

An Phoblacht

Iml. 6. Uimhir 50. 8p. Nollaig 12, 1975.

INTERNMENT ENDED UNDER PRESSURE

Victory for people

- Ó Brádaigh

IN a statement issued on the day internment ended, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President of Sinn Féin said:

"While Sinn Féin welcomes the ending of this phase of internment without trial, it looks forward to the termination of British rule in Ireland. It is British rule which requires internment every ten or twelve years to sustain itself.

Full credit to Republican Movement

"Full credit must go to the splendid people who resisted internment in every way possible from the very start. Credit is also due to the Republican Movement and its leadership for the handling of the situation in the Six Counties since the Feakle Peace Talks last year. It was this handling of the situation which forced the British Government to close the internee section of Long Kesh. An outstanding part was played by the prisoners themselves who eventually burnt Long Kesh to the ground, to highlight their situation. Their spirits remained undaunted even when they were sold out by the S.D.L.P., when the latter accepted office under the Sunningdale arrangements.

Free State's co-operation with R.U.C. and B.A.

"No doubt, the British Government is in haste to act before the European Human Rights Commission gives its judgement on the torture and brutality cases brought against it by various agencies, including the Dublin Government. Hand in hand with these developments grows the complete contradiction of the 26-County administration. This regime is, itself, implementing "internment with trial" on the mere opinion of a police officer. It is now seeking to collaborate to the fullest extent possible under the proposed Criminal Jurisdiction Bill, with the very forces it has arraigned internationally for torturing prisoners, i.e. the R.U.C. and the British Army.

Sentenced Internees

"Thirty-seven internees remain in Long Kesh, serving sentences for what R.T.E. is pleased to call "criminal offences," (news at 1.30 p.m. December 5th), the "criminal offence" in question being, attempting to escape from unjust detention in a concentration camp. The sentences of thirty of these expire at the end of the month. But

seven others have terms ranging up to 4½ years to serve. Surely, if internment has ended, all punishments out of it should lapse.

S.D.L.P. reneges on pledges to people

"The question of the Civil Disobedience Campaign entered into by the nationalist population at the outset of internment was considered, at length, by the Executive of Sinn Féin on November 23rd. It was felt that Sinn Féin could not ask the people to drop the rent and rates strike with the ending of the current phase of internment, because the threat of renewed internment hangs over the people's heads.

"There has been no amnesty for arrears in rent, rates, electricity and gas bills as was demanded when the strike was embarked upon in August 1971. The S.D.L.P. reneged on this point also, when they demanded an end to civil disobedience on December 28th 1973. The S.D.L.P. sent out the bailiffs and the R.U.C. to seize strikers' cattle and even imposed 25p per week fine on those in arrears in May 1974.

Long Kesh remains open

"Furthermore, Long Kesh remains open. About 1,000 men and 100 women are held in the North, together with 100 in England and another 100 in the 26-Counties. This makes a total of approximately 1,300 Republican prisoners. Mr. Rees said on November 4th that there would be no amnesty, and that special category or political status would be denied by his Government from March 1st.

End British rule

"Of course, British soldiers who murdered; R.U.C. men who tortured; and politicians who ordered such practices, have never spent a day in prison. They were granted an amnesty in advance. The British Government has simply changed tactics; yesterday's action was not a change of heart.

"Sustained by the success of those who have suffered and those who died in the internment camp, the people's will to freedom is stronger than ever. They will not go back to pre-internment conditions; they will push ahead to end British rule and this time they will win" Mr. Ó Brádaigh concluded.

Republican demands re-stated by Leadership

IN a supplied statement the Leadership of the Republican Movement said:

"The Leadership of the Republican Movement welcomes the release of the Internees. The same indomitable spirit which helped to abolish the regime that imposed internment without trial in August '71, and since made direct rule impossible, ensured the discontinuance of that most pernicious of British Crown excesses.

"The beleaguered people of the Republican areas of the Six Counties can well celebrate with pride the homecoming of their kin. It was their own steadfast courage and the tenacity of their

incarcerated menfolk in resisting the reign of terror imposed on them, that forced the hand of Rees.

"The claim by quisling politicians that Republicans do not want an end to internment hardly needs to be repudiated. The Republican Movement has always been to the forefront on fullest commitment towards the release of the prisoners interned. At times, alas, the voice of the Movement has been a lone one in this regard. Serious commitment was nowhere in the path of the S.D.L.P. as

they rushed to take their seats "working in close co-operation", while internment lasted.

"The Leadership of the Republican Movement re-states the demand for a British declaration of intent to withdraw, the right of the Irish people to control their own destiny and a general amnesty for all political prisoners. This includes that internment be erased from the Statute books in England, North and South."

The statement was signed: by P. Ó Neill, Runai, I.R.C.B.

Long Kesh Cages – monuments to S.D.L.P.

IN a statement the sentenced Republican prisoners in Long Kesh said:

In that time, eight men have died here, countless others have been beaten, tortured, blinded, humiliated and degraded in every way possible. Long Kesh could not have existed for even one year, were it not for the connivance of the power-hungry, opportunist politicians and their continued participation in British imposed 'solutions' on this illegal Six County statelet.

Because of their unwavering support for the British system, which includes Long Kesh, we have taken the decision to bestow on them the fame and posterity which they so richly deserve by naming our cages after them. As well as using cage number, we ask all our friends and relatives to address our letters and cards as follows: Cage 9 (Hume Cage), Cage 10 (Cooper Cage), Cage 11 (Currie Cage), Cage 12 (Fitt Cage), Cage 13 (Devlin Cage).

We are reserving other cage names to see who does the most to deserve them in the coming months.

Political Notes

Nobody fooled by Cooney

by MAREN

PADDY COONEY is learning fast that the posture one has to get into to lick someone's backside leaves one open to a backheel in the crotch. The lesson was driven home to him in the Monaghan arrests affair.

Paddy was forced to rush into the television studios to defend the release of the Monaghan four on a "it was not me, it was them" basis after the British media slated the Dublin Government.

English newspapers and television commentators, with complete disregard to the ethics and practice of law, have already indicted, tried and found guilty a young Irish girl.

Did Paddy, himself a Solicitor, comment on this? Not on your life! Paddy confined himself to telling the Brits the record and what a fine record he and his colleagues have in oppressing his own countrymen.

And complaining that the law as it stands doesn't let them go even further.

However, Paddy added that this is being put right. He was confident, he said, that the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill will be law before Christmas - and then watch their smoke.

Paddy's blaming of the gardai for the releases - "there was no political direction" - must have brought a hollow laugh from the confines of Portlaoise and in numerous Republican homes throughout the country.

Since when have Paddy and his cohorts worried about "evidence" in jailing Republicans? The word of a Chief Superintendent is

sufficient, whether the accused is guilty or not.

And was there no "political direction" about all those raids on Republican homes during the last local government elections when Sinn Fein had the sheer audacity to put up candidates?

Was the truth that more political hostages in Limerick jail could exacerbate a situation that is reaching critical proportions?

Come off it, Paddy - you didn't fool any of the people this time.

My comment last week about the B.B.C.'s bulletins on the proposal for a "no man's land" strip in which "security forces" on both sides of the border could chase freedom fighters spurred R.T.E. to action.

Hardly was the ink dry on the item before the Montrose lads were running to Paddy Donegan, Minister for Defence, for his views - was it right, did the Brits make such a proposal?

