

An Phoblacht

Iml. 4 Uimh. 9 • 5p

6 Aibreán 1973



FREEDOM GUNS

1867 *Erin's Hope*

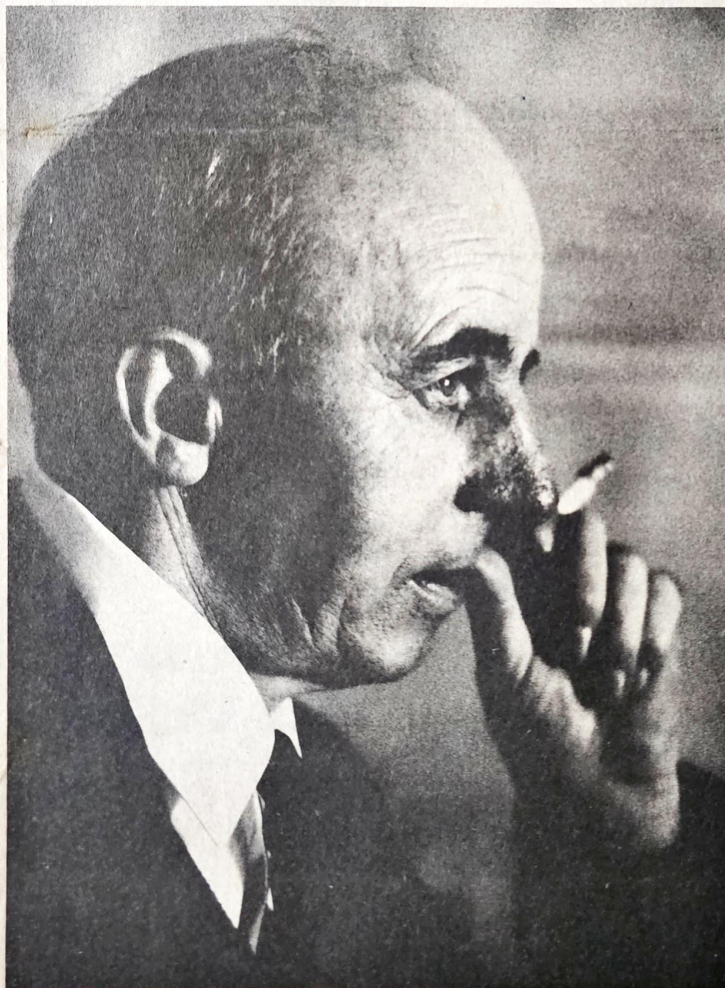


1916 *The Aud*



1914 *The Asgard*

1973 *The Claudia*



Joe Cahill

From the days of French ships off Bantry Bay in 1798 to the coaster *Claudia* off Helvick Head, the hope and desire of all true freedom fighters has been and still is for Arms and Ammunition to fight the British invaders who occupy our six historic counties. Emmett too sought French ships with guns and men and during the Fenian days the vessel named "Jackmel" sailed from the U.S.A. with rifles for the 1867 Rising – on her way into Sligo Bay she changed her name to *Erins Hope* – and hoisted the Fenian Flag.

THE ASGARD AND THE AUD

In the year 1914 Erskine Childers and Mary Spring Rice brought the *Asgard* into Howth Harbour with guns for the Irish Volunteers, and it was Roger Casement who organised the sailing of *The Aud* from Germany to Bannow Strand with guns and ammunition for the 1916 Rising.

History has been repeating itself for the past 175 years and as the captured men of the *Claudia* stand in the dock of Green Street Courthouse, they too will be repeating history of the Fenian prisoners who stood in the same courthouse a century ago.

PROCLAMATION

It is a great pity that those who do the work of England in Ireland with their arrests and trials and press conferences do not put the same effort, the same interest, and the same energy into demanding the withdrawal of all British troops and putting the proclamation of Pearse and Connolly into effect.

Mr. Donegan said the guns were not for shooting ducks. We wonder, Mr. Donegan, if they were for shooting itinerants would you have closed your eyes and disobeyed the British orders from your British masters.

"In the case of Ireland now there is but one fact to deal with, and one question to be considered. The fact is this – that there are at present in occupation of our country some 40,000 armed men in the livery and service of England; and the question is – How best and soonest to kill and capture these 40,000?"

Meanwhile, however remember this – that somewhere and somehow and by somebody a beginning must be made"
– *Fintan Lalor*.

MEN FOR TRIAL

- Joe Cahill Belfast Republican Leader.
- Dennis McInerney Lifford Ennis Co. Clare.
- Sean Garvey Cahirciveen Co. Kerry.
- Donal Whelan Kilmacthomas Co. Waterford.
- Gerald Murphy Ring Gaeltacht Co. Waterford.
- Gerald Walsh Lr Main St Dungarvan Co. Waterford.

The White Paper

An Open Letter to the Irish People

from Seamus G O'Kelly



IRISHMEN AND IRISH WOMEN.

As an Ulster man and a Republican, may I address a few remarks to you on the subject of the recent British White Paper issued by the Imperial Government which purports to map out the political future of the six North Eastern occupied Counties of Ireland. May I say at the very beginning that I am of the opinion that it should be rejected outright, and may I give the reasons why?

In the first place this document lays it down as a principle that the Six Counties shall remain British territory, that the British Army shall remain in occupation until such time as the so-called New Northern Assembly feels itself strong enough to hold the territory for the British Crown. The White Paper also lays it down that all executive authority within the area is derived from the Crown, and then, having secured British domination over the area it proceeds to lay down the type of Local Government which would be allowed. A new subordinate assembly is to be set up consisting of 80 members instead of the 52 which comprised the old Stormont Parliament. This Assembly is to be elected by Proportional Representation, and is to operate what is called a Committee form of Government rather than the Cabinet form operated in Stormont. Then we have the usual Imperial carrot dangled before the Irish nose called a Council of Ireland, to be called into being at some time in the future. It is also laid down that citizens or subjects of the Crown are to be equal before the law, irrespective of religious opinions. We are told that Republican opinion can also be expressed provided it is expressed in such a way as not to destroy the Institutions of the State. Briefly, that is the Package offered.

It should be rejected because it denies Ireland National Independence and it will not bring peace. These were the very

reasons why the Anglo Irish Treaty should have been rejected in 1921. Those who opposed the Treaty at the time foretold that it would not bring peace or freedom or unity. Were they right or wrong? The answer is in a bloody civil war which cost millions, when Irishmen found themselves defending the rights of the Crown in Ireland and forced into the position of killing their brothers who still stood for independence. North and South of the artificial Border, oppressive legislation North and South, Never executions, torture and internment North and South. Never during that fifty years has there been one year of peace for the simple reason that Ireland was unfree, and as Pearse had warned us, Ireland unfree would never be at peace.

