

An Phoblacht

Iml. 7. Uimhí 1. 8p. Eanair 9, 1976.

JAIL REVOLTS

Political Prisoners will take action

AS 1976 arrives Irish political prisoners, North, South and in England are determined to make it a year of intensive struggle for basic human rights. Attempts by Merlyn Rees to remove Political Status from Northern Prisoners of War will be met with stiff opposition inside and outside the jails.

Political prisoners in Portlaoise have embarked on a campaign to restore basic rights as laid down by the European Convention on Prison Rules.

In England Gerry Mealy and Frank Stagg continue their hunger strike for basic human rights and a transfer to a jail in the Six Counties.

In view of the fact that Andy Tryue, the U.D.A. leader had a brother (Sammy) transferred a few weeks ago (making it 15 loyalists transferred), surely there can be no serious objection to Republicans receiving the same treatment. Irish prisoners in England at the moment are the victims of brutal assaults by British criminals and prison screws.

I. C. R. A.

The Irish Civil Rights Association held a picket at the British Embassy on Saturday January 3 in support of Frank Stagg and Gerry Mealy. The Association intends to repeat their picket on Saturday, January 10 at 1.00 p.m.

A. L. J.

The Association for Legal Justice (Dublin Branch) in a weekend statement reported that Frank Stagg "is in grave danger of death".

Maura Drumm Vice-President of Sinn Fein, stated that Frank Stagg's condition gave rise for serious concern and a priest was now attending to his needs.

PORTLAOISE

Meanwhile in Portlaoise the Provisional Republican prisoners embarked on a thirty six hour hunger strike in an act of solidarity with Republican prisoners in English prisons, particularly Frank Stagg and Gerry Mealy, and as a protest against conditions in Northern, Limerick and Portlaoise jails. The political prisoners' statement pointed out that "tension is still running high in Portlaoise since November 26th when prisoners were deprived of all furniture, visits, mail and reading material. The situation has been aggravated by the refusal of compassionate parole to two prisoners. One has been waiting 12 months to visit his 91-year-old father and the other was denied parole to attend the funeral of his grandmother. The arbitrary turning away of visitors to selected prisoners is also a source of discontent."

"All Provisional prisoners will take part in the hunger strike. Recent press reports of a split in the jail are completely without foundation. The prisoners were never more united under their own-elected leadership."

As soon as Cockroach Cooney heard of the mass protest he immediately banned all visits, letters and newspapers. Even though the men's protest was only for 36 hours, Cooney saw fit to use the incident to punish the men until the following Monday (Jan 5).

PRISONERS WELFARE ACTION GROUP

The Prisoners Welfare Action Group protested against Cooney's punitive action and complained of relatives being left standing in the rain for 30 minutes before confirmation of the jail visits ban. The action group pointed out that Cooney had marked World Day of Peace by attacking the wives and children of political prisoners. His only reaction to the prisoners' demands for edible food, educational facilities and humane visiting conditions is to suspend contact with relatives in order to prevent publication of the truth about conditions.

Cooney refused to hold a public inquiry into the events of 29th/30th December, 1974. No public inquiry was held into the murder of Tom Smith. An inquest was held at which no member of the defence forces, present when Tom Smith was shot dead, was called to give evidence. Even the British provide anonymous soldiers at similar inquests in the Six Counties. No disciplinary action has ever been taken against the gardai and prison staff for their numerous assaults on prisoners.

Conney's fear is not for prison security but fear that the public will learn the truth. We demand a public inquiry now.

G. I. S.

In typical hysterical fashion, Cooney had his propaganda lie machine (otherwise known as the Government Information Service) issuing statements which were false and totally misleading about the situation in the jail.

The political prisoners through the Irish Republican Information Service then issued a new statement accusing the Free State Minister of Justice of "issuing blatant lies about the situation in Portlaoise".

The statement continued:

"On Wednesday afternoon, the prison authorities were informed that a hunger strike was being undertaken from that morning. The authorities were told that no supper was required on Wed. and no meals at all on Thursday. The reasons for the 36-hour fast were stated, i.e. solidarity with Frank Stagg and comrades in English, Northern and Free State jails and as a protest against the inhuman conditions in Portlaoise itself."

"On Thursday morning, the Prison O/C was informed by the chief warden that visits, letters, crafts and t.v. were withdrawn as a punishment for the fast. Since this had never happened before when token hunger strikes were undertaken, the reasons for the punishment were queried further. The chief warden, Mr. Edmond Harkins stated (and said he could be quoted publicly on this) that Mr. Cooney had personally given the decision to inflict the punishment. Mr. Harkins did not conceal his disgust with Cooney's order but being a prison flunkey he implemented the instruction to the full.

"Meanwhile, R.T.E. broadcast a statement from Mr. Cooney which was a tissue of lies. Allegations that gelignite was found in four lockers is a figment of Cooney's imagination. On November 27 he said gelignite was found in a cell. That was untrue. During the hunger strike of last February, Cooney alleged a threat to assassinate two ministers. That too was a lie though Cooney had not the courage to admit it.

"It is a long established tradition of Republican prisoners to engage in token hunger strikes as an expression of solidarity with their comrades in other jails. To claim that such an exercise is a threat to security is blemish of the highest order and can only be the product of a twisted and warped mind. Many other groups engage in this form of self-sacrifice and it is a form of action commanded by the Christian Churches. To the Minister of Justice, it is action which must be punished severely."

"Despite the ending of the fast on Friday morning, the punishing of the prisoners continues. The R.T.E. 1.30 p.m. News Bulletin on Friday carried a statement from Cooney stating that all facilities had been restored except visits. This was also a blatant lie. The punishment was increased by denying tuck-shop and newspapers to the prisoners. When the Governor was challenged on this new development, he said he did not give a damn what was on R.T.E., he was going to continue the punishment."

"The hallmark of the Pinocchio style regime in Portlaoise are hatred, stupidity and brutality. The Bishop of Leighlin would not be allowed into the prison by the Governor. A document outlining charges against the Governor (copy enclosed) was seized by the Governor from a chaplain on his way to the Bishop. We have already called for a Public Sworn Enquiry into the prison system. We repeat that call in view of the worsening conditions in Portlaoise and Limerick.

"We accuse Cooney of being an unmitigated liar. We will prove it at any public enquiry."

The statement was signed by Daithi O'Conaill O/C and Liam Sean O'Ceallaigh Adj.

WARNING

The Republican Movement and its members fully support the action being initiated by all Provisional prisoners, wherever they may be in jail and promise to their incarcerated comrades that they will answer their calls for support fully.



Part of the Civil Rights Association protest at British Embassy, Dublin.

Charges Against Prison Governor

To: The Visiting Committee,
Portlaoise Jail.

2.12.75.

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Republican Prisoners (Provisional), we hereby present to you the following list of complaints against the Governor of the Portlaoise Jail.

1: The arbitrary inflicting of the following outrageous punishment on Republican prisoners.

(a) Removal of all furniture and beds from cells.

(b) deprivation of exercise, ablution, laundry, recreational, craft and t.v. facilities.

(c) Stopping of all visits, mail, newspapers and reading material.

(d) Stopping of tuck-shop facilities.

(e) Harassment of prisoners by frequent searches and threats to strip men naked.

(f) Refusal to allow chaplains to visit prisoners.

(g) Collective fining of all Provisional prisoners.

(h) Deducting the sum of £3.50 from the account of each Provisional prisoner without his consent.

2: Gross violation of Rule No. 5(7) by refusing to allow access to legal advisers for Joseph Gilhooley, W.J. Kelly and Daithi O'Conaill PP.13.

3: Violation of rule No.2(5) by not providing Infirmary PP.4.

