis proportions and that since February the number of families living on unauthorised sites had increased from 250 to 313. It was said that the vast majority of these come from Tullamore, Navan, Finglas, and Dún Laoghaire as well as England.

DRACONIAN & UNORTHODOX

The proposed measures, which the Principal Officer in the Council's Community and Environment Department Dan O'Sullivan admitted were "draconian and unorthodox", have been attacked by Travellers' representatives. Travellers stormed out of the Dublin County Council meeting in protest at the Proposed Programme for the Accommodation of Travellers, accusing the council of racism.

A disturbing aspect of the affair is that ACRA, an umbrella group for residents' associations, is supporting the council proposal.

Martin Collins of the Dublin

Travellers Education and Development Group (DTEG) said that the decision was "outrageous" and that Travellers would react against it.

"What you're talking about here is eviction and putting a quota on the number of people who can come to Dublin. It's completely racist and no one would put up with this if it were happening to a Black community or other ethnic groups," he said.

He went on to say that Travellers would resist the proposal if it is implemented and that officials could expect conflict if they pushed ahead with it.

Sinn Féin Dublin City Councillor Christy Burke has also condemned the move. He said that any evictions of Traveller families would be "an act of violence against an oppressed minority".

"The problem of accommodation for Travellers will not be solved by such brutal measures. The responsibility of both local authorities and central government for the provision of adequate halting sites and modern facilities for Travelling families cannot be substituted by evictions," he said. Burke pledged Sinn Féin's support to the Travelling community in their resistance to any moves to evict them.

The controversial management proposal has yet to be decided on by the County Council. The meeting on October 10th was adjourned and a date has not yet been set for another meeting.



● Sinn Féin's Christy Burke (inset) has said that Dublin County Council's plans to evict Traveller families would be "an act of violence against an oppressed minority"

THE TRIAL of two key members of GAL, the Spanish state-sponsored terrorist group which was formed to carry out a campaign of assassination against members of the Basque Liberation movement, ended last week. In this letter the Foreign Relations Committee of Herri Batasuna thanks Irish people for their support, pointing out the importance of international solidarity in securing the verdict, but issuing a word of warning.

GAL TRIAL ENDS — THANKS FROM HERRI BATASUNA

Dear friends,

The trial of Subcommissar of Police Jose Amedo and Inspector Michel Domin-guez, both accused of creating and directing a terrorist group (GAL) and responsible for numerous murders, kidnapping and outrages with explosives, has concluded.

By means of this letter, we truly thank and appreciate your support, for justice to be done and for state terrorism not to be unpunished. We are convinced that the international pressure has definitely exerted an influence on the verdict.

The verdict pronounced by the special court "Audiencia Nacional" has sentenced both policemen to 108 years imprisonment for numerous terrorist crimes, but it has been denied that they belonged to an armed gang. The result also denied the existence of GAL

as a group linked to the Spanish state and government.

The international and popular pressure and the magnitude of the evidence have obliged the judges to look for two scapegoats, who will probably remain in prison for a short time. Condemning the murders, the special court "Audiencia Nacional" has acquitted the real responsible parties who, for the government,

the home office and the police, ordered the creation of a terrorist group, providing them with funds from the state budget and establishing the targets of the outrage: the community of Basque political refugees in North Euskadi (French State) and the leadership of Herri Batasuna.

In a newspaper note dated on September 20th, Herri Batasuna considers that this trial is becoming a kind of "law of full stop" which allows the creators of GAL to go on completely free to start new bloody crusades, keeping untouchable the old structures of power, the same police and military corps and the denial of a political solution to the claims proposed by our nation. The state terrorism can cause murders and outrages at any time. The inability of the Spanish regime to purge itself makes us rely on the international solidarity and the struggle of our nation in order to neutralise this potential danger and reach a fair solution to the political problem which underlies the GAL case.

With regard to the insinuation of some Spanish media about the supposed agreement between the Spanish government and the Basque Movement for National Freedom not to demand punishment for the responsible people of GAL, we must say that it is an invention which lacks any credibility. The people murdered by the hired assassins of the "Spanish democracy" would not allow us to adopt any other attitude but condemnation, a demand for justice and the national and social freedom of Euskal Herria.

History shows us that it is impossible to restrain the nation's struggle for freedom and therefore the terrorism of GAL was another failure of the repressive policy used by the government in Madrid led by Felipe Gonzalez.

I would like to express once again our gratitude for the solidarity you have shown.

Our best and fraternal regards, Yours
Foreign Relations
Committee
Herri Batasuna



Billboard battles

POLITICAL MESSAGES on billboards are nothing new. The Saatchi and Saatchi politics of the last decade brought the political messages off the lamp posts and onto what they call in the trade "outdoor advertising" billboards. This up the ante for any other political group that wants to enter the political advertising arena.