Are you, the People of Ireland, with all this experience before your eyes going to condemn this Nation of yours to another fifty years of violence? Are you going to force children still unborn to go through the same struggle as the people in the North have gone through for the last five years? Remember, if you accept this document this is what you are doing, for again to quote Pearse, "Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living Nations".

The blood which has been spilled over the last five years must, if there is a surrender, and will, produce another generation of defiant Irish men. Do you want your sons and grandsons to go through it all again? The main reason for rejecting this document is, in my opinion, that it will not and cannot bring peace.

Finally, let me say with regard to the discussion on the document which has taken place in the Press, on Radio and on Television, that the very same people who advocated surrender in 1921 are at it again, and these unfortunately include a large section of the clergy. The Political Parties, North and South will accept because they must do so in order to maintain themselves in Office. They would disappear in a completely Independent Ireland which would of necessity have to evolve

new and more normal political groupings, which would adequately represent all sections of the Nation. What is the alternative for Republicans in this grave hour of our crisis?

Number 1. All Republican Organisations should demand an Election held within the Six County area, which ignore any Election held within the six County area, which that Election be to a Local Body or to the so-called Northern Assembly. Normal political development is impossible within an artificial geographical entity, and proper representation is a myth, except within the context of a National Community. Republicans must make certain they give no sanction to any Political Institution within the occupied area by helping to create the myth that Democratic Elections are possible within that area.

Republicans of all shades of opinion should come together at once and organise the Nation for resistance to continued British aggression, and, as I pointed out before, this can be done by the organisation of an Irish Race Convention which will be so representative of the Irish Race both at home and abroad that it can speak with absolute authority and demands full and absolute British withdrawal in the military sense, as well as an end to British political interference in our internal affairs. Unless this is done at once there is a danger that the Republican voice will be swallowed in the welter of meaningless discussions on the so-called White Paper, and the latest British trick will succeed in fooling the Irish people again.

One final word. I would ask you to remember that in 1921 the Council of Ireland Act was played before. Collins and Griffith were fooled and the Unionists put an end to that idea by refusing to have hand, act or part in such a Council. This can and will happen again if the White Paper is accepted. The first Cosgrave Government signed a complete surrender document in 1925. I have no doubt that the present Twenty Six County Government would sign a similar one in 1974 or 1975. If the Irish people desert the independence struggle now and turn their backs on the brave men who have given their lives for Irish freedom, then the future of this Nation is dark and gloomy. I ask all my fellow Republicans to act now before it is too late, and to whatever Body will call the Irish Race Convention into Session I will give my full support and co-operation. Irish freedom is in danger. Only you, the People of Ireland can save it by standing behind your unbeaten Freedom Fighters. I have every confidence that you will do that.

S.G.O.

Supporters of Irish Freedom

Dear Friends,

On February 23rd Charles Malone, indicted by the special Federal Grand Jury in San Francisco investigating supporters of Irish Freedom on the West Coast, was sentenced to two years probation. Under the terms of Mr. Malone's probation he is not allowed to attend meetings of any Irish support groups and is even prohibited from going into Irish pubs. The motive and prejudice behind this decision is clear - to force Malone to end his support of the just struggle of a people against oppression and to give up the culture which is a link with and a heritage from those people. The United States government is desperately attempting to force its propaganda that the struggle in Ireland is a religious war down the throats of the American people so that it can continue aiding its ally's imperialism in Ireland - continue training British commandos at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and continue backing up the shifting of British troops from NATO stations to duty in Ireland.

The United States government will not stop us from continuing and increasing our support to the people of Ireland. And it will not stop us from continuing our defense of those threatened by government action as a result of their support of the Irish Republican Movement. The two people who refused to testify before the Grand Jury here and were found guilty of contempt and sent to jail are now out while the Supreme Court is deliberating their appeal. The government prosecutors have reneged on their agreement to drop the subpoenas after the indictment and sentencing of Mr. Malone. We must continue our defense of these two brave supporters of Irish Freedom and be ready to defend any others singled out by the Federal Government for their opposition to imperialism in Ireland.

Yours in solidarity,
Joan McGuire,
Secretary, Irish Community Defense Committee.

LETTER FROM INDIA

I AM a Protestant and my home is in the south-west of Ireland. Although we are only five per cent of the population we have always been given equal rights.

Despite this, sometimes I have not felt that I belonged. I remember as a school girl being very frightened when my friends found out that my father was a Protestant Minister, because I thought I might lose their friendship.

But then when I stayed for several weeks in the north of Ireland I found myself becoming critical of some of the people living there.

Now thousands of miles away in India the constant news of shootings and killings in Ireland goes through me like a knife. No longer does it seem to matter where the shootings are taking place, or whether it is Catholic or Protestant getting shot. All I think of is that Irishmen are losing their lives on Irish soil.

On this St. Patrick's Day I want to apologise for the fears I have often had while living in the south and for the bitterness I've often felt towards some of my people in the north. It is thousands like me who

keep the tension and bitterness alive.

During the last fifteen months in India I have begun to see Ireland in a new light. Our greatest need is not unity but a big enough aim. When we find and fight together for that aim, unity will come as a by-product. All our sufferings of the past, instead of being a cause for bitterness can help us to understand and feel the hurts in many parts of the world. What can we say to and do for shattered Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia?

In India too you see the extent of simple material needs which have to be met. I read recently that experts in Geneva predict two to three million deaths from starvation in 1973 between Dakar in West Africa and Dacca in Bangladesh. Can we, from all parts of Ireland, remain indifferent to these needs?

The colossal problems will not be solved without a mighty change in human hearts everywhere. That change will challenge the spirit and the life of thousands of modern-day St. Patricks.

To be one of them is my decision.

Elaine Gordon.

The British Army in the North

I COULD hardly believe my eyes when I read the interview in the Irish Press (6/2/73) when the following words were uttered by Dr. Richard Cluttbuck, a lecturer at Exeter University: "At no time did the British Army fire into the crowd at the front or the back".

I wonder if this latter day Rip Van Winkle has heard of the report of the ex-brigadier Widgery in which he found that from men in Glenfada Park were running away when they were killed by the paratroops and in the words of Widgery: "When these four men were shot the group of civilians was not acting aggressively and that the shots were fired without justification". (para 35).

