

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.

(1st Dail Eireann)

An Phoblacht

Iml. 10 Uimhir 3. 10p. Eanair 20, 1979.

UNITED AGAINST ECONOMIC OPPRESSION

LAST week has seen an upsurge in industrial unrest throughout Ireland, as lorry-drivers, tanker-drivers, postmen, telephonists, busmen and train-drivers made their protests heard by withdrawal of their labour.

Our economic oppressors, north and south, have already begun to crack the whip, whilst the propaganda machine smoothly moves into action, suddenly discovering the "old and sick" amongst us.

THE use of the British military to break the tanker-drivers strike in the six counties underlines what republicans have been saying all along. Solutions to the economic oppression caused by imperialism can only be attained in the framework of a United Ireland.

Mason clearly sees little difference between any Irishman who stands in his way, whether he is a "blanket-man" in H-Block, a worker exercising his inalienable right to strike, or any member of the Nationalist population who wants the Brits out.

The same strongarm tactics are used against them all, whether their protest is from economic oppression or national dispossession.

Lorry drivers who are still on strike say that any attempt to use troops against their strike will be strongly met, and their action will be extended further.

More taxes

In the 26 counties the same formula applies,

Fianna Fail, having already abolished wealth tax, had the arrogance to announce within the space of a few days, that Company Profits Tax would be cut by 35% — a £15 million hand out to big business (mostly foreign multinationals), and then that food subsidies would be abolished — £63 million, the burden of which falls heaviest on those at the lower end of the econ-

omic scale.

At the same time comes the, not unexpected, news that up to 90% of all taxes are paid by the PAYE contributor, in other words the ordinary worker. Businessmen, professionals and wealthy farmers escape almost unscathed.

Furthermore, entry to the much heralded, though as yet unborn, EMS means that the full weight of the EEC enforced austerity programme has yet to be felt.

Meanwhile in Leinster House, a committee reports that several thousand pounds more each year in salaries should be paid to members of that body.

Bus strike

Small wonder then that we are in to what looks like only the start of a lengthy period of industrial unrest and inevitable strike action.

The busmen's strike, which is in its first week, is an excellent example of the plight of the lower paid worker.

With no evaluation of the conditions and rates of pay since the Tavistock Report in 1964, (which was only issued two years later and then ignored), the wages of busmen have fallen far behind those of comparable workers.

A £7 increase on a basic wage of £53 clearly does nothing to remedy this position, let alone compensate for price increases, which have recently occurred and are still to

come.

The use of troops here too, which has been announced as we go to press, is regarded by busmen as clear strike-breaking, according to a N.B.U. spokesman, particularly where the resources are available to make a speedy settlement to the dispute.

In a situation such as exists in C.I.E. where the management has plunged to such depths of incompetence, their is little chance that workers are in a mood for compromise.

Revolutionary answer

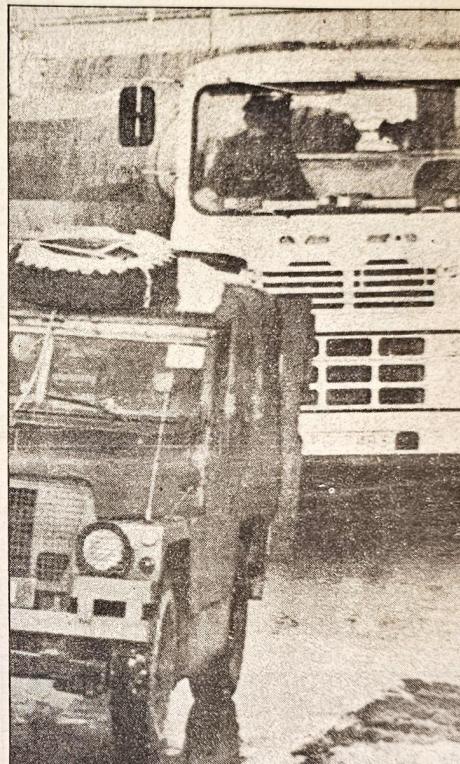
Another industry which has been beset by mismanagement in every area is that of posts and telegraphs.

The day-telephonists have been forced to take industrial action over equal pay — a right which has even been recognised by Leinster House legislation.

And 600 Dublin postmen are on strike because overtime payments, which were promised to them at Christmas, have not been paid — a matter of only £6,000.

Republicans say that only when all the resources of the nation are owned by the people and only when workers control their own industries can an end be put to the continued economic oppression of the people, and only revolutionary means will achieve that situation.

IT IS THE ONE FIGHT,



British military in last week's strike-breaking operation in Belfast.

NEXT WEEK!!!

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE TWO PAPERS "AN PHOBLACHT" AND "REPUBLICAN NEWS" WILL MERGE AS AND FROM NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th.

THE MASTHEAD WILL BE CHANGED IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE BOTH NAMES. SO MAKE SURE TO LOOK OUT FOR NEXT WEEK'S NEW "AN PHOBLACHT—REPUBLICAN NEWS"!

Cork Protest

LAST week workers employed by Cork Corporation were ordered to clean off H-Block slogans which had been painted up in many parts of the city.

The workers refused to carry out this order and on Friday January 12th did not report into work but held a H-Block Protest March through the city to the City Hall.

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Busmen picketing the Ringsend depot in Dublin.

An Chéad Dáil Éireann

FAISNEIS NEAMHPLÉACHAIS

DO thionóladh Dáil Éireann don chead uair ar 3.30 iar nónin in Áras Árd-Mhéire Átha Cliath ar an 21ú Eanair sa bhliain 1919.

Dúirt Cathal Brúgá ar an lá sin:

"Tá obair tabhachtach le déanamh annso inniu an obair is tabhachtáil do rinn-eadh in Éirinn ón lá tháinig na, Gaill go i-éirinn, agus is naomhtha an obair í."

Ar an Domhnach seo chugainn beidh lá Cuimhneacháin na Chéad Dála ar suil in Áras Árd-Mhéire faoi choimíre Sinn Féin.

Léifear Faisneis Neamhpléachais, an raitis is tabhachtai béidir i stair na h-Eireann riamh.

DE bhrí gur dual do mhuintir na hÉireann bheith n-a saor náisiún.

Agus de bhrí nár staon muintir na hÉireann riadh leisach goeadh bliain ó dhílutóid d'ansmacht gall agus ó chur ina choiméine go minic le neart airm.

Agus de bhrí nár fuil de bhunús agus ná raih riadh bhunús le déis shasana san tír seo acht foireigean agus calaois, agus ná fuil de thaca leis ach sealbh lucht airm i n-aonáin dearbhótháil muintire na hÉireann.

Agus de bhrí go, ndearna Saor-án na hÉireann Saorstat Éireann d'fhorghairt i mbalé Atha Cliath Seachtain na Cásca 1916 ar son muintire na hÉireann.

Agus de bhrí go bhfuil muintir na hÉireann lán -- cheaptha ar neamhspleachas iomlán do

bhaint amach agus do choinseant doibh fein fri d'fhoins leas an phobail do chur chun cinn, an ceart d'atchrú ar a bhoimh, an tsiochain i n-Éirinn agus caradas le náisiún eile do chur i n-áiríthe doibh fein agus feinseachas náisiunta do cheapadh go mbeidh tol na ndaoine mar bhunús leis agus cothrom círt is caoithíolachta d'á bharr ag gach diúine i Éirinn.

