

An Phoblacht

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ASSASSINATION BID FAILS

ONLY SPLIT-SECOND timing saved the life of Séamus Loughran when he, his wife and two sons were sitting watching a TV thriller in the sitting room at the back of their house in west Belfast close to 21.00 hours last Sunday night.

"A stone weighing about two pounds was thrown through the window," Séamus said shortly after the incident, probably to part the curtains. Then the sub-machine gun blasted away. But as soon as the stone came through the window and bounced on the table I shouted to everyone: 'Hit the deck' and they did."

Mrs. Josephine Loughran (38), Séamus (39), and their sons, Séamus Óg (12) and Ciaran (11), all were bunched closely together. Ciaran was the only one to get even slightly hurt: a ricochet bullet, well spent, grazed his head. It could have been a scene of dreadful carnage but for the quick reactions of all four.

The would-be assassin, apparently, was not particularly worried as to how many would die when he blazed away. He and his companion, the man who threw the stone, must have been close enough to the window to hear the four talking. One of the five bullets removed was found in the settee where Séamus senior had been sitting: "If I had not moved," he said, "I would have just about entered my heart."

The Ardchomhairle member and former internee said he believed that a N.L.F. murder squad had been responsible. It was of the same pattern as the attempt two days earlier on the Sinn Féin organiser, Paul Best (19), still critically ill in an intensive care unit in a Belfast hospital, and the killing of the New Lodge Road TIC Director, Séamus Mac Osgur, reported in last week's edition of this paper.

CLOSE RANGE

The shots appeared to have been fired from a range of about six feet and the attempt came in the wake of a week-long bid by the Sinn Féin Uachtarán, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, to find mediators acceptable to Ogláigh na hÉireann and the N.L.F., to bring an end to the armed clashes and the terrorising and robbing of working people by criminal elements in the Republican Clubs.

As we go to press, the N.L.F. had neither denied responsibility for the attack nor condemned it.

"While Tomás Mac Giolla continued his baseless attacks on the Republican Movement from Dublin," Séamus Loughran said, "Ruairí had to travel to Belfast to find a way to peace and an end to lawlessness and spent the best part of a week here."

"He didn't leave until mediators, acceptable to both sides, had been found, and an amnesty offer made to all N.L.F. members willing publicly to dissociate themselves from the criminal elements."

Séamus pointed out that there had been no N.L.F. attempt to refute the accusations of Briogáid Bheal Feirste, Ogláigh na hÉireann, documented in detail at a Belfast press conference last week. Neither had the N.L.F. condemned the black-rent campaign of its criminal elements, nor the hundreds of robberies, nor the terrorising of the working people.

At this press conference the last written report of the late TIC director, Séamus Mac

NLF HAVE IT EASIER

Jimmy Drumm, Falls TIC Director, denied emphatically the NLF's shameful accusations of collusion with enemy forces and pointed out that the ratio of Republicans and N.L.F. members sentenced was about 10 to one; also, that Republicans tend to receive far heavier sentences than N.L.F. members. The Provo gets eight years and the N.L.F. member two for a similar alleged offence: that is the general pattern of discrimination.

Gerry McGuire, chairman, Andersonstown Co-Op., revealed N.L.F. threats against this body's work in refurbishing houses on Moyard Estate for the Housing Trust. Twice, the N.L.F. ordered the co-op; to quit the estate and the loss of 80 jobs.

Séamus Loughran explained: "Why these threats? Because, we assume, all the workers are ex-internees, our own people. And because the first 10 units were ready to be handed over. In all, there are about 70 units and when they are ready houses will be provided for 70 families."

The first 10 were to have been handed over to the Trust on Monday, the day we go to press. The workers had met on Friday, he added, and had decided unanimously not to be intimidated but to continue their work.

This was the co-op, slandered by the "News of the World" and the "Sunday Times" and, later, by Jill Knight, who was told by Merlyn Rees to produce her evidence of fraud by November 28 or withdraw her allegations against the co-op. and the Housing Trust.

RECORDS GRABBED

Strangely enough, a week before Jill Knight picked up the slander from the Fleet Street muckrakers the offices of the co-op. were raided by enemy soldiers and all records taken away: no fraud evidence was found and these records were returned.

The co-op. management has offered to have its books examined by newsmen, by accountants representing Jill Knight or by any other curious person. The challenge has not been accepted.

The N.L.F. intimidation squads find themselves in very strange company — bigoted Unionists and anti-co-op. newspapers — in the campaign to smash the co-op., end its rehousing drive, deprive homeless people of a roof



At the Sinn Féin Press Conference were (right to left) Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Séamus Loughran, Maire Drumm, Priomhás Mac Airt and James Drumm.

over their heads, and force 80 ex-internees back to the unemployment queue. Who, with any pretence to any kind of socialism, could stand over such a campaign?

"The mediators have come forward," said Séamus Loughran. "We can't say who. They are respectable people, acceptable to both sides. Sinn Féin officials, headed by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, put them in contact with leaders of Briogáid Bheal Feirste, Ogláigh na hÉireann. That is as far as Sinn Féin could go.

"They have made contact also with the N.L.F. and we are hoping that the killings, maimings, robbery and intimidation will stop.

It has been made clear that no Republican has any quarrel with people or groups because of political beliefs. It is criminal activities and the people's complaints about them that have resulted in the reaction of Briogáid Bheal Feirste."

Despite all the problems and difficulties in Belfast at present, he added, Comhairle-cheanárt Bheal Feirste of Sinn Féin had met on Sunday for its annual general meeting and had elected a new officer board as well as delegates for the Comhairle Chúige. All cumainn in the city were represented fully.

Local people re-open border roads

THE UNITED people on both sides of the Border have won an important victory over the forces of repression, north and south, in the re-opening of cross-Border roads closed by enemy forces. Last Sunday three more roads were restored.

This makes a total of nine repaired roads out of the 15 blocked by enemy troops. Enemy officers have been heard telling a foreign TV crew that the policy now was not to interfere when local people repaired the roads and not to block any more roads "except occasionally, as a token exercise, to keep the politicians quiet."

But the road-repair work had had a virtually unexpected result in Dublin — a somersault in Fine Gael policy, announced by John Kelly in Leinster House last week.

Kelly said the enemy had been told that no Border roads should be closed and that such exercises were "counter-productive." Kelly also sought to make political capital out of his statements: "I am satisfied that the level of inconvenience to local residents has been minimised as a result of our representations."

Rising temper

Kelly hardly can be unaware, however, of the "Irish Press" report on October 17 when Donegan was quoted as saying that he accepted fully the need to block certain Border roads. Some of the crossings

from Monaghan to Dundalk were necessary.

Since October, 17 it has been made very clear to Fine Gael HQs that Donegan's remarks are deeply resented and will not be forgotten next time at the poll.

Now smooth-tongued Kelly moves in to repair the damage done by blundering Donegan. The Fine Gael and Fianna Fail somersaults reflect the rising temper of the people.

Road repair work is organised by the Border Residents' Action Group, composed of members or supporters of all parties and dominated by none.

This group has raised funds for hiring machinery and buying road-making material. It is expected that all roads will be open within a week or 10 days.

Enemy troops continue to observe, from ground and air, as the people restore their road network.

One recent occasion unarmed youths advanced on a hill occupied by enemy troops and put them to flight with sticks and stones until they were taken away by helicopter.

No words of praise are adequate to describe such valour or the inspiring co-operative action of the risen people and the Republican Movement salutes them.