4: Violation of rule No. 9 by not providing examination (medical) on admission P.P.5.

5: Violation of Rule No. 33 by depriving Mr. P. Shanahan of his mattress while ill. PP.8.

6: Gross violation of rule No. 67 by inflicting arbitrary punishment on all Provisional prisoners and specifically Mr. W.J. Kelly PP.26.

7: Gross violation of rule No. 133 by refusing to allow educational facilities. PP.26.

In view of these serious complaints against the Governor we hereby demand:

(a) The immediate termination of all the arbitrary punishment inflicted on all prisoners on Wednesday, Nov. 26th, 1975.

(b) The immediate inspection of the inhuman conditions in which prisoners are living.

(c) The holding of a public sworn enquiry into the conduct of the Governor of Portlaoise prison.

Signed on behalf of all Provisional Prisoners: O/C Daithi O'Conaill, Adj. Liam Kelly.

Coiste Cuimhneacháin Naisiúnta

Diamond Jubilee, Easter Rising, Sunday 25 April 1976

(Watch for details)

An Phoblacht

MOST of the internees have been released. A handful, however, remain, because they were found guilty of trying to escape from what is regarded throughout the world as unjust imprisonment.

Within a few more months, however, the beast having had his pound of flesh, they, too, will go free. For how long? Westminster has empowered the authorities to detain men and women at virtual whim for up to seven days at a time without trial.

As the internees go they leave behind hundreds of men and some women who, Westminster would have the world believe, are "criminals." Being "criminals", they are not entitled to anything approaching political status or even the euphemisms that the imperialists employ to indicate special status, always unwilling to admit that, in fact, they do hold political prisoners.

There must be very few people prepared to argue a case that those being thus held are just "common criminals," that they have not, in fact, been found guilty of politically motivated "crimes."

Certainly, it would take considerable ingenuity and verbal agility to explain the large number of persons held for such alleged offences without admitting the political content. And, in fact, those same large numbers prove the inability of the imperial power to rule. For if such an ability existed the numbers would be but a small fraction of the actual figures.

If there were merely large numbers of persons imprisoned in these islands over a short few years for politically-motivated "crimes," and if the methods used to obtain convictions were strictly in accordance with traditional jurisprudence, a very big question would be going a-begging.

However, the record is not that clean. The law of evidence has been distorted in such a manner that tortured admissions of guilt are accepted, despite protests of victims and their lawyers. Moreover, published analyses, the accuracy of which have remained unchallenged, show a startling

discrepancy between the record and the reality.

There is a record of 1,000 convictions.

There is a record of 1

I.R.A. Units hit out in South Armagh and Tyrone

ÓGLAIGH UNITS in South Armagh have publicly accused the Ulster Defence Regiment and the equally-biased Royal Ulster Constabulary for being responsible through collusion with loyalist para-militaries for the pre-Christmas gun and bomb attack on Donnelly's public-house at Silverbridge, a few miles from Crossmaglen.

The outrage happened on the same night as cross-border loyalist terrorists bombed Kay Mulligan's pub in Crowe Street, Dundalk.

Free State forces in the Co. Louth area were too preoccupied keeping watch on Republicans and Republican sympathisers to intercept the bombers crossing the Border — or travelling through Dundalk!

Between the two outrages, five people died and several others were badly injured.

NOTICEABLE

The South Armagh Óglaigh na h-Eireann statement said it was particularly noticeable that prior to the attack on the pub at Silverbridge, there were constant patrols by the U.D.R. and the R.U.C. in that area; also that it was very significant that standard RUC and UDR issue weapons, i.e. Sterling sub-machine guns were used by the killers.

"We also accuse Unionist politicians as well as sections of the media for exaggerating the picture of violence in South Armagh thus inflaming the situation and provoking sectarian hostilities" the statement said.

"We must point out that since the truce,



Our picture shows Mulligan's Pub in Dundalk after it was bombed by Loyalist murder gangs.

action in the Crossmaglen and Silverbridge areas had been reduced by all units to a minimal level and solely one of retaliation for acts perpetrated on the Community by the enemy forces or their cohorts. Consequently, there were few incidents in South Armagh over the past year despite all the utterances by

commentators and politicians".

The statement continued: "While all Óglaigh units will endeavour to maintain the Truce situation in the South Armagh area, irrespective of the latest sectarian offensive against the Nationalist community, we nevertheless reserve our right to retaliate against all

sectarian killers, whether loyalist para-militaries, their cohorts, or the members of the Crown Forces".

"We also make an appeal to the entire Nationalist community in South Armagh to resist the presence of the U.D.R. and R.U.C. in every way possible in the region".

TRAIN OPERATION

South Armagh Óglaigh has also denied a British Occupation Forces' allegation that an operation carried out on a cross-border rail link, on December 29th had endangered the lives of passengers on a Belfast-Dublin train.

"A clear half-hour warning was given at Portadown prior to the operation and there was no danger of civilian casualties despite the enemy propaganda claims" the statement said.

If Óglaigh warnings are not acted upon by the enemy forces they must accept full responsibility for the consequences, the statement added.

CHECKPOINT

Meanwhile, East Tyrone Óglaigh claimed responsibility for the bomb attack on December 29th on an enemy permanent checkpoint at Aughnacloy on the Tyrone/Monaghan Border. "The operation was in retaliation for the extreme harassment by troops of civilians passing through the checkpoint along the main Dublin-Derry road. Many motorists, even in cases of emergency, were held up for prolonged periods quite unnecessarily by the troops" the East Tyrone statement said.

Derry mother's inhuman harassment

The Keenan-McGilligan Sinn Féin Cumann, Derry City has protested at the inhuman attitude of the authorities in Musgrave Park Hospital and Long Kesh as highlighted recently by the case of a young Derryman, Eddie O'Hagan.

After being refused treatment for a serious complaint in Long Kesh for several weeks, he was only transferred to hospital after collapsing. He spent two weeks in hospital, being transferred back to Long Kesh on 23rd December.

The authorities knew that his elderly mother had a visit on Christmas Eve yet they did not deem it necessary to inform her of his transfer back to Long Kesh.

Thus after a long and tiresome trip on Christmas Eve, his mother arrived in Belfast only to learn that her son had been transferred back to Long Kesh.

We regard the above mentioned case as another form of harassment against the families of political prisoners.

P.R.O.
Keenan-McGilligan Sinn Féin Cumann
Derry City.

Prison officers suspended

FOURTEEN prison officers from Birmingham's Winsor Green Prison are to face criminal charges following allegations that the six Birmingham men accused of the Birmingham pub bombing were beaten up after their arrest.

The officers were suspended on half pay.

A police spokesman said they would appear before Birmingham magistrates on Monday, February 23, to face summonses alleging actual bodily harm.

The summonses were served by Mr. David Owen, Assistant Chief Constable of Lincolnshire, who headed the independent inquiry.

The beating-up allegations were made shortly after the men were arrested. Last December, Mr. Owen was asked by the then Chief Constable of the West Midlands, Sir Derrick Capper, to hold an inquiry.

His investigations were completed before the trial began and a report was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The 14 officers are alleged to have been present when the men — who are serving life sentences — were punched, kicked and thrown downstairs before being put in their cells.

The Prison Officers Trade Union have threatened industrial action if the men are found guilty.

This is surely tantamount to contempt of court.

We will watch British "Justice" most carefully in this case.

RAFFLE RESULTS

Following are the results of the raffle held by Cumann Thomás Mhic Ghil, Cúil an tSúdair (Co. Laois) in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach.