Agus de bhrí go ndearna muintir na hÉireann agus sinn i mbeal ré nua de stair an domhain, feidhm a bhaint as an olltoigheachán, mí na Nollag, 1918, chun a dhearbhú de bheireas ábhairnáilhur go tur leó bheith difis do Shaorstat Éireann.

Ar an abhar sin deinimíde i na Teachtaí atá tofa ag muintir na hÉireann agus sinn i n-Dáil Chomhairle i dtéantá a chéile, bunú

Saorstat d'ath - dheimhníu i n-aonáin náisiún na hÉireann agus sinn fein do chur fá gheasa an deimhníu so do chur i bhfeidh an gach síl ar gúmáis.

Ordaighimíodh ní fuil de chumhacht ag éinneach ag an Teachtaí tofa ag muintir na hÉireann difhise a dhéanamh gur dual do mhuintir na hÉireann gileadh doibh, agus ná fuil de Pháilíment ann go mbeidh an náisiún umhaí d'ach amháin Dáil Éireann.

Dearbháighimíodh ná fulaingeachaimíodh go bráth an cúngas atá d'á dhéanamh ag an ansmacht ghafadáil ar gearnáisúnta agus cílighimíodh ar champá ar Sasanaigh meachtear ar fad as ár dtír.

Éilighimíodh ar gach saoráisiún ar domhan neamhspleachas na hÉireann d'admháil agus



fógraímid gurab éigean ár neamhspleachas chun síocháin a chur in-áiríthe do'n domhan.

I n-aonáin muintire na hÉireann curimíodh ár gcinneamhant faoi choimíre Dhaia an Uile - chumhacht do chuir misneach agus buan - tseasamhacht i n-ár sinsear chun leanúint leo go téan leis na céadta bliain i gcoinean tóránsachta gan trua gan taise; agus de bhrí gur moide ár neart an ceart a bheith againn as troid d'fhágadar mar oidhréacht againn, achainimíodh ar Dhaia A bheanach do bhrónnadh orainn i goir an treasa deire den chomháig go bhfuilimíodh fí gheasa leanúint do go dtí go mbainfear amach an tsaoirse.

The debasement of democracy



Maura Comerford

Ladhar an Chrompáin agus all that

HEADS or tails! Today we have both -- from the Irish words "ceann" (a head) and "eirball" (a tail). While they are both parts of the animal's anatomy, they are used in placenames to signify the shape and structure of the landscape.

"Ceann" usually is anglicised to "Kin" but occasionally to "Kan" and "Cann".

Cannafahy in Co. Chill Chainnigh means the head or upper part of the green or playing-field (Ceann faiche). Canrawer (Co. na Gaillimhe) is derived from Ceann Reamhar (the Fat or Thick Hill or Headland) and Cannagola (Co. Ard Mhaca) is Ceann na Gaibhle (head or hill of the River-fork).

Canover, in Co. na Gaillimhe, logically is given its correct pronunciation, "Canure", which is a clear indication of its origin: Ceann lubhair (the Head or Hill of the Yew-tree)

There are a number of other cases throughout the country where the local pronunciation is correctly at variance with the official anglicisation.

Kinvara (Co. na Gaillimhe) is Cinn Mhara (the Head of the Sea) and Kindroghed (Co. Dun na nGall) is

My dictionary gives this definition of Democracy: "Democracy is a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people collectively, and is administered by them or by officers appointed by them . . .".

Within the last few weeks the Swiss nation decided by referendum not to allow its government to set up special police. My congratulations, for what they are worth, to the Swiss!

The procedures by which Democracy -- so called -- fell to its present predicament in the more or less joint hands of Jack Lynch and Roy Mason and their predecessors here is too complicated to be tackled in a short article, but it would make a suitable study for the serious minded in these long winter evenings. The matter is outstandingly important.

Native Interests

In the last 55 years the first Cosgrave, de Valera, Costello, Lemass, Lynch, the second Cosgrave, and now Lynch again have been allowed by the people to shape a system of government which leaves all power between elections inside Government buildings in Dublin.

While the British are to blame for incalculable wrongs against our country it would be a grave mistake to blame them for the state of our democracy which emerged from the counter revolution of 1921-22.

Native interests were as greedy as foreign ones, and the mobilised power of press, radio and T.V. censorship, deliberate perversion of written history, and bribery by pensions and otherwise, have been only some of the means by which the real course of events on the home front was hidden from the people.

The time is coming rapidly when the political auctioneers of our democracy will have come to the end of their lists. The sell out should not be allowed to proceed without the most vigorous protest.

No mandate

The position is well illustrated by the thought that the Irish people to-day appear to have no more power over their elected politicians than their predecessors had over John Redmond in August 1914.

The leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, was so grateful for "Home Rule on the Statute book" that he pledged the young men of Ireland to fight for England -- at a cost of 50,000 lives. This happened in the House of Commons the night in August 1914 when England went to war with Germany. Redmond had no democratic mandate to do such a thing and this was demonstrated

by the use of the word "criminal" for those who resist them.

The IRA is anathema because it does not accept the rules of the game.

Democracy had a secure foundation in Ireland after the 1918 election and the founding of Dail Eireann sixty years ago. But, be-

cause of human failure, and inexperience in face of massive force (Black and Tans), the structure did not get off the ground before it was abandoned by all but a handful of faithful TDs, less than a majority.

The first constitution of the Free State is a lasting memorial of the nature of the institution designed to replace the elected Dail with the English designed alternative.

Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins were both utterly deceived by the English -- among many other things, with the promise that partition would not survive.

In designing the Free State constitution they saw to it that there would be no mention of the oath to King George; and in order to make sure that Collins' promise that the Treaty would be a stepping stone to freedom they saw that the referendum and initiative were in the constitution, so that the people would have power to bring about what changes they really desired.

This constitution went to England for approval and the English government made changes, including the insertion of the oath.

The 1922 election was about to take place under an agreement, to postpone the decision on the Treaty, until a decision was agreed unanimously, and made law in the six occupied counties.

The English motive in manipulating the constitution was two-fold.

The secondary purpose was to use it as an election manifesto. The clauses which had been inserted to please and attract the voters towards the Treaty were left there -- for the time being. The document was published in the papers on election day.

It was complained afterwards that the papers did not reach the whole country on the day of publication.

Nevertheless it was represented, by "democrats" at home and abroad, who were in favour of surrender, that the constitution had been approved and that it gave a

(Continued on page 3)

PROTEST HITS THE DIAMOND

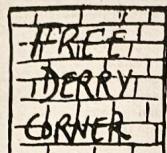
FOR the past two and a half years, Derry Sinn Fein has been holding weekly protest meetings on Saturday afternoons at Waterloo Square outside one of the city's major stores.

Week after week, a picket and placard protest is held, with recorded music played, and speeches made to highlight the week's events politically, and in the H-Blocks.

To break out of the usual routine and bring the message of H-Block POWs out into an area of the city where it is usually ignored, members of Derry Sinn Fein took their protest into one of the most staunchly pro-Brit areas of the city, the Diamond, where stands a large war memorial to the dead of the British Army, and where the presence of the RUC creates hardly a stir of disgust.

The contingent of protesters left the Cable Street Sinn Fein Centre, armed with H-Block leaflets by the thousand instead of placards and loudspeaking equipment. The Brits followed in a Land-Rover, and as soon as entry was made into the

City Centre, via Butcher Gate, more Brit red-caps and RUC foot and mobile patrols appeared, and followed the protesters to their posts at various points in the Diamond, and in front of Austin's Woolworth's, and several other city shops.