They even quoted the term "no man's land" but, naturally, did not attribute it to An Phoblacht. So much for the National Union of Journalists much-vaunted Code of Conduct!

Paddy admitted there had been discussions with the Brits on the issue but, mindful of his Louth votes, put it on record that he would vote against it.

Conor, I'm told, was not amused.

Will Dr. David Thornley and Dr. John O'Connell vote against

the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill? I'm told Dr. David is a distinct possibility but Dr. John is wavering.

His view, I hear, is that the Bill is unconstitutional and will be thrown out by the law lords in the Supreme Court so why rock his personal boat?

He is also convinced that there will be no Fine Gael or Labour successes through "sickness" on voting night and the Bill will go through anyway.

In ordinary circumstances one could understand Dr. John's attitude in thinking only of himself - don't we all? But this is a measure that is earth-shaking in its implications and some day the perpetrators will be asked to account for their actions.

Dr. John's excuses will not sound so convincing then - and it will be the public in his constituency, about whom he is so concerned now, that will be the judge.

Dr. John may lose his Labour Party backing and his Dail seat for a short while if he stands up to be counted but he should balance this against going down in history as a man who put his principles before his pocket - a rarity, indeed, in the present Leinster House set-up.

THE annual Eddie Carmody commemoration was held in Ballylongford on Sunday, November 23rd.

Some 350 people marched from the Memorial Hall to the monument about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile outside the village. They were led by a colour party of Cumann na mBan followed by Cumann na gCailini.

The ceremony began with a decade of the Rosary followed by the laying of a wreath by a member of Na Fianna on behalf of The Republican Movement (North Kerry).

Tomas O Loinsigh who presided at the ceremony said

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Over the last few years we have witnessed one of the greatest struggles that have

ever taken place in this country and I am sure that no one will deny that to-day we have in Ireland the greatest fighting force that this country has ever seen, a force which will certainly achieve the aims for which Eddie Carmody died".

Successful function

The Commemoration ended with the singing of the National Anthem by Mr. and Mrs. John Connolly.

Afterwards a very successful function was held in the Parish Hall. Proceedings were in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach.

S.D.L.P. betray the living and the dead

THE S.D.L.P. have now emerged on the N.I. Political scene as a new Unionist party. They have demonstrated their ability to betray their own people; to betray their identity, to deny the just right of freedom of this nation from English domination. They have shown clearly their preference for the coin of the English realm, seats in a "Protestant Parliament": to the unification of this country and its people. Acts of treachery on the part of the S.D.L.P. have been deliberately played down by the media, in a British-inspired plan to promote them as "the leaders of the anti-Unionist minority". This has failed, and below we present a dossier compiled on the treacherous activities of these people since the S.D.L.P. came into being in 1970.

ILLEGITIMATE

The make-up of the S.D.L.P. was formed by treachery of one kind or another. Its members came from other parties of varying political affiliations - Nationalists, Independents, Republican Labour, N.I. Labour. It is illustrating the illegitimacy of the S.D.L.P.

RENT SPENT: NO ARREARS

Their first act of betrayal came with the murder in Derry of Seamus Cusack and Desmond Beattie in July 1971. This brought about the withdrawal of the S.D.L.P. from Stormont, initially precipitated by the action of the Derry members, and condemned at party level by the Belfast members, who had no other option but to back the withdrawal line.

Their withdrawal from Stormont was strengthened by the onset of internment in August 1971. At this point they jumped on the bandwagon of the Civil Disobedience Campaign. Derry S.D.L.P. indicated to the strikers by leaflet that the motto would be "RENT SPENT: NO ARREARS", the campaign would be maintained until the end of internment. The S.D.L.P. as we all know returned to Stormont with their tails between their legs, crying salt tears, stabbing in the back not only the internees, but all those people murdered by Brian Faulkner, his Unionist minions, and the Brits. So much for S.D.L.P. promises.

Their next act of betrayal came when they obtained positions on the ill-fated Assembly. The deal they did for these positions took in the attempted sabotage of the Civil Disobedience Campaign. They adopted several tactics in this regard:

• In country areas they confiscated the cattle belonging to farmers to force payment of rent and rates arrears.

• Austin Currie S.D.L.P. (the Housing Minister) put a levy on the

people's rents of 25p in some instances putting an overwhelming burden on thousands of people.

• We saw the manipulation of people's family allowances, pensions, dole money, supplementary allowance etc, and we know full well that S.D.L.P. huck Paddy Devlin was in sole charge of this operation. He was the man who through his active collaboration with the British forced many Nationalist people onto the poverty line. It was he along with his S.D.L.P. traitors who were responsible for countless Nationalists being summoned to the British Courts. The stab in the back by the S.D.L.P. of the Nationalist people living and dead was complete.

BLOODY SUNDAY

In Derry on 30th January 1972, the British paratroopers murdered 14 men and boys; mowed them down on the streets of their own city in a carefully planned massacre. The Derry S.D.L.P., namely Mr. John Hume stated categorically "that a United Ireland only would suffice now". We all know what happened to that statement; it was buried along with the coffins of the dead three days later.



After Bloody Sunday, John Hume stated categorically "that a United Ireland only would suffice now". On this as on every other issue Hume has backtracked and is unashamedly backing British rule.



"Rent spent: No arrears" the S.D.L.P. stated on their leaflets after they had jumped on the Civil Resistance bandwagon. Later Austin Currie came out in support of seizing cattle in lieu of rent and rates arrears.

When the Assembly fell in May 1973 with the U.W.C. strike, Paddy Devlin tried in VAIN to recover a little ground for himself by the miraculous revelation that he had resigned before Merlyn Rees had the chance to sack him. Austin Currie attempted IN VAIN to withdraw the legislation he had introduced relating to the 25p levy on rent arrears.

The implications of the other acts of treachery by the S.D.L.P. are not seemingly always understood by the Nationalist people. How else can anyone continue to support traitors who have sat down and discussed the future welfare of the Nationalist population with men like Brian Faulkner who was responsible for internment and the wholesale murder of innocent people, with William Craig, the man who engineered the 400 or so Catholic assassinations, including the foul murder of S.D.L.P. Senator Paddy Wilson.

SUPPORT FOR R.U.C.

The RUC were ejected from our areas in 1969 when they and their loyalist murder gangs attacked the Catholic enclaves of the North, murdering men, women and children. At this time the S.D.L.P. did not exist and now this party dares to come out on the return of the R.U.C. to these districts. At their recent party conference the right in the S.D.L.P. was obvious on this issue, Tom Donnelly resigning. We have no doubt that the whole S.D.L.P. membership support the RUC, but being politicians and recognising the fact that people do not want the RUC back again, they realise that back-tracking on this issue would be a death blow for the S.D.L.P.

POLITICAL STATUS

The S.D.L.P. have betrayed the people of the occupied area all along the line since its formation. As a further placation to Merlyn Rees and the Unionists, the S.D.L.P. have given their tacit approval to the proposed withdrawal of political status. This latest act of treachery will seal the fate of this new Unionist party. To think that men almost died on hunger strike to gain political status, and these hacks to back moves to remove it is disgusting.

TREACHEROUS BREED

We know S.D.L.P. history, we know their breed, and their gross treachery comes as no surprise, but it is a fitting description of men who have betrayed the living and the dead in their quest for power.