Paragraph 62 details the 108 shots fired by the soldiers and Widgery states: "The Army case is that each of these shots was aimed shot fired at a civilian holding or using a bomb or firearm".

The first shots fired in Derry by the British Army wounded Mr. John Johnson and Mr. Damien Donaghy. According to Widgery Mr. Johnson was "obviously an innocent passerby going about his own business in Londonderry that afternoon..."

Yet the testimony of soldier A was that he shot a man who was about to light a nail bomb. His first shot missed, so he fired again immediately and this time saw the man fall. Soldier B's description was in similar terms and he also took aim at a man who was about to light a

nail bomb. As the first shot had no effect, he fired two more shots, whereupon the man fell back and was dragged away by two of his comrades. Widgery in paragraph 36 states that there is "no doubt that this shooting wounded Mr. John Johnson and Mr. Damien Donaghy".

Widgery's conclusion leaves only one possibility open to soldiers A and B - they lied in their teeth. Soldier A and B fired aimed shots at two unarmed civilians, wounding them yet the Lord Chief Justice of England can say that Mr. Johnson was "shot by accident" (para 36). Another man, Patrick Doherty was shot dead from behind while crawling away and Bernard McGuigan was shot dead while carrying a white handkerchief to indicate that he was going to the aid of another wounded man.

One could go through the list of dead and injured but enough has been said to illustrate Dr. Cluttbuck's complete lack of compassion when he can say: "What happened on Bloody Sunday was that the soldiers shot very well and the IRA shot very badly with a result of 13 - 0 when they both fired roughly the same number of rounds".

God protect innocent civilians from British soldiers like Dr. Richard Cluttbuck, O.B.E.

Dublin 4.

G. GLENNON

The Prisoners

Cistercian College
Roscrea,
Co. Tipperary

Dear Editor,

I agree very much with the idea put forward by N. Roach in the 16th of March Edition. I have myself an uncle who was nine months in prison in the "free speech" country - England. For high treason and felony. Nine months he was in jail before even a trial in which he proved innocent, had his character taken. I know from him what it is like being a political prisoner. He was classified as a common criminal. I know how much letters mean in prison. People in prison feel they are completely forgotten. So I would like to write to one of our political prisoners in either the North or England or Ireland.

However being a student I can not "adopt" my prisoner and give each aid, all I can give is sympathy and consolation, and above all the prisoner keep her sanity.

My politics are very republican and I believe in pure democracy.

Please get me in contact with one of the Irish Patriots.

Yours - wishing to help
NOTE: - Name supplied but held back by Editor for various reasons

Release Liz McKee

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers
(Technical & Supervisory Staffs) - England,
54 Gloucester Road,
Chesham, Bucks.
15th March, 1973

An Phoblacht
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,
I enclose a copy of a resolution of the London Central Branch A.U.E.W./T.A.S.S.

Your faithful
Robbie O'Connell
London Central Branch Secretary

Resolution passed by London Central Branch A.U.E.W./T.A.S.S. 6/2/73.

"This branch strongly protests at the internment of Liz McKee, a first woman to be interned in Northern Ireland. We call on the forces responsible for her internment to release her and on the interests immediately."

Curragh Glass House

Sinn Fein Press Release

PROGRESS REPORT ON VISITS AND LETTERS STRIKE

Campaign re improved conditions in Curragh Glasshouse to-day enters its fourth week with complete solidarity by all forty Republicans prisoners here. Developments to date:

- 1) During first week of campaign the stained and dirty mattresses were replaced by new ones. New pillows were also supplied.
- 2) During last (third) week all blankets were taken out of cells by prisoners and deposited in a heap outside the Governor's office. Many of the men were by this time suffering from an itch and skin rash due to these dirty blankets which had been condemned by various prison doctors on a number of occasions, the first being six months ago. All prisoners slept without bedding (blankets) that night. Next evening new blankets were issued.
- 3) No progress has been made regarding the hobby-work. Leather work is still not allowed in here - the only prison in Ireland where this obtains. The question of the visiting conditions which are completely unacceptable is still outstanding also. The situation on visits up to the commencement of the strike led to much interference on visits with consequent distress to prisoners and their relatives, especially with regard to wives and families.
- 4) Psychological pressure continues with so many men in a small space and fresh air time severely restricted.

General: The spirit among the prisoners in this campaign is the highest and they are determined to continue with it until their very reasonable demands are met. Relatives and friends of the prisoners will understand that the prisoners are cutting themselves off from them by refusing to take visits or write letters in order to improve the conditions that have led to so many of the prisoners' visitors being degraded on their coming here in the past. Previously this situation led to conflict on visits with the military guards, as a result of which remission of sentence was lost and even visitors themselves were assaulted. Apart from the skin conditions of many of the prisoners which is being treated, the men are all in good spirits and send greetings to their friends and relations and their comrades-in-arms.

Signed: Dan Hoban (Mayo) O.C.
Martin McGuinness (Derry) Adjutant.



BRITISH TROOPS MUST WITHDRAW

THE BRITISH Government must lift the ban on political activity by Provisional Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland if there was to be any progress towards a truce between the Army and I.R.A., Mr. Daithi O'Connell, a leader of the Provisionals, said. Any truce would have to be accompanied by "cast-iron guarantees".

He said these were that truce terms should be put in writing, with a copy available to both parties, and that an effective liaison system should exist to investigate flashpoint areas such as Lenadoc Estate, stated to have been the cause of the truce breakdown in Belfast last July.

These two points would exist in the context of a bilateral truce, but for any permanent cessation of hostilities the British would still have to meet three conditions set down by the I.R.A. in September, 1971. These were the right of self-determination for the Irish people, a date for the eventual withdrawal of troops and a general amnesty for political prisoners in the North.

Mr. O'Connell said the Provisionals would very much like to take part in political activity but were stopped by law. A ban on the party, imposed under the Special Powers Act in 1956, may go, as the Act is due to be repealed under the British White Paper proposals for Northern Ireland.

Mr. O'Connell did not see any possibility of a truce

at present because of the British Government's hard-line attitude, expressed through the White Paper. He said he did not welcome that situation. "All we would welcome is that this war would be ended."

But in view of the present situation the I.R.A. had no option but to continue its military campaign.

The Provisionals felt that their long-range terms were realistic and that the day would arrive when the British Government "will have to admit that those terms are the only terms on which a solution can be secured."