The poorer political groups are reduced to the usual poster sites, walls, hoardings, lamp posts etc. Using a billboard also means that a political party or pressure group can also run an ad in the newspapers that carries the same image and message, thus raising the financial stakes again for an aspiring political party.

Fianna Fáil were the first political party in the 26 Counties to initiate a billboard and newspaper advertising campaign during a period when there was not an imminent election. In the summer of 1986, Fianna Fáil launched an attack on the Coalition government over its economic policies and its record on job creation. By the time a general election followed in February 1987, Fianna Fáil had been campaigning for seven months beforehand.

Fianna Fáil was the first non-political party to launch a political billboard campaign in recent times. Their campaign was to highlight the injustice of apartheid, while also calling for an end to South African imports into Ireland and lobbying for the extension of sanctions against South Africa. Their lead has been followed by charities launching national campaigns but more importantly by more politically-motivated groups, such as the trade union movement and even from business corporations.

The Communications Union

BY
MICHAEL
MORRISSEY

Fianna Fáil has no privatisation mandate, it was not part of their 1989 election manifesto and was not raised in the PESP negotiations. They claim that ownership of Telecom could go outside the state and such foreign ownership of our telecommunications network would not be in the national interest.

ANTI-PRIVATISATION

The first campaign run by the union this year opposed the rationalisation plan proposed by the board of An Post. They organised a successful series of demonstrations, marches, pickets, one of the largest pickets in Irish history, 370,000 signatures, and an imaginative billboard campaign. The current billboard project is the beginning of a long campaign to turn around public opinion against privatisation. It also shows

trade unionists in a more positive light. In times past trade unionists only appeared in the media during strike situations.

Golden Vale, one of Ireland's premier agricultural corporations, is also involved in a billboard campaign in opposition to the current proposal for CAP reform. A company such as Golden Vale could lobby political representatives, but is also taping into public opinion to bolster its case. The Golden Vale billboards carry the message "CAP Bad for Ireland, Bad for farmers". They can be seen in rural areas from the south throughout the midlands and north into Donegal.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC OPINION

Political advertising is banned from radio and television in Ireland except for the select political groups who appear free of charge in what they call "party political broadcasts". The use of billboards to

carry political messages is a threat to the political status quo as it gives those deprived of media coverage an access to public opinion. Elections show the limits of such campaigns as the contestants get dragged down into clever sloganising, which are ultimately devoid of political discussion.

The recent Benetton debacle shows that billboards do reach an important audience. However, though the costs of advertising through this medium are cheaper than radio or television they are still prohibitive for many other political groups. A new arena for political debate is emerging in the 26 Counties, it should however not deflect criticism away from state control of other more potent communication mediums. It is also a reaffirmation of the importance of the ordinary punter in the political process. In spite of everything, the battle for hearts and minds is still the central one.

If they privatise Telecom, who gains?

The Fat Cats



Hands off
Telecom!

Communications Workers Union

JOE O'FERRALL

Sensationalist lies repeated

BY ART
MAC EOIN

FREELANCE JOURNALIST Kathleen Magee is once again at the centre of media attempts to link the IRA with the illegal drugs trade. A story carrying Magee's byline which was exposed as complete fabrication in AP/RN last August has reappeared in the Belfast-based tabloid the Sunday Life.

Following the recent IRA crackdown on drugs dealing in the North, the October 13th issue of the Sunday Life carried a feature on the drugs issue. Its front page reported that London criminal gangs were involved in the smuggling of drugs into Ireland while two separate stories on the issue were featured on page two.

The first report by Alan Murray, investigated the activities of the main Belfast drugs dealers in the aftermath of the IRA's warnings that they would move against them. Tacked underneath this was a report by Kathleen Magee in Dublin. It carried the headline "IRA linked to trafficking" and the opening

sentence read "Certain IRA

members are involved in the illegal drugs trade, police in Dublin believe." Magee based her report on remarks which she attributed to Garda Superintendent Tony Hickey, who she claimed had earlier stated that "there are some individuals who are involved with the IRA and who are also in-

involved in drugs". In July of this year Magee used the same quotes in an article for the Dublin Evening Herald. At the time, AP/RN contacted the Garda Press Office who told us that Magee had misquoted Superintendent Hickey.

Hickey later contacted AP/RN himself and said that he had not used the words attributed to him. What he had said to Magee was that "maybe on occasions individuals who had been involved with the IRA might have been involved with drugs". Obviously there is a very considerable difference in what

Hickey actually said and what Magee claims he said. Hickey said that he had subsequently spoken to Kathleen Magee who told him that her story had been altered by the Evening Herald.