When it became obvious that close watching by the RUC and Brits were unsuccessful in discouraging the H-Block leafletters, a mobile patrol of redcaps stopped and several leapt out of their vehicle to closely question leafletters.

As the RUC moved in to surround the lone leafletters, the crowds of shoppers surprised the Brits and RUC (and the leafletters!) by crowd-

ing in and making a grab for the leaflets.

Reports, one Sinn Feiner: "I was handing out a moderate amount of leaflets until the RUC started harassing me. Then everyone moved in, demanding to get leaflets before they would be lifted by the RUC".

From that time onwards, the RUC and Brits made the round of each and every leafleter, taking the name of even one ten year-old boy who was helping publicise H-Block.

In spite of this over 2,000 H-Block leaflets were given out in the freezing weather in less than one hour, and people were still talking of the protest a week later.

It was all good publicity, not only handing out the leaflets, but the buzz of talk the Sinn Fein and H-Block presence in the heart of the Diamond created.

Last Saturday Sinn Fein was again in the usual place in Waterloo Place, to keep broadcasting the news of the H-Block and the Republican viewpoint of the week's political events to the usual crowd of Saturday shoppers. But further excursions beyond the bounds of Waterloo Place can be expected.

News of H-Block or the Republican viewpoint will not be confined to any one area of Derry.

Success of Christmas Post

IN a fortnight of diligent work, Sinn Fein's voluntary postal workers, once again operated the special "Christmas post" organised by Sinn Fein for the people of Derry.

Nearly ten thousand cards were delivered all over Derry, double last year's number, from as far away as Dublin, Belfast and even Scotland. The majority of those cards, of course, came into Derry's four Sinn Fein Advice and Complaint Centres from the people of Derry.

For three pence, well under half Elizabeth's postal rate, customers were able to ensure their card's de-

livery before Christmas.

H-Block stickers and a small supply of colourful harp stickers were used as stamps, and the cards were franked with a "Sinn Fein, Doire" stamper and the date.

By 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, all four Sinn Fein Centres were cleared out of cards, with the exception of half a dozen cards left in the Centre after the closing deadline for the post of 4 p.m. the previous evening. Even these were delivered within the Christmas period, to as far away as Culmore, Muff and the outer reaches of the Waterside.

There were about nine cards which the centres' postal staff were unable to deliver, because they were incorrectly addressed, addressed to houses which in the past year had been bricked up, or where the people had moved elsewhere.

The post, now in its fourth year, was operated to aid the hard-pressed Prisoners Dependents Fund (An Cumann Cabhrach), which in Derry now has nearly two hundred POWs to look after, and a large number of families depending on it for necessary aid.

Bishop speaks out

In a special sermon on Christmas Eve in St. Mary's, Sligo, Bishop Conway appealed for prayers and sympathy for all prisoners, north and south.

He began by saying that he had recently visited a Republican prisoner in Portlaoise who is from his area, but soon turned to the shocking situation in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

In strongly condemning the conditions in Long Kesh, he made particular reference to the scandal of the non-jury courts that had convicted these men in the first place.

The Bishop read out a very moving

letter which he had received from the mother of one of the men on the blanket. In it, she told of the degrading and intolerable situation that exists for her son and expressed her despair at the lack of any outcry in the 26 counties at the treatment being meted out to the prisoners.

Bishop Conway went on to say that he was against violence of any kind, but he particularly detested the state violence that was characteristic of the administration in the north of this country, and that he abhorred what was happening to the men in the H-Blocks.

He said that every prisoner, no matter why he was in prison, has basic rights as a human being, and that these rights must be protected at all times.

Sinn Fein announcement

THE 1979 Sinn Fein Speakers List has now been issued to all Comhairle Ceantair. Of particular interest this year are several lectures on the Sinn Fein 1979 election campaigns and our attitudes to the aspirations and philosophy of Loyalism.

Advice and assistance in organising lectures and seminars is available at all times from the undersigned or from the Provincial Education

Officers.

Cumainn and Comhairle Ceantair should send requests for speakers to the Director of Education at Head Office. At least six weeks advance notice must be given to ensure the availability of the speaker or speakers of your choice.

Christine Ni Elias
Stiurthoir Oideachais
Ard-Oifig

Greetings

CONGRATULATIONS to Bridget and Brendan on their recent wedding.

From all their friends in the Thomas Gibson Cumann, Portarlington.

Best wishes for the future.
"Piper" O'Hagan, (H-Block)
Happy 20th birthday, Piper, from Mum and Dad and all the family. They may have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts. Keep up your spirits.

THE DEBASEMENT OF DEMOCRACY

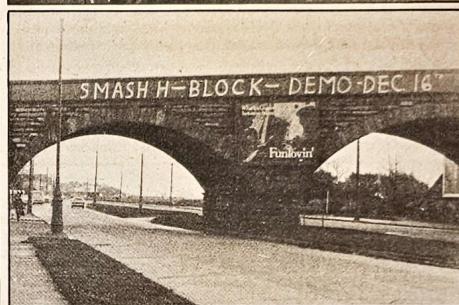
(Continued from page 2)
mandate to the Free State for launching the civil war.

What has not been noted, to my knowledge, was that the election day papers, carrying the constitution, were of course in the hands of many voters before the end of polling day.

That was the only occasion I recall when "the jam" in the constitution may have helped the carrying of the Treaty, and our present state of moral and political debasement.

With foundations like this, getting worse all the time, what could have been expected except what we have?

GETTING MESSAGE OVER IN DUBLIN



Top: This bridge at Bath Avenue, Sandymount provides a regular spot for slogan-writers.

Above: The bridge at Clontarf was used to advertise the last big Dublin protest. The next march is on January 20th (see page 6 for details).

Sean Sabhat remembered in Limerick

The Annual Sean Sabhat Commemoration was held in Limerick on Sunday January 7th.

The parade, lead by a six man colour-party, the Southside Girls Band and a large contingent of Na Fianna Eireann, went from Bedford Row, through the city centre, to Sabhat's grave at the Republican Plot, in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

At the grave, an officer of Na Fianna Eireann laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement, and a decade of the rosary was recited by An tAthair Antoin O Tuaththaigh.

The oration was given by Risteard Behal (Ard Comhairle, Sinn Fein), who said that Sean Sabhat was a man of peace who felt compelled to take up arms against the injustices of partition and British rule.

"Sabhat" he said "was an inspiration to the men of his own day

and to the men of today". He called for increased support for the Republican POWs in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in their struggle for Political Status.

In condemning censorship of the views of Sinn Fein in the Southern media, he pointed out that an effective way of fighting it would be the election of a large number of Sinn Fein councillors in the local elections this coming June.

The Chairman, in his concluding remarks, called on those present to resolve that this time next year, when they gathered to honour the memory of Sean Sabhat, H-Block would be no more, that it would have been "smashed by the wrath of the Republican people".

I.C.R.A.

Due to coincidence of dates the I.C.R.A. march and meeting about POWs in English prisons will be amalgamated with that of Sinn Fein on H-Block on January 20th, at 2.00 p.m.

Speakers invited by I.C.R.A.: Jackie Kaye (PAC -- London) Mary Doherty (Donegal RAC),

Support the P.O.W.s!

SYMPATHY

AT the monthly meeting of Comhairle Ceantair, Corcaigh, Sinn Fein, a vote of condolence was passed with the relatives of all who died in the tragic explosion and fire at the Whiddy Island Oil Depot.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Fran Carroll, Walsh Island, Portarlington, who died January 3rd.