He said the I.R.A. had always got arms replacements and replenishments despite continued hauls by the British Army in Northern Ireland. "We are not worried about replacing future losses", he said. The I.R.A. had bought arms from many quarters, but he refused to say where they had come from. He agreed there had been "initial difficulties" in using rocket launchers, but now volunteers had been trained to use them. These weapons could be regarded as "taking their place in the future campaign".

The I.R.A. could sustain the campaign indefinitely, Mr. O'Connell claimed.

Mr. O'Connell denied the I.R.A. split in the movement and forces in it the movement could not control. "There is no split whatsoever," he said. "There is a collective leadership, which is the supreme body of the Republican movement. Any decisions

which are made are transmitted down through the ranks. To talk of a split is meaningless.

"I would say that the movement and the leadership are more cohesive now than perhaps they have been for quite a while."

Asked about the British Government declaration that there was no question of Northern Ireland leaving the U.K. until a majority of its citizens wanted to do so, Mr O'Connell said: "It is rooted in legislation, legislation which can be undone. It is rooted in history to a certain degree. Yet you must view it against the Irish desire for freedom, which is rooted in history to a far greater extent.

"We worry too much about the solemn guarantees of the British Government. Mr. Whitelaw said once, that in politics you never use the word 'never'. He himself has used it about not negotiating with the I.R.A. He has violated his own basic principle of Politics".

Whether the British Government liked it or not they had to disengage from Ireland. That was in the interests of the British Government.

He said even the loyalists who voted for the link with Britain to be maintained were highly displeased with the White Paper. This was significant, because it showed the loyalists were articulating their own desire for self-determination.

"Basically this whole struggle has been on the issue of self-determination".



From The Firing Line By Our Northern Staff

War On The Innocent

British Power comes From the Barrel of a Gun

On the 7/3/73 a statement made by Rev. Fr. Aquinas of Ardoyne, came to our notice and left us with a feeling of amazement and disgust. We feel obliged to answer it, if not on our own behalf, then to uphold the names of our brave comrades, who have died in the defence of Ireland and Ardoyne.

For ourselves, we are not interested, since slander and deliberate lies only fool people who don't know any better, and only hurts those who have not been used to the same from the British Army.

Our friends who are dead, about 100 in all, eight of whom came from Ardoyne, stood for the same principles as we do. They however, are unable to answer Fr. Aquinas, for they lie in Milltown Cemetery. We will answer him, for we only lie in Long Kesh.

As Fr. Aquinas has said, "Power comes from the barrel of a gun". (He was quoting Mao Tse Tung) and British has been a very powerful Nation in Ireland, for 800 years now - their power came from the barrel of a gun, and they used this power to prevent people from defending their own homes when Orange mobs wrecked and burned them in areas like Farrington Gardens and Cranburn Gardens. The British Army held the people back, while the Orange mobs burned their homes. This is power of the sort Fr. Aquinas quotes, corrupt power. You were helpless against this. Father, your own power didn't prevent it or influence the British Army and Orange mobs on occasions like 27th June, 1970 and 10th August, 1971. You had to, and we quote you, Father: "Stand helplessly by while these people destroyed this wonderful parish".

The provisional I.R.A. stemmed the Orange mobs., their power held them back. They defended the district against all odds with no thought of personal safety. Indeed some, like Patrick McAduy, died defending it. This is just power, the defence of a people. The people of Ardoyne witnessed their actions and have not forgotten them. Even the scandalous writing of a man of God can't change that. Many of the lads are still there, many are not. Some lie in Milltown, some in prison. These men have not changed their principles nor has their example been bad. Their example to the youth of Ireland had been of the highest standard. We are proud to say that due to their example, the youth are awakening to the terror and misery of British and Unionist rule. They have realised that they must defend their own homes, their own people for no one else will.

You say that freedom means: "The right to do what one morally ought to". Well, is one not morally bound to defend one's family and one's home? This is all part of freedom, the right to be able to protect them. YOU DENY US THIS. You condemn us for advising and telling people how to achieve freedom. Well, Father, is heaven not the ultimate freedom? and does Christ not, through you, tell us how to achieve this? Can we not do likewise, when it is the freedom of our country that is at stake?

There are now over 700 men and women who are deprived of even your definition of freedom in the hell-holes of Long Kesh, Crumlin Road and Armagh Prisons. Are you aware of this, we wonder. Are you so vain and blind that you don't believe it to be 'deprivation'? How can you understand the emotional stress that these men go through? You are not forced to watch your family leave you after a 30 minute visit once per week. You don't have to worry where people are going to get the money to come down on your next visit. In your own words they have never been better off in their lives. Even outside, when men are driven to be prisoners of the dark, because they are wanted men who can't turn their backs or sleep at home less they end up like Gerald McDaid. Yes,

Father, you could say they have never been better off in their lives, but not materially. They are better off because they are off their knees, they have achieved freedom of a sort.

Quoting you one final time Father, "One is bound to repair the Calumny" when one breaks the 8th Commandment, we would say to you Father that it's time you began living the 8th Commandment, instead of quoting it at your own convenience. "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbour".

In ending, we would like to extend our sympathy and respect, to the people of Ardoyne, who have suffered so much and who have fought so bravely, against such terrible odds, and we would extend our congratulations to the men of the Ardoyne Unit of Provisional I.R.A. and say only regret is that we are not out there standing shoulder to shoulder with them, we are with you in spirit, and as practising Catholics and Christians we offer up our prayers for you all and hope you will keep up your good work, as we know you will.

Sinne Le Meas,
Billy McKee,
Proinsias McAirt
Mhartin Meehan.

RED FACES

Just how nervous the British soldiers in the North are was reflected in a recent incident in Belfast. A car, parked in a busy street was blown up, damaging nearby shops and offices, in case it contained a bomb. Experts were called in, the area was cordoned off and a full security operation mounted for the blowing up of the vehicle by the army. There was a lot of red faces when it transpired that the car had belonged to four off duty soldiers - the British army have refused to disclose the name of either groups' unit.

Twenty one handicapped children and a woman accompanying them were treated for shock and minor injuries after their bus was rammed by a British army Saracen in the Oldpark district of Belfast.

The incident happened at the Oldpark - Glenview Street junction after the saracen had crushed a parked car in the nearby Gracehill Street and then ploughed into several houses, demolishing the fronts of two of them. A woman in one of the houses sustained some severe leg injuries. An eye witness who owns a nearby shop claimed that three shots had been fired from the saracen - which contained Paratroops of Bloody Sunday notoriety - just before it turned into Gracehill Street and struck the car and the houses. It then reversed out of the damaged houses, drove into Glenview Street and crashed into the bus load of children at the junction.