1st Prize (Handbag) Miss Joan Redmond, 5 Sandy Lane, Port

SYMPATHY
Deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of Chris Coughlan, Chairman, An Cumann Cabhrach, London, who worked unselfishly for the Republican Movement since 1969.

Compiled by Roger Óglaigh Cumann Kilburn; Thomas McCurtain Cumann, Harrow; Terence McSwiney Cumann, Hammersmith; Wolfe Tone Cumann, North London.

The Committee and Members of Luton Sinn Féin tender their deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Christopher Coughlan who died in London on Christmas Day. Go n-dearna Dia trocaire ar a h-anam.

Sinn Féin forge ahead in East Mayo

THE EAST MAYO Comhairle Cheantair of Sinn Féin and its local branches in Balla, Kiltimagh and Swinford have not been idle during December.

On the 5th a held session was held in Andy's Lounge, Claremorris by An Cumann Cabhrach. The audience was addressed by Liam Molloy, Swinford and Sean Keenan, Derry.

In the course of his address Sean stressed the fact that in spite of the release of the internees, there were still 1,500 Irishmen and women held in Free State, Six County and English jails, because of their struggle to free Ireland.

Most of those held in the Free State were imprisoned on the unsupported opinion of a Garda Chief Superintendent and this in itself was interment under another guise and a complete travesty of justice.

He also said that the hypocrites who had passed the Offences Against the State Amendment Bill, were now pushing through another bill — the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act — which would enable the Special Criminal Court in the 26 Counties to jail Irish patriots down here for acts of opposition to the British army of occupation and its satellites in the occupied part of our country.

In particular Sean castigated Dr. David Thorley who had told him after Daithí O'Connell's force of a trial that he would vote against the Bill, but who was now prepared to vote for it.

"At least we know" he said, "what Cosgrave is, but Thorley has now revealed himself as something worse — a weakling whose word was worthless.

General Tom Maguire and his wife Christina were guests of honour at a dinner held in the Westways Hotel by the Sean Corcoran Cumann, Kiltimagh, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Tom was presented with a plaque made in Portlaoise by Dan Hoban and an illuminated address of gratitude from Óglaigh na

h-Eireann for his loyalty to the cause of the Republic from the War of Independence to the present day.

His wife Christina was presented with a beautifully wrought leather handbag made by a Republican prisoner and also received a bouquet of flowers from her niece, the daughter of Dr. Tom Maguire, Balla.

Seamus O Mongain, introducing the speakers said there were five generations of Republicans present, representing the Tan and Civil Wars, the forties, fifties and sixties and what we hoped would be the final and victorious campaign of the seventies. They all had this great common bond — they had remained true to the ideal of a Thirty-Two County Republic.

He especially welcomed Mrs. Rushe, a Cumann na mBan comrade of General Maguire.

Died on hunger strike

Dan Hoban, Newport, referred to the plaque which he was making for this occasion while imprisoned in Portlaoise. It was destroyed by the guards during one of the disturbances there over political treatment. He then made a second one containing a photograph of Sean McNeela who died on hunger strike on April 19th 1940 after a fast of 55 days.

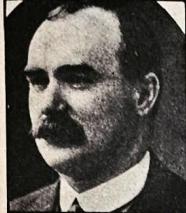
Dan then described how Sean was severely injured after he had been seven days without food, by the warders and civic guards, during a seven hour battle in Mountjoy Jail. These injuries hastened his death.

The proceedings closed with thanks to the Sean Corcoran Cumann and especially to Marcella Gormley and Buddy Kelly who organised the function so successfully.

Collections for An Cumann Cabhrach

With regard to collections for political prisoners defendants it was reported that the East Mayo Cumann under the Chairmanship of Liam Molloy collected £1,500 during the past year.

"What sort of Ireland?"



We mean to be free, and in every enemy of tyranny we recognise a brother; in every enemy of freedom we also recognise our enemy though he be as Irish as our hills. The whole of Ireland for the people of Ireland – their public property, to be owned and operated as a national heritage, by the labour of free men in a free country. That is our ideal, and when you ask us what are our methods, we reply: – those which lie nearest to our hands.

—James Connolly in "The Workers' Republic" (1899)

By James Hope

GRASS LANDS

IT IS now clear that Ireland is a country of considerable wealth and richness, with a lush and fertile soil, that is able to support the finest beef herds. In a world where the population is steadily growing, where there is increasing demand for food, Ireland has the potential upon its 16m fertile acres, not alone to offer a stable and secure settlement for a vigorous and independent community of farmers and people whose livelihood and numbers the E.E.C. now threatens, but also growth and space for sturdy agricultural herds.

We can produce the beef, the mutton, the bacon and the many other meat products that the world now seeks, in rich abundance and of a superb quality, and we can transport and market it, free of middle-men, at greater advantage to our own people. This is the position we now find ourselves in, in 1976, because the world needs the primary producer and the primary producer is now in a position to command a fair price.

MINERALS

Ireland, we now know, also has an abundance of much sought after base minerals, the minerals – zinc, copper, lead, possibly even gold – which enrich and change other minerals and substances. Heretofore these were not even hinted at, but it is now evident that what has been found is the mere tip of a vast iceberg of riches submerged below the soil and the mountains, below the bogs and the seas around Ireland. There is enough here, with wise development, to make all of our people comfortable and secure in the generations ahead. The dilemma, indeed, will confront us how much to mine and how much to leave in the ground. The dilemma will confront us of protecting our environment while doing so – most of all the dilemma will have to be faced of ensuring that these are held, minded, and owned by the Irish people solely.

We must apply the same standards to our ownership of gas and oil which we now know to be of interest, although diminishing, potential, on land and in the seas around us, and we must ensure that when their lifetime is expended our energy needs are accounted for by the unexpended energies of solar and tidal power, a source that heretofore we have not looked into.

This, of course, is not the current situation and another good reason why we must sweep away all vestige of the anti-national bourgeoisie which controls us – the Government has given so-called Tara, a Canadian multi-national, 75 per cent of County Meath minerals for free, with an overt permission to remove them in the raw as quickly as possible, and it is allocating blocks for exploration purposes but with little overall control to oil multi-nationals around our coastline, their Irish associates (a tiny minority interest in the overall) being conveniently slotted in for a share in the take by way of recompense for smoothing the way.

WATER RESOURCES

Our water resources are the envy of bigger nations, and are manifest in a number of ways. One aspect of these resources is the existence at Whitegate, Bantry, and Loop Head of extremely deep water, the sort of anchorage that is now invaluable in a sandy European coastline deficient in such anchorages. It behoves us to control and develop these resources carefully, not only to ensure control and ownership by our people, but in total harmony with the environment.

Our many other ports and harbours are ripe also for improvement, particularly in view of the new emphasis upon coastal shipping and fishery development, and to ensure a more equitable distribution of trade between

Dublin and the other main ports.

We have some fine rivers and lakes with much pure water, if we choose to keep them so, in a world where pure waters are becoming scarce. Through carelessness we have allowed some of our biggest lakes to be affected by eutrophication in recent years – we must now arrest this. We must ensure that no effluents enter our rivers and lakes, since no amount of income can compensate for the contamination of air or water.

Not alone will our rivers and lakes provide us with pure water, but, with the sea around us, they offer a unique playground for recreation or for contemplation. This, too, must be safeguarded. And we must also safeguard and develop these resources for their great fishery potential both from a commercial and sporting point of view. Ireland, in the past, has not done this. Ireland has suffered from a deficiency in the supply of nutritious fish food. We must now change this, and Irish fleets must be enabled to fish upon the high seas and to insure our own coastal waters against intrusion or over-fishing.