Major Brown, the Beast of Shantallow

INCESSANT, calculated, cruel persecution is what one family in Shantallow, Derry has been receiving from the Brits, since the mother went on hunger strike in the city centre last year after her son was brutally attacked in Crumlin Road Jail during the reprisal beatings there after the burning of Long Kesh.

BRITS WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED

In a letter the RUC informed Mrs. X that the Director of Public Prosecutions will not take action against British soldiers involved in stoning attacks on her daughter and two young friends.

Some months ago the three youngsters alighted off a bus and were walking home, when a Brits' patrol hurled a volley of stones at them and then ran off to hide on a nearby building site. The Brits then called the two boys in the group names and used filthy language. They followed this up by taunting the youngsters saying, "You have no witnesses". To one of the youths the Brits said: "We got your brother, and we'll get you".

Mrs. X realises the futility of complaining to the "security forces" but felt that this incident was so blatant that they would be forced to take action.

In their letter replying to the complaint the RUC stated: "The soldiers admit their involvement", then went on to say that there would be no prosecutions.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is freely admitting his

Free Derry News

policy: NO PROSECUTION AGAINST ANY BRITS, INVOLVED IN ATTACKS ON RESIDENTS.

THE BEAST

Among the worst of this family's tormentors has been Major Brown, nicknamed "the Beast of Shantallow" by his own men.

MOTHER FINED £20

Mrs X's 16-year-old son cannot go outside the door without being called names by patrols of Brits which never leave the area.

On one occasion a soldier sitting in Mrs. X's garden grabbed her 13-year-old daughter and said: "Hey, are you a virgin? I like to take out virgins". The mother asked him to leave and when he refused threw a kettle of boiling water over him in her righteous rage. (What mother wouldn't react angrily to such remarks?)

At a court hearing Mrs. X was fined £20 despite her plea of severe provocation; the soldier, the court was told, was now in Germany and couldn't appear.

KICKED ON SCHOOL BUS

A few years ago, the 13-year-old daughter of the family got a kicking from Brits who boarded the school bus. Neighbours and school teachers alike were outraged this time. But this is

all the Major said when his "report" came: "It was a regrettable incident, but one of our soldiers mistook her for a boy." Presumably, soldiers using their boots to leave long-lasting marks on wee boy's legs are within their rights - but not if it happens to be a trousered girl. Then, the incident is "regrettable". No action was taken against the Brit who kicked the young girl, but the girl was summoned to the RUC barracks to be cautioned for "verbally abusing" the Brits.

So often have the passing Brits shouted to this family: "We'll get the UDA onto you", that finally a seven-year-old member of the family surprised them by threatening UDA action against the Brits!

Only this week the family have had to give away their dog because the Brits constantly tormented it by sticking guns through the gaps in the fence at it. The dog became extremely nervous and for their own peace of mind and the dog's sake, the family sadly parted with their pet.

POLITICAL HOSTAGE

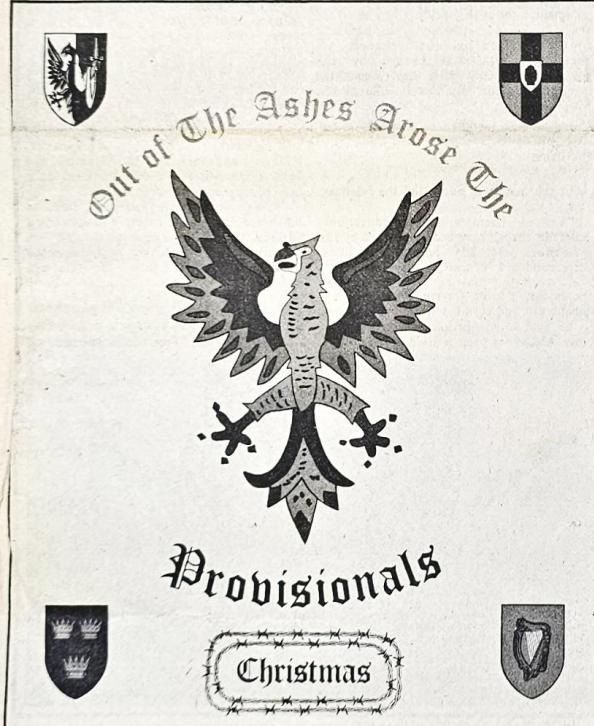
One son, who was in the British army long before the troubles, tried to "buy himself out" once the troubles began. The Brits refused to allow him to go and plunked him in the guardhouse for a spell before finally discharging him.

Another son is a political hostage. He was arrested in possession of a weapon and although no shot had been fired he was sentenced to nine years for "attempted murder".

THE BIRTS SIMPLY WILL NOT LEAVE THIS FAMILY ALONE.

-Derry Comhairlecheantair,
Sinn Féin.

Republican Christmas Card...



Our Christmas Card, printed in six colours and pictured above, has been published as a tribute to our hundreds of political hostages held in prisons and concentration camps in Ireland, North and South, and in England, Scotland, Canada and the U.S.A. Inside we have listed the names of the prisons in which they are held. On the back are pictured six of the grim dungeons which hold our "Felons". The card is 9" x 7" folded and is most effective when framed.

The cards are priced 15p each; £1.50 per dozen. Special rate for S.F. Cumains.

All orders to: The Craft Centre, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

THIS CHRISTMAS, solve your gift problem by purchasing a GIFT TOKEN from the Craft Centre, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Attractively presented, these tokens costs 25p and can be for any amount 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.

Sinn Féin Officers

Tomas O Dúill Cumann

The following officers were elected at the recent A.G.M. of the Cumann Tomas O Dúill Dublin South Central: Chairman: Cathal O'Donoghue V. Chairman: Emma Kelly Secretary: Peg Delaney Co-Treas: Mrs. Keane Education: Michael McAmhlaig Transport: Pat Treynor P.R.O.: Padraig Mac Aongasa.

There was an air of confidence at this meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to the outgoing officers for their hard and dedicated work over the last year. There was also a vote of thanks to the committee who run the successful bookstall in the Dandalin Market and the O'Donoghues Committee and the lads.

Getting more involved locally was the type of thinking at this meeting, in other words putting Eire Nua into effect before our final of victory.

We also thank all our supporters in York Street, Kevin Street, City Flats, Liberties, James Street, Dolphine Barn; all the flatdwellers on the South Circular Road, also workers and students in the Merrion Square/Stephens Green area.

Dublin backs South Africa

The Dublin government was among 15 states, including the E.E.C. countries and the U.S., which voted against a U.N. General Assembly omnibus resolution aimed at an arms and oil embargo on South Africa.

The resolution was sponsored by 51 states and recommended to the Assembly by a vote of 83-15 with 13 abstentions.

COMHBRHON

Derry Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy with Seamus Breslin and family on the accidental and tragic death of his six-year-old son, Kevin.

Michael Meenan Remembered

THE First anniversary of Michael Meenan's brave sacrifice was marked by the Republican Movement in Derry with a wreath-laying ceremony at his grave in the Republican plot. Despite bitter cold and rain, many friends and comrades turned out to honour this young man who gave his life for freedom.

A member of a Shantallow Sinn Féin Cumann gave the following oration:

"Twelve months ago a gallant young Irishman lost his life in the struggle for a 32-County socialist Republic. Michael Meenan was born into one of the greatest and noblest generations that Ireland has ever seen. This he proved by turning his back on the easy life and starting off on the long and hard road to freedom, when he joined the ranks of Oglach na hÉireann.

I am sure that when doing this, like so many other Irishmen and Irishwomen, he realised he would be called on to make many sacrifices, and I am sure this honourable soldier of Ireland realised he might even have to make the supreme sacrifice. Quite unselfishly, this he did.