Stones were thrown at a second Saracen which came on the scene and following this 14 youths and some local men were held in a parochial hall where they were ill-treated. A priest intervened and they were eventually released. A British officer told a member of the Catholic Ex-Servicemen's Association that they had found a "murder weapon" in the hall - and then produced a piece of tripod off an old film projector used in the hall some years ago.

A statement from the local Sean Caughey - Jim Saunders Sinn Fein Cumann said it was obvious from the army behaviour in the Ardoyne and Oldpark areas that "lower ranks of the British Army are out of control and are being given license to cause such depredations".

To date, 56 people have been killed by Army Saracens.

VIOLENCE

"We condemn in the strongest possible manner the latest series of British Army raids in the Catholic areas of Belfast", said the Belfast Republican Press Centre in a statement issued on Monday night.

The most recent of these British raids took place on Monday afternoon, March 19th, almost on the eve of the British White Paper. These raids were carried out in the usual brutal manner, beatings and abuse ending with the inevitable arrests of many men, young and old.

"We see this as a final desperate effort by Westminister to intimidate the Catholic population into accepting the terms of the White Paper. Shades of Lloyd George and his threat of immediate and terrible war."

"We call upon the Whitelaw administration to cease these intimidatory measures forthwith. It is not without significance that these raids follow in the wake of various statements from sources hitherto remarkably silent on the situation since 1968."

"We note especially the remarks of Cardinal Heenan who urged Catholics to cease harping on past injustices, ignoring the fact that we are more concerned with the burden of present injustices. His Eminence was conspicuous by his lack of comment on our affairs all during our ordeal."

"We would remind him of his earlier remarks on B.B.C.'s 'Lift Up Your Hearts', when as Bishop of Leeds, he referred to the Six Counties as a Police State. In this respect the situation was worsened. It is now a Police/Army Statelet."

"We have no doubt that the British White Paper is so unpalatable that Mr. Whitelaw finds it necessary to flavour it with further threats of violence and repression in order to compel us to make a meal of it".

Another Sniper



Republican



A man who planted a car bomb in Belfast City centre last October and who refused to recognise the court, was jailed for 15 years at Belfast City Commission recently — despite the fact over an hour warning had been given and that there were no casualties of any kind. John Montgomery (24) of Farrington Gardens, Belfast was captured by the British Army after leaving a car containing the bomb. The blast which ensued caused over £85,000 damaged in the Marlborough Street — Victoria Street area on the afternoon of October 2nd.

FIRE BOMBS

Two student nurses from the Creggan Estate area of Derry have each been sentenced to two years imprisonment for planting incendiary devices in three shops last October.

The girls, Katherine Robson (19) and Mary Maguire (21) who had been in custody since the day of the "offence" in October, refused to recognise the court. They did, however, question police witnesses and stated that they had been treated with a 30 year sentence for murder if they did not tell where they had planted the incendiary devices. In Belfast a 16 year old girl has been remanded until April 30th, charged with possessing information relating to the security forces under the Special Powers Act.

EIGHT YEARS

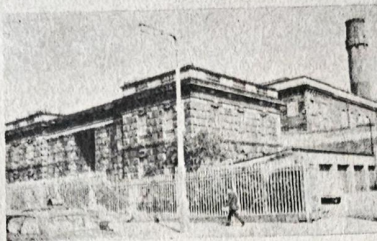
A 17 year old youth, James Patrick Rooney of Rwendale Park, Andersonstown, was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment at the Winter Assizes in Belfast recently. He had been found guilty of involvement in the EIM explosion at the Greannan Lodge Hotel, near Belfast, last August. The presiding Judge, Mr. Kelly, while admitting the extreme youth and "no previous criminal record" of Rooney, still meted out this brutal sentence. James, who had refused to recognise the court, said from the dock before being sentenced — "I'm proud to do this, I am prepared to do it again". All Republicans are equally proud of the brave stand thus taken by you, James.

TERRORIST ACTIVITY?

Patrick Eugene McStrainick, aged 17, of Drumarg Park, Armagh, has been remanded until April 3rd charged with such notorious terrorist activities — possessing a copy of the Derry Republican newspaper — The Volunteer. And British law is supposed to provide for freedom of speech and opinion?

Another Armagh man, Henry Donnelly of Callan Crescent was also remanded to April 3rd at a Special Court in Armagh. He is accused of harbouring a wanted man — Brendan McKee, knowing him to have committed an offence. All that can be said is, that if Whitelaw charges all those in the 6 Co's who have committed that offence he will have to build many more Long Keshes.

BELFAST PRISON



ARE THE I.R.A. PRISONERS FORGOTTEN?

SOUR GRAPES

The Belfast Republican Press Centre, in a statement commenting on the escape of Billy Kelly from Long Kesh Camp depllores "the spiteful reaction of the Camp authorities in making the other prisoners and their visitors suffer because the British security measures at the camp were found wanting in this instance. Why should mothers and wives be refused their visits? Why should the other prisoners be refused newspapers and food parcels? The only valid answer that we can think of is — British Sour Grapes.

LONG JAIL TERMS FOR GIRLS

THREE GIRLS, who refused to recognise the court, received prison sentences totalling 24 years, in two separate arms cases at Belfast City Commission.

In one case Eileen Hickey (24) of Leeson Street, was sent to prison for nine years, and Marie Teresa McCann (22) of Waterford Street, was sent to prison for seven years, when convicted of possessing an M1 carbine rifle and 25 rounds of ammunition on January 5th.

The court was told that the two girls had been stopped by soldiers in Lower Clonard Street. Eileen Hickey had attempted to run away. When searched, she was found to have the stock of an M1 carbine under her coat and a magazine containing 25 rounds of ammunition in her pocket.

Lord Justice Jones, imposing the sentences, said that the fact that the two accused were women could not operate in their favour. They had been shown either to have been intending to use the rifle, or being women, to be carriers for someone who so intended. In another case Kathleen McKimney (24), a factory worker from Annadale Street, was convicted of possessing an Armalite rifle loaded with 16 rounds of ammunition on December 8th last with intent to endanger life and in a public place.

She was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. In evidence it was stated that during a search operation in the Thornvale Avenue area, McKimney was searched, and found to have an Armalite rifle concealed down her trouser leg. Later, the court was told, she told police that she accepted full responsibility for the weapon.