From the Thomas Gibson Cumann, Portarlington.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Gaeilge: essence of our nationality

WHIDDY ISLAND DISASTER CARNSORE POINT CATASTRO

The Whiddy Island disaster, in which 51 lives were lost, and immeasurable environmental damage caused, is a grim warning of what could happen if human lives and the environment are placed in the safekeeping of similar multinational companies in the construction of the proposed nuclear power station at Carnsore Point.

In this article Terry Glavin, a Canadian journalist and broadcaster, looks at some of the issues involved in nuclear technology.

ITS supporters call it the saviour of the epoch; its opponents say it is the greatest threat facing humanity. Until recently it was a matter of only fleeting concern in this country, but now the nuclear debate hovers ominously on the Irish horizon.

British geologists are considering a dump for high-level nuclear waste in South Armagh. Canadian interests are drilling for uranium in Ulster, and a nuclear reactor is planned for Carnsore Point in County Wexford.

The growing alarm over nuclear power focuses on the argument that the nuclear fuel cycle, from mining and processing through power generation to the disposal of nuclear wastes, presents greater dangers than technology can handle.

A growing number of physicists, technicians and health scientists advocates that the whole idea be scrapped before it's too late.

Diabolical hazards

The radioactive elements in nuclear fuel, among them radon, uranium, strontium, cesium, and plutonium, are the most lethal known to science; and the process of generating power through controlled nuclear fission, say nuclear opponents, is fraught with diabolical hazards too awesome to chance.

Nuclear critics argue that there is no safe method of storing or disposing of lethally toxic substances, which retain their debilitating powers for thousands of years.

In mining and milling, workers have been fatally contaminated by radon gas and radium. According to Dr. Helen Caldecott of Connecticut's Harvard University, uranium mine tailings in the U.S. "will produce thousands and thousands of deaths over the years from lung cancer."

Communities built on mine tailings in the state of Colorado, says Caldecott, show "an increased incidence of birth defects among the children."

"In fact, in some mines in Canada, 50 per cent (of the miners) died of lung cancer."

At a uranium operation in Port Hope, Ontario, radioactive mine tailings have poisoned nearby lakes and rivers, and 450 miners in the northern town are slowly dying of silicosis from exposure to radioactive dust.

Caldecott spent many years researching low-level radiation exposure effects and her work eventually halted uranium mining in her native Australia.

We all remember Hiroshima, and the gruesome results of exposure to high-level radioactivity. Victims suffer nausea, vomiting, agonizing fever, stupor and hysteria. The bowels turn to water and the hair falls out before death claims the

victim. In the phenomena of nuclear fission within a nuclear generating station, the "controlled chain reaction" produces as much heat energy as a thousand Hiroshima-type bombs.

"No safe level"

Nuclear power proponents correctly state that a nuclear explosion is impossible in a conventional reactor. They further claim that radiation emissions from nuclear plants are so low they are negligible.

However, recent research indicates that there is no "safe" level of radiation exposure.

British researcher Dr. Alice Stewart stated recently that internationally accepted "safe" levels of radiation are too high, and she has linked the cancer deaths of thousands of American atomic workers to supposedly safe levels of exposure.

Dr. Ernest Sternglass, professor of radiology at the University of Pittsburgh, recently released a study of communities near a conventional reactor in the northeastern U.S., and concludes that the accepted levels of radiation emitted by the reactor is far from safe; in the country where the reactor is situated, the cancer rate rose 58 per cent between 1970 and 1975, and five miles downwind, the cancer rate rose 44 per cent.

"There is no way other cancer-causing agents could explain that kind of pattern," Sternglass concludes.

After six years of extensive research, Sternglass found "enormous increases in infant mortality" and cancer rate increases of 180 per cent in communities surrounding a Pennsylvania reactor.

Sternglass and his associates charge that already genetic mutations have been deposited in the global gene bank as a result of nuclear technology, posing "a threat to the biological survival of our species."

Probably the most detailed and authoritative research on the effects of low-level radiation exposure effects was conducted by Professor John Gofman, who headed the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's biomedical division until his findings were suppressed in what he calls a pattern that makes Watergate look like child's play."

Gofman's research concluded that the continued operation of nuclear plants in the U.S. would result in the deaths of thousands.

He recommended: "Shut down all the operating plants immediately. Licence no new ones. Forget the whole damn thing."

Nobel laureate Dr. Linus Paul-

ing conducted research similar to Gofman's and concluded that, if every American were exposed to supposedly safe levels of radiation emitted by nuclear plants, the result would be: 96,000 cancer deaths, 60,000 embryonic and neonatal deaths, 12,000 children born with gross mental or physical abnormalities, and 22,000 leukemia cases.

Deadly plutonium

Of all the elements involved in the nuclear fuel cycle, the most deadly is plutonium. Aptly named after Pluto, the God of Hell, "a millionth of a gram will give you lung cancer. If you took one pound of it... you could kill every man, woman and child on earth," states Dr. Caldecott.

An average sized nuclear reactor will produce about 500 pounds of plutonium each year. It will retain its lethal toxicity for half a million years.

Plutonium is produced by bombarding uranium isotopes with neutrons and the process "breeds" more nuclear fuel than it consumes, hence the term "breeder reactor," the type proposed for Carnsore Point.

Unlike conventional reactors, the breeder reactor produces weapons-grade plutonium and can violently explode, releasing high-level wastes into the atmosphere.

To nuclear proponents, the record of the breeder reactor has been the most embarrassing aspect of the nuclear power industry, but it is also hailed as the solution to the problem of dwindling uranium supplies.

Experimental breeder reactors are operating in France, Britain, Japan and the Soviet Union, despite catastrophic failures.

Although Soviet officials deny it, a horrifying nuclear explosion took place at an alleged experimental breeder in the Ural mountains in 1958. Its results were witnessed by Israeli Professor Leo Tumerman, whose account was confirmed by a former Soviet scientist, although U.S. officials claim the explosion occurred at a nuclear waste dump.

The accident allegedly killed hundreds of people and led to the evacuation of thousands.

Soviet officials confirmed an explosion at a breeder reactor on the Caspian Sea occurred in 1973, only six months after it began operation, and stated it would not be in operation again for three to five years.

In November of 1955, a small-scale experimental reactor, at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Idaho research station was being monitored by a team of scientists for operational problems. The EBR-1, a breeder reactor, served as a rough blueprint for a large-scale



commercial breeder planned for Lagoona Beach, near the city of Detroit.

While the scientists were testing procedures on the EBR-1 that would be applied to the large Fermi reactor, unusual readings began to appear on the temperature gauges. Within minutes, the reactor building was evacuated and an emergency shielding device narrowly averted an atomic blast.

Fermi disaster

Despite a plethora of unanswered questions about the safety of the Fermi project, the plan went ahead.

On January 3, 1961, roadblocks were thrown up around the AEC Idaho operation. There had been a serious radiation alarm at the small SL-1 reactor.

As emergency technicians entered the reactor building, which buzzed with radioactivity, they found two technicians lying atop the reactor.

One was dead, the other would die in moments. But a third technician was missing. Despite protective clothing, radioactivity levels were so high that emergency technicians could remain only for seconds at a time and the search for the third technician was painstaking and difficult.

He was eventually found dead, a storey above the reactor, impaled to the ceiling by a fuel rod that had shot through his groin and out his shoulder.