Michael Meenan in his short life saw so much injustice and oppression as a result of British occupation in Ireland. He saw bad housing, unemployment, emigration, and a corrupt, sectarian police force to look after Britain's interests in this north-eastern corner of Ireland. In the short few years before his tragic death, he saw Britain once more rear her ugly head and fill the prisons with so many Irishmen and Irishwomen.

No one can deny Michael Meenan or men of his calibre the right to fight against these festering evils which destroy our country. Like so many of our youth, he asserted that right and we share a common bond with this courageous young officer of Oglach na hÉireann. He believed that Ireland must not be two separate states but one strong nation, that Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter must unite to achieve freedom for all. To break the connection with England, the greatest scourge any country has ever suffered, and to place the ownership of Ireland in the rightful hands of the Irish people - these were Michael Meenan's ideals. They would also be ours.

The sacrifice of Michael Meenan is in complete contrast to that of some people who claim to represent the nationally-minded people of the occupied Six Counties. Freedom to Michael Meenan was a dear and treasured thing and not something to be sold for a position in a government which is part and parcel of the British war machine. Lt. Michael Meenan was not prepared to accept Britain's presence here, whether by direct rule or by a Stormont set up by such men as gombeens of the SDLP. He rejected them completely, and the best possible way we can pay tribute to the memory of this Irish martyr is to do likewise, and strive to achieve his ideal for a 32 county socialist republic."

A decade of the Rosary was recited by a woman from a Creggan Sinn Féin cumann, and wreaths were laid from the family, members of Oglach na hÉireann, and Sinn Féin.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

IN proud and loving memory of Lt. Michael Meenan, 3rd Batt., Shantallow, Derry Brigade, Oglach na hÉireann, killed in action on 30 October 1974.

Always remembered by Philomena, Jeanette, Denis, Paddy, Hughie, Seamus, and all the rest in Shantallow.

"He who dies for Ireland lives,
As does he whose life-blood gives"

Irish Civil Rights Warning

As a result of many complaints of unnecessary harassment to members of the Irish Community entering and leaving Britain, The Irish Civil Rights Association (Britain) has called on the Irish Ambassador to make representation to the Foreign Office calling for an end to this harassment. We advise Irish people of their right to refuse to fill any forms at ports of exit or entry.

The Irish Civil Rights Association (Britain) draw the attention of the Irish Community in Britain, to two campaigns which have been mounted against them, with the obvious intention of stirring up anti-Irish feeling. Both campaigns could lead to serious infringements of our Civil Rights, and the persecution of The Irish Community in Britain.

1. The campaign triggered off by the way in which the News Media treated a statement issued by Commander Roy Habershon head of Scotland Yard's bomb squad, asking people to inform them of even the most trivial incident. Some newspapers printed this statement naming the bomber as I.R.A. thus pinpointing the Irish Community here as suspect.

2. A campaign about to be launched against citizens of the Irish Republic living in Britain, by Mr. Ross McWhirter, editor of the Guinness Book of Records. Mr. Mc Whirter proposes to campaign to make it compulsory for all citizens of the Irish Republic living in Britain to register at their nearest police station, and carry a card which they would have to produce when entering or leaving Britain. Mr. Mc Whirter has also set up a fund from which he proposes to pay anyone who informs against members of the Irish Community.

We strongly advise all members of the Irish Community living in Britain, to make complaints against these two campaigns to their M.P.'s who can be reached at The House of Commons, Westminster, London S.W.1. The Irish Embassy, 17 Grosvenor Place, London S.W.1. The Race Relations Board, 5 Lower Belgrave St., London S.W.1 and a specific complaint against the Ross Mc Whirter campaign to Arthur Guinness & Son (Brewer's) Park Royal, London N.W. 10.

Get in contact with us at 101 Warner Road, London E.17 and we will advise you, in case of future harassment where to find your nearest I.C.R.A. Branch.

The comrades of Lt. James McDade Birmingham ASU Remember him with pride on this his first anniversary. — Orlaigh na hEireann, Britan.

The Officers and members of Sinn Fein in England recall with pride the memory of Lt. James McDade Birmingham ASU on this his first anniversary — Birmingham C.C. Sinn Fein, London C.C. Sinn Fein, Home Counties C.C. Sinn Fein.

The Republican Prisoners in English jails salute the memory of their comrade Lt. James McDade Birmingham ASU on this his first anniversary. — Whilst Ireland holds his grave — Ireland unfree will never be at peace.

Scottish support for Irish freedom struggle

"THE SCOTTISH REPUBLICAN CLUBS wish to express their solidarity and sympathy with the Irish people in their magnificent struggle against British Terrorism", according to a statement issued by Donald Anderson.

NO JOBS

The statement continues:

"We particularly regret the use of Scots' Lives in England's Army. These are men with little or no hope of finding a decent job or home in their own oppressed homeland. Glasgow, for example, has the worst housing problem in Europe. Scottish unemployment is generally double the "United" Kingdom figures. Emigration is the highest in western Europe: higher even than in Ireland or in East Germany. Wages are of course, lower than in Mother England with prices higher. Are these the magnificent privileges that young Scotsmen are fighting for in the Brit's army? Organised hooliganism and institutionalised violence may seem an easy outlet for these young Scotsmen, from their crumbling tenements and amenity-less housing schemes.

SCOTTISH HOME RULE DENIED

Recently in Glasgow, twenty youths occupied the Maryhill "Job" Centre in protest at the very lack of jobs available for them. Duped by cards in the self-service jobs display saying: "Mechanics Wanted", "Vacancies for

Drivers, Clerks, Cooks etc." and discovering the vacancies were for the Army Recruiting Centre next door their anger was justifiable. The same Government building houses the local "burroo" and Army Terrorist Recruiting Centre door to door with the same chrome and glass frontage and the same style of lettering.

In the next building up the road lies the rooms of the local Labour Party councillors "are there to help us with our problems". This is the Party in control of Glasgow's problems for generations. It was the Labour Government that sent troops to Ireland and permits that Police State with Concentration Camps.

The Labour Party supported by the "Revolutionary British Left" are against Scottish Home Rule.

"SIGNED-UP" YOUTHS

No one can explain why the army's windows have been smashed so often that wooden boards have now replaced the shiny glass as a permanent fixture. During the occupation a robust army recruiting sergeant told the press: "If they're looking for work send them in here. I'll sign 'em up for a job".

Scotland's "signed-up" youths are to be seen in Belfast wearing "Scot's" uniforms and

Prisoners' relatives appeal to prominent citizens

RELATIVES and friends of the political prisoners in Port Laoise jail, appealed by the brutality of the conditions obtaining in the prisoners have made an appeal to "prominent citizens" to intervene.

In a statement the prisoners' relatives said:

"We, the friends and relatives of the political prisoners in Portlaoise Jail, appeal to prominent Irish citizens to use their influence to bring about changes in the appalling conditions obtaining in the prison. Basic human rights are denied to the prisoners, and though some of them went to death's door last February on hunger strike to secure an improvement in conditions, little change has taken place in the callous and inhuman policy of the authorities".

run courses in the prison although such facilities obtain in Mountjoy. Offers by outside teachers, both clerical and lay, to give lectures in the prison, have been turned down by the governor.

"Since most of the 90 prisoners are between the ages of 18 and 30 the suppression of educational facilities is a great hardship which will have a lasting effect on them. The policy of the authorities is one of forcing the prisoners to vegetate".

Recreational facilities

"The recreation hall has been denied to prisoners since last March. Requests for a weekly film show, gymnasium, billiard table, and other minor amenities have been repeatedly refused. With prisoners denied exercise from 4.30 p.m. the absence of recreational facilities has made for great frustration within the prison", the statement said.