Properly fished, Ireland could supply Europe with a large part of its fish demand, while the building of vessels, both for fishing and deep sea navigation, would ensure the expansion and growth of all such yards as we have. (Laughable, is it not, that we content ourselves to a limit that is down to 3 miles in places, while Iceland, a country with only one quarter of a million population (but is proud enough not to be a member of the E.E.C.) has pushed hers out to 200 miles; Iceland has four gun boats, so have we, but our spends half their time doing gun running watch for the Brits; Iceland exports 20 times the catch that over-fishing.

RESOURCES

Our broad plains, our hills and mountains and fine coast scapes are lonely and uncrowded. Left almost as they are, they are a most important resource in this teeming urbanised world. Long may they remain so. They will provide relief and solace to people from the urban areas of this and other nations where space is at a premium and the pace of life is less slow. In so doing, it will not be necessary for us to present ourselves other than what we are – we need not seek after tourists purely for numbers sake, to chalk up fanciful figures of revenue, or to exploit what should not be changed. We can offer a haven to our own emigrants, and friends, to young people who seek to learn an Irish way of life, and to the people of all nationalities who are interested in research, in quietness, or more good company.

OUR PEOPLE

We number, at the present time, exactly 4.7 million people, a high proportion of whom are young, all of whom are apt, skilled, and intelligent. These in the end are our greatest resource – we must ensure in the future the creation and fair distribution of wealth on their behalf. Growth trends at the present time indicate that by the end of the century our population may be almost seven million. We are not confronted, therefore, with the near insurmountable problems of population growth affecting other countries nor need we fear it.

HOUSING

We have the housing – though we need much more of it. We have fine buildings, well sited towns. We have an infrastructure of industry, although faulty, which still offers opportunities of building upon, of extending ranges of skills and creating new ones. All of these are assets, therefore, which should be turned to account for its people by an Irish

(Ar leantúin ar chul)

Sinn Fein Notes and News

CAVAN

THE Campaign against the proposed Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill got underway in County Cavan with Public Meetings being held in Cavan Town and Ballybofey.

Charlie Boylan, C.C. and Liam

Minnagh, Educational Officer

spoke at the meeting in Cavan.

Charlie Boylan attacked the Labour Party on its role in the Junta.

He pointed out their great

phoney liberal role prior to

entering into the Coalition with the Blue Shirts. He asked where

their sincerity was now in backing

Bill which will extend further

the already overpowering amount of

repressive legislation in the 26

Counties.

Liam Minnagh pointed out

that the sacrifices made, not alone

in this generation, but in the

generations gone by were not

made so that the R.U.C. torturers

would be given a free reign to

perpetrate themselves by testifying in

Court on trumped up charges in

the 26 Counties.

There is still much work to be

done and Sinn Fein must

continue to expose lack of water

in the county and the exorbitant

cost of providing electricity to

rural housing.

He said the gold-grubbing of

of the 26 Counties is evidenced by the fact

that they voted through a

supplementary estimate to pay

for their £700 a year pay rise only

days after Cosgrave exhorted the

rest of the country to reduce its

standard of living by operating a

wage restraint.

this direction is the formation of

Community Councils.

Mr. Des Croghan, outgoing

Secretary, said Sinn Fein had a

busy year locally and initiated

many reforms, especially in

relation to cutaway bogs and land

division.

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wage restraint.

Local Affairs

Mr. Walter Lynch, joint

Secretary of Sinn Fein, who

attended the meeting also urged

members to get more involved in

local affairs.

"Problems in the West of

Ireland differed from those in

Dublin and had to be highlighted

at local level", he said.

Officers elected: Chairman,

Mr. Paraig Cryan; Vice-chairman,

Mr. Tom Kilroe; Secretary, Mr.

Paul Kerins; Treasurer, Mr.

Dermot Mullooly; Finance

Officer, Mr. Des Croghan;

Publicity Officer, Mr. John

Costelloe.

EOCHAILL

I would be most obliged if you

would print the following in your

paper.

At the A.G.M. of the East

Cork Comhairle Ceannair of Sinn

Fein held recently, a resolution

condemning the Criminal Law

Jurisdiction Bill was passed unanimously. Resolutions

condemning the Dublin

Government's disgraceful decision

to place an order for two ships

with a Japanese Company was

also passed. The recent Post

Office and Telephone increases

were condemned.

Councillors congratulated

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Thomas O'Connell, Youghal U.D.C. and outgoing Secretary, Mr. Charles Ronayne, Midleton U.D.C. were congratulated by the new Chairman, Mr. Nicholas Parker, Youghal, on their excellent work on both Councils.

The Chairman stated that since their election, to the Councils, their honest and outspoken comments had created a new welfare situation in the East Cork area.

The following officers were

elected: Chairman, Nicholas

Parker, Youghal; Vice-chairman,

Michael Burns, Fermoy;

Secretary, Mrs. P. O'Connell,

Midleton; Treasurer, Donal Finn,

Midleton; P.R.O., Charles

Ronayne, Midleton, U.D.C.;

Education Officer, Thomas

O'Connell, Youghal, U.D.C.

MAYO

East Mayo Comhairle Ceannair held protest meetings

all over East Mayo during the

Christmas period. Meetings were

held in Claremorris, Ballinrobe

and Balla and on Saturday 20th

December, 1975 a motorcade

travelled through Killimagh,

Swinford, Foxford and Ballinad

lough.

The cars were fitted with

loudspeakers and speakers

appealed to the people to come

out and protest against the prison

conditions in this country.

A strong appeal was made to

the people to oppose the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill with all their might, was also made.

ROSCOMMON

The following officers were elected at the annual general meeting of the Sean South Cumann, Roscommon, held in the Royal Hotel, Roscommon, on Friday 12th December, 1975: Chairman, Mr. Tom Kilroe; Vice-chairman, Mr. Sean Gannon; Secretary, Mr. John Costelloe; Asst. Secretary, Mrs. Vera Costelloe; Treasurer, Mr. Michael Morris; Asst. Treasurer, Mr. Michael Menton; P.R.O., Miss Josiane Chapuis; Education Officer, Mr. Parag Stephens; Cumann Organiser, Mr. Tom Geraghty. Delegates to Comhairle Ceannair: Mr. Kilroe and Miss Chapuis.

LONDON

The Christmas Party for children Prisoners was held in Wilesden, London on Sunday December 14th.

Highlight of the day was a visit from Santa, with presents for everyone. It was indeed a heart-warming occasion to see these children get together to talk, sing, dance and play together. A very happy time was had by all.

The annual Christmas party is always a great opportunity for the wives to get together for a chat and a little relaxation. A special word of praise to these wonderful mothers who stand brave and strong behind their menfolk.

MONAGHAN

At a recent meeting the Monaghan Comhairle Ceannair, Sinn Fein, condemned the attitude adopted by Mr. Corish when the question of Monaghan Co. Hospital was raised in Leinster House, according to a statement issued by M.S. O'Donnell, P.R.O.

The Sinn Fein statement continued:

"The people of Monaghan are not going to be intimidated by the Minister's arrogant assertion that the decision has been made and that's an end to it. Retention of our County Hospital could be a life or death matter for persons suffering from accident or illness in North Monaghan. The Comhairle Ceannair therefore urges its members to support all hospital Retention meetings and demonstrations and also to support fund-raising functions."

"The Comhairle Ceannair also discussed the proposed Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill which was condemned as extending British Law into the 26 Counties. Delegates pointed out that the Dublin Government still have the 6 County "security forces" on trial before the Strabane Human Rights Court for torture and brutality, yet they are currently pushing through this bill which will permit these same "security forces" the use of Southern Courts to further repress Irishmen for opposing British occupation and Loyalist supremacy in the Six Counties."