Because of the high radiation levels, it took six days before the third worker could be removed. Three weeks later, the three workers were buried without their hands and heads, which were so badly contaminated that they had to be buried in a special container with other contaminated material.

The AEC handed down its accident report on the SL-1 explosion on June 11, 1961. "We cannot say

with any certainty what initiated the SL-1 explosion, and it is possible that we may never know," the report stated.

The next day, a court action brought against the Fermi nuclear reactor project by an American labour organization was overturned, and the U.S. Supreme Court allowed further construction of the Detroit breeder to continue.

On October 5, 1966, the Fermi breeder reactor showed signs of trouble. Gauges fluctuated inexplicably, monitoring devices behaved erratically. Panic struck plant officials as it became obvious that the reactor had sustained a partial melt-down, and evacuation of the city of Detroit was considered.

A University of Michigan study of the incident later revealed that, if the reactor had run out of control, 133,000 people could have suffered agonizing death.

The Fermi breeder reactor, at a cost of millions of dollars, was shut down after operating successfully for only 30 days. A breeder reactor is proposed for Carnsore Point.

Waste dangers

At the end of the nuclear fuel "cycle" is the storage and disposal of nuclear wastes, some of which must be safeguarded for hundreds of thousands of years.

Nuclear waste storage may be the critical issue determining the future of the nuclear power industry—if industry spokesmen are sure that nuclear power can be controlled, can they offer the same guarantees for wastes thousands of years from now?

Toxic nuclear wastes, for the most part, are presently stored in temporary facilities. Some wastes are either dumped into the ocean, the Irish Sea for example.

Several American states have enacted legislation prohibiting nuclear

ROUS OPHIC?



facilities until a solution to the waste problem has been solved.

The issue has already divided European governments.

The most feasible method of storing waste, according to critics and proponents alike, is burying the substances in geological formations under ground.

NO SAFE METHOD

However, hundreds of millennia is a long time, and, like all other aspects of the nuclear industry, no method is absolutely safe.

For the most part, the heated, controversial aspects of nuclear technology remain within the bounds of environmentalist, academic circles.

But the "advent of the plutonium state" is rapidly becoming the subject of debate in political academic circles.

The argument goes something like this: A plutonium-fuelled economy, depending on an imperative of extreme state powers to govern handling, transport, refining, processing and waste-guarding of thousands of tons of apocalyptic, horrifying material, renders meaningless all talk of grassroots democracy, workers' control, liberty, etc.

Sweeping state powers under the command of a new technocratic priesthood would eliminate the range of choices for our future for the sake of ensuring that cesium is not waylaid, radon does not breach containment, plutonium does not fall into neurotic hands, and genetic mutants are kept in check.

It is a choice we make not only for ourselves, but for our grandchildren.

Future generations may be forever lost to the nuclear genie if the powers that loosed it are not soon called to fully account for what little command for our future we have left.

MORE ATTACKS ON H-BLOCK MEN

FURTHER ATTACKS on blanket men in H-Block have been reported by the H-Block Information Centre in Belfast.

In the week before Christmas the men in H-4 were systematically and viciously assaulted by screws, who hacked off hair and beards and scrubbed bodies raw.

The prisoners, who have been passively resisting this brutal treatment, were unmercifully beaten with batons, and some were almost drowned in the baths of strong disinfectant.

YOUNGEST ON BLANKET

Among the scores of prisoners injured was 16 years old Ciaran McGillicuddy, the youngest man on the blanket. Although only two days on the protest and in no need of haircut or shave he was given the same treatment by the screws.

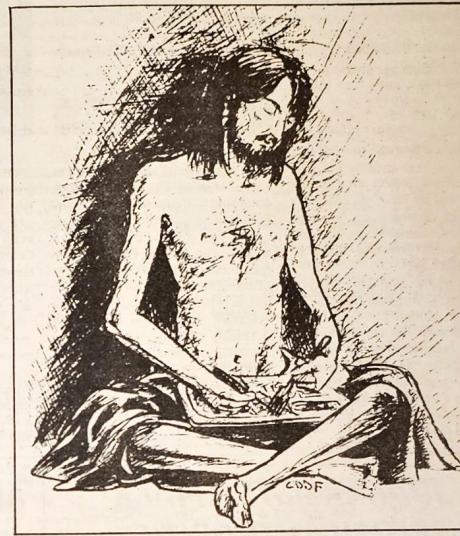
Among other prisoners hurt were: Phelim O'hagan from Lurgan who received a broken jaw and multiple bruising; Thomas Elliott from Derry who suffered a badly cut nose, a black eye and cuts all over his body; Seamus Bradley also from

Derry who received bad bruising to the rib cage; Martin Livingstone from Belfast, received a suspected broken nose, Kieran Smith and Ned Flynn from Belfast who suffered bruising to legs and back; and Damien Crossan and Jake Jackson also from Belfast who received cuts and bruises.

In another attempt to worsen the already inhuman conditions, in which the blanket men are held, the prison regime have commenced the construction of corrugated iron and wire mesh "hutches" on the outside of the H-Block cells of the men 'on the blanket'?

These "hutches" effectively cut off communication between the prisoners through their windows and further isolates them in their cells. They also reduce the already sparse sunlight which the prisoners previously were allowed.

A line drawing depicting the results of inhuman conditions in H-Blocks.



IN THE welter of propaganda launched by the British establishment and parroted by Leinster House lackies it is sometimes forgotten exactly how the protest progressed to this stage and exactly why the men on the blanket decided on the so called "dirt-strike".

The history of the protest was clearly outlined last week in a letter to the press from Dublin priest An Tábhair Piars O'Duill.

It was back in 1976 it all began. The British Government decided that after March of that year nobody would receive political status for anti-British activities. Up to then there was a "special status" category of prisoners recognised in all political cases, as is now in the South. The first prisoner to be sentenced after the new order was Ciaran Nugent in September, 1976. Since then there is "on the blanket"—a term meaning that, as he refuses to wear convict clothes, he is forced to remain naked except for a blanket or towel for covering. If indeed

he can endure another year, he will emerge a great hero, because, when he is released, he will have served every day of his sentence "on the blanket".

The British Government tried to smash this protest as quickly as possible, and they imposed punishments such as no physical exercises, no reading material, no writing material. The prisoner endured this state of almost total deprivation and the spending of 24 hours in their cells for 17 months. Then the crunch came as a result of the following reasons:

(1) Refusal of the authorities to allow the prisoners to go to the toilets unless they wore prison uniforms.

(2) Loyalist orderlies, who were then given the work of emptying

the toilet vessels, began deliberately to topple the pots over the cells.

(3) The prison officers then joined in the tactic of overturning the toilet vessels on the cell floors of the Republican prisoners.

The passive resistance campaign of refusing to wash and slop out was launched by the Republican prisoners as a direct result of these tactics by the authorities.

This passive campaign by the Republican prisoners may seem an extreme measure to some. Personally, I think it is far preferable, as a means of resistance, to hunger strike—the more traditional measure of prison protest. There are very few measures available to prisoners except there is a strike element of some kind in it.

Some would think the removal

of remission would be adequate punishment—the loss of freedom, after all, is 90% of punishment in prison. Yet the punishment inflicted by the British authorities on the H-Block prisoners now consists of 24-hour lock-up in cells without beds or chairs or tables and no covering on themselves except a blanket. They are deprived of fresh air or physical exercises and even association with fellow-prisoners—all this inflicted on prisoners for over two years constitutes torture, degrading treatment and is contrary to Human Rights. By this means Roy Mason has tried to break the prisoners, only to find that there are hundreds of young men and women aged 18, 19 and 20 years on protest after sentence in the infamously unjust Diplock courts, and these are prepared to sit in jail or protest for any number of years as a reminder to the world of the British use of torture, brutality and spurious legal and judicial procedures.