CONTRASTING CASES

At Belfast Magistrates Court, a man who has been threatened and shot at previously was remanded on firearms charges. William McCrae stated that his home made pistol was "to protect my own life". At the same court 18 year old James McAuley and a 16 year old girl were remanded for allegedly having a pipe bomb on March 14th. It should be noted that on the same day, before the same court, the Crown whitewash firearms charges against Albert Lismore, Ivan Reid and George Robinson — three Loyalists.

OTHER CASES.

Gerald McGrath: — (21) from Killea, Derry — 12 years for ambushing a U.D.R. patrol. In a speech from the dock he said that "I am being sentenced for my beliefs but it does not matter how many years are imposed — nothing will stop me fighting for what I believe in". He went on to condemn the beatings and assaults made on I.R.A. girls in Armagh Prison and added "there will be no peace in this country until the R.U.C. are disbanded — we got rid of the Specials and we will get rid of the R.U.C. — Up the Provisionals".

Famonn McKenna (18) Killea — 10 years on same charge
Gerald Loughlin — remanded
Joseph Doherty — remanded
Daniel Lennon — 5 years
Patrick Molloy — 8 years
Antfonly Bell (17) — 8 years
Evelyn Patricia Brady — 3 years
James Doherty — remanded
James O'Neill — remanded
All refused to recognise the court

MAN HELD ON SECRETS CHARGE

A DUNDALK man who was alleged to have in possession a sketch of the military barracks at Dundalk, was remanded when he appeared at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on charges under the Official Secrets Act.

Before the court was Kevin Gray, of Hyde Park, Dundalk, charged that he had, in a manner prejudicial to the safety and preservation of the State, in his possession and under his control at Mounthamilton, in the Dundalk district court area on January 30th last, documents containing information relating to matters which would or might be prejudicial to the safety or preservation of the State in contravention of the Official Secrets Act of 1963. The documents referred to were a sketch of the Defence Force barracks at Dundalk and a hand written note describing the barracks by reference to the sketch.

Gray refused to recognise the court.

OTHER PRISONERS HELD IN
PORTLAOISE.
ARMAGH.
TEXAS.
AND ENGLISH JAILS.

THERE ARE OTHERS — DO NOT FORGET THEM.

DON'T FORGET THE MEN AND WOMEN INSIDE PRISON WALLS

SEND A SUBSCRIPTION TO : AN CUMANN CABHRAC, 44 PARNELL SQUARE, DUBLIN 1.

POST PRIMARY EDUCATION

In the realm of post-primary education, "Eire Nua" envisages the eventual blending and integration of the vocational and secondary systems, into the form of the comprehensive school. This is desirable and is at present in progress although the tendency to regard size as the criterion should be viewed with caution. The present policy of the Free State department of education is to close down small post-primary schools in remote districts on the grounds that they cannot provide adequate facilities such as laboratories, gymnasias and swimming pools. This policy is dictated from Dublin by officials who obviously have no idea of conditions in the far west, north or south and who seem to be influenced more by concern for the viability of C.I.E. than for the children's welfare.

Many of these small secondary schools were established during the past 25 years to fill a need felt by local communities to provide secondary education for the poorer child. The initiative in this was taken mainly by lay secondary teachers who invested their small capital in the setting up of modest colleges in underdeveloped areas, but the clergy fearful of losing their monopoly in education soon followed suit, sometimes ruthlessly crushing the lay colleges already established. In the latter case the schools were set up by the people's contributions plus government grants and the clergy entered into full possession and management.



Whatever their origins and control systems these small secondary schools were entirely beneficial to the districts in which they were situated. They provided the sons and daughters of small farmers for the first time with a chance of cultural and financial betterment.

Present Free State policy has seen fit to destroy these schools. A beginning has already been made in many western counties. In Mayo the Secondary School in Newport was closed down because it fell short of what the Department of Education considers viable – about 150 pupils – and the children were sent to Westport and Belmullet. For children living in Ballycrois this entails in some cases a journey of 30 miles each way. One has only to witness children huddled at an unsheltered Erris cross road at 8.00 a.m. on a winter's morning waiting for the school bus while lashing atlantic wind drives rain or snow across the treeless miles of bog and mountain, to realise the hardship inflicted by this policy on the hopeless children of West Mayo. Such children could hardly be expected to benefit fully from even the best equipped laboratories or gymnasias. Nor does their long journey home – in many cases arriving as late as 7 p.m. – allow much time for leisure or homework. Yet this policy is being relentlessly pursued by the Department of Education and plans have been laid for the closure of many more small colleges and vocational schools in the west. Some communities like the people of Ballycastle are prepared to fight these closures and deserve the unstinting support of all republicans and

other right thinking people. It may be mentioned in passing that Dan Hoban, now imprisoned by the Free State Authorities for his patriotic activities, played a prominent part in the people's effort to save the Newport College.

Under Comhar na gComharsan such schools would be recognised for what they are – true cultural centres of the rural community. Adequate grants would be provided for the building of classrooms, laboratories and gymnasias in every one of these small colleges. Buildings would be so designed as to double as community centres for old and young alike. Thus they may form the nucleus of new life in these little communities – the bent grass which will hold the shifting sands, and the seed beds from which new craft and industrial skills may grow.

It is the policy of Sinn Fein to develop co-operative farming and effective worker owned industries in every townland. And the section in "Eire Nua" dealing with education states that every school will be encouraged to develop relations with particular farms and factories, enabling practical experience to be gained.

The vocational education system would also be broadened to include all subjects normally regarded as the preserve of the secondary schools. The ultimate objective would be to establish a universal comprehensive post-primary system for all up to the age of 16.

From this age up to 18-19 pupils intending to follow a third level course in a University or Regional College of Technology would naturally take honours courses in the appropriate subjects while those intending to take up office or factory jobs could study technical subjects appropriate to their calling. In all cases a course in spoken Irish and Co-operative principles would be obligatory.

"Eire Nua" says – "The Irish language will be an obligatory subject and the first language in all schools. The whole educational system will gradually be made bi-lingual and ultimately Gaelicised. This process would of course be much slower in the six county area where little ground work has yet been done."

My personal suggestion is that the teaching of Gaelic up to third year secondary level should concentrate on the spoken word – the ability to discuss everyday affairs – with a minimum of grammar – and a literary text only for the brighter and more enthusiastic pupils. Similarly with the Leaving Certificate pupils, those wishing to take Gaelic Literature as a subject could do so while the rest would take a course in which emphasis would be on the ability to converse with of course a reasonable competence in reading and writing.