"The Comhairle Ceannair strongly condemned the continuing intolerable conditions for Republican prisoners in Port Laoise Jail where all cell furniture has been removed and men are forced to eat off the floor. Not content with ill-treating Republican prisoners, Mr. Cooney would like to cause hardship to their wives and children, as is evidenced by repeated calls to the public not to support Prisoners Dependents' fund-raising activities".

Have you forgotten Bloody Sunday?

Have you forgotten Bloody Sunday
Has the sight since left your eyes
Have you forgotten Bloody Sunday
Or do your ears still hear the cries
Throats all dry; and
clothes with water cannon wet
and Thirteen dead.
Before the sun had set.

We marched against internment
and the Provos with decentment
put away their guns that day
saying: we'll try once again
the non-violent way
Come out and march and
have no fear
We'll put you in no danger
We'll follow at the rear.

I saw people run
I saw people fall
I saw paras firing behind a wall
When the running and the screams
had ceased
And I heard no voice
I heard no call
Only gunfire raked the silence
T'was the most frightening time of all
Every heart-beat said:
How many? Who? What name?
What matter? they are our people all.

A day that began with Joy and Cheers
Then eyes that burned with C.S. gas
Were burning next with tears.
Through my tear-filled eyes
I say a Para jeep
How many? he called.
On his face was a leer
I'll not forget the Paras were here.

These lines, written by a member of the Eamonn Lafferty S.F. Cumann, Derry, were recited by Kathleen Largy at the first Bloody Sunday Commemoration in 1973.

THE 4th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday will be commemorated in Derry on Sunday, 1st February 1976.

The theme of this year's Commemoration is: DEMAND THE RELEASE OF ALL REPUBLICAN PRISONERS.

Those who died on January 30th, 1972 were taking part in an anti-internment protest. Internment has now ended, in name at least, but there are still almost 2,000 men and women held hostage by the British.

They are behind prison bars because they dared oppose internment and the corrupt regime which has been interning Irish men and women without charge or trial for over 60 years; and which was responsible for the cold-blooded murder of 13 unarmed civilians in Derry on Bloody Sunday.

The Derry Comhairlecheantair, Sinn Fein, invites the Republicans of Ireland and all Republican supporters to march with them in Derry on Sunday, 1st February:

Parade forms up in Bishop's Field, Creggan at 3.00 p.m.

PROMINENT REPUBLICAN SPEAKERS

Massed bands in attendance
— all bands welcome

Parking space for buses;
Catering laid on for marchers.

All inquiries to:
The Secretary,
49, Linstoff Drive,
Creggan,
Derry.



Our picture shows one of the thirteen murdered by Paras in Derry on January 30, 1972.

Political Notes

Hairy Knees, Airey Naive, Cockroach Cooney etc., etc.

By Maren

BRITISH right wing Tory Airey Neaves, Conservative and Unionist spokesman on the North, is upset about the names he is being called — Hairy Knees" and Airey Naive are among the milder ones.

The poor lad doesn't like the ribbing. His face is scarlet with embarrassment when the nicknames are used. It's not British, not cricket, old boy!

He should be over here. We have "Shoo the Tinkers", Donegan, "Cockroach", Cooney, "Brit-lover", O'Brien, "Screw-face", Cosgrave, "Fastest run in the West", Fitzgerald and perhaps the worst — "Socialist" Coak!

Airey should consider himself fortunate he doesn't hear the names he is called in certain parts of the Six-Counties when the air around the speaker turns a colour familiar to him — true blue.

As expected, the patriots in Leinster House voted through the second reading of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill. For the record these are the Deputies who voted for the Bill and, in brackets, their constituencies:

Peter Barry (Cork City South-East); Richard Barry (North-East Cork); Michael Begley (South Kerry); Luke Belton (Dublin North-Central); Paddy Belton (Dublin North-East); Joseph Bermingham (Kildare); John Bruton (Meath); Dick Burke (South County

Dublin); Joan T. Burke (Roscommon-Leitrim); Lise Burke (Cork City North-West); Hugh Byrne (Dublin North-West);

Mark Clinton (North County Dublin); Frank Cluskey (Dublin Central); Edward Collins (Waterford); John F. Conlan (Monaghan);

Fintan Coogan (West Galway); Patrick Cooney (Longford-Westmeath);

Brendan Corish (Wexford); Liam Cosgrave (Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown);

Declan Costello (Dublin South-West); Stephen

Coughlan (East Limerick);

Donald Creed (Mid-Cork);

Kieran Croddy (Carlow-Kilkenny); Conor

Cruise O'Brien (Dublin

North-East).

Barry Desmond (Dun

Laoghaire and Rathdown);

Eileen Desmond (Mid-Cork); Henry

Dockrell (Dun Laoghaire

and Rathdown); Maurice

Dockrell (Dublin Central);

Patrick Donegan (Lough)

John Donegan (North-East Galway);

Thomas Enright (Laois-Offaly); John

Esmonde (Wexford);

Marie Finn (East

Mayo); Garret Fitzgerald

(Dublin South-East); Tom

Fitzpatrick (Cavan); Oliver

J. Flanagan (Laois-

Offaly);

Eugene Gilhawley

(Sligo-Leitrim); Desmond

Coverney (Carlow-

Kilkenny); Patrick Harte (North-East Donegal); Patrick Hegarty (North-East Cork); Brigid Hogan O'Higgins (Clare-South Galway); Denis F. Jones (West Limerick).

Liam Kavanagh (Wicklow); Justin Keating (North County Dublin); John Kelly (Dublin South-Central); Enda Kenny (West Mayo); Thomas Kyne (Waterford); Gerald L'Estrange (Longford-Westmeath); Gerard Lynch (North Kerry).

Charles McDonald (Laois-Offaly); Joseph

McLoughlin (Sligo-Leitrim); Larry McMahon (South County Dublin); Patrick Malone (Kildare); Michael P. Murphy (South-West Cork).

Fergus O'Brien (Dublin

South-East); Tom

O'Sullivan (East

Limerick); John L.

O'Sullivan (South-West Cork).

Seamus Pattison (Carlow-Kilkenny);

Patrick Reynolds

(Roscommon-Leitrim);

John Ryan (North

Tipperary); Richie Ryan

(Dublin South-Central);

Dan Spring (North

Kerry); Myles Staunton

(West Mayo);

Frank Taylor (Clare);

David Thornley (Dublin

North-West); Godfrey

Timmins (Wicklow);

Brendan Toal (Monaghan);

James Tully (Meath);

James White (Donegal-Leitrim).

Free Derry News

Unemployment on the increase in Derry City

WELL-KNOWN shirt manufacturers Tillie and Henderson, once a steady employer of Derry women, is closing down 250 jobs will be lost — management's vague promise to "keep 50 people" is just a sweetener for the blow — and a pretty transparent and ineffective one at that.

With such a huge rise lately in male unemployment in Derry (nearly 20 per cent overall with a far higher percentage in nationalist areas as usual), the closure of Tillie and Henderson's makes it impossible for many families to have anyone at all in work. Each week the women's signing queues get depressingly longer. The comment heard from these hard-working women, who often have raised large families as well, is: "I haven't missed a day off work or on sick leave for 38 years.

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INACTIVITY OF UNION

The union responsible for the Tillie's workers has come out — now that the closure was announced — to condemn closing the factory and to demand government action. WHERE WERE THE OFFICIALS OF THIS UNION UNTIL NOW?

Once again, as so many times before with the Derry trade unions, it is a case of "too little, too late", as well as "closing the barn door after the horse has bolted". The unions will huff and puff now about this closure — now that it is too late to do much about it, they are in no danger of being called to any action.