However, as the same story containing the same misquotes and unsubstantiated allegations, has re-appeared in the Sunday Life, one can only presume that Magee is using anti-republican sensationalism in her efforts to get newspapers to take her stories. When AP/RN contacted the Evening Herald, those we spoke to said they had "never heard of Kathleen Magee" while the Sunday Life were unable to put us in contact with her.

Kathleen Magee's report in the Herald, regurgitated for the Sunday Life, had no basis in fact and is pure invention. The headline alleging an IRA link to drugs trafficking was nothing short of a lie. The trafficking and pushing of drugs and the resultant misery inflicted on its victims is a very serious issue. The whole community, including the media has a responsibility to deal with this problem in a serious and honest manner. Clouding the issue with lies, innuendo and sensationalism only makes it more difficult to tackle.

DRUGS BARONS LYING LOW

London link in Ulster drug trade



National Draw

WEEK NUMBER 1

SPECIAL DRAW: For Fully Paid Ticket: Ticket No 10207 — Derry City — £500

REGULAR WEEKLY

DRAW: First Prize: £500

— Ticket No 11257, Tony Webb, Dundalk; Second

Prize: £250 — Ticket No

8407, Newry; Co Down;

Third Prize: £150 —

Ticket No 5194, Co

Donegal; Fourth Prize:

£150 — Ticket No 12547;

Murphy, Tydavnet, Co

Monaghan; Fifth

Prize: £100 — Ticket

No. 10643, Thomas

Pierce, Dublin; Sixth

Prize: £100 — Ticket No

2942, Kieran Boylan,

Castleblayney, Co

Monaghan; Seventh

Prize: £50 — Ticket No

6919, Toomebridge, Co

Antrim; Eighth Prize:

£50 — Ticket No 4160,

Co Armagh.

Next Draw Saturday,

19th October.

Imeachtaí

(continued from page 12)

PUBLIC MEETING

"Britain's war in Ireland: Prospects for Peace"

Speakers: Bernadette McAliskey; Reem Abdelhadi (General Union of the Palestinian Women)

Thursday 24th October

Banqueting Hall,

Manchester Town Hall

MANCHESTER

SINN FEIN REGIONAL MEETING

Cardow, Kilkenny, Wexford

Home Rule Club

KILKENNY

Thursday 24th October

All members and supporters to attend

MUSIC & POETRY NIGHT

Night of H-Block Music and Poetry

8.30pm Friday 25th October

Balrask Arms

NAVAN

All welcome

PUBLIC MEETING

"Labour Moves: Speaking out on Britain's war in Ireland"

Speakers: Bernadette McAliskey plus speakers from the RMT, NUJ, Labour CND and the TOM

7.30pm Friday 25th October

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square

LONDON

FUNCTION

Friends of Pamela Kane

Featuring Wishbone and guests

8pm Friday 25th October

Campion's Lounge

BALGRIFFEN

Malahide Road

Taille: £2.50

INC AGM

10am Saturday 26th October

Teachers' Club

Parnell Square

DUBLIN

All members welcome

Social that evening

WOMEN, WAR AND RESISTANCE

A day of discussion for women on campaigning for peace and self-determination

Speakers: Bernadette McAliskey; Reem Abdelhadi; Haifa Zangana; Camilla Power; Nihil Akas

11am Saturday October 26th

London Women's Centre

Wesley House

4 Wild Court, off Kingsway

LONDON

KEVIN BARRY COMMEMORATION

Speakers: Gerry O'Neill

Fr Paddy Ryan

Chaired by Tom Kenney

3.30pm Sunday 27th October

RATHVILLY

County Carlow

Organised by Sinn Féin

HUNGER STRIKE PUBLIC MEETING

3pm Saturday 2nd November

Solidarity House

Fleet St

DUBLIN

All Welcome

HUNGER STRIKE EXHIBITION

12.5pm Saturday 2nd November

Solidarity House

Fleet St

DUBLIN

All welcome

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

2nd-3rd November

Conway Mill

BELFAST

BORDER ROADS PICKET

1pm Tuesday 5th November

Leinster House

DUBLIN

BORDER ROADS DAY OF ACTION

2pm Sunday November 10th

Assembly

Scotstown, County Monaghan

The Diamond, Clones, County Monaghan

The Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan Town

Killyclogher, County Leitrim

Pottigo, County Donegal

Road openings take place from all assembly points

Double standards in Washington

Writing from his cell in the Federal Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania Joe Doherty, whose case reached the Supreme Court in Washington yesterday, October 16th, reflects on the double standards of the United States administration which has been holding him hostage.



● JOE DOHERTY

THE US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT's appeal to the Supreme Court was in response to a favourable decision by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in June 1990. This decision overturned an earlier order by then US Attorney General Richard Thornburg to circumvent a decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals that found that I could have a hearing on my claim for political asylum. On October 16th, many academics, lawyers and legal observers will take a conscious stand in support of the principles of the US constitution and international law. It will indeed be an impressive gathering on my behalf, and in defence of constitutional law.