It is important that all teachers should have a full and fluent knowledge of Irish. One of the chief reasons for the failure to revive the language has been the departments' hypocrisy in this respect. I have known honours graduates in Irish both from U.C.D. and

Eire Nua agus Comhar na gComharsan le Fear Domhnann

U.C.G. who had no fluency in the language. I have encountered a Vocational teacher who passed the Ceard Teastas and could not read the notice which told her so. I am acquainted with a secondary teacher who was examined for his oral Irish qualification at a bus stop. And as for primary teachers, the highly individual pronunciation of many of them of Irish words well known to the pupils has caused confusion and strained relations between father and children in many a breac-ghaeltacht home.

Education is the most rewarding of all state activities, yet the 26 County Government spends much less on it per capita than almost any other European country. A Sinn Fein government would remedy this state of affairs as soon as possible. All equipment and facilities necessary for modern teaching would be available to all schools, which would be encouraged to broaden their scope "to include crafts, technology and science, including rural science" (Eire Nua). "Libraries, debating and dramatic societies will have a place in all post primary schools in order to encourage initiative, self reliance, and self expression. Creative work rather than passive appreciation of



works of others will be encouraged". (Eire Nua). In all this the teacher will remain the dominant factor and "will be encouraged to develop novel and original methods in collaboration with the Educational Research Institute"

"Examinations will continue to play a part but they will be redesigned in such a way as to play down memory work and to reward originality and initiative". (Eire Nua).

"Above all it will be the duty of the school to instil a sense of national purpose and achievement, to develop an understanding of the nation's history, and the part played by both native and settler stock in the moulding of the national character to avoid all idea of a national stereotype to develop the idea of a many sided and rich national culture.

The concept of Ireland having a place among the nations of the world will be developed, making use of films and television." (Eire Nua)

The method of appointment to all teaching posts and the running and management of schools has already been outlined in a previous article on first level education. Suffice it to say that the principles of economic democracy would apply in education as in industry.

Fear Domhnann.

Náisiúnai
Craig
Ná
Cosgrave

CURSAÍ REATHA le Débé

The Power of the Media

BEALRAJONN sé gur Eireannaí agus gur náisiúnai Craig agus Taylor ná Cosgrave agus Lynch. D'fuarraíonn sé gur ciallmhaire Paisley agus Orr ná na madraí latha uile i bparlaimint Bhaile Átha Cliath, a chuir fáilte roimh Pháipéar Bán Shasana nó is é deir siad nach mian leo bheith ina bsovereign den dara grád: tugtar an deis a thuilleann a dhaonra chun go mbí a dhóthain teachtaí i bparlaimint Londain ag an bpobal thuaidh!

ACH beidh Cosgrave, Lynch agus a geomhlacht rotheoranta sásta glacadh le himrial Londain gan aon ionadúcháir i bparlaimint Londain. Agus nach ait an rud é nach bhfuil sin ráite ag duine ar bith deis na comhairleoirí polaitiúla tá ag na nuachtáin?

Tá Londain ag brú ar Bhaile Átha Cliath glacadh leis an bpáipéar Bán. Cuid den Pháipéar Bán is ea bunú Comhairle na hEireann (rud a bhí beartuithe, ar ndóig, in Acht um Rialú na hEireann, 1929) bheadh an Chomhairle chéanna, ceangailte leis an gCoróir, a dhéanfadh a ról nua.

ACH ní chosraíonn an Páipéar Bán do Lynch ná do Cosgrave bheith ina dteachtaí i bparlaimint Londain chun ceisteanna a eascraíonn ó gComhairle chéanna, ná ceisteanna a bhaineann le himrial Londain i gcoitinne in Eirinn, a dhúiseacht.

MAS searbhán den dara grád, faoin bpáipéar Bán, Paisley, Craig, Orr, Taylor agus a gcaird, ní ciallmhaire é bheith i Lynch agus Cosgrave? Tríú grád? Nó rud ní ba ísle fós, an t-Steinbach nach bhfuil ceaduithe an lipéad "British" a úsáid?

REABHLOID NA BPROTASTUNACH

MO GHRA go deo na Protastúin siad d'adhaín an tine bheo (beo): seans go mbeidh port ar an tSasana sin, morán, againn amach anseo. Tehi Dia nach dtarlóidh a dtarla i 1798, nuair a d'éirigh na Protastúin in éadan tiorántacht Sasana, iad ag súil le cabhair ó na Caitlicigh, rud nár tháinig, ach i gcoirrit, a bhfuil de theall na cléire.

IS cosúil, ana bhfuil cloiste againn ón gcléir Chaitliceach sna Sé Chontae, nach bhfuil uathu féin lena an tsíochán ainm, arais nó ar éigean, agus cuma faoi phionsabal, faoi dhaoilathas, ní bfuil ceart na hEireann.

Ní bheith ag súil lena mhalairt ón dream áit chomh naimhdeach don Ghaeilge. Nach raibh ar Chaitlicigh Bheal Feirste dul ar stairle ón Afreann go dtí gur ghéill an Pilibín dóibh? Agus bhí nach bhfuil aon Afreann Gaeilge rialta, Domhnach i ndiaidh Domhnaigh, in áit eile ar bith ná Sé Chontae.

AN caint a thug an tAthair Aquinas uaid le déanaí, ní bheifí ag súil lena mhalairt uaidh. Nach bhfuil an cineál cainte sin ina chúir ó na beola sin i gcónaí, ó aimsir *Laudabiliter*? B'amlháidh a thug an tAthair Murphy féin go dtí gur dhógh na Yeomen a sheipéal.

ACH seans go bhfuil rud éigin eile taobh thiar de chaint sin an Athair Aquinas ná tá beirt shagart ag an mhaoinist leis, deartháireacha, agus Reynolds ina shlinne acu.

Tá an tríú deatháir i mBéal Feirste i láthair na huairé, é ina mhaor in Arm Shasana, é ina chomharsa i gceantar Bhaile Mhic Andréis, agus Gaeilge le cloistéal uaidh, fiú, nuair a oireann é do agus é ar lorg faisnéise faoi Oglagh na hEireann.

BHí créatúr eile darbh ainm Reynolds i 1798.

BHí an ceart ag Hume an lá faoi dheireadh agus é faoi agallamh ar Radíó Eireann: náisiúnachas ó úsáid seisean an focal "self determination" is cúis le reabhlóid na bProtastúin in éadan an Pháipéir Bháin, cé nach n-aithníonn siad mar sin go fóill, b'fhéidir.