PREDICTION

We note the following prediction from a cumann in Bogside earlier this year. Check its accuracy for yourself:

"The gloomy forecast for Derry this winter is higher unemployment, according to reliable statistics from the Department of Local Development. Figures quoted clearly predict that during midwinter that there will be an

increase in the number of people on a three-day-week and that the total out-of-work in Derry will reach 5,000. So depressed are the Civil Service that they are consumed with thoughts that, under such a strain, there is a genuine possibility of a complete breakdown in the Social Services, unless effective measures are adopted to avoid the onrushing threat of increased unemployment.

Dole queues will be longer, tensions high, and hearts drenched with despair. All of this will eventually lead many families from the fragile security they once enjoyed, into the exploding circle of unhappiness caused by the festering sore of unemployment.

The British don't care. They are engulfed in their own inflation problems, so that in the future when they discuss the subsidiary matters relating to the difficulties affecting "Ulster's" financial position within the so-called "United Kingdom context" they will require or expect some guarantee from the Local Authority that whatever investment might be forthcoming, the State Investment Sector, along with its government counterpart, will at least be given a chance to break even. This means rigid controls on workers and handcuffing the unions.

One wonders if unions in Derry need to be handcuffed. But the British will now more than ever, consider at all times the attitudes within the Trade Union Movement before they will act benevolently towards Ulster. Unions based and supported in Britain will obviously examine under the Inflation microscope, the strings attached to any state aid — or even private aid — the British may feel inclined to push in Ulster's direction. The immediate reaction at trade union level — to give away the sterling much needed in England — would automatically raise not only Derry's Healy's eyebrows, but send civil servants' temperature in general sky-high, and result in the censuring of any future Labour government policy to carry through any aid programme which could be in any way seen as detrimental to the welfare of the English people".

P.R.O., Patrick Pearse Cumann, Bogside,

NOTEBOOK

North Armagh's new language

THERE are two very hopeful developments in Ulster Co. Donegal now has four Eire Nua bookshops and North Armagh Comhairle Cheantair has begun to talk directly to the people of Ulster about the future of Ulster. In a statement announcing a demonstration in Lurgan to explain and discuss an "Ulster future without Britain", it says that British solutions "offer no opportunity for progress, peace and justice for the people of Ulster"; that a British solution is "a sure recipe for further suffering of the Ulster people; and that a genuine solution which ensures peace and justice can only be evolved through free discussion by the people of Ulster and eventually the people of Ireland".

If the educational drive in Donegal and the political initiative of North Armagh could join hands, forging a bridge across Ulster and across the 6-County border, they might succeed in breaking the present stalemate and produce real forward movement.

What has been needed above all else, especially since the truce, is that Ulster Republicans would start talking to the people of Ulster, Catholic and Protestant, about Ulster and its future. They have talked enough to them down the years about "Ireland"; it is a theme which interests only a minority of Ulster people and which sounds to the majority like a threat. But "Ulster" interests everyone in Ulster — it is the great uniting theme.

In this respect, Republican Belfast has not given the required lead. It has borne the brunt of the fighting and taken more physical punishment than any other part of the national North. But like all large urban concentrations, and like all ghettos, it is self-obsessed. It has not spoken for Ulster or to Ulster or about Ulster.

Republican News is a vigorous, well-edited Belfast Republican paper, but it has not become, nor tried to become, an Ulster paper.

Neither has Derry, for its part, learned to talk about Ulster — or even about West Ulster.

North Armagh has begun to do what needed to be done. It has given the lead to Republican Ulster. The language used in the Comhairle Cheantair statement which I have quoted above is a new language. It is the language of Ulster spoken with a Republican accent.

It mattered little where the first breakthrough into this new language would occur. What mattered was that it should happen some where, and it has happened in

North Armagh. I hope that the North Armagh people realise the importance of their new departure and follow up their initiative to the full. They are now in the vanguard of Republican politics in Ulster.

This new Republican politics means, in the first place, speaking the language of Ulster Ulster insofar as this is possible for Ulster Republicans. And the Eire Nua programme makes this possible to a very considerable degree indeed.

Ulster Republicans who grasp this, and who exploit the possibilities to the full, will find themselves saying very new, daring and remarkable things which will shock, awaken and interest Protestants and Catholics alike. They will find, suddenly, that they are being listened to.

They will be saying, for example, that the Border must not be removed but rather extended to include all of Ulster;

that Ulster must have its own Parliament and a cabinet formed by the majority without any obligation to power-sharing;

that Ulster rejects rule from London and from Dublin;

that the Free State must renounce all claim to rule the North;

that local government must have greater powers than ever before;

that the Shankill, Andersonstown, Stormont, Falls and Legionil should have district councils; and

that Ulster should negotiate a federal association with the Parliaments of Leinster, Connacht and Munster.

That is what Eire Nua looks like, presented from an Ulster point of view. It is high time it was presented from this point of view. Any other way of presenting it in Ulster is sheer waste of time and effort.

That is the new, exciting political language which Ulster Republicans will speak when they begin to talk like Ulstermen and not — as so often in the past — like fifth columnists from south of the Border trying to undermine and destroy Ulster.

I have a suggestion to make to my friends in North Armagh. They are familiar, I suppose, with that Sinn Fein leaflet, printed in green and black, which begins "SINN FEIN FOR A NEW IRELAND" and which summarises the Republican programme. Well, what about producing an Ulster version of that leaflet, printed in orange and black, and astonishing Loyalist Ulster with it? Wouldn't Loyalist Ulster be astonished to get something like the following pressed into its hands?

SINN FEIN FOR A NEW ULSTER OUR AIM

An Ulster of self-governing communities in which the people control their own affairs: their own employment, their own natural resources, their own schools and police services, their own wages and prices, their own housing and environment. An Ulster which Ulster men and women can call *their own* and take pride in.

OUR MEANS

In Belfast and in each of the nine counties: **DISTRICT COUNCILS** for every 10-40,000 people, according to population density. Representation for elected **COMMUNITY COUNCILS** on the District Councils. The District Offices to deal with Social Welfare, Primary Education, Trading Practices, Employment Conditions, Job Opportunities, Agriculture, Fishing, Small Industry, Co-operative Enterprise, Housing, Lands and Planning Permission. The Districts to be grouped under **FOUR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS** and an **ULSTER PARLIAMENT** (with no obligation to power-sharing) linked federally with similar Parliaments in Leinster, Connacht and Munster. An **ULSTER GUARD** recruited on the basis 60 per cent Protestants, 40 per cent Catholics. An **ALL-IRELAND FEDERAL PARLIAMENT** in Athlone. The Donegal Gaeltacht in a self-governing Gaeltacht Region.

BANKS under public ownership. MINERAL RESOURCES exploited by an Ulster state agency. **ALL-IRELAND CONSTITUTION** negotiated by the four provincial parliaments. **A STATUTE OF BASIC CITIZENS' RIGHTS.** If you want this sort of Ulster, help us build it by voting **SINN FEIN** or by joining a **SINN FEIN CUMANN**.

FREEMAN

by

How many people in Ulster know that that is what the Provos propose for Ulster?

Funeral of the late Noel Worthington

ON Thursday, 17 December, 1975, the funeral of Noel Worthington took place from Hughes Park, Dundalk.

From St. Patrick's Cathedral to the Cemetery at Dowdallshill at least 150-200 Gardai and Special Branchmen escorted the cortage.

The coffin was draped with the Tricolour and led by 50 young men and women members of the Republican Movement. People including, the mother and father of deceased were prevented from getting to the graveside. Wreath layers were not allowed to lay wreaths.