As I said, my legal team will come face to face with the US Justice Department. The government's presence will bring an amalgamation of leading government officials and agencies, including prominent US Justice Department officials representing the civil branch of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service. Undoubtedly, the US State Department will also have a presence there. The Solicitor General representing the Executive and the US Justice Department will argue the case before the panel of the US Supreme Court. All in all it will be an impressive gathering of government might.

One might ask why such a formidable and heavy-handed presence by the government for an immigration case? Of course, we know that it is more than an immigration case. My nine years of legal battles and victories in denying the British warlords my extradition and the present deportation to the occupied Six Counties of Ireland have shown that the government's heavy presence is due to the politics of the case.

The government may project an image of a principled stand against terrorism, but as indicated by its

continued defeats in the US federal courts and immigration courts, the case against me in portraying me as a terrorist has failed, and its undermining of the US constitution at the behest of its support of British rule in Ireland has backfired. The US Justice Department in highlighting the actions in which I was sought by the British — the killing of a British commando, and the escape from Crumlin Road Jail — are but a fraudulent and hypocritical ploy to by-pass the law. These rhetorical labels of terrorist and murderer are mere smoke-screens to hide the real issue.

HYPOCRISY

We especially see this hypocrisy and double standard in the recent treatment of another case before the US District Court in Washington DC. The case involved the sentencing on September 13th of a Cuban fugitive, Virgilio Paz Romero, to 12 years for the murder of Orlando Letelier, the Chilean ambassador to the United States, who was killed by a car bomb on Washington's Embassy Row 15 years ago. Also killed was an American woman, Ronnie Moffitt. Both were killed on September 21st,

1976, when a powerful explosive device attached underneath Letelier's car exploded as he drove through Sheridan Circle, the diplomatic district in Washington. The assassination conspiracy involved the military junta of General Pinochet of Chile. The killing of Mr Letelier was part of a campaign to silence Chilean exiles speaking out against dictatorship in Chile.

I have been following this case with interest for many years. One particular interest is the US Justice Department's treatment or mistreatment of this case. One has only to look at the heavy-handed treatment of my own case to see some double standards by the government. Last week the US Justice Department again sat around the table to work out a plea-bargain with an accused and convicted assassin, which resulted in Virgilio Paz Romero receiving a 12-year sentence for the two murders. This had followed previous plea-bargains, with Romero's co-conspirators receiving also 12-year sentences.

LIFETIME DEAL

Essentially, as the offences occurred before the 1987 sentencing guidelines law, the convicted assassins of a foreign diplomat and an American woman could serve only one-third of a 12-year sentence. Virgilio Paz Romero will see the parole board in three years. Romero will not even be eligible for penitentiary, and will be designated to a low security SCI, enabling him to receive half-way house rights. No doubt it was the deal of a lifetime.

In the meantime, I will have served more than twice the amount of time than an assassin of two civilians in an American city will face. And needless to say, in four years, as Romero is released by the US parole board, I shall still be writing my column from the cell blocks in maximum security Lewisburg Penitentiary. This of course shows the double standards, the hypocrisy, and the fraudulent decision of the US Justice Department as it will stand before the US Supreme Court on October 16th, barking out the rhetorical label of terrorist, and the need for a principled stand against terrorism.

I have written already about the case of Orlando Bosch, the Cuban exile in Miami, Florida. The FBI said that Bosch was one of the most dangerous men in Latin America. Last year, after losing his case for political asylum and bail, the US Justice Department released Bosch because of the influence of the Republican Party in Florida. It is not what you do, but who you know. What next? Manuel Noriega plea-bargaining the deal of the century?

year's Human Rights Campaign launched by the Troops Out Movement. It aims to bring together all those who see the link between peace and democratic rights in Ireland. Chair of the Troops Out Movement, Richard Stanton, said:

"The Troops Out Movement's new campaign is for everyone who is sick of hypocrisy about the war in Ireland. It is about applying at last to Ireland some of the lessons so bitterly learnt from Vietnam and Kenya to Palestine, South Africa, and Yugoslavia. Its message is that by brutally denying Irish people the right to self-determination, the British establishment is also denying them the right to peace. It is about ending the war for good."

The new campaign parallels last



● A property speculator with close Fianna Fáil links made a profit of £1.5 million from the sale and re-sale of the site of the new Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business

Smurfit's blackboard jungle

BY LIAM O COILEAIN

THE URGENT NEED for equality of opportunity and adequate financial resources for children at the bottom of the education ladder was the message of parents and teachers from Dublin's inner-city schools for those who turned up at Carysfort College on October 11th to indulge their palates with a lavish meal in celebration of the opening of the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business.