-P.R.O.

Clannard Martyrs' S.F. Cumann, Sean Feirste.

Sallins Murder - UVF responsible

UVF involvement in the recent Sallins Murder has been definitely established as a result of the unexpected discovery of a valuable clue following on the death of a U.V.F. bomber.

Last June, an innocent victim was stabbed to death when he stumbled on bombers as they planted explosives in an attempt to derail a train bound for a Wolfe Tone commemoration ceremony at Bodenstown.

Biased reports

Biased reports, accusing Republicans of the murder, were given copious space and publicity in Southern papers at the time. However, these falsehoods have been exposed and disproved by the new evidence that has now become available.

A fingerprint, found on a dagger used in the murder, matches those of a U.V.F. man killed when a bomb, he and three others were carrying, exploded prematurely.

This revelation has been almost totally ignored by the media, and it has received only minimal publicity.

It is thought that the U.V.F.'s motive behind the bombing was to provoke trouble in a struggle between the "Officials" and the I.R.S.P. in which the former were waging a campaign to effect the collapse and annihilation of the I.R.S.P.

*Courtesy "Kildare News"
(Published by Sinn Fein)*

BOOK REVIEW

by Eamon Mac Thomais

Christmas is coming.
The goose is getting fat.
Please put a penny,
In the old man's hat;
If you haven't a penny,
A halfpenny will do,
If you haven't a ha penny,
God bless you.

Well - if ya have more than a thousand

penny, if you have a few bob to space go out and buy yourself a real treat for Christmas. Yes, buy yourself a copy of Ellis Brady's book "All In! All In!" This book is a must for everyone who is a child and who wants to make a child happy.

There's more than a thousand

games to stir the imagination and warm the cockles of the hearts of all the children everywhere.

Pick a verse at random, recite it to a child and the child's reaction will be: "say it again, say it again. Ah go on, say it again."

Green white and yellow

Me mother had a fellow

The fellow died

Me Mother cried

Green white and yellow.

Or give the child a piece of good advice:

Janey Mac me shirt is black

What will I do for Sunday

Go to bed and cover your head

And don't get up till Monday.

and still more advice:

Don't eat Kennedy's bread

It will fill your belly full of lead

You'll fart like thunder

Your Mother wouldn't wonder

Don't eat Kennedy's bread.

Here you have it all in this lovely book - the background language, picking sides, ball games, skipping, chasing, pure devilment, make believe and the simple pleasures of games on the streets of Dublin!

The book is well laid out with an excellent index and illustrated with drawings and photographs.

I always thought that Folklore was to do with fairies, Cuchulain, The Red Branch Knights, The Fair etc, but I was gladly surprised to find out that my favourite childhood saying of "Skinny malin Melodone legs" is now Folklore.

No mother, father or schoolteacher can afford to be without this book. As well as helping with the children it will take them back to their own childhood days with laughter and tears, and more the child will not be like "a bay of cats all day".

◀
"This book is a must for everyone who knows a child and who wants to make a child happy."

BRITISH ARMY USING LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices are being used by the Army in the St. James district of Belfast, according to a statement from Sinn Fein.

"Members of the Coldstream Guards were seen using the devices outside a local club and houses which were lit up at night", the statement said.

The Emmet-Liggett Sinn Fein Cumann said the action had led to a serious riot situation in Rodney Drive on Sunday.

The Cumann has stated that soldiers had "listened in" on a domestic dispute in a house and then arrested a man when he left the premises. The man was badly beaten up in Springfield Road station.

Neighbours gathered following the arrest and protested by banging bin lids. A riot developed when troops threatened to shoot the bin-lid protesters.

The Cumann also said that members of the arrested man's family were abused when the house was later searched by the Army.

Soldiers also threatened members of the Cumann and issued threats of rape against women of the area.

"These threats are viewed most seriously", the statement said.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RORY, LIAM, DICK, AND JOE



Rory O'Connor



Liam Mellows

On the 8th December, 1922, Rory O'Connor (Leinster) Liam Mellows (Connacht) Joe McKelvey (Ulster) Dick Barrett (Munster) were taken from their cells on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and executed by a Free State firing squad on the order of Cosgrave the First.

They were not executed for any crime committed, but as a reprisal measure. We are familiar today with imprisonment without charge or trial - here was a case of execution without charge or trial.

Who, then, are the real men of violence?

Who are the real subversives?

Rory, Liam, Dick and Joe, Star of the Morning, Mary come, Red is their life's blood, their Hearts like snow, Mary Immaculate guide them home.



Joe McKelvey



Dick Barrett

Rapid results follow Burt Sinn Fein protest

Members of the South/O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann, Burt, Co. Donegal, led local residents in a protest against the failure of the Donegal County Council to carry out garbage collections in the Burt area.

After repeated calls were made to the Council to initiate a refuse collection service, the Cumann collected garbage from residents' homes and dumped it on the Letterkenny

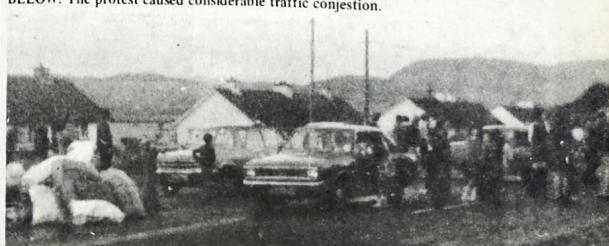
Road.

The council was informed that there would be a repeat performance in 21 days time if they (the Council) failed to act. Three days later the garbage was removed and the South/O'Hanlon Cumann reports that there are now weekly garbage collections.

The Cumann has also called upon the county council to provide a water supply in the Burt area.



ABOVE: Members of the South/O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann dumping garbage on the Letterkenny Road, near Burt.
BELOW: The protest caused considerable traffic congestion.



Sinn Fein on the Shannon Estate

SHANNON is situated in County Clare, fifteen miles west of Limerick and twelve miles south of Ennis. The Shannon estuary originally known as Rineanna and the name is still used by most Clare people. Pianna Fail chose it when in power in the sixties as part of "Neo-Colonialism". This policy was the brainchild of the late Sean Lemass.

The birth of Shannon

The experiment took form in the building of an International Airport, the setting up of a tax free Industrial Zone close by the airport, a semi-state body, was also set up. Its duties were to develop and administer the Mid-West Region, entice multi-national companies to set up industries, and recruit cheap labour for these industries. The work force when recruited were provided with housing in close proximity to these industries, thus evolved Shannon Town.

The population of this new town now stands at 6,694, comprising of 3,213 under the age of 18, and 3,481 adults.

Housing is under control of S.F.A.D.C., 1,294 lettable premises—Flats 167, Hostel Flats 218, Private Housing 257. Houses under construction—S.F.A.D.C., 174, Clare County Council 20. There are 1,365 children on the Primary Schools Roll and 540 on the Comprehensive School Roll.

There are 56 Limited Companies located within the Free Airport Zone. The companies consist of—American 24, Free State 9, English 9, German 5, Swiss 3, S. African 2, Canadian 1, Dutch 1, Austrian 1. The largest percentage of the total workforce are employed by American Multi-National Companies.