Prominent people refused admittance

"Prisoners see their families under caged conditions twice a week. Such conditions do not obtain in any other prison in Ireland and they are degrading for wives", mothers and children, who go to visit their loved ones.

"Prominent people are not allowed to visit prisoners. Bishop Daly of Derry, Fr. Faul of Dungannon, Siobhan McKenna, Dr. John O'Connell and Michael Mullan have been refused admittance to the jail".

"Two men have already died in Portlaoise. We appeal therefore to concerned citizens to use their influence with the authorities to avert further tragedies in the grim fortress of Port Laoise", the statement ended.

BELOW: Port Laoise prison where over 100 Republicans are held hostage in primitive conditions by the "Free" State government.



defending England's empire. These also are the youths who may soon be recalled to defend the oil pipe lines of Scotland's wealth being drained to England's purse, solving her Balance of Payments problem. Will they accept the role of terrorising Scottish Freedom Fighters as easily as they did in breaking working class strikes and becoming England's dirty job men and midden rakers?

the underprivileged youths of Belfast, than they have with their English officers and the English ruling class. False divisions were created and encouraged by our "Auld Enemy" to divide and rule the native Celts.

A Free Scotland, like a Free Ireland (not to be confused with that English puppet show in the South), would have no need for such divisions or fostered sectarianism which is in no one's interest, except in the far away City of London where Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Atheist millionaires rub shoulders in perfect harmony, laughing at the antics of the mad Scots and Irish, all the way down to their non-sectarian villas and mansions of East Surrey.

"End English Imperialism! Scots and Irish unite against our real enemy", the Scottish Republican Clubs' Statement ends.

TIME TO RETHINK

With the reawakening of Scottish consciousness and the demand Scottish Independence it is surely time for some of these youths to rethink their role. Ireland is not our enemy, and never has been. These Scottish youths have more in common with

Around the Country

le Máire Ni Bhaoil

REGRETTED DEATH

The late Edward Murray of Killeen, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim was a founder member of the Sean Ryan Sinn Féin Cumann, Ballinamore.

At a meeting of the Cumann on November 1st it was agreed that Republican Guard of Honour would be provided for the funeral and that his coffin would be draped with the Tricolour.

A note of sympathy with his wife, sons and daughters.

HOSPITAL PLAN CONDEMNED

The statement issued recently by the "Free" State Minister for Health, Mr. Corish, announcing the Government's decisions on a General Hospital Development Plan has been received with a sense of mystification and disappointment by people in the North-West interested in achieving a solution to the problems the reorganisation of the hospital service has revealed.

The Minister's statement had been eagerly awaited in the region in the expectation that it would throw some light on such problems as what role the Sheil Hospital at Ballyshannon would play. The Minister's statement does not contain one word about the Sheil although local interests have over the years kept him fully informed of the local demand for a return of surgery to the hospital.

ACTION COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Mr. Anthony O'Malley Daly, T.C., chairman of the Sheil Action Committee, in a statement on the Minister's announcement states: "The Corish Hospitals Plan is only a variation on the Fitzgerald Report, and gives scant notice to the Sheil Hospital, Ballyshannon. Rigid attention is given to figures, and people as patients are relegated to the level of a herd. Over crowding will remain constant to the detriment of patients, and staff tending to the sick will come under increasing strain in Letterkenny and Sligo. Many people are already seeking referral to cross-Border hospitals. The plan is a personal medical disaster to all in the catchment area, and the Sheil Hospital Action Committee should receive increased support to continue the campaign as a direct result of this announcement by the Minister of Health, Mr. Brendan Corish".



Anthony O'Malley-Daly, chairman of the Sheil Action Committee is a member of Sinn Féin. He was elected to the Ballyshannon Town

Commissioners in June 1974. He has campaigned consistently for the return of surgery to the local Sheil Hospital.

GENEROUS CUMANN

During the ballad session at the Spa Hotel, Luan on October 25, the sum of £165.40 was handed over to An Cumann Cabbraach by members of the Jackie Griffith S.F. Cumann; this sum being the profits from the sale of the song book, "Songs of Resistance" published recently by the Cumann.

The Jackie Griffith Cumann reports a new enlarged edition of the book has been published and is now on sale.

PRISONER WELCOMED IN CORK

A very successful social function was held recently to the release of Donal McCarthy from Portlaoise prison. Donal was on hunger strike in Mountjoy jail for 22 days in demand for political status and again in Portlaoise prison for 45 days.

While imprisoned he was sentenced to a further term of imprisonment for the part he played in the now famous helicopter escape.

Present at the function were members of the families of Tony Aher and Dermot Crowley, personal friends of Donal McCarthy who died for Ireland in 1973.

CRUMLIN PRISONERS STAGE PROTEST

Republican prisoners appeared at Chichester Street courthouse on Tuesday, 28th October stripped to the waist in protest at beatings and harassment by prison guards at Crumlin Road.

One man revealed that he had been kept in solitary confinement for the past 36 days in a basement cell at the jail.

Several others said that they were refusing food and visits in an effort to draw attention to their plight.

JAMES DAILY REMEMBERED

Members of the James Daly Sinn Féin Cumann held a private wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of James Daly at Tyrellspass cemetery, Co. Westmeath on Sunday, November 2nd.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Mrs. Maher. A wreath was laid by Nicky McCormack for Vol. Michael Gaughan who was murdered in Parkhurst prison on June 3rd, 1974 and by Tony Johnston for Vol. Thomas Smith who was murdered in Port Laoise jail by "Free State forces" on the night of March 17th, 1975.

A decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by Molly Maher.

INCHICORE

Members of the Robert Emmet Sinn Féin Cumann approached the Management of the Savage Smith factory, Drimnagh Dublin after complaints had been received by local residents about the storing of bottles in an open space behind the factory. Residents complained that children had open access to the bottles and that a large number of them were being broken and strewn on the roads

causing much inconvenience.

The Sinn Féin members who had talks with the Management were assured that a wall would be built soon.

HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTERS FINED AT BALLYSHANNON

Twenty-four Sinn Féin members were fined at Ballyshannon Court when they were summoned on various charges arising from sit-down protests on January 31st at the Bridge, Ballyshannon; the 7th and 11th February at the Bridge, Bundoran; and charges under the Forcible Entry Act arising from the occupation of the "Free" State's Custom's caravan on 9th February.

The S.F. members were holding peaceful protests to highlight the plight of the Port Laoise prisoners, including Donegal man, Pat Ward, who were on hunger strike in demand for political status.

NO MORE BORDER ROADS WILL BE BLOWN UP

The British Army has decided to abandon its road-blocking operations in the Crossmaglen area of South Armagh, conceding victory to the local men who have recently removed Army roadblocks, sometimes twice on the same road.

Army headquarters, at Lisburn has not confirmed this officially, but it is understood that the situation will "allow to die down" and that roads will only be closed again, "if it is operationally advantageous to do so".

On Sunday 26th October, local men using J.C.B. diggers removed road-blocks and filled in craters on three roads - the Clarbane Road, the Teer Road and the Dromlougher road all leading from Crossmaglen to Castleblaney in Co. Monaghan.

After two dozen minor roads remain blocked along the miles of the Armagh border, north of Crossmaglen, leaving only one access route to Co. Monaghan in the area. This is the approved Keady to Castleblaney road.

RESOURCES BODY LIKE LAND LEAGUE

There were 1,400 unemployed people in Bray, and, despite an expanding population, no majority industry had been set up in the district, the president of the Bray Trade Council, Mr. Con Gallogly, said last night.