As over 60 demonstrators vocally made their views heard outside the college on Friday evening, representatives of the newly-formed Teachers Action Group (TAG), Finian McGrath and Liam O Cuinneagáin, used a simple blackboard and chalk to highlight the financial scandal involved in the sale and re-sale of the Carysfort site and how the money lost to the taxpayer during the course of these dealings could have been usefully spent.

The pair showed that during the course of the transfer of the college from the Sisters of Mercy, serious mismanagement and bad planning allowed a property speculator (with close links to Fianna Fáil) to make a clear profit of £1.5 million from merely buying and selling the property. The speculator bought the site for £6.5 million and sold it to UCD for £8 million. This taxpayers' money, the TAG argues, could have funded 15 badly-needed resource teachers for ten years. "This would assist our efforts in preventing some of our children from ending up on the roof of Mountjoy Jail in later years," the group stated:

"We are consistently being told that there is no money available to fund our essential needs such as remedial teachers, yet a supplementary estimate of £9.7 million was put through the Dáil in December 1990 to fund this business

school for the élite. The children from our schools will never get an opportunity of entering this establishment."

STATE-FUNDED

This £9.7 million of state funding received no mention at the celebrations inside, although Michael Smurfit did say, and his protest was backed up by Patrick Masterman, President of UCD, that although he had provided £1.5 million towards the school he had never wanted the school to be called after him (his late father already has a fountain named after him by Dublin Corporation).

Speaking to APRN outside the building, Finian McGrath, Principal of St Mary's Place National School in Dorset Street, said:

"We are here to highlight the scandal in this country between private and public education. The private people, the wealthy, seem to be getting all the resources, yet in inner-city schools we are told there are no resources for remedial teachers. This £1.5 million would have gone a long way in our area towards giving kids a decent opportunity. Not one child from my school has, to my knowledge, ever ended up in university. This is certainly not a question of ability but is a result of the two-tier nature of education in this country. We are sick to death of it and that's why we are here."

LAUNCH OF NEW CAMPAIGN

NEXT WEEK sees the launch of a new Troops Out Movement campaign, entitled WAR, PEACE and SELF-DETERMINATION.

Bernadette McAliskey will be in Britain for the launch of the campaign, speaking at public meetings in Manchester Town Hall on Thursday, October 24th and London's Conway Hall on Friday October 25th. A women's day conference takes place on Saturday October 26th in Wesley House Women's Centre, London.

Bernadette McAliskey will be joined by prominent women speakers on Palestine, Kurdistan and Iraq. The Troops Out Movement has also brought out a new booklet *In Whose Name?* which is aimed at increasing debate and discussion on Britain's occupation of Ireland.

The new campaign parallels last

TRIBUTE TO A REVOLUTIONARY

WHAT IS A REVOLUTIONARY?

Is it a politician who stands up and speaks of revolutionary and radical politics?

Is it a person who, being oppressed by the unjust system, decides to take up arms to fight for liberty, equality and justice?

Is it a teacher who teaches his pupils the rights and wrongs of an unjust, undemocratic country?

All three I would say are true revolutionaries in their own right.

My friend would laugh at the thought of being called a revolutionary.

He never was a politician.

He never carried arms into battle.

He never was a teacher with pupils to teach.

And yet, his thoughts, words, deeds and actions would shame most politicians, radicals or not.

He never fought armed engage-

ments with the people's enemy, as some have had to do. But not all engagements in the people's war are armed engagements between combatants.

The roles of his engagements as with lots of other brave men and women and our youth, never seemed to grab the headlines, nor made their rounds by the fireside at night.

They were already forgotten in victory or defeat because they were public engagements.

No, not all fighters need carry arms into battle to win our war, and those who don't are no less true fighters in the people's struggle.

As for being a teacher with pupils to teach, his own schooling in life's inequality taught him how to become a master without degrees or honours. His pupils were the com-

munity. Man, woman and child all learned from this quiet-spoken man, on how to stand up and not ask for equality and justice but to demand it and, as was and still is the case, to go out and fight for it as a right.

And more than these fine revolutionary qualities, he possessed a rare jewel encased in his heart. He had that goodness which most humans find it hard to show or express with their fellow humans so openly; his honesty, his caring thoughtfulness, his love of the working-class people were always there to see in his quiet, humble, humanitarian ways.

Yes, Frank Cahill was in my eyes a leading revolutionary in the true sense of the word, long, long before any of us even knew there was going to be a revolution.

Gerry Sloan,
Republican prisoner, Portlaoise.