Redundancies

Now, with the Tax Free period near ending for most of the companies, Shannon is suffering the effects, from 3-day weeks, and redundancies. The economic crisis is the scapegoat for the many thousands left idle in the Shannon Region. The blatant refusal of many companies to honour the national wage agreement and the inability clause inserted by the Free State Government furthers the exploitation of the workers.

The type of industry attracted by the I.D.A. and its henchmen have proved to be totally disastrous. The recent statement by Mr. Prendergast, Branch Secretary I.T.G.W.U. QUOTE: "The Mickey mouse companies and the fly by nighters are not wanted by the workers", is a true assessment of the situation. The admission by Mr. Callinan, S.F.A.D.C., on a television interview that the previous policies of the I.D.A. and S.F.A.D.C., were totally disastrous in providing industry at any cost, regardless of the consequences to the workers. He advocated that future industries would be more successful if based on our natural resources. (Mr. Callinan has borrowed Eire Nua Policy). He also stated that they would still continue to accommodate the Mickey mouse companies as long as they provided employment.

Misuse of Taxpayers' Money

The local Sinn Fein Cumann condemns the



* Our picture shows members of the Shannon S.F. Cumann protesting outside Bunratty Castle in support of the Republican prisoners.

The protest took place as one of the famous Mediaeval banquets were getting under way in the castle.

SINN FÉIN OFFICERS

Luton

during the coming year.

BUIOCHAS

The committee and members passed a vote of the NCCL for their help, by supplying with leaflets and legal aid during the past year.

Connacht

At a meeting held in Luton on Monday, November 24th, the following members were elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Patrick McAdorey/Seamus McCusker Cumann, until November 1976: Chairman, John Higgins; Vice-chairman, Jim Reilly; Treasurer, Desmond Crozier; Assistant treasurer, Pat Crossin; Social Secretary, Eamonn Higgins; Political Education Officer, Jim Reilly; Secretary/P.R.O., Michael Holden.

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Jim Reilly, said 1975 had seen an increase in membership, and in political activity involving every Cumann member.

"Despite harassment and arrests of members, Luton Sinn Fein had, through the year, made significant progress" he said. Mr. O'Reilly continued:

"The coming year will no

doubt be as big a challenge.

This challenge will be met, and it is worth noting that despite the publicity surrounding the victimisation of some members this year, the Irish community locally had not been intimidated and continues to support our social functions and fund-raising activities".

"He was confident", he said that their support will not only continue but will increase".

The new chairman, Mr. John Higgins said that renewed efforts would be made during the coming year to increase political activity.

Now that the "Home Counties" Comhairle Cheantair had been formed:

"We would no longer be

operating in isolation, but within

the frame-work of an organisation

linked to Bletchley, St. Albans,

High Wycombe and Watford", he said.

Future plans

It hoped to start a recruitment

campaign in Watford early in the

New Year to increase support in

that area. Special emphasis will

again be laid on raising funds to

aid distressed families at home

and in Britain.

Officers elected for the

coming year were as follows:

Chairman, Mr. John Joe McGinn,

Co. of Ballinamore, Leitrim;

Secretary, Miss Carmel

Hempstall, Balla, Co. Mayo;

Treasurer, Mr. Dermot Mullooly,

Strokestown, Co. Roscommon;

Education Officer, Miss Maureen

McLochlainn, Ballinamore Co.

Leitrim; P.R.O. Mr. John

Flaherty, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Delegates to Ard Comhairle:

Mr. P.J. Kearney Sligo town and

Mr. Cathal Kelly, Glenfarne Co.

Leitrim.

SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was

passed by Mr. Dan Hoban,

Blackfort, Castlebar, on the death

of his father, John Hoban, R.I.P.

North Leitrim

Comhairle

Cheantair

At the annual general meeting

of the North Leitrim Comhairle

Cheantair officers elected for the

coming year were: Chairman,

SINN FEIN SUPPORT FOR WORKERS

At a recent meeting of the officers of Comhairle Cheantair, the decision of Irish shipping Ltd., in planning orders for two ships in Japan was condemned.

"This action will result in redundancies in the Verolme Dockyard, Cork", a statement issued by the officer board said.

The statement continued: "The blame for this state of affairs must rest squarely on the shoulders of an inept government". Sinn Fein pledges full support to the workers who may become victims of this ineptitude and lose their jobs.

S.F. members questioned by Branch

"On December 20, 1974, a letter appeared in *An Phoblacht* forecasting future redundancies in the Verolme yard. The letter had been written by the Cobl S.F.

"Following its publication Special Branch members questioned that member of that Cumann regarding the source of

Cathal Kelly; Vice-chairman, Peter Nolan, Secretary, Rosemary McGowan; Treasurers, Thomas Kelly and Chris Dolan; Finance Officer, Sean McGloin; Publicity Officer, Frank Doherty; Education Officer, Cathal Kelly; P.R.O., Patrick McNulty.

Glenfarne

At the Annual General Meeting of Glenfarne Cumann the following officers were elected: Chairman, Frank O'Reourke; Vice-chairman, Cathal Kelly; Secretary, Thomas Kelly; Treasurer, Rosemary McGowan.

Ballymun

Following are the officers elected for the coming year by the McCabe/Quigley, Ballymun, Dublin: Chairman, Paddy Devine; Vice-chairman, George Marshall; Secretary, Pearse Tunney; Treasurer, Cora Marshall and Lila Kidd; P.R.O., Niall Donnelly.

Cork

The Annual General Meeting of the Tomas Mac Cartaill S.F. Cumann, Cork was held on Friday, November 28th.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Paddy O'Farrell; John Byrne; Ruairí Mayo, S.O.U.; Leas-cathaoirleach, Sean Shaw; Seamus McDonald; Cisteoir; Sean Shaw, P.R.O.; Delegates to the C.C. Mrs. Patricia Virgo and Patrick Walsh.

The meeting was well attended.

Meath

Following are the officers elected by the Meath Comhairle Cheantair for the coming year: Chairman, Brendan Cummins; Vice-chairman, J. L. McCormack; Secretary, Alan Brady; Treasurer, Peter Kane; P.R.O. Billy Goonan; Finance Officer, Pat Farrelly; Delegates to Comhairle Cheantair, Sean and Billy Coonan.

Sord Cholmchille

Toghadh, na hoigigh seo a leanas ag crinníú le Chumann Thomáis Ágáis, Sord Cholmchille (Swords) le deanáil: Cathaoirleach, Paddy Fox; Ruairí, Raymond Eakins; Cisteoir, David Power; Delagáidí chug an Comhairle, Cheantair, R. Eakins agus S. Murphy.

Cuirtear fáilte roimh baill nua.

DEATH OF MEATH REPUBLICAN

THE Republican Movement in Meath has lost a great friend life-long supporter, with the death of Jimmy Marron, of Summerhill.

A life long Republican, he served sentences in Dundalk jail and the Curragh.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and family in their sad bereavement.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

JOIN

SINN FEIN

Anyone who wishes to join the McCabe/Quigley S.F. Cumann, Ballymun, Dublin is requested to contact: P. Tunney, 7 Cedarwood Rd., Ballymun, Dublin.

NOTEBOOK

John Hume has a nerve

THE mindlessness of establishment politics was never better exemplified than at the recent Irish Labour Party and SDLP annual conferences. Indeed the only semblance of life – not to mention “mind” – was when the *Provisionals* were mentioned. What would these establishment politicians do for a cheer if there were no *Provisional IRA*?