Speaking at the opening of an exhibition of oil, gas and mining by the Resources Protection Campaign at the town's ITGWU hall, he said the exhibition showed a very fine example of the development of natural resources into products used every day in our homes.

He compared the Resources Protection Campaign with the Land League, which was set up to secure ownership of the land for the Irish people. "It is now our duty to secure the ownership of the minerals contained under the land, and the oil and gas in our seabeds", he said.

DIAMOND JUBILEE A RISING

The Ard-Chomhairle of Sinn Féin has decided to work closely with the Republican Commemoration Committee and other Republican organisations in organising suitable games and publications to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Easter Rising during 1976.

AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION BULLETIN

THE 32nd edition of the Irish Republican Information Bulletin (Australia) has been issued recently. The Bulletin, published weekly by the Republican Movement in Australia is mailed to journalists and other interested parties all over the Continent, and is designed to bring the truth about the Irish struggle to the people of Australia.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RENEWAL OF ANTI-IRISH LAW

A campaign to oppose the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Britain or its replacement by similar emergency legislation late next month has been launched by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCC) in London;

The NCCL bases its opposition to the Act on the grounds that it "took away some of the most vital safeguards of the accused citizen", that the police already had extensive powers.

The council has closely monitored the workings of the Act since its introduction and it has found that its original fears about the legislation have not been diminished.

66 deported

Out of 946 people arrested under the Act, only 44 have been charged with an offence - three of them with wasting police time. Another 66 people have been issued with exclusion orders and deported to Ireland.

Sinn Féin A.G.M.s

Loughnane Brothers Cumann Dublin

At the Annual General Meeting of the Loughnane Bros. Cumann Dublin, held on Thursday 6th November, the following officers were elected: Chairman, L. Sillery; Secretary, A. Sillery; Treasurers, S. & G. Sheeby; P.R.O. M. Timothy; Education Officer, M. Reynolds. Delegates to the Comhairle Ceannaithe were, J. Meehan, M. Timilty and D. MacAoda.

Traolach Mac Suibhne Cumann Cork

At the Annual General Meeting of the above cumann the following officers were elected for the coming year: Cathaoirleach, John Bradley; Leas-Cathaoirleach, Barty O'Sullivan; Runai, Frank Lindopp; P.R.O., Noreen Varian; Cisteoir, Janet Bradley. Delegates to Comhairle Ceannaithe, Theresa Flavin, Frank Lindopp.

Solidarity was passed at the meeting with the women, men and boys in jail.

O Bradaigh ag an Ard Fheis

IN this edition we conclude Ruairí O Bradaigh's Presidential Address at Ard Fheis '75:

In the event the Boycott was a resounding success. Every area worked without stint; 350,000 leaflets and 120,000 posters were distributed and extensive advertising engaged in; even the prisoners from their cells and cages sent out their messages of support and encouragement; public meetings and canvassing took place in what can only be described as an "election outside an election". The S.D.L.P.'s claim to be the sole representatives of the Nationalist people was shown to be without foundation; the Boycott lost them seats, thousands of votes and they emerged with about 40% of the Nationalist electorate. The remainder boycotted the Convention and for Sinn Féin takes full credit. Here was the political action - in unorthodox fashion granted - which our opponents cried out for and they did not like it because it was so effective and it hurt them.

ANTI-EEC CAMPAIGN

The anti-EEC campaign followed and Sinn Féin advocated a "Vote No" in accordance with our attitude to full EEC membership since it became an issue in 1961 and in keeping with our "Vote No" campaign south of the border in 1972. The result showed 238,000 No's, which added to 212,000 No's in the rest of Ireland makes a total 450,000 voters in the 32 Counties solidly opposed to the EEC super-state and its monopoly capitalism. The pity was that the No's were a mere 22,000 short of victory over the Ayes in the Six Counties, and the opportunity was just missed of showing dramatically that the area is completely out of step with Britain.

Next campaign by the Ulster Executive was the co-ordination of the anti-intervention mass action on the streets in every area leading up to August 9th. Here again the results were far-reaching and things were not the same in the Stormont Convention after that final mass rally in Dungville Park, Belfast on Sunday, August 10th. At this point we wish to say to Mr. Rees from this Assembly: although you have released about 400 internees since last Christmas, you still hold 180 without charge or trial; we tell you your policy of dribbling releases is disastrous; we want them out and we want them now; and we want a general amnesty to follow.

MOMENT OF TRUTH

Following the collapse of Phase One of the Convention, Sinn Féin brought out a leaflet entitled "The Moment of Truth" which stated that British rule had been made impossible with the fall of the old Stormont, the Sunningdale Executive and now the "Convention" was doomed in turn. It called for a public declaration of intent by the British Government to carry out a phased and orderly disengagement from Ireland. Quarter of a million copies were distributed, half of these in the Six Counties and 100,000 more have been printed to respond to demands from our organisation locally.

But there are those who will not recognise the Moment of Truth as it arrives. These are the self-same groups who opposed the Truce directly or indirectly, because they feared it would lead to just this moment of truth and their political fortunes depend on the maintenance of existing political arrangements in Ireland. The U.U.C.C. are as obtuse as ever and will remain so until Britain sends them the message.

More insidious, however, were the William Craig - S.D.L.P. talks. It is fair to ask the S.D.L.P. are they prepared to enter into a voluntary Coalition Cabinet under the British Crown with certain legislative guarantees as to their position or status and with the certainty that they could be hired or fired by the Stormont Prime Minister of the day as Mr. Craig has been telling Vanguard constituency organisations and the Loyalist para-militaries. Craig says the S.D.L.P. are willing to do so and will, he hopes, be the instigators of breaking the peoples' resistance with a "strong, armed and well equipped police force". The services of the S.D.L.P. can be dispensed with after the first five years, presumably and the Six Counties will settle back into a one-party state on pre-1968 lines. No, Mr. Craig is no Saul on the road to Damascus who has had the scales struck from his eyes. He is just more clever and still as dangerous as when he was "prepared to shoot to kill" in 1972. But what of those who would collaborate in his grand design. Have not the S.D.L.P. some questions to answer to the ordinary people on whose backs they seek once more to climb into British power and privilege?

The Dublin government dread the moment of truth. Two years subsequent to Sunningdale and eighteen months after its collapse they are hell-bent on forcing through their Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill - although we were told ad nauseam by Com. Cruise O'Brien and others that Sunningdale had to be accepted in toto or not at all. As a North Monaghan Comhairle Ceannaithe statement aptly put it the other day, the recent incursion by British troops into that county is only a foretaste of what may happen under the legislation now proposed.

FIANNA FAIL BEGINS TO TALK

Fianna Fail are more far-seeing, of course, and have already begun to act as the moment of truth approaches. Quite brazenly those who brought in the Special non-jury court, banned us from radio and television, closed down our head-office and imprisoned our leaders, now call for a declaration of intent from Britain - or at least a leading member of their front bench does. Quite soon, no doubt, they will have the effrontery to claim that they "won the war", that is if Sinn Féin lets them away with that kind of deception.

Quite frankly, Sinn Féin does not just want the British to go. That is merely the beginning. The Ulster Loyalists must govern themselves in a New Ulster and a New Ireland; so also must the Ulster Nationalists and every other community in Ireland. We want a Socialist Federal Ireland where the small community flourishes and exploitation of man by man is no more. We want all to enjoy the fruits of their labour and of our natural resources, as well as of our cultural heritage.