Sean Treacy lying fatally wounded in Dublin's Talbot Street

the Republican Movement. The presiding chairperson, Patrick O'Donnell, Kilonnell, in his opening remarks, called for opposition to the Extradition Act with particular reference to the show-trial taking place in London of Dessie Ellis. He then introduced the main speaker, Pat Hackett, Nenagh, who, himself, had served a long term of imprisonment in British jails.

SPIRITED ADDRESS

In the course of a spirited address the speaker said that Sean Treacy had been one of his boyhood heroes because of his activities as one of Tipperary's greatest soldiers. He pointed out that the ideal of a free, independent Republic, for which Treacy gave his young life, had not yet been achieved and that resistance to British rule would continue while Britain continued the occupation of the Six Counties. He condemned the continued collaboration of the Dublin government with the forces of repression and he called for an end to repression, coercion and censorship. He ended by saying that Sean Treacy and his comrades were an inspiring example to all those engaged in the freedom struggle and that victory was assured.

Tipp fighter honoured

UNDER VERY INCLEMENT weather conditions the annual commemoration of the memory of Sean Treacy took place on Sunday last at his final resting place in Killeale churchyard, County Tipperary, under the auspices of the South Tipperary Republican Commemoration Committee.

At the commencement of the proceedings a lone piper played

the lament and Enda O'Riordan, Clonmel, laid a wreath on behalf of

InDí Chuimhne

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; HUGHES, Michael; MARLOWE, Paul; SURGENOR, Joseph. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Frank Fitzsimmons, Michael Hughes, Paul Marlowe and Joseph Surgenor. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. They may kill the revolutionary but never the revolution. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglagh na hEireann.

FITZSIMMONS, Frank; MARLOWE, Paul; SURGENOR, Joseph (15th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Frank Fitzsimmons, Paul Marlowe and Joseph Surgenor, killed in action on October 16th 1976. RIP. From Christopher and Christine, Dundalk.

GREW, Dessie; McCAUGHEY, Martin (1st Ann). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey, killed in action on October 9th 1990. There is no vic-

tory for those who do not attempt. Always remembered by Póilín and Frankie.

GREW, Dessie; McCAUGHEY, Martin (1st Ann). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey. Always remembered by their comrades in Portlaoise Prison.

GREW, Dessie; McCAUGHEY, Martin (1st Ann). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey. Always remembered by Christy and family.

Comhbhrón

CAHILL. Deepest sympathy to Joe and all the Cahill family on the death of Frank. From the two Shays and the little skinny one.

CAHILL. Deepest sympathy to Joe and all the Cahill family on the death of Frank. From Clan Na Gael, New York.

CAHILL. Deepest sympathy to Joe and all the Cahill family on the death of Frank. From Danny McLoughlin, New York.

KILLION. Deepest sympathy to Paddy Killion and family (Athlone and New York) on the death of his father Paddy. From Clan Na Gael, New York.

LAVIN. Sincere sympathy to Paudge (Portlaoise) on the recent death of his father. From the Republican Movement, Dublin.

LAVIN. Deepest sympathy to our comrade Paudge (Portlaoise) and family on the death of his father Patrick at the weekend. From Dermot, Brian, Ken, Gerry, Anto (Portlaoise) and Pam (Limerick).

LAVIN. Deepest sympathy to our comrade Paudge (Portlaoise) and family on the death of his father Patrick. From all his comrades in Portlaoise Prison.

LAVIN. Deepest sympathy to our comrade Paudge (Portlaoise) and family on the death of his father Patrick. From

all the Dublin POWs in Portlaoise Prison.

LAVIN. Deepest sympathy to Paudge Lavin on the death of his father Patrick. From Brian, Veronica and Sean Kenna (Portlaoise).

LAVIN. Deepest sympathy to Paudge Lavin on the death of his father Patrick. From Gerard, Carol and the Kearns family.

LAVIN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Paudge (Portlaoise) and family on the death of his father. From the Tommy Tolán and Markiewicz Sinn Féin Cumann, Tallaght.

LAVIN. Sincere sympathy is extended to Paudge (Portlaoise) and family on the death of his father. From Jack and Pamela.

O'CONNELL. Deepest sympathy is extended to the O'Connell family on the death of Michael. From Waterford Sinn Féin.

O'HAGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the O'Hagan family and friends. From Frankie McKee and family.

O'HAGAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the O'Hagan family and friends. From Kevin Casey and family. O'HAGAN. In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Bernard, murdered by pro-British death squads. Always remembered and will never be forgotten by your friends Paula Kelly and Barry McEl-duff (Crumlin Road).

Admháil

THE Central Committee of An Cumann Cabhrach wish to acknowledge with gratitude a contribution of £200 Stg from Blackbird.