Mr. Fran Browne, a member of the Dundalk Urban Council and the Louth County Council had this to say about the disgusting and ghastly behaviour of the Free State's "Security Forces":

"I protested to an Inspector in charge about the conduct of his men at the graveside. I asked him to allow wreaths to be laid. He told me to go back and ask his men again.

"Now I ask? Why this conduct? On whose instructions? What kind of person gave the orders for this kind of unchristian acts to be

carried out? Why have the Clergy, Dundalk not protested about the trampling all over graves in the Cemetery by Free-State Security Forces.

I had intended to say a few words about the deceased but I was not allowed near the graveside. However Mr. Paddy Duffy of Dundalk succeeded in getting to the graveside and paid respects to Noel Worthington on behalf of the Republican Movement.

Mr. Cosgrave and company have accused Republicans in the Six Counties of provoking a Civil war there. What is he, Cooney, Donegan, Cruise O'Brien and others doing here in the 26 Counties.

They are carrying out these acts now. What will they do when this New Anti-Terrorist Bill is past. It is my opinion that they will push Republicans too far.

At least the British "Security Forces" in the Six Counties allow the dead to be buried.

The acts of the Free State Security Forces on the day of the funeral have put the people of Dundalk behind the Republican Movement in their protests against the harassment of the dead.



The funeral of Noel Worthington (R.I.P.) on its way from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk to the cemetery at Dowdallshill

S.F. sends telegram to Wilson

FOLLOWING is the text of a telegram sent by Sinn Fein Head Office to Mr. Harold Wilson, Britain's Prime Minister, in response to his recent diatribe against Irish Northern Aid in which he called upon Americans to cease subscribing to Northern Aid funds:

How strange was your tirade to American journalists when we recall that the second Labour Party Conference totally ignored the Irish Question. We suggest that as the British economy is in a chaotic state, that you ask the British people if they are willing to continue financing your Government's reign of terror in Ireland. A recent British opinion poll has shown what their answer would be.

Of course, successive British Governments have tried to bully the Irish people as you are now attempting to bully Ireland. British tactics have not changed from the massacres of Cromwell, to the execution of Republican Leaders in 1916 by General "Butcher" Maxwell to the Derry massacre of 1972.

Britain has not just splashed blood on the shamrock; she has soaked our soil in blood for 800 years even when the growing of the shamrock was forbidden by British Law.

The telegram was signed by Amhras O Ceallaigh, National Publicity Dept. Sinn Fein.

Remains of David Kennedy laid to rest in Armagh

IT was with deep regret that the Republican Movement learned of the death of David Kennedy of Armagh city.

A dedicated Republican his sudden death came as a shock to his many friends.

A Staff Officer in Oglaih na hÉireann he was also chairman of the local S.F. Comhairlecheantair. One of his last acts was to bring out the local Republican newsheet — "The Armagh Provo".

Volleyes were fired as his remains were taken from his home to Armagh Cathedral.

FUNERAL ORATION

At the funeral the following day Sinn Fein President Ruairí Ó Brádaigh paid tribute to David's dedication and courage and extended the sympathy of the Movement to his wife and family. Over 2,000 people attended the funeral.

Leaba i measc na Naomh go raibh aige,

Republican Post Bag

Political fund exemption

MANY of the Trade Unions are affiliated to the Irish Labour Party and give substantial sums of money to it.

Do Republicans who are members of these unions realise that part of their weekly subscriptions goes into this "political fund"?

I should like to remind all trade unionists that under the Trade Union Act, 1913 they have a right to opt out of this political levy, and cannot be placed under any disability or disadvantage as compared with other members of the union for doing so.

Every member is entitled to ask his or her Branch Secretary for a Political Fund Exemption Notice which he/she can then sign and return. This exempts the members from payment of the political fund levy.

All Republican Trade Unionists should exercise this option now.

—Sean O Bradaigh,
Director of Publicity, 2a Sraid Chaoimhín
Ioch, Baile Átha Cliath 8.

GREETINGS

AN Cumann Cabhrach (Dundalk Branch) sends New Year Greetings to all the Republican Prisoners throughout Ireland, England, Scotland and the U.S.A.

LONDON Sinn Féin wish to extend sincere Greetings to their comrades in gaol.

We love them yet.

We ne'er forget

The felons of our land.

THE Louis Leonard S.F. Cumann, Maguiresbridge, wish all the prisoners in Ireland, England, Scotland and America a very happy New Year and hope their aims for a United Ireland will soon be achieved. God Bless you all.

NEW Year Greetings to Brendan Doherty and all Political Prisoners in Port Laoise concentration camp.

From Mrs. Doherty and Margaret, Co. Kerry.

SPECIAL New Year Greetings to Brendan Dowd and all Republican Prisoners in British and Northern Concentration Camps.

From Margaret and Mrs. Doherty, Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

DO Dhonnchadh O Cinnéide agus na príosúnaigh polaitíochta go leir i gcaracht Phort Laoise — Albháil faoi shean agus faoi mhaise daibh, o Maitiu, Deirdre, Blanaid, Maire agus Fergal.

ALL good wishes to Republican Prisoners in Irish Concentration Camps and English Dungeons.

Paddy Ward, West Australia.

GREETINGS TO OUR COMRADES — the Luton Three — Sean Campbell, Gerry Mealy and Phil Sheridan, and all Irish Republican Prisoners in Ireland, England, Scotland and North America. May 1976 bring peace with justice to our land.

From the Committee and members of the Patrick McAdorey/Seamus McCusker Sinn Féin Cumann, Luton, Sasana.

NEW Year's Greetings to Paddy Shanahan and Frank Smith.

From the Martin Forsyth Cumann, Sinn Féin, Rathfarnham.

answer "Freeman's" endless criticisms.

—Aindrias O Ceallaigh, Sinn Féin, U.C.D.

ULSTER IS OURS

THE lesson the English never learned is that Ulster is ours, not theirs. Englishmen are now paying a terrible price for ignoring that lesson of history. The Irish poet, T.M. Kettle precisely expressed in verse the sentiment of all Irishmen when he wrote:

"Ulster is ours,
Not theirs."

Irish to have
and to hold;
Our hills and lakes
and moors
Have shaped her
in our mould
Derry to Limerick walls
Fused us in battle flame;
Limerick to Derry calls
Once wronged-shared
Irish name".

Bleeding Ulster remains a running sore on the British body politic. The British Exchequer now pays out approximately 2 billion dollars a year to maintain the faltering British presence in Ulster, each year. The Queen's 12th birthday, however, is now real. Loyalty to Britain is disloyalty to Ulster and their own interests, political, economic and social. More and more see the Unionist landed gentry and Unionist business barons as robber barons who have, in the name of loyalty to Britain, kept Loyalist workers in a state of poverty for centuries, while, at the same time, consolidating their own preferred positions.

The English Queen made Captain O'Neil and Chichester Clark members of the House of Lords, but what Loyalist worker would do the same? There are no lords on the Shankhill or Sandy Row.

Ulster is ours, and if history teaches anything, it is that Britain cannot have it. It belongs to all Irishmen, Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter. When will English lords and English politicians realise this.

It does strike me, though, that Sinn Féin would need two full time P.R.O.'s if they were to

start from scratch.

Find Freeman's suggestions

O CEALLACHAIN REPLIES TO FREEMAN

I WARNED the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis of 1975 that a full time P.R.O. would become the organisation's scapegoat. I am not "Sinn Féin's new national P.R.O." — contrary to Freeman's description in your December 12th issue.

When the Ard Fheis adopted the resolution "That there should be a fulltime P.R.O.", I undertook to establish a National Publicity Department based in Kevin Street. I told Sean O Bradaigh, the National Director of Publicity that we should stress the idea of a department rather than an individual P.R.O. This is transferred to another (e.g. research), then the successor will not be forced to start from scratch.