TWO VOLUNTEERS LAID TO REST

LAWRENCE MONTGOMERY and **FRANKIE DONNELLY**, the two volunteers killed in a premature explosion in the Ardoyne area were buried in Milltown Cemetery on Monday January 7th.

Frankie Donnelly, aged 24 and married, had been active in the IRA since he was a teenager. He was interned on two occasions firstly for six weeks in 1973 and then for 22 months from February 1974 until interment ended in December 1975.

After his release he continued his involvement in the Republican cause.

His secrecy kept him out of the enemy's hands and when the Belfast Brigade's ranks were depleted through interment, young men like Lawrence carried on the war.

A massive crowd turned out at their funeral showing the esteem in which the two men were held. Full



Frankie Donnelly



Lawrence Montgomery

military honours were given; three volleys of shots were fired over the tricolour draped coffins in Ardoyne, and sixty uniformed Volunteers representing Oglaithe na hEireann, Cumann na mBan, Na gCailíni, Na Fianna, and Auxiliaries

marched behind the funeral car along the Falls Road.

The oration at the graveside was given by Charlie McGlade who spoke of the courage of such men, and extended sympathy to the bereaved families.

"A outstanding figure of the Arab world"

THE President of Algeria, Houari Boumedienne, who died on 27th December last, saw Algeria through years of transition from newly independent nation to a developing modern industrial state.

Boumedienne, unlike many of his comrades of the liberation struggle, attended a Moslem Koranic school rather than receiving his education under the French colonial system.

Later he left for Cairo, rather than be conscripted into the French army, where he studied at Al Azhar University until the beginning in 1954 of Algeria's war of independence against French rule of the country.

Boumedienne joined the freedom fighters, and by 1957 had become a colonel in command of the Oran area. When independence was achieved in 1962 he was Chief of Staff of the army.

On becoming President in 1965 he worked to put into practice his belief that economic independence was essential to give any meaning to political independence. In this he echoed James Connolly's belief for Ireland — that a different flag does not mean true independence unless the national wealth and resources belong to the people.

Boumedienne nationalised the oil-wells — the major national resource. Between 1972 and 75 large agrarian reforms were carried out, with much development of co-operatives.

le ELDRIDA

Industries based on the oil and natural gas wealth were established. But a modern socialist state, according to Boumedienne could be built side by side with the strong religious and cultural traditions of a people who had seen these suppressed under colonial rule.

Boumedienne, as an intelligent and cultured man, valued both the literature in his native Arabic, and in French.

In 1973 he emerged on the world scene when the non-aligned nations held a summit conference in Algeria.

The following year he spoke at the United Nations to propose a



President Boumedienne

"new world economic order" to give a better deal to poorer countries.

He was influential in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), opposed Sadat's recent appeasement moves towards Israel, and supported the Palestinians' rights to their own country.

Perhaps some measure of the respect held for Boumedienne is shown in the tribute from the Foreign Minister of the 'old enemy', France, who described him as an "outstanding figure of the Arab world" who led his country "on the path of development".

JOURNALISTS ATTACK BRITISH AUTHORITIES

FRENCH journalists' trade unions have criticised the attitude of the British authorities towards reporters in the six counties.

The *Union Nationale des Syndicats de Journalistes* was commenting on the arrest by British troops of a French reporter, Mr. Alain Frilet, last April.

French officials and the British National Union of Journalists intervened on his behalf and he was freed after 10 days on bail of £1,500.

He has been charged with "non-collaboration with security forces", "possession of documents useful to terrorists", and "membership of the IRA". To be allowed to return to France for the holiday period, he had to pay an extra £1,500 on top of his original bail.

Alain Frilet is the Belfast correspondent of the Paris Left-wing daily, *Liberation* and the Sinpresse picture agency. He is the only permanent French correspondent in

the North.

At the press conference in Paris, UNSJ officials said that Alain Frilet, who was present at the conference, was "only a journalist doing his job".

The officials said that "journalists are not police informers and their source of information must be absolutely protected". There was no reason for journalists to collaborate with the security forces, they said.

They attacked the "pressures" to which they said Alain Frilet had been subjected by the British authorities. He had to report once a week to an RUC barracks and once a month to a Belfast court, and troops had repeatedly searched his apartment.

They added that they had written to the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Jean Francois-Poncet, to draw his attention to the case.

The UNSJ groups together France's four main journalists' unions.

New Year H-Block Protest

MARCH AGAINST H-BLOCK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th, 1979.

Assemble: STEPHEN'S GREEN 2 p.m.

MARCH TO G.P.O.

Speakers from Sinn Fein — TUCAR — R.A.C. (Belfast)

AUEW support for Blanket Men

Support for the men in H-Block has come from members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in Britain.

In August of last year, the Ealing Branch of the AUEW called for a "public enquiry into the conditions of prisoners held in Long Kesh Internment Camp in Northern Ireland especially the prisoners held in H-Block". As a result of this initiative, the Ealing Trades Council also passed a resolution demanding an enquiry into the situation in Long Kesh.

In subsequent correspondence with the Northern Ireland Office, Mr. John O'Brien, the Ealing Branch Secretary, and a member of the British Labour Movement Delegation to Dublin, Crossmaglen, and Belfast in 1976, was informed that Roy Mason feels there is "no necessity to hold any form of inquiry into conditions in HM Prison, and that the prisoners are housed in first-class accommodation".

In the face of this totally unacceptable attitude of the British authorities, and their unsatisfactory explanations of the situation, the members of the AUEW Ealing Branch appealed to their union's District Committee "to form a delegation, made up of AUEW Members of Parliament and other members, to visit Long Kesh and police barracks in the north of Ireland".

Further concern was expressed by the branch members regarding the situation in the 6 counties at the October meeting and the following resolution was passed unanimously: "The members of this branch of the AUEW call for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland".

Gaeilge: essence of our nationality

LONDON LETTER

M. O'Callanain writes on the significance of the 1948 Cabinet papers.

THE great value of the recent release of the secret Cabinet papers of the 1948 Labour Government is that they reveal to some extent who the real Imperial bosses are, quite regardless of the governing role allotted to the elected politicians, Labour, Tory or Liberal.

The Brit Cabinet papers made public under the 30 year secret rule do not of course, spill all the political beans.

The real top secret workings of the permanent non-elective government, the permanent Civil Service, are not revealed to all and sundry every three decades.

Whitehall has no intentions of being subjected to strip-search, with ministerial policies completely unveiled to the vulgar gaze of electors.

The real and effective government of Britain, the permanent Civil Service has its own age-long imperial traditions and power structure. It exists in the interest of the ruling class and will ensure that every official secret, every secret memo will not be revealed, whatever about the thirty years secret rule regarding Cabinet papers.

That would be democratic to a dangerous degree and a threat to the vested interests it is pledged to espouse. It would, in fact, mark the end of the Establishment.

Nominal Prime Minister

Clearly shown in the 1948, Hitler secret, Cabinet papers is the Prime Ministerial role of Sir Norman Brook, secretary to the Labour Cabinet, and the subordinate — "I agree, C.R.A." role of the nominal Prime Minister, Clement R. Attlee. Like all good Labour lieutenants Clement found his docile service rewarded by a seat in the Lords.