NOTEBOOK

The conversion of Fianna Fail

Sean O Bradaigh must feel pretty pleased with himself. It's only a few weeks since he began distributing a quarter of a million copies of the "Moment of Truth" leaflet calling on "all the Irish people to join with us now in demanding a British declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland", and already the largest party in Ireland, Fianna Fail, has been persuaded to do just that. The pressure from the grassroots on the party leadership proved irresistible.

Let's hope that this is only the first of many such conversions. It would be nice to see the UUUC following suit, and then the Loyalist Coordinating Committee, the SDLP, the UVF, Fine Gael and the Irish Labour Party.

But there was one thing about the Fianna Fail policy statement which I didn't like. It began by talking about a "United Ireland" and described the English commitment to withdraw as a step towards that end. This is not the way to get Loyalist support for English withdrawal. On the contrary, it will have the effect of stiffening their backs against it. And it will endanger the lives of many Northern Catholics.

"A United Ireland" is a hateful phrase in Loyalist ears. It means a takeover by the South, the destruction of Ulster and rule from Dublin. So what Fianna Fail is, in effect, calling for - this is how Loyalists hear it - is an English withdrawal which would enable "the Republic" to take over the North and to destroy Ulster.

When the SDLP say that a United Ireland is their ultimate aim, they are making the same threat. And the net result of these calls for a United Ireland by Fianna Fail and the SDLP is to make ordinary Northern Catholics into "enemies of Ulster" and therefore into likely targets for Loyalist assassination squads.

Calls for British withdrawal coming from the 26 Counties, or from the nationalist side in the Six Counties, are counterproductive and irresponsible unless they are made for the explicit purpose of electing an all-Ulster Parliament which would negotiate a federal link with similar parliaments in the other three provinces.

You may have read that Yann Fouere, a leading Breton nation who has been living in Cleggan, Connemara, for the past 20 years, was arrested recently in Brittany. The first place I saw the news was in the *Welsh Nation* when it said that Fouere was on his way to the annual conference of Plaid Cymru in Aberystwyth.

That set me thinking about the Sinn Fein Ardtheis. Why were there no Breton fraternal delegates *there*? Or Basque? Corsican delegates? Reading on in the *Welsh Nation*, I saw that a leading member of the Scottish National Party spoke at the Plaid Cymru conference.

In September of last year I gave you the texts of two joint policy statements with which the Republican Movement was associated. One from the periodical *La Voce Comunista*, published in Piedmont, was signed by the Basque ETA, the Sardinian paper *Su populu Sardu*, the Frisian Groep Sonde, the Harpian movement ALPA, the Flemish Were Di and Sinn Fein. The other, printed in the Sardinian paper mentioned above and in the Piedmontese paper *Alp*, was signed by the IRA, ETA, ALPA, *Su populu Sardu* and *La Voce Comunista*.

Why were there no representatives of these organisations and papers at the Ardtheis? Were those statements just empty words?

Did any encouragement or fraternal greetings for the Basques and Corsicans, the Bretons, Welsh and Scots, go out from the Ardtheis? I didn't hear that they did.

I am profoundly puzzled. Perhaps someone can explain to me why this is so.

I recall, as I write, a Corsican nationalist paper I have seen which carries a sentence from Yann Fouere's writings under its title. And Fouere is a Breton. I find all this comradeship of the struggling nations extremely natural and realistic. That is why I ask those questions about the Sinn Fein Ardtheis and hope that someone can give me a satisfactory answer.

Talking about the Ardtheis, I needn't tell my regular readers that I regard the decision to establish Provincial Councils of Sinn Fein as a very good thing indeed. I look forward to the day when the relationship of these Councils to each other will be federal, so that they will in fact form the four provincial nuclei of the new federal Ireland, and so that people looking at Sinn Fein, will be able to see Eire Nua actually taking shape before their eyes.

I'll come back to the Provincial Councils as soon as they are established. They have a vital role to play.

A few weeks ago I mentioned the annual general meeting of the Celtic League in Port na Hinchey (i.e. Peel), Isle of Man. Since then I have come across the latest issue of the League's quarterly periodical *Carn* which is subtitled "A Link between the Celtic Nations". It is edited by Padraig O Snodaigh, president of the Gaelic League.

I recommend it heartily to those of my readers who believe as I do that real self-determination for Ireland depends not merely on breaking the link with England, but on reorganising the power structures of these islands so that the dominated nations of the "periphery", working together, will achieve a power-balance with England and establish an overall equilibrium.

This particular issue of *Carn* contains a comprehensive policy statement by the Celtic League. It begins:

Our aim is to contribute, as an inter-Celtic organisation, to the struggle of these nations to secure or to win their political, cultural, social and economic freedom. Our efforts are complementary to those of the organisations which are working, within each of the Celtic countries, towards these aims. We take into account that each of the countries has a different degree of national consciousness. Further down, the statement goes on:

We believe that our aim cannot be achieved in the framework of the political structure of the existing States. Whatever the short-term solutions, our Celtic countries need to constitute a confederation based on their cultural affinity. We advocate therefore a formal association of the Celtic nations, to take place as soon as two or more of them achieve self-government.

States of our own are indispensable for the cohesion of our communities. Within our countries, freedom will involve a devolution of power towards the base, subject to certain national objectives. Regional and local councils should be empowered to deal with matters not affecting directly the national welfare. Encouragement should be given, if necessary, by means of pilot schemes, to the exercise of self-management in enterprises.

Other articles in the August number of *Carn* deal with Scotland - How the Referendum was won; Brittany - Crisis in the Fishing Industry; Wales - Attitudes to Irish Issues; Ireland - National Resources and Employment; Mann - The Manx Economy - How Manx? There is also a submission on "The Future of Broadcasting in the Celtic Countries" made to the Annan Committee on the future of broadcasting in the United Kingdom.

The secretary of the Celtic League is Alan Heusaff, 8 Br. Cnoc Sion, Ath Cliath 9. *Carn* costs 25p per issue.

by

FREEMAN

Crown Court picketed . . .



In Derry members of Sinn Fein picketed the Autumn Assizes of the Crown Court at the opening on October 16. Members of the R.U.C. prevented the pickets from entering the courthouse.



Prisoners stripped and photographed by Brits at Crossmaglen

AT a meeting in Newry plans were made for the continuation of protest activities against British harassment.

"We command the activities of all those involved in the filling of roads wantonly destroyed by sabotage units of the British Army," said a statement issued by the South Armagh and South Down Comhairli Ceantar of Sinn Fein.

The statement continued: Again delegates from South Armagh and South Down reported on the harassment and degradation being suffered by people at the hands of the British Army, U.D.R., and R.U.C. Sinn Fein notes with particular disgust the fact that when men are brought to Crossmaglen R.U.C. barrack they are stripped

naked and then photographed. In several instances, which we have details of, British Officers and R.U.C. encourage private soldiers to put their arms round men, who had first been stripped, and then photographed them.

WOMAN BEATEN

Other areas where increased army harassment has become familiar are Burren, and Glen in South Down, Beleeks, Mullaghbawn, Drimontee, Culoville, and Cullyhanna.

Particular concern was expressed about the British army treatment of a woman in Culoville who insisted on accompanying her son to the R.U.C. barracks in an army Saracen. On the way she suffered a heart attack and was thrown out. As she lay on the road her hands were smashed by the British soldiers. Medical attention was prevented from reaching the woman and only later she received several stitches in her hands.

Again the British raid on Cullyhanna where all men and boys in the town were

taken from their houses and made to line up against a wall and photographed is an example of the massive and systematic intimidation. In this incident one man of 73 years was made to stand at the wall for five hours.