The principal speeches went something like this: Tum-diddy-tum-diddy, do-da-day. Diddy-blah-blah, daddy-whack-wham-bang-boom THE PROVISIONAL IRA! Loud cheering and clapping, major commotion in the hall. Ta-de-ray, ta-de-to-ray-ra. Bim-bang, daddy-do. Blah-blah, bang-blast-whooosh, wham THE PROVISIONAL IRA. More loud cheering and frenzied clapping of hands. And so on.

Just listen closely next time all or part of one of these conferences is broadcast and you'll see that I don't exaggerate.

But John Hume really has a nerve. Referring to the tradition of Irish nationalism – “our own tradition” he actually called it – he said as follows:

That tradition in the bombing, shooting and maiming by people who think they have the divine right to determine what is Irish and what is not. This is being done by a narrow section of Irishmen who want the entire country to conform to their narrow view and who want to see us pounded into one mould and want to destroy the right diversity that exists in this island.

Translated into simple language, John Hume is saying that the Republican Movement “wants the entire country to conform to its narrow view” and “wants to see everyone in Ireland pounded into one mould and to destroy the diversity that exists”.

John Hume says this about a political organisation which distributes hundreds of thousands of leaflets and booklets urging the people of Ireland to organise themselves as a federation of four self-governing provinces with self-governing regions and districts.

He speaks on behalf of a party which has never, on any occasion, criticised the centralist bureaucratic regime in the 26 Counties, and which has stated repeatedly that it hopes – some day and by peaceful means – to subject the Six Counties to that same Dublin government. That, after all, is what a “United Ireland” means for every Ulster Loyalist and for every old-fashioned Six-County nationalist; and the SDLP is publicly committed to achieving a United Ireland.

In other words, on the well-known Goebbels principle that, if you are telling a lie in politics, it had best be a big lie, Mr. Hume accuses the Republican Movement of having the direct opposite of its declared aim, and of having, in fact, the same ultimate aim as the SDLP.

Has the SDLP ever spoken of the right of Ulstermen to self-government? Not a single one of their policy documents mentions such a right. Has John Hume ever said that the Ulster British and the Ulster Irish communities must have institutions which enable them to express and develop their diversity within a common citizenship? Never once has he proposed any such thing.

Has Mr. Hume ever spoken with respect of the Irish nationalist tradition, of its values, its great men and women, its great movements, its enduring humanism? He has not, and he cannot produce or point to a single passage in any of his many speeches to prove the contrary.

Nor, needless to say, has he ever spoken with respect of the values or remembered glories of the Ulster Loyalist tradition.

Certainly, Mr. Hume has referred many times to these two “traditions” or “allegiances”, but he has spoken of them only in the abstract – which is the only way he thinks about either of them or relates to them. He adheres to neither of them, he loves neither of them. He loves nothing at all but himself. And in this he is typical of the leading members of the SDLP.

Mr. Hume wants every Irishman to be like himself – nothing. He is a typical liberal, a malleable instrument and propagandist of the capitalist status quo. “Make everyone

nothing so that we can make whatever we like out of them”. That sums up the liberal programme, and the aspirations of men like John Jume.

Who talks of Ulster, Munster, Connacht and Leinster, the Gaeltacht, Kerry, Derry and Wexford? The Republican Movement or the SDLP? Who advocates underpinning all these Irish diversities with their own self-governing institutions? The Republican Movement or the SDLP?

Hume knows the answers and he knows that the Republicans are right. He knows that their respect for the diverse social realities of Irish life – and their attachment to these realities – is the threat to him and to his rootless party.

He wishes he could be different, but he can't: something died in him many years ago. So he tells that big lie I have quoted to you, hoping that somehow or other its sheer bigness will make it right.

I see that the “Visitor to the Ardfeis” (who wrote in this paper some weeks ago) got an answer to his criticisms from Aindrias Ó Ceallaigh, Sinn Féin's new national PRO. Well, perhaps if Freeman framed some of his comments on Sinn Féin affairs as criticisms, rather than as simple questions, he might get answers too!

Certainly, his respectful questions never get the courtesy of an answer from any PRO, although – judging by the reports one reads of “newly elected officers” up and down the land – there are shoals of PROs around. Sometimes Freeman feels, as he listens to the silence which follows his queries, that he has been addressing himself to a graveyard rather than to a political movement;

I'll come back to that, but I must say that I didn't find Mr. Ó Ceallaigh's answers entirely satisfactory. He didn't say how the Ardfeis Steering Committee is selected – who selects it. And he didn't really dispose of the criticism about all those motions which didn't get discussed.

I realise that this latter complaint arises at the annual conferences of many political parties, and I simply don't understand why the party leaderships allow this unsatisfactory state of affairs to occur year after year. It certainly is unsatisfactory to ask all your branches or cumains to submit to a graveyard rather than to a political movement and then to埋 more of them.

It doesn't seem very sensible that, on the one annual occasion when the party faithful gather together to discuss the party's affairs, many of them should be sent away with the feeling that they have been trampled on.

I think Sinn Féin should put an end to this once for all and that the opportunity to do so is presented by the new Provincial Councils of the organisation. Let each Comhairle Chúige hold its own annual Ardfeis prior to the national Ardfeis and thrash out the motions of its own cumains and comhairle ceantair.

Then the only motions going forward to the national Ardfeis would be those from the Provincial Councils. This would certainly reduce their numbers a lot, sort out the motions with general relevance from those of a provincial nature, and enable all motions to be discussed.

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FREEMAN.

by

FREEMAN

Free Derry News

Two volunteers commemorated

Loyalists attack

ON Sunday last, November 30th, the Brady/Carr Sinn Féin cumann, (Creggan and Bogside) led friends, comrades, and admirers of Lt. John Brady and Vol. Jimmy Carr in the third commemoration of these two much-respected martyrs for Irish Freedom.

At the spot where they were killed on active service, underneath a plaque erected by the cumann to their memory, uniformed members of the Republican movement led in a decade of the Rosary.

A minute's silence was observed before all who were present marched to the City Cemetery where wreaths were laid and an oration given.

Wreaths were laid at the Republican Movement on behalf of Oglath na hÉireann, the Brady/Carr S.F. Cumann, the Derry Comhairle Cheantair, and relatives of the two deceased.

Despite inclement weather there was a good attendance and those gathered heard a former comrade of the two deceased deliver the following oration:

“Winter and the scene is set for another occasion to remember the brave sacrifice of volunteers. Lt. John Brady and Jimmy Carr. Born with separate identities, but united in martyrdom for their country which they loved so well; their martyrdom explains in utmost simplicity why we, the living, must not fail to live up to their great expectation: that Ireland Gaelic and free once again will take her rightful place among the nations of the world.

“The bravery of these men, members of the finest generation of Irishmen, is undisputed. Denied their civil liberties since birth, John Brady and Jimmy Carr sought to remedy that unjust situation by joining the ranks of Oglath na hÉireann, fighting a war against oppression in firm hopes that once day freedom, as envisaged by all men of truth, will reign throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

Brutal Laws

“Through eight hundred years of brutal laws and violent institutions designed to preserve foreign domination by means of murder, famine, and imprisonment, we have learned of the urgent need of the services of men like Jimmy Carr and John Brady.