Sir Norman Brook, inherited by the Labour Cabinet as secretary from the Tories of the Churchill era — the Imperial Civil Service motto is "to serve every government with equal delight" — directed the Labourites in their implementation of those Tory policies which characterise British Labour once installed in office. When the Establishment speaks, the Labour lackey not only listens but hastens to obey.

Interesting to see that revelation of the understanding which exists between the senior Irish Civil Servant of the Free State and his Brit opposites.

Propaganda ploy

Lord Rugby, Britain's man in Dublin, or, to give him his official title, the U.K. Representative, in 1948 in a secret memo to Whitehall, revealed that senior Irish Civil Servant, Mr. Boland, had told him that the Irish government would "make the greatest possible use of the title 'Republic'" with the propaganda idea of emphasising

to those who might sympathise with the wilder elements that the great national objective had now been achieved".

The plots, deceptions and stratagems of politicians are, however, shortlived. The principles of republicanism endure, upheld gloriously by one Irish generation after another.

In 1948 Lord Rugby was reporting to Whitehall the political moves leading up to the Costello declaration of the "Irish Republic" and the Leinster House enactment of the "New Republic of Ireland Act", December 1948.

Lord Rugby summed up the Leinster marathon talk-in contemptuously. Press and politicians were "competing to bill it as an historic national occasion". Over 40 TDs spoke "none of them for less than three quarters of an hour".

Ireland, he noted, has an "infinite toleration for the speechifier". The republican bandwagon, he wrote, has come triumphantly home" with, predictably, every politician aboard".

The Brits, the politicians claimed, had been talked out of Ireland. The legislation setting up the "Republic" was passed unanimously in December thirty years ago. The "hollow victory" of the inter-party Free Staters as some have termed it, the "ridiculous charade" as others have seen it, was not to affect "the constitutional position of Northern Ireland" "not the issue of partition" as Lord Rugby saw it.

London would simply have to adjust to a sovereign independent republic which was "neither Commonwealth nor foreign". And the Brit Establishment, he could have added, is supreme and masterly at such adjustments.

This year the 30th anniversary of the ceremonial proclamation of the Costello Republic of Ireland will pass without commemoration or notice of any kind.

This year, the centenary of the birth of Pearse will be honoured throughout the 32 counties of Ireland and by Irish Communities abroad.

Sinn Fein will ensure that the Pearse Centenary is not misused nor misappropriated by careerist, corrupt and callous politicians, nor by a coterie of bogus academics and pseudo intellectuals already aspiring to drag the name of our great national revolutionary leader, first President and true scholar in the mire of their calculated treachery and limitless opportunism.

**SUPPORT IRISH POWS
BRITISH OUT OF IRELAND**

BLOODY SUNDAY MARCH, LONDON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Assemble: 2.30 p.m. at
Speakers Corner, Marble Arch
Demonstration called by Sinn Fein

POSTMHALA — Letters to the Editor

THE BISHOP AND PATSY DUFFY

Bishop Edward Daly of Derry has had the privilege or the burden of seeing at close range the traditional butchery which has always been the fate of those Irish men who merely speak out against their oppressors ... the British invaders or the unthinkables.

The last emotion of a young Derry teenager in January 30th 1972, was a light laugh as he observed a priest running for his life. Just the sight of a priest running at all was a sight he couldn't have imagined before that day because such a total loss of dignity was hitherto unthinkable.

Seconds later, young Duddy's smile ended when a British soldier's bullet snuffed out his budding manhood. He was one of 14 who were gunned down in their own streets by armed English terrorists. Bishop Daly, then a priest, knelt in the middle of all this carnage.

Why Father Daly did not immediately take an oath to help the Irish forces of Resistance, only a keen student of psychology could say. What did he need to stir up his Irish nature? What more reason to cry from the roof tops, from the pulpit for help to throw off the yoke of these foreign marauders and monsters?

The fact is that he resigned himself to

Lies from Cork

ONE wonders if there is a concerted move by pro-Brit newspapers in Ireland to put over lying propaganda to Irish exiles.

The latest is from a lackey called Tom Tobin, writing in "The Irish Weekly," the Cork paper, smugly narrating a story of "Irishmen in a pub in West Kensington" who supposedly were asking "who gave the I.R.A. a mandate" (etc).

I wrote to Tobin, and asked him who gave the Brits a mandate to occupy our land?

I also told this stooge of John Bull that he should highlight the khaki-clad murderers.

But coming from a paper well known for its British connections and, during the Blueshirt days, an organ for the Fascists, anybody who knows this need not be surprised at the lying propaganda promulgated.

—Eddie Murphy,
Avon, Sasana.

continued slavery. And he kept on preaching that his flock should remain sheep, not in the best sense of the word, spiritually, but in the worst sense; physically. But the days of Archbishop Troy of Dublin are gone and the people look elsewhere for inspiration and leadership.

Patsy Duffy of Lecky Road found his inspiration and guidance from the Irish Republican Army. I am proud to claim Patsy as a family connection, I have known him since boyhood when I lived in the middle of all this carnage.

A few weeks ago, Patsy walked into an empty house in Maureen Avenue. British killers knew he was due to make this visit and were secretly hiding there waiting for him. He was unarmed but they never gave him a chance, never asked him to surrender.

It was the latest escapade of the SAS who operate in the tradition of their comrades at Dunkirk ... brave when confronting unarmed Irish victims but cowards when resistance is a possibility.

The second oldest enemy of Ireland, the informer, was the cause of Patsy's death. Not long before this killing, Bishop Daly advised his flock that they should give "information" to the British authorities. Perhaps it would be too rash and uncharitable to connect Bishop Daly, the informer and Patsy. Who can tell who the informer was or why he did it. Only the informer can answer this.

But somehow we think back to Archbishop Troy of Dublin in 1798. He tried to perpetuate the nick-name "cut-toot-Tone" on the great patriot because Troy claimed that Tone cut his own throat rather than face the hangman whom he would face the following morning.

Ireland pay tribute to Tone annually at Bodenstown and his name is mentioned many times over since he instituted the Irish Republican ideal and died for it. Nobody in Ireland has ever heard of Archbishop Troy for a long time. He belongs to the negative, shameful pages of Irish history.

Bishop Edward Daly will not be remembered past his own time but Patsy Duffy shares the lustre and illumination of Tone, Pearse and Connolly.

And I am so proud that I knew him.

Tony Duffy,
Bronx, New York.

Westminster-Source of all violence

THE following is a letter sent to the Editor of The Daily Express in London: Your front page banner headlines "Tell me why did my son have to die in Northern Ireland" in your newspaper today is answered by Mrs. Johnson herself, the Mother of one of the three Guardsmen killed a few days ago.

Mrs. Johnson thanks sympathisers who have written with kind thoughts but adds: "From the Prime Minister and members of his Government who to me were the SOLE cause of his death, they didn't even know the lad existed."

How true this is about government responsibility. The source of ALL the violence and injustice in Ireland during the last ten years, indeed for centuries, arises solely in Westminster.

Mrs. Johnson did not even receive a letter from Mr. Don Conncannon the Minister of State for Northern Ireland. The grievances and the injustice which afflict the Irish people both North and South because Westminster have never allowed true sovereignty, independence or self determination for ANY of the Irish people.