"Sinn Fein urge all journalists to rededicate themselves to the basic goal of their profession and to report and to bring to light these type of incidents", the S.F. statement ended.

Republican Post Bag

READER'S BLOOD BOILED

AN ARTICLE published in *An Phoblacht* dated 24th November has just been pointed out to me and it literally made my blood boil as it is a load of lies.

The article concerned was entitled "Cross Border Sallies of Enemy Troops", and inter alia reports on the opening of a road at Forkhill. Your reporter doesn't say which road but I presume he had in mind Curricksticker because that is the road that was opened.

I wish to point out that the road was not cratered, as stated in your report; it was blocked with concrete encased in steel shutters and R.S.G.

It is quite obvious to me that your reporter wasn't there and I would be interested to know where you got your inaccurate information.

To even suggest that the people who worked at clearing the road used the girders to build haystacks etc. is a terrible slur on their characters.

Town people loaned their S.C.B. at their own expense and speaking as one who was there all afternoon, I can assure you that the complete barrier was buried in a big hole in the road, and even if somebody wanted to use the girders, it would be impossible to do so as they were encased in concrete. Also the girders were very short and would be useless.

Brid McBride, Lurgankeel, Kilcurry, Dun Dealgan.

Editor's Note: We regret having upset our reader. The report on the re-opening of roads was gained from a number of sources at virtually the last moment before we went to press and we regret any inaccuracies that may have crept in unwittingly.

Word that such girders were being used locally for purposes never intended by the enemy came from the late Seamus Mac Osgur, who had close contacts in the area. There was no intention to cast a slur on anybody. If such material is made available we see no reason why it should not be used by local people.

We are second to nobody in our sincere admiration for the bravery and splendid spirit of co-operation behind the speedy re-opening of Border roads closed by enemy action.

TOM DONNELLY AND THE RUC

DOES Tom Donnelly hope to follow in the footsteps on

ex-nationalist politician Paddy Maxwell, now a Resident Magistrate for the Crown? Does he hope that by urging the minority to give full support to the RUC, even to join that body, he can gain a place on the Queen's next New Year's Honours List, and become Sir Tom Donnelly? Or has he been offered a well-paid position on the new Police Authority?

Perhaps Tom Donnelly is simply looking for another job, now that the Convention is in its death-throes.

Whatever motivated the SDLP's own Tom Donnelly to say this, it must indeed have been powerful to tempt him to commit treason. Treason is not too strong a word for his action. Treason is a particular kind of treachery, deeper than ordinary disloyalty, which means radically breaking faith with your own political community.

The SDLP talks endlessly about "a mandate from the people". Where does Tom Donnelly find his mandate to urge support for the RUC, even to joining? Are the people marching in the streets demanding the return of the RUC? They don't exist. On the contrary, the recent BCA poll on policing showed complete rejection of the RUC.

Tom Donnelly states he is sick, sore and tired of intimidation and violence. Does he mean from the people of the ghettos, organised for means of protection? Or does he mean from the institutions of this sectarian statelet, which organises violence on a wide scale?

The RUC have proved themselves to be nothing more than a paramilitary force - in fact without the discipline even of a paramilitary force. How many RUC men have been prosecuted for intimidating and brutalising citizens and how many have been convicted?

They murdered 9-year-old Patrick Rooney in his bed, with bullets from the machineguns mounted on their Sheridan armoured cars as they ran riot in Belfast. They still refuse to bring witnesses against the RUC men who beat Sammy Devenney to death, and continue to encourage their "Special Branch" to run torture centres at Castlereagh and Springfield Road Barracks in Belfast. Does Tom Donnelly forget the night that B-Specials cornered a 60-year-old man in a shop door in Dungiven, and beat him to death - and strangely enough, the log book of the local RUC station just happened to vanish that night, so that the

RUC were "unable to investigate the incident"? Tom Donnelly wouldn't remember the night the RUC, with rum-filled bellies, ran amok in the Bogside, demanding that mothers send their sons out to them. But he ought to remember the RUC's collaboration with the Paisleyite attackers at Burntollet.

In none of the incidents cited above, has there been a single successful prosecution of any RUC member. Not even a voice of remorse from the ranks of the RUC present or past.

Tom Donnelly stated that he joined the SDLP because of RUC intimidation. Now he wants us to join the RUC. I suppose his philosophy is, "if you can't beat them, join them". But it still stinks of opportunism to us.

-P.R.O.
Derry Comhairle Cheanáir,
Sinn Féin.

DEATH OF NOTED AUSTRALIAN

ON Tuesday, October 23rd, Ireland lost one of her staunchest supporters when Mrs. Ellen Neilson, secretary and treasurer of the Connolly Association of Australia, passed away suddenly at the age of 79.

For many years this wonderful woman dedicated her life to the cause of Irish Freedom. Ellen was an Australian of Irish decent and of she was very proud.

I have never met anyone outside Ireland who had such an immense knowledge of Ireland, past and present, or who was so willing to speak out against the atrocities of the present time, and against the activities of the present Dublin government, the puppets of Britain" who call their Statelet the "Republic of Ireland". Mrs. Neilson could have put them to shame and many of the Irish traitors with them.

Right up until a few days before her death she worked for the cause; many Irish people would do well to follow the example of this wonderful Australian lady.

Her loss will be felt for many years to come both in Australia and in Ireland.

-Anne Halpin,
Victoria, Australia.

A TALE OF TWO PRISONERS

MR. Justice O'Donnell deserves praise for tempting justice with mercy and good sense in his imposition of a two-year suspended sentence on a 65-year-old man.

The accused, Thomas James Johnston, was convicted of possessing

explosives with intent and under suspicious circumstances and firearms and ammunition without a firearms certificate.

All praise for the care and concern of the Judge in ordering the man to be medically examined, physically and psychologically, before imposing sentence.

Nobody would wish to see a man of 65 condemned to prison, to what would have been a death sentence in his case.

It seems ironic in view of the happenings in Northern Ireland.

although I had the makings of a good soldier my services were no longer required as I had served a term of imprisonment.

It seems ironic in view of the happenings in Northern Ireland.

-Irate ex-prisoner,
Cheshire.

Happy Birthday

Greetings and best wishes to our son Brendan Dowd in Walton Prison, Liverpool on his birthday on November 18.

-Mom and Dad.

CAHERCIVEEN

The Cahirciveen Annual Social will be held on November 14th.

A prominent Republican speaker will attend.

Judge Gibson sentenced Henry Heaney to 15 years to prison.

There were many unsatisfactory features about this case (the conspiracy charge, the deliberate attempt to "get the father, etc.) but the sentence leaves the sourest taste. There was no medical examination, either psychological or physical, no talk of a "death sentence", just the maximum for an old man.

-Rev. D. Faul,
Dun Geanainn.

TRALEE

A function to welcome home Martin Ferris will be held at Horan's Hotel, Tralee on November 15.

The function is organised by An Cumann Caborach.

Cabaret and Ballads

Old Shieling Hotel,

TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER '75

with

Tony Malone,

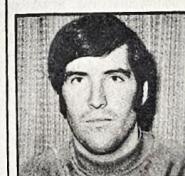
The Dublin City Ramblers and Paddy O'Brien

ADMISSION 50p

8.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Proceeds in aid of An Cumann Caborach.

IN MEMORIAM



Michael McVerry R.I.P.

In proud and loving memory of Capt. Michael McVerry, O.C. First Battalion, South Armagh Oglach na hEireann who was killed in action on November 15th, 1973.

Always remembered by the Michael McVerry Memorial Committee, the First Battalion South Armagh, and the Michael McVerry S.C. Cumann.