Find Freeman's suggestions about the Provincial Councils setting up sections most interesting. As regards your "gripes" being unanswered I accept your point on fraternal delegates but I had no part in the organisation of the Ard Fheis.

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Port Laoise:

Castleblayney U.D.C. call to Minister

CASTLEBLAYNEY Urban Council unanimously decided at last Wednesday night's meeting to ask the Minister for Justice Mr. Cooney, to restore all classes and lectures as well as the supply of literature to Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail.

The matter was raised by Colr. Paty McGinn, who said it was disgraceful that such "inhuman conditions" should exist at Portlaoise where fellow Irishmen were imprisoned for their political ideals. The conditions there were terrible and it was imperative for the Minister to act immediately and especially as Christmas was now at hand.

Mr. McGinn said that there was a demand for an independent public inquiry into conditions at the jail and local bodies all over the country were taking up the matter. Already Monaghan G.A.A. Board as well as the County Trades Council had highlighted the situation. Monaghan Urban Council had also taken it up.

Mr. Michael McDonnell seconded the resolution and said he could see no harm coming out of the Council's approach to the Minister.

Mr. McGinn said those in Portlaoise were not ordinary criminals but prisoners entitled to political status. He hoped the Council's resolution would bring some results.

The discussion ended.

Trades council supports plea

A letter which was read at last week's meeting of County Monaghan Trades Council setting out details of conditions at Portlaoise jail on behalf of the republican prisoners led to a resolution being adopted unanimously seeking action by the Minister for Justice to restore lectures and classes as well as the supply of literature and furniture to the prisoners.

The resolution was brought before the Council on behalf of Joseph B. O'Hagan and the other political prisoners who said they were seeking concerted outside trade union pressure in support of their "demands."

The letter described the conditions at Portlaoise as "inhuman" and said that a very serious situation was developing this Christmas which was intolerable for the prisoners.

It continued that a resolution was imperative so that the Minister might be forced to direct the prison authorities to "ease" conditions for those detained.

The resolution called for support from all other organisations to have lectures and classes resumed and the supply of normal requisites and gifts restored at Portlaoise.

The letter was read by the Trades Council secretary, Mr. Joe Kelly (Blayne) who said it was a matter for the delegates to consider.

The resolution was adopted unanimously, as stated.

"What sort of Ireland?"

(At least one Ich. 4)

Government, by a Republican Socialist Government, and they can only be turned to the full account of the Irish people where the control of them rests solely within the Irish people.

In the past we have lived too frequently in the shadow of a great inferiority complex; that Ireland was lonely and poverty stricken. On any assessment of the new standards of world wealth this clearly is not so. We are a skilled and apt people, teamed alongside resources of great potential; resources that, properly used, can satisfy all of our material needs with a great deal over to share upon mankind. In whatever expanding world-wide role that Ireland is called upon to play she is well fitted to play it.

THE NEW IRELAND

Which brings us to the question of what sort of Ireland should it be. With all of our resources properly managed it could easily be oozing in wealth, our people guided by the basest and most ephemeral materialistic standards. This is what is usually meant by bourgeois economists when they speak of "improved living standards". A state where all is affluence but people share and more especially know not the value of real wealth.

T D's asked to intervene

AN APPEAL was made to the Co. Monaghan T.D.'s to intervene with the Minister for Justice over what were described as "deplorable conditions" at Portlaoise prison by Colr. Vincent Conlon, a Sinn Féin member, at last Monday night's meeting of Monaghan Urban Council.

Mr. Conlon said that this is the season of goodwill and he was appealing to the T.D.'s to do what they could with the Minister to improve conditions at Portlaoise jail. The present treatment of the Republican prisoners held there could only be a source of great embarrassment to the government in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Mr. Conlon asked for visiting facilities and correspondence facilities restored to a practical and normal level and that lectures and classes be restored to enable those in the prison to pursue their trades or craftsmanship. This was normal in jails all over the world with the exception of Portlaoise.

"I understand the position at Portlaoise is a disgrace. The conditions are detrimental to the health of those held there and furniture has even been taken out of their cells".

Mr. Conlon added it was a "shame" the Minister for Justice was showing such little compassion at this time of year. He hoped the T.D.'s would do something about it.

LECTURE
by
Andreas Ó Ceallaigh
"A critical look at the federal solution"
Victor Hotel, Dun Laoghaire
Monday 19th January
8.30 p.m.

Christmas Party a Success

SINN FEIN'S annual Christmas Party for dependents of Political Hostages was a tremendous success. Children who had been — or are still — deprived of a father, older brother or sister during the past year due to the merciless policies of Britain in holding political prisoners, were treated to minerals, sweets, cakes and com-libs, as well as great entertainment provided by Whitley O'Neill (assisted by some able amateur helpers).

Santa himself arrived, in time to give every child a present. The youngsters could have stayed for hours, but after seeing Santa were happy enough to troop home, guarding their gifts, while weary Sinn Féiners and their

helpers cleaned up the hall to make it ready for the PDF Bingo to be held there that night.

The money for the gifts, as well as the cakes, comics, and sweets, was raised by the community of the Free Derry area, who each year contribute to Sinn Féin collections so that the children of political prisoners will have a shade happier Christmas.

Happy faces at the Children's Christmas party for dependents of Derry's political hostages.

This year's party was held in the Stardust Ballroom on December 21, 1975.



£50 fines for Sinn Féin members

A CASTLEBLAYNEY Urban Council member was among five Co. Monaghan men who were each fined £50, or alternatively 28 days imprisonment at Blayne Court on Tuesday when they were convicted under the Prohibition of Forcible Entry and Occupation Act 1971 arising from protest action by Sinn Féin to highlight a hunger strike at Portlaoise jail earlier this year involving Republican prisoners.

The five convicted were: Patrick McGinn, Henry Street, Castleblayney, a member of Blayne U.D.C.; his sons Sean McGinn and Bernard McGinn, also of Henry Street, Blayne; John Joseph Coyle, Dublin St., Monaghan; and Joseph Campbell, Park St., Monaghan.

The charges arose from the demonstrations staged by Sinn Féin (Kevin St.) at the Castleblayney Urban Council and County Council offices on 31 January last and at the Frontier Post at Tullynagrove, Castleblayney, on February 11.

It was alleged that both buildings were taken over for periods by the defendants and that the Gardai had been refused admittance.

Write a prisoner a letter a week.

CEILIDHE MÓR

in

OSTA JOHN DEVOY, JOHNSTOWN

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY, 1976

9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

TAILLE £2.00 (including supper)

By ticket only from 44 Parnell Square.

Bus leaves 44 Parnell Square at 8.30 p.m. sharp

WE,

THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, LONG KESH

PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH

GERRY MEALY AND

FRANK STAGG

AND ALL THEIR GALLANT COMRADES IN THEIR CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST THEIR CAPTORS, FOR THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO IRELAND. THEY SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF BRITAIN

AND MUST BEAR THE FULL BRUNT OF THE CRUELTY AND VIOLENCE THAT HERALD THE DEATH THROES OF THAT ONCE MIGHTY EMPIRE.

LET ALL THOSE WHO CONDEMN VIOLENCE, SPEAK OUT NOW AGAINST THIS SADISTIC STAGE VIOLENCE, OR FOREVER REMAIN SILENT.

"ALL THE ARMIES, OF ALL THE EMPIRES, OF EARTH CANNOT CRUSH THE SPIRIT OF ONE TRUE MAN; AND THAT ONE MAN WILL PREVAIL."

—TERENCE McSWINEY