The Irish people themselves in the most democratic general election in their history in 1918 provided a massive majority and mandate for self rule and their OWN government, which was swerved in turn from Westminster by massive military intervention which suppressed the legitimate voice of the Irish Nation after three years of bloody war and killings of both Irish and English

manhood.

Mrs. Johnson would be interested to know I am sure, that my Father, also a young soldier in Ireland during this period, survived but died a premature death because of his experiences in Ireland from 1918 to 1921.

He also during the 'War' survived an IRA execution squad while the writer, then a boy of nine years of age, was present.

Then later two attempted assassinations and being blown up by a bomb in the streets of Dublin.

Later, as gaoler for two IRA prisoners under sentence of death by hanging in Mountjoy Gaol, a written testimony, which the two men wrote one hour before they were executed, and which I still have in my possession praised my father's consideration and kindness to his prisoners. They asked also that because of his fair conduct in warfare, that if he were ever taken prisoner by the Republican forces he would receive the same treatment which he had accorded them.

My Father said: "Generation after generation of young Irishmen and Englishmen are going to suffer and die (how right he was) if the Irish do not get what we in England have long taken for granted — democracy, freedom and justice."

J.H.Rogers,
London S.W.12.

Unanswered questions

On Saturday, January 6th I was engaged in selling An Phoblaht and Republican News in Patrick Street, Cork at 5.15 pm. I was approached by the Garda in uniform.

One of them asked me was I aware that he had no right to sell those papers. I replied that I had every right to sell them.

He then asked me if I would like to take a trip to the Bridewell. I replied that it would be no new experience for me to face the fatigues of prison.

He then demanded to know who I was. I gave him my name and address in Irish. At this stage his comrade whispered something which I could not hear in his ear. The one who was doing all the talking then turned to me and told me to ... off out of there with my papers, that if he ever found me selling again he would run me in.

They then walked away and I kept on selling until 5.30 pm which is normally stop on a Saturday evening.

Shortly afterwards as I was walking up the street I was stopped by the same two Garda and the one who had done the talking earlier said, "You ever find yourself selling them ... papers again I will run you in but I will kick the ... out of you".

As I was of the opinion that he was trying to make trouble I said nothing more along so I just walked away.

You may wish to print this as another

example of how our so-called Guardians of the Peace, do their job. Needless to say I will be selling both papers in Patrick Street again next Saturday.

Is mise
Gearoid Mac Carthaigh Corcaigh.

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION

7th Anniversary March
Sunday, 28th January, 1979



ASSEMBLE: CREGGAN SHOPS AT 2.30 p.m.
Prominent Speakers

Organised by Sinn Fein

DUBLIN BUSES
leave 5 Blessington St.
at 9.30 a.m. Sunday
Tickets: £5 each from
44 Parnell Square.

SMASH H-BLOCK

Patrick McCaffrey, (Cllr.)

Fermanagh.

WAR NEWS

Thursday January 4.

Roslea A member of the RUC reserve had a narrow escape when he was shot and grazed on the forehead as he stood in the doorway of his Co. Fermanagh home. In a statement the Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility.

Sunday January 7.

Ballymena A member of the RUC reserve was shot and injured whilst on guard duty outside the town's RUC barracks. In a statement, claiming responsibility, the Irish Republican Army said: "The hated and sectarian RUC is an integral part of the British war machine and will never be accepted by the Nationalist people."

Saturday January 13th.

Killeen Two highjacked lorries were used to block the main Dundalk to Newry road just north of the border. They were finally cleared after 24 hours.



THIS supplied photograph shows a member of an active service unit of the Irish Republican Army during a training session in the six counties.

LYNCH ANSWERED

THE following statement has been issued by the H-Block Information Centre in Belfast:-

"In reply to the comments made by Jack Lynch, concerning the present protest of the political prisoners 'on the blanket' in H-Block Long Kesh, it is necessary to re-emphasise that this protest is entirely voluntary.

Contrary to Lynch's claims the role of any individual or organisation outside the jails is merely to articulate the demands of the politic-

al prisoners.

His claims that the men are being "used" can reasonably be interpreted as a poor excuse for his government's inactivity over the denial of basic human rights to political prisoners and the present excesses of the British war machine in occupied Ireland.

Despite all his verbal acrobatics he was unable to deny the fact that the "blanket men" are political prisoners."

SYMPATHY

THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT extends deepest sympathy to the family of Patrick O'Neill (father of Tommy O'Neill, Dublin) who died on Friday December 23rd.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Tenants take to the streets

DUBLIN Corporation have been ignoring the pleas of tenants of Micheal Mallin House, Vicar Street, Dublin, to restore their water supply, over the past three months. This has led to the tenants setting up barricades and blocking the streets in order to bring pressure on the Corporation. Tenants first contacted the Corporation back in Sept '78 and they were promised an 18 pound pump in order to ease the situation, but no pump arrived.

Finally on Monday, January 8th at 7a.m. about 40 residents set up barricades. The police arrived and ordered the residents to remove the barricades, names and addresses were taken, and residents were informed that they had 'no rights' and that they could all be summoned. Finally the Fire Brigade arrived but were unable to pump up water.

Two local residents, Mr. John Grimes who is a member of a local Sinn Féin Cumann and Mr. James Cannon, have made a number of representations to the City Manager, to Mr. Costello the Inspector of Maintenance, to Mr. Mills the principle officer of Maintenance and to some members of Leinster House, all to no avail.

Residents have had to use a pump in the yard, this has meant tramping up and down stairs with buckets. One resident, Mrs. Shine, said "this has gone on for more than three months, we have no hot water, we can't use the toilets, sometimes we have water for 2 hours, but mainly no water at all." Another resident Mrs. Fitzroy said "we are just being ignored by the corporation."

The water shortage is just one of the problems which these tenants face daily. With the water shortage, comes the danger of exploding boilers, then the cracks in the walls, damp, leaky roofs and rats.

Mick Troy said "my mother stopped paying rent for 3 months, because the corporation would not attend to the repairs, and the situation is getting worse."

Another resident Mrs. O'Keefe woke up with a rat on the bed, the rats just roam at will up and down the landing.

This utterly shameful situation can be seen all around the city and the blame rests squarely at the door of the Dublin City Corporation.

FRANK STAGG COMMEMORATION

A MARCH has been organised by North Dublin Sinn Féin, from Mount Street to the British Embassy, Ballsbridge, in commemoration of Frank Stagg on Sunday February 18th at 3.30p.m. Prominent speakers will address the attendance. Cumainn are asked to bring their banners.

SINN FÉIN

Lá Cuimhneacháin Na Chéad Dála

January 21st, 1919 – January 21st, 1979

Day of National Commemoration of the First Dáil

in The Mansion House, Dublin

Sunday January 21st 1979

Tickets: £1.50 (half price under 15).

Available from Sinn Féin

2a Lower Kevin Street Dublin 2.
and An Phoblacht, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

2.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

- Salute to the Flags of Revolution
- Lecture: "The Irish Nation" by Eamonn Mac Thomáis
- Poems and songs of the Republic

7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

- SALUTE TO FIRST DÁIL
 - Reading of Declaration of Independence, Message to Free Nations and Democratic Programme.
- Address by Ruairí Ó Brádaigh.
- Republican Concert:—
 - artists include Dublin City Ramblers, The Fenian Players, Lena Bean Úi Shé, Rinceoirí CLG na Fianna, Gerry Crilly, Breandán Ó Dúill, Eamonn Keane, Brendan Cauldwell, Póilbán Uíadh, Áine Ó Dúill.