Aonach na Nollag

The annual Aonach na Nollag (Christmas Fair) in aid of the Republican Prisoners' Dependents will be held in the Mansion House, Dublin on December 5, 6 and 7.

The organisers are appealing for gifts of any kind for the following types of stalls:

Groceries, toys, books, vegetables, bottles, wheel of fortune. Gifts should be delivered to 4, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

THE DEPENDANTS DEPEND ON YOU.

SUPPORT THEM GENEROUSLY.

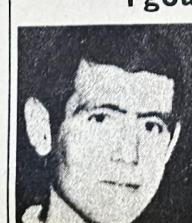
LEAS

Ar leas na hEireann
Ar leas na Gaeilge
Ar leas na Poblachta
Ar do leas féin

£2 12 eágrán
£1 5é eágrán

Tuilleadh eolais ó Dhomhnall Ó Luhlfad, 250
Quarribh Theas, Baile Átha Cliath, 8.

Arna fósáid ag Glúiseacht na Poblachta.



Lt. James McDaid, R.I.P.

I gCuimhne

In memory of Lt. James McDaid, Oglach na hEireann, killed on Active Service in the enemy homeland on November 14th 1974,

Ar Dheis De go raibh a

Sadly missed by all his
comrades in the
Birmingham City Active
Service Units.

Funeral of Séamus Mac Osguir

Graveside Oration

FOLLOWING is the full text of the oration given by Malachy Foot at the graveside of his friend and colleague, Séamus Mac Osguir, who was laid to rest in the Republican Plot, Milltown cemetery, Belfast, on Tuesday, 4th November:

Many, many times over this past few years we the followers of the Republican ideal have gathered at this hallowed spot to lay to rest our patriot dead, most of whom have found an early grave at the hands of British rule.

But today, as was the case with Charlie Hughes we come to lay to rest Séamus whose death rests squarely on the shoulders of those native collaborators of Cyprus Street and Gardiner Place. And it is for us a very mournful task to lay to rest one so high in principle and human kindness, a man of principle, ideal and vision slain by those whose only credentials reek of anti-social acts thuggery, extortion and finally cold blooded murder.

INSPIRATION AND STRENGTH

Séamus Mac Osguir like the Movement he devoted his full time to, was an inspiration and a daily source of strength and help to the beleaguered people in the Republican areas of the City, and even further afield. His role as director of the Sinn Féin Incident Centre in the New Lodge, not only was a vital role in the present truce situation but his role and energy were also put into making the Incident Centre a dual one with that of Advice Centre, and because of his contact with the people of the New Lodge, he knew exactly the graveness and extent of the NLF's campaign of terror against the people, a campaign which was to be outlined to the media by Séamus and his fellow Republicans, but which was brutally interrupted by the savage and cowardly killing of Séamus himself at the hands of those, whose hands bear the taint of Kitson and operate as Mafia style gangs.

STERLING WORK

The Republican Movement will sadly miss the sterling work of Séamus. But to say we will miss him is not sufficient: Séamus know's we will miss him, but he would also want us to continue on and build the society for which he lost his life trying to gain — A New Ireland wherein the society will be based on justice, unity, equality and prosperity, and not one based upon the NLF principles of murder, arson, intimidation and gangsterism. Séamus's life may be ended, but the goal he aimed for will be gained and will be our tribute to him.

So before we depart from this hallowed spot let us pledge to redouble our efforts in securing this future.

To Séamus's sorrowing wife Betty, children Myles and Felecy and family circle I extend on behalf of the Republican Movement our sincerest condolences on your loss and the Movement's loss.

FULL SUPPORT PLEDGED

And finally to McGurran and his fellow henchmen we say "For five years now you have worked relentlessly by the most devious of means to wreck the cause of Irish freedom, no means were too low for you. But despite you and in spite of you we will champion our dead member's cause and see the struggle to its successful conclusion. And on behalf of The Republican Movement full support is pledged in the actions deemed necessary by the Belfast Leadership to rid our people of the evil that the NLF represent, condones and carry out."

May God's heavenly mantle rest gentle upon Séamus, and may the cowards yoke bear heavily on those who murdered him.

May you rest in peace with the martyrs of Érin. Amen.

Sympathy

The Leadership of the Republican Movement deeply regrets the death of Staff Officer Gerry McKernan, Óglaigh na hÉireann, killed accidentally in Co. Louth and tenders deepest sympathy to his family, comrades and friends.

I measc Laochra na hÉireann sua flaithe go raibh sé.



Outside Unity Flats, a volley of shots was fired over the coffin of Séamus Mac Osguir.

Séamus Mac Osguir A TRIBUTE

Deasún Breathnach, a close friend of the murdered man, pays this tribute to Séamus Mac Osguir:

SEAMUS Mac Osguir was one of the bravest men I have known. From the beginning of the Truce he was in charge of the Truce Incident Centre on the New Lodge Road and manned it night after night, often quite alone in the building, an easy target for the bomber or the gunman.

It was Séamus Mac Osguir who gave us most of the reports of the Truce incidents in the Belfast area and which we have featured more often than not on our front page. Often, in the middle of a phone call to him in the depths of night, Séamus would break off with word that there was a knock at the door: he would have to go down and see who it was. It was useless to protest that he might be shot or bombed: that was his duty and he would do it.

This selfless devotion to duty characterised him throughout his service in the Republican Movement — as an internecine, as an officer of Sinn Féin; as a worker for Éire Nua.

Seamus also was a kind man and every time there were incidents of Irishmen killing Irishmen in the north-east his voice reflected his almost tearful concern.

His kindness was known widely in Belfast and appreciated by Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter: he came in contact with all sorts of his tremendous work for the co-operative movement as well as in his re-housing operations and the organisation of cultural events, such as the fleamáil ceoil in the Ardoyne.

Perhaps he thought that these activities gave him something in the nature of an insurance policy and that his only real danger came from the SAS or some other enemy agency. Alas, that he should have been so mistaken and to have fallen under bullets fired by fellow Irishmen.

Those who set up Séamus Mac Osguir as a target can hardly have been unaware of the man's kindness and decency; of his concern for the poor and the under-privileged in general; of his constant, practising socialism, in his work in the co-operatives; of his life-long battle against sectarianism and his attempts, right up to the end of his life, to keep Protestant and Catholic together in the Ardoyne, despite the machinations of the Catholic Church representatives, of the S.D.L.P., of U.V.F. and U.D.A.

Those who ordered the killing of Séamus Mac Osguir must have known they were killing a patriotic socialist, a true follower of Wolfe Tone, Jemmy Hope and James Connolly. So much for their left-wing pretensions.

Séamus Mac Osguir also was a true Christian and, like Christ, was ready always to forgive his enemies. Revenging his death would have been repugnant to his generous spirit.

His warm friendship apart, the murder of Séamus is a severe blow to "An Phoblacht" and to "Republican News", of which he was manager for many years.

We extend our very sincere sympathies to his widow and two children. Ar dheis Dé go raibh anam dhuilis.

Free State "Justice"

WITHIN the past two weeks, consider their verdict. As soon as the legal arguments were over, the President of the court delivered a WRITTEN verdict which took 4 minutes.

Decision reached before appeal

In other words a decision was reached before the appeal began. Such mundane things as Rita O'Hare's three bullet wounds, her failing health and her young son's withdrawal symptoms fell on heartless ears.

After all the Free State are in the middle of an election and "Law and Order" must be upheld, so who better to start with than Rita O'Hare to show the Government's determination.

And after all, aren't they all just back from Rome!!!



Mrs. Rita O'Hare