“For instance, the domination of Stormont in vital decision-making, their discrimination against Catholics in housing and jobs, their reactions to peaceful protests by attacking unarmed civilians with the might of organised violence from the state, all brought these two young men to the realisation that something must be done, to save another generation from coming

to life and growing old under the same oppression.

“Brave men, like John Brady and Jimmy Carr, and women too, for these reasons have fought this bitter struggle, gladly giving up the best days of their lives, and finally even their young lives, so that you and I may walk tall and free in our own land: free to be ourselves, free to claim our rights and civil liberties in a society which had denied us access to what was rightfully ours.

Struggles must continue

“Amidst the lies and slander poured so freely from the establishment press and television, we must continually put before the public these questions and force them to confront these realities with their own consciences: Is it right to hold a nation by force of arms? For that is what Britain is doing. Is it right for a people to resist this evil with arms? For this is why these two young men rest in Derry dust years ahead of their time.

“If we agree that what they did is admirable and brave, we must continue to support their struggle until the final victory, so long awaited, is achieved”, the oration ended.



Lt. John Brady (Above) and Vol. Jimmy Carr (Below) killed in action in Derry city on November 28th, 1972.



Hooligans warned

The Eamonn Lafferty Cumann, Creggan, warns hooligans who are annoying old age pensioners in Creggan, in the Lone Moor Gardens area:

Your conduct has been reported to the Sinn Féin Advice and Complaint Centres; and you are strongly advised to give up your inconsiderate and juvenile behaviour before your stupidity lands you in real trouble.

Look out for Bosco



Secret policeman Bosco Gleeson.

On the night of Friday, November 28th, a car travelling from the new fly-over on the Lecky Road around 8 p.m. slowed down outside the Brandywell Sinn Advice Centre, and pumped four shots into a house opposite it. The family occupying the house includes an ex-internee, and the next morning the shells on the ground were collected and the bullet holes on the walls remain for all to see.

Anyons standing outside on the street could have fallen victim to these gunmen, who then sped away down Hamilton Street. Only the intense cold, which kept everyone huddled around their own fires that night, and God's grace prevented any tragedies. One man, standing on the street corner, felt the bullets whizz through his hair, just missing him.

The next day, B.A. foot patrols were so thick in Creggan, Brandywell and the Bog that no one could walk 10 yards outside their own door without tripping. Over-vile-tempered jungle-camouflaged troops where all these gunmen come from? Eye witnesses say the car came from the Fountain Estate – where UDR man Robert Stott had been buried earlier that day. It is a simple matter to drive a car from the Fountain Estate, down the new fly-over into the Bog, turn down Lecky Road, and escape via Hamilton Street and then Bishop Street, back to the Fountain, without ever encountering any B.A. roadblocks. Even if by chance the car had been stopped by a random patrol, once any Loyalist identities had been established, past experience has shown us that the Brits would wave the car on, even if their guns were still smoking.

The Brits answer is to lift dozens of young men from the Irish areas, multiply foot patrols and send out the UDR.

During the past few days, the UDR have been especially noticeable on the streets of Derry – probably an effort by the Brits to familiarise the UDR – which means the UFF, UVF, andUDA, too, of course with the Bog, Brandywell and Creggan.

Bundoran function

A most enjoyable and successful social was held in the Royal Hotel, Bundoran on Friday, 21st November.



Joe O'Neill, U.D.C.

Joe O'Neill, U.D.C., acted as Fear a Tighe. Mrs. Vinny Hutchinson, Chairman of the local Sinn Féin Cumann, introduced Sean Keenan, Derry, who delivered an oration in which he thanked the people of Donegal for their support and appealed for greater support for an Cumann Cabhrach.

Republican Post Bag

WHO REALLY RULES THE STATE

IT WILL be agreed, I believe, that this is an important question. Moreover, the average citizen, faced with this query, would promptly reply: The political party which in a free General Election was given a majority of the votes cast by the electorate. But would that be a true answer? And if it is not a true answer, how can we arrive at one? That is the problem I set myself to answer.

Searching through the records of men who, in the eyes of the citizens at least, had wielded supreme power — men who had been Prime Ministers and chancellors of the exchequer, ministers of finance and so forth I came up with such frank answers, as made a sorrowful joke of the opinion of the citizenry. With no more ado I set forth these answers:

MENJAMIN DISRAELI, M.P. Leader of the Tory Party, and Prime Minister 1868. He was also an author, having written an outspoken book entitled "Coningsby", from which I take the following extract:

"So you see, my dear Coningsby, the people are ruled by very different personages than commonly supposed. Governments do not govern. They merely administer, being themselves governed by the hidden hand".

W.E. GLADSTONE, M.P. leader of the Liberal Party, Prime Minister 1872 speaking in the House of Commons on his experiences when Chancellor of the Exchequer said:

"I began to learn that the State, in the face of the Bank (of England) and the City (Stock Exchange) as essentially false position as to finance. The hinge of the whole position was this. The Government itself was not to be a substantive power in matters of finance, but was to leave the money-power supreme and unquestioned. I was reluctant to acquiesce; and began to fight against it by financial self-assertion.

"I was tenaciously opposed by the Governor and Deputy Governor, who had seats in Parliament; and I had the City for antagonist on every occasion".

WINSTON CHURCHILL, M.P. and Prime Minister, speaking in Parliament of his experiences whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer said:

"When I was moved by many arguments and forces in 1925, to return to the Gold Standard, I was assured by the highest experts, and our experts are men of great ability and indisputable integrity and sincerity, that we were thereby anchoring ourselves to stability, and I accepted their advice.

"But what happened? We have no reality, no stability. The price of gold has risen since then by more than 70%. That is as if a 12-inch rule had suddenly become 19 or 20 inches, as if the pound avoirdupois had suddenly become 23 or 24 ounces instead of 16.

"Look at what all this has meant to everyone who has been compelled to execute their contracts upon this irrationally enhanced scale. Look at the gross unfairness of such distortion to all producers of new wealth and to all that labour, and science, and enterprise can give us. Look at the enormously increased volume of commodities which have to be created in order to pay off the same mortgage, loan, or debt. Minor fluctuations might well be ignored. But, I say quiet seriously, that this monetary convulsion has now reached such a pitch where I am persuaded that the producers of new wealth

will not tolerate indefinitely so hideous an oppression.

"I, therefore, point to this evil and to the search for the removal of it as the first, second and third of all the problems which should revit and command our thoughts".

Comment: Winston was merely talking politics and knew it. The people of Great Britain, unfortunately for themselves, did continue to "tolerate this hideous oppression", with the results that they suffered the decline and hardships of the inflation period of the 1930's; and today her mighty empire no longer exists and she is irretrievably a bankrupt nation with no hope of discharge. That financial authority, Lord Rothschild, head of the Control Financial Advisory Staff to every British Government, put it: — Speaking at the Agriculture Research Laboratory in 1974, he said:

"I take the opportunity to ventilate a fear I have about this country; and he went on to say that if there was not a restraint to the spending of policies being pursued, England would be a poverty-stricken island by 1985".

Well, Rothschild is a member of the great banking family which has played a major party in controlling international finance. His warning went unheeded, simply because politicians live and prosper by spending the people's money lavishly. The food of the evil of Vested Interests is the other fellas' money. Not only has there been no restraint but a heavy increase in borrowing and spending with the obvious result that Rothschilds forecast of 1985 must be shortened by some years.