GIBSON. The family of Andy Gibson would like to sincerely thank all those who sympathised with them on their

recent bereavement. Special thanks to all those who attended the removal and burial and who helped to organise the funeral, in particular the members of Sinn Féin and Fianna Éireann. Special thanks also to Rita and Bob, the members of the Fintona Lallor Pipe Band and the former members of the Jim Bryson Sinn Féin Cumann. The holy sacrifice of the mass will be offered for their intentions.

Beannachtaí

LYNCH, Kevin (Portlaoise). Happy 30th birthday Kevin. From Peter and all the lads in Dublin.

SLOAN, Eugene (Portlaoise). Happy 27th birthday Eugene. Lots of love. From Una, Conor and Eugene.

SLOAN, Eugene (Portlaoise). Happy

27th birthday Eugene. "Go easy on the cakes or you won't have the wind for all the candles." From Limbo, Linda and Niamh.

SLOAN, Eugene (Portlaoise). Happy 27th birthday Eugene. In the immortal words of Johnny Logan "what's another year?" or in your case "O dear! another year". From your elderly in-laws, Jack and Pamela.

1916 leader and hunger-striker honoured

THOMAS ASHE, the 1916 leader who died on hunger strike for political status in 1917, was commemorated on Sunday by Fianna Éireann, the Volunteer Tom Smith Republican Fife and Drum Band and a small crowd of republicans.

At Ashe's graveside in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, Aengus O Snodaigh of Dublin Sinn Féin gave a short oration which was followed by an historical background talk by historian Noel Hughes.



Aengus O Snodaigh addressing Sunday's commemoration in Glasnevin Cemetery



THOMAS ASHE



THE FLYING COLUMN

THE PUBLISHERS of Lord Denning, a Biography have publicly apologised to the notorious old dodderer for including in the book certain rash remarks he made about the trial and acquittal of the Winchester Three.

When the three young Irish people maintained their right to silence, Denning, former Master of the Rolls, commented that: "It is only the guilty person who says 'I'm not going to say anything'."

And when the Court of Appeal finally overturned their unjust convictions three years later, ruling that the comments on the right to silence made by Tom King and Lord Denning were prejudicial to the case, Denning raved: "British justice has been betrayed by the Court of Appeal. In my opinion justice was done at Winchester Crown Court."

The publishers, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, apologised for the inclusion of such embarrassing rantings, acknowledging that Denning was subsequently made to eat humble pie and admit that the three were not guilty. Later editions of the book, which has just been re-printed in paperback, will contain a correction slip.

MICK THE STICKS

The hammer and sickle are disappearing from sight all over Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union but a certain Workers' Party councillor hasn't yet got the message. His hammer and sickle approach to the drug problem in the south Dublin suburb of Jobstown has not gone down with his constituents.

The background to the story concerns a hash dealer confronted by the community at a public meeting. He admitted that he had been dealing but gave an undertaking that he would desist. This promise was accepted by the meeting and that should have been that, democracy prevailing etc.

However, Workers' Party Councillor Mick Billane had other ideas about the correct course of action to be taken. Billane, a touch under the weather, paid his constituent a little night-time visit, brandishing what locals say was a sickle. Billane's message was that the pusher might consider leaving the area.

The Jobstown Concerned Parents totally dissociated themselves from his actions, which one committee member commented had been done for "political gain". Billane has since been forced to apologise to his constituents for his indiscretions.

Local people are watching out for a repeat performance

with the hammer this time but WP Head Office assures us that all the hammers are locked up safe and sound with the non-existent well-oiled guns.

BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE officials took full advantage of a £10 million incentive award scheme by blowing taxpayers' money on champagne receptions, saunas, playing squash and other frolics. Up to £210,000 was blown on unauthorised drink, parties and recreation. The Royal Naval Supply and Transport Service was the main culprit, blowing £129,000 on its 25th anniversary celebrations. The scheme has now been scrapped.

FAIR PLAY to the cast of *The Commitments*, who wrecked their equipment in protest during a recorded appearance on English crooner Des O'Connor's chat show last week.

They were not amused as they waited to come on when Des launched into: "Did you hear the one about the two Irishmen?"

GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS have defied British troops in Cyprus by camping on a firing range. A company of the Queen's Own Regiment arrived on the island's Akamas peninsula on Sunday, October 13th, for live firing practice only to find tents pitched among their targets, a row of tank hulks.

Greenpeace is protesting about the environmental damage involved in blowing lumps out of a scenic beauty spot. One hundred acres of forest were destroyed in 1988 in a fire which conservationists say was started by army shelling.

A typically arrogant army spokesperson tried to make out that the exercise had been delayed because of extremely dry conditions, reminding all concerned that: "One doesn't want to damage the environment."

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

"What none of us should forget is that even this far from Northern Ireland our vigilance is still necessary. One of these events could have been for real, with disastrous consequences."