I will conclude this answer to the question by presenting one more quotation. It explains "all the tricks of the bankers trade" in language.

MR. REGINALD MCKENNA, M.P. He was a Chancellor of the Exchequer. He quit politics to become chairman of the Midland Bank, which is one of the BIG FIVE BANKS in England. Addressing an AGM of the shareholders he said:

"I am afraid that the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can, and do, create money. The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or decreasing deposits or bank purchases. Every loan, over-draft, or bank purchase creates a deposit; and every repayment of a loan, over-draft, or bank sale destroys a deposit; they who control and credit of a nation, direct the policy of Government and hold in the hollow of their hands the destinies of the people".

Well, that is plain enough, even for the most uninitiated. It is, briefly, the good old trick of "double Entry book-keeping" which, to a great extent, eliminates the necessity for cash; and brings forward the contemporary trick of "credit finances". This has enabled "the Money-Lords" to wipe off gold as an existing monetary unit, and set up Paper Money as the world's monetary unit, keeping silver and copper in use for small change.

The ultimate objective is to reduce the people of the world to a position of mere "Credit-Card-holders". They will be by this trick deprived of all private and corporate property. They will be tenants-at-will under a World Government. Even so it looks as if "the people will continue to tolerate this evil and hideous oppression".

—W.J. Brennan-Whitmore, Comdt., Baile Atha Cliath.

INSPIRATION

DURING the week, I came across a quotation from "The Irish Felon" by James Fintan Lalor.

"Any man", he wrote, "who tells you that an act of armed resistance — even if offered by ten men only — even if offered by men armed only with stones — any man who tells you that such an act of resistance is premature, imprudent or dangerous — any and every such man should at once be spurned and spat upon.

"For mark you this and recollect it, that somewhere and somehow and by somebody, a beginning must be made and that the first act of resistance is always and must be ever premature imprudent and dangerous".

I felt strangely inspired by this quotation.

—S. Mac Giolla Bride,

Baile Atha Cliath.

CRIMINAL LAW (JURISDICTION) BILL

OVER the years there have been many struggles to rid Ireland of British imperialist domination.

In these struggles many great men have died, including Tone, Pearse and Connolly. Their sacrifices were an example to all and their attempts to free Ireland were carried on until the Treaty and after it. With the Treaty the removal of British military forces from twenty-six of Ireland's thirty-two counties was brought about. A "state" was rigged up in the north-east of Ulster to maintain British capital investment there.

However, the present regime in Leinster House is now seeking to reintroduce the Queen's visit to the streets of Dublin and to the rest of the twenty-six counties. They are not content with British "rule" in the six counties, and wish to serve their Westminster masters as fully as possible.

The most ironic part of the whole affair is that the Labour Party, a so-called socialist party, is supporting Fine Gael in this matter. They seem to have forgotten the basic teachings of Connolly, that Ireland must be freed from British imperialism, and that capitalism must be overthrown. Can they sincerely believe that it is proper to invite British law, and the British forces of occupation, to extend their jurisdiction throughout the whole island? Have they not yet realised that the British army is now engaged in the same tactics as it was when it executed James Connolly, a man who did more for the Labour Movement in Ireland than the whole party has done since his death?

The Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill is a step in the direction of complete British domination in Ireland. It is another example of the Coalition government's attempts at collaboration with the forces of British imperialism (while it is questioning the tactics of these same forces in Strabane). A logical extension to this collaboration would be to allow these forces to enter the twenty-six counties in a manner similar to Operation Motorman, during which they invaded the republican areas of Belfast and Derry.

The nationally minded people of Ireland must reject this piece

A Republican Pipe Band is being formed in Dun Laoghaire. This is a venture which I feel deserves the support of all as there is no Republican band anywhere in Dublin City or County and the movement is involved in considerable expense hiring bands for parades etc.

Already some instruments have been acquired but more are needed before the band can go on the road.

Anyone who has pipes, drums, practice chanters or drum sticks or who knows where any are to be had are requested to get in touch with the undersigned.

Cash donations are also welcome.

—Cathleen Knowles, C/o. An Phoblaht, 44, Parnell Square, Baile Atha Cliath.

The official policy of the Republican Movement is expressed in statements issued by Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau and the leadership of the Republican Movement.

Views expressed here, by letter writers, by regular columnists and in other signed contributions, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the publishers.

Letters to the Editor will have a better chance of publication if short, typewritten on one side of paper and well spaced. Faile ar leith roinnt Ghaeilge.

CARRIGART

Visit your
Eire Nua Bookshop
Carrigart
for your Christmas
shopping

We have in stock:

Records (Singles & L.P.), Tapes (4 Track and 8 Track), Republican Christmas Cards, Books (on Irish History); Wallets, Hankies, Harps, St. Brigid's Crosses, Leather Wrist Bands, Placards, Pictures etc., made by Republican prisoners.

(while British and Orange fascist politicians can broadcast their anti-Irish hatred at will). He now wants to deny them other forms of free speech.

No doubt the coming civic reception for Dr. Herrema, which will be paid for by ratepayers' money, but to which very few ratepayers will be invited, will provide yet another opportunity for the local T.D.'s and councillors to make hysterical anti-Republican speeches.

—Padraig Malone, P.R.O., Seosamh O Domhachadh S.C. Cumann, Luinreach.

PEOPLE AT WAR

Colman Doyle's recent book "People at War" continues to head the best-selling list at the Craft Shop.

The book, containing many never previously published photographs of Orlaigh na hEireann in action will become a collectors' piece.

Only a limited number remain and if you wish to be sure of your copy, call or write to the Craft Shop, 44, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

PEOPLE AT WAR Price £4.50
Postage 20p.



GIFT TOKENS

THIS CHRISTMAS, solve your gift problem by purchasing a GIFT TOKEN at the Craft Centre, 4 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Attractively presented, these tokens costs 25p and are available for amounts from £1.00 upwards.

We have a large selection of prisoners crafts, records of Irish interest, books, including Colman Doyle's Pictorial History of Events from 1969, Phoenix emblems and medallions, tapes and eight track cassettes.

By making use of our gift tokens, you not only solve your gift problem, but support the Republican Movement as well.

**DUN
LAOGHAIRE
PIPE BAND**

Port Laoise prisoners demand sworn inquiry

Sick prisoners sleeping on floor

THE Republican prisoners in Port Laoise jail are demanding a public sworn inquiry into the management and running of the jail.

This demand was made to the visiting committee on Tuesday, December 2, 1975 following a week of brutal conditions in the jail. False statements were issued by the Dept. of Justice and reports on B.B.C. I.T.V. of Gelignite being found in a cell, and a fracas between warders, Gardai and prisoners were untrue.

The explosive situation in the jail was created by the authorities, on Wednesday last when the Governor, Mr. O'Reilly, informed the prisoners O/C that he was going to seize by force the small quantity of delphi in each cell; a request to refrain from such action was contemptuously dismissed by the Governor. In order to avoid a confrontation and serious injuries, and as a protest against the lowering of the already inhuman standards and conditions, it was decided to dispose of the delphi by dropping it from cell windows. That action was carried out without injuries to anyone.

Within an hour the following punishment was inflicted on all Political prisoners:

- Removal of all furniture and beds from cells.
- Deprivation of exercise, ablutions, laundry, recreational, craft, library and T.V. facilities.
- Banning of all visits mail and news-papers.
- Withdrawal of Tuck shop facilities.
- Harrasment of prisoners by frequent searches and threats to strip men naked.
- Denial of access to Chaplains and legal advisers.
- Collective fining of all Political Prisoners of £3.50 each without their consent.

FLU EPIDEMIC

The punishment has resulted in Prisoners eating and sleeping on the floors. The use of fire hoses on the upper storey on Saturday

20.11.75 caused flooding of the ground floor and water and squalor on all landings adding to the gloom and dreariness of the dirtiest Prison in Britain and Ireland. A flu epidemic has broken out and extreme hardship is being endured as a result of men sleeping on damp floors. The situation was further aggravated on Sunday 30.11.75 when a number of non Provo prisoners were left handcuffed in their cells.

By any standards the scale of punishment inflicted by the Governor was outrageous for what was a relatively minor protest. The utter contempt shown by the Governor for his own prison regulations is an affront to any society.

GOVERNOR'S THREATS

Mr. O'Reilly's arrogance and truculence, and his frequent threats to employ police and military riot squads (permanently in the Prison) is a major cause of conflict.

For two years prisoners have been demanding humane conditions in Port Laoise. A number of men went to death's door during a hunger strike last February to secure an improvement in conditions. Promises made by the Department of Justice have been reneged on. The prisoners are now demanding a sworn public inquiry to expose the brutal conditions under which they are forced to live. We call on all concerned citizens to support our demand because failure to hold an inquiry will inevitably lead to further tragedies in the appalling history of Port Laoise Prison which has already claimed the life of one prisoner and broken the health of many during the past two years.

THE STATEMENT WAS SIGNED BY DAITHI Ó CONAILL AND LIAM SEAN KELLY ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Dublin Airport bombings

THE following statement has been received from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau:

"Saturday's explosion at Dublin Airport, killing one man and injuring five others, is cruelly indicative of the

Listowel

A function in aid of An Cumann Cabhrach will be held in the Listowel Arms Hotel on Sunday, 14th December. Music by the Zodiacs.

Organised by the Listowel Sinn Féin Cumainn.

sustained confidence of British and Loyalist assassins that, in face of no-warning bombs, Dublin politicians are ever ready to yield to demands for more repressive legislation.

"It is three years since the Amendment to the Offences Against the State Act, itself unprecedented in its coercive nature, was passed by Leinster House politicians at the behest of two British bombs exploded in Dublin. Now Justice Minister Cooney's Criminal Law Jurisdiction

Bill, having been endorsed and promoted by Mr. Corriss and his party will undoubtedly have its smooth passage further enhanced and speeded up as a result of the Airport bombings.

"It is of interest to note that while the bombs were being laid in Dublin Airport, Mr. Cooney's Special Branch police were occupied in harassing guests at a wedding reception in Monaghan town.

Others of the Special Branch were meeting Mr. Ian Paisley at the Border, and escorting him to Clones."

The statement was signed: P. O'Neill, Runai, I.R.P.B.

BALLYMAGUINAN
The Sheridan/Lee/Bateson
Commemoration will be held in Ballymaguinan on Sunday 21 December.

ASSEMBLY: Ballymaguinan f'ball pitch at 2.30.

Regretted Deaths



The G.H.Q. Staff, Officers and Volunteers deeply regret the deaths of Staff Officer Laura Crawford, Belfast Brigade, Cumann na mBan, and Lieut. Paul Fox, Belfast Brigade, Oglach na hÉireann, killed on active service, and extend deepest sympathy to the relatives, comrades and friends.

I measc laochra na hÉireann sna flaitheis, go raibh siad.



St. Off. Laura Crawford, R.I.P.

Aonach na Nollag...



THE Annual Aonach na Nollag (Christmas Fair) in aid of the Republican prisoners' dependants was held in the Mansion House, Dublin on December 5, 6 and 7. As the Aonach was getting under way, a cheque for a substantial amount was presented to An Cumann Cabhrach by Gerry O'Hare on behalf of the readers of *An Phoblacht*.

Our picture shows Mr. O'Hare presenting the cheque to Mrs. Eileen Barrett, a member of the An Cumann Cabhrach Central Committee. Also in the picture are Central Committee members - from left Tommy O'Neill, Tom Ennis, Joe Cahill and (seated at front) Máire Ni Chearnaigh.

Plea for support for Frank Stagg

In a statement received from Liam Mac Larnon, P.R.O., for Wakefield Prison, Yorkshire, England, a grim and shocking story is told of the treatment of Frank Stagg.

In his statement Mac Larnon says: He was also made to suffer force feeding and degregation of every sort carried out by British prison doctors. He ended a 77-day hunger strike in Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight a few days after his friend and comrade Michael Gaughan, had died from the effects of force feeding on June 3, 1974. Later he was forced once more to resort to hunger strike action in Wakefield prison.

Just imagining what 11 months of solitary confinement has done to this man after two long hunger strikes from which he has not recovered completely:

"Nevertheless he carries on his campaign by withholding all co-operation with the prison authorities.

"Frank is a man of great courage and mental endurance. We, his comrades are powerless to help him gain a transfer to the Six Counties.

"With Christmas approaching families and friends will be gathering to celebrate the Holy Feast together.

"Those who for one reason or another cannot be at home will be missed by family, relatives and friends. With this thought in mind we call upon the people of Ireland to remember the Irish political prisoners wherever they may be held this Christmas.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

"Here in Wakefield we ask you to keep in mind especially one lone Irishman - Frank Stagg. Frank has been in the prison punishment block in total solitary confinement for the past 11 months because he wishes to be transferred to a prison in the Six Counties.

"This man has come close to death during two hunger strikes, in his attempt to bring about a transfer to the North.

"It is up to you, our people outside to bring pressure on the British Government and anybody else you may think can help. It is now in your hands", the statement ended.

Ulster, future without Britain

NORTH ARMAGH Comhairle Cheanáin, Sinn Féin are organising a demonstration in North St. Lurgan on Saturday, December 27, based on the above theme. It is becoming increasingly evident that any so-called Irish solution which involves a British element of control in Ireland will inevitably lead to further conflict.

British solutions based on a facade of self determination for 6 counties with local sectarian opportunists playing the role of middle-men, offers no opportunity for progress, peace and justice for neither the people of Ulster nor the people of Ireland as a whole.

Such a British solution ensured by the threat of sectarian murders, sectarian bloodbaths, a massive prison population is a sure recipe for further suffering of the Ulster people in the future. 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 without British threats or British inspired threats. The sooner the people of Ulster reject British imposed solutions and make a genuine attempt to live in the Ireland of 1976 only then will the conflict end.

The above demonstration is called to expose the failure of Britain to impose any solution in the 6 counties and to highlight the advantages of the Ulster people in recognising this fact. The demonstration will start at 11.00 a.m. and end at 3.00 p.m. where speakers will give addresses at 1.30 and 2.30 p.m. at which questions can be put to the speakers. Literature will be available for discussion on the Sinn Féin proposals for a United Ulster in a Federal Ireland.

- P.R.O.

North Armagh C.C., Sinn Féin.

Christmas Card

Supplies of our "Phoenix" Christmas Card, are still available from the Craft Centre.