This was the lesson drawn by the editorial of the *Leicester Mercury* on Monday, October 7th, following two security scares in the city in the space of a week. The bomb scares were sparked in the English city earlier this month, a suspect car and then a rucksack being destroyed by bomb disposal teams.

The first alert came when a car was spotted suspiciously parked outside army recruiting offices in Yeoman Street, near where an IRA bomb fell off the back of an army vehi-

cle last year. The car was blown up, as was a rucksack found after a Troops Out demonstration outside Welford Road jail six days later on Saturday, October 5th. The Troops Out Movement had been holding their annual commemoration marking the 15th anniversary of the death of Republican POW Noel Jenkinson in the prison.

"People seem to think that probably the IRA situation has gone to the background on the mainland. But we can never be too careful where members of the public are concerned," said police Inspector Steve Smith.

"This is not a time, and we doubt if there ever will be a time again, when we can return to those seemingly far off days when parked cars and misplaced rucksacks can be treated as merely innocent errors. We have been warned and we must remain on our guard," the *Mercury* editorial concludes.

A spokesperson for the Leicester Troops Out Movement said that none of their members had left a bag behind, saying: "We would certainly not do anything that would disrupt people visiting prisoners and wouldn't want the reason for our protest lost in the hysteria of a controlled explosion."

THE Scottish Conservative Party in the constituency of Kincardine and Deeside has chosen an aptly named candidate for the next Westminster elections.

The Old Etonian, freemason and member of the Royal Company of Archers is called — Humphrey Dumptie.

TWO DRIVERS taking part in a rally through South Armagh had an unexpected stop last February when they were held up at gunpoint by a former RUC man.

Belfast Crown Court heard last week that the pair were ordered out of their car and made stand against a wall for 25 minutes. Former reservist Thomas Henry McCullough from Derryteltiff near Portadown, finally admitted they were not coming to get him, but only after a phone call to the RUC. He had threatened to shoot the driver.

The judge said that McCullough had subjected the men to a horrifying and humiliating experience over a considerable period of time in unforgivable circumstances. McCullough, who pleaded guilty to two charges of false imprisonment, making a threat to kill and having unlawful possession of a shotgun, got 18 months, suspended for two years and was ordered to pay £250 to the driver.

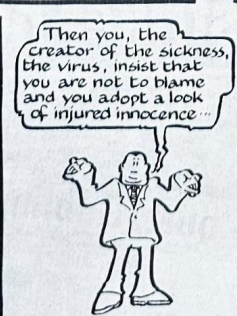
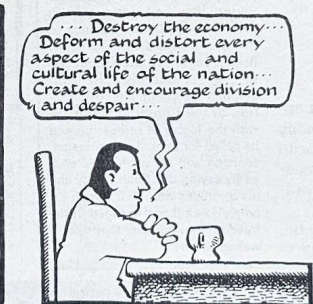
"Your conduct was that of a bully who used a gun to abuse and terrify two innocent men," said Judge Frank Russell.

Perfect credentials for an RUC officer, I would have thought.

Notes



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Dúirt Siad

We were clinging like mad to the hope that someone, anyone, would bring enough pressure on the British to end it. But the very people we were looking to for support, the Dublin government, the Church, were the ones who let us down. The only pressure they were willing to exert was on the families — to try to get us to bring the men off the hunger strike. — Bernadette Sands, Bobby's sister, on the 1981 hunger strike in an interview with Ann Cadwallader, *Irish Press*, October 10th.

I thought — that's it — he won't die now. They would not possibly allow a member of the Mother of all Parliaments to die. Bobby felt, though, that this was such a public slap in the face — that an IRA hunger striker had a seat in their parliament — that it was all the more reason they would let him die. — Bernadette Sands on Bobby's election as MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone.

They died to show they were not criminals, and they won. All the might of the British establishment could not defeat them. The British and the rest of the world know it — Bernadette Sands.

It was as if we were all leprechauns and that this club would open up a new world of sophistication for us. In his mid-Atlantic accent there was a lot of talk about what Smurfts have done for the 'Orish'. It was really a litany of Michael's and his company's achievements. I wouldn't have thought it was the occasion for such a self-congratulatory outburst. — A party-goer referring to Michael Smurft's speech at the opening this summer of his exclusive K Club in Straffan, County Kildare (annual membership fee £100,000) at which Charles Haughey was a guest of honour.

Because they have had to defend women's rights to control over their own bodies against a fundamentalist religious position, feminists have often been forced into a seemingly callous attitude towards the unborn child. We must assert women's rights as human beings (rather than mere reproductive machines) against the anti-abortionist organisations, but we need not be pushed into the untenable position of treating the foetus as no more than a 'bunch of cells'. — Jenny Morris, author, in this month's *Spare Rib*.