ACH bhí parlaimint dá chuid féin acu, uair, Cuireadh an pharlaimint sin - Stormaint - ar ceal. Ní dhiaidh sin léiríodh dóibh nach raibh an parlaimint sin chomh saor agus ba chóir di a bheith, dá mbeadh an cineál doanlathais i gceist.

Beidh, dá mbeadh na Sasanaigh sásta an tseanStormaint a athbhronnadh orthu ní bheadí sásta gearradh léir: tuilleadh saoire tá uatha agus an ceart ar fad acu.

Ní dhéanfadh "comhairle na Sé Chontae": cúis, mar pharlaimint. Ach an mbeadh Baile Átha Cliath sásta aon rud ní ba cumhachtaí thabhairt dóibh? Ar éigin é nó ní aon rialtas ar fud an tSasana is láidre agus is daingne a chreidim i lárachas ná é, agus a chomhartha sin ar an gcuid eile den tír, lasmuigh den Pháil.

Ní ach aon dream amháin a thabharfas do na Protastúin an rud atá dlíte dóibh, an rud a bfuil éin siad, mar chuid de phobal, in éindí leis an gcuid eile den phobal Ultagh, agus sin na bProtastúirí. Níl ach aon fhreagra doanlathach amháin ar an bhfadhb, agus sin Dáil Uladh.

Ní dhóigh linn go dtuigeann Taylor an méid sin, agus, b'fhéidir, Craig, leis. Tá Géarghá le bfuil aon mhíochúir faoi Dháil Uladh.

Bhí Poblachtóirí ag seasamh don toghachán áitiúil sár i bhfad. Ba leor, mar pholasaí acu, a bfuil Dháil Uladh a chur os comhair na ndaoine. Faoi láthair ní bhfuil aon dream beag aon céard é tá i gceist. Caitfidh muid an seól a chur i mbéal an phobail.

BOB AR NUACHTAIN

BAR SIN féin, ní aon iachall ar na nuachtáin bheith chomh cladarach is atáid agus ní aon ciall orthu dubholcaireacht Sasana a shlogadh sír scun scun, mar a dhéanann gach lá. An rud ar fad, de gur minic a fhoilsíonn siad bolscaireacht Sasana gan a rá gur ó fhoinsé Sasanach a bhfuil sí.

Ní ach mó dá mbeadh Sasana ar phreas na hEireann, is dócha gur bhí ráiteas Browne de chuid de P.A. é, agus é ag brú síos go breághach ar Champa na Cise Fada.

Ní dhóigh Sasana meon na 26 Chontae agus, ina dhiaidh sin, na Sasanaigh amach ó gach cearn den tír.

Beidh an Sasana an níosáin sin trín bpreas, trín raidió agus trín teilifís a "mhúnlú." Cuirear aon bheith ar dhaoine. Innsítear brága dóibh. Coinnítear fíricí uatha. Agus tá Sasana sásta na nuachtáin punt a íoc ar an obair sin uile, ní hamháin in Eirinn ach ar fud an domhain.

Ní dhóigh le beart Sasana chomh fada agus a bheas irriseoirí sásta glacadh leis an bpoblaíocht. Ba chóir do na hEireann, in éindí leis na hoibritheoirí eile, brú a chur ar na heagarthóirí agus ar na bolscaireoirí chun an fhírinn a chur os comhair an phobail. Ach, sa chuid is mó de, is cosúil tá an t-Steinbach ar nirseoirí nite cheana ag na Sasanaigh.

Ní dhóigh aon dul do "Scéala Eireann", mar sin féin, as an mbréagán ar thuairisc Browne a bhfuil sí, ach is é an trua é nár fhoilsigh siad é sin an lá céanna a d'fhoilsigh siad an rud eile (dá mbeadh aon gná le thuairisc Browne, ar chor ar bith).

Ní dhóigh tuairisc a fhoilsítear, tá sé an-deacair go leath don fhírinn teacht suas léi chun í a bheith, fíric a thuigeann go rímhaith gach bolscaire.

CULU O STRASSBOURG?

BUIGEANN muid go mba mhaith le rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath éirí as an gcéir i Strasbourg ach

LAST MONTH the news broke of the shooting down of a Libyan Boeing 727 by Israeli fighters. Imagine for one moment that the situation was reversed and an Israeli civil airliner had been brought down in the same way by fighters of one of the Arab countries. The media would have been loaded to capacity as condemnation after condemnation would have rained down on the heads of the Arabs. As it was, the general impression conveyed that it was just another tragic airline accident. The Israeli allegation that the Captain was not properly licensed and the subsequent refuting of that allegation were all given plenty of airing on B.B.C. and coverage in the British newspapers. That and the Israeli governments payment of "compensation" to the relatives of the victims was carefully designed to draw attention away from what is easily the most callous and brutal act that any nation could do against the people of another.

Mention is made of this purely to illustrate the influence that Jews have on what the western world are permitted to see, hear and read. We have a close parallel in Ireland in the way RTE and the press are influenced by British considerations. In recent times this influence has given way to absolute control, in the case of RTE.

The weapon that Britain use to divide our people is the old well-tried method of daubing anyone or anything that challenges its superiority with the mark of non-respectability; and the whole presentation of the news is carefully designed to sow the seeds of doubt among the more impressionable of our people. RTE seems to have taken a few leaves from the British Sunday Times. The Sunday Times is regarded as one of Britain's "quality" newspapers and as such, probes a bit deeper into news stories than the populars generally do. This was the case in Northern Ireland where the truth of many incidents, such as the ending of the cease-fire and the causes of "Bloody Friday" would, in fairness, have never been published.

All this, however, is designed to lull the more intelligent reader into a sense of trust for the Sunday Times and a conviction that that paper in the fullness of time would arrive at the proper conclusion. At the end of the day, however, the Sunday Times can be trusted to steer Irish minds away from dangerous thought of separatism and self-determination. Not one feature or editorial has ever even questioned this one nation's right to be left to make its own future according to its own needs. Some of its editorials have hardly disguised the urgency of the need to maintain the military presence in Ireland. And when the Times speaks the world listens.

Apart from the blanket ban on the Republican point of view on RTE, the innuendo implicit in all news coverage of events in Northern Ireland, is that it really doesn't concern the people of the South. Again respectability is the weapon used. The overall impression being inculcated is that the people of the beleaguered areas are "nasty" people and not like us down here. If they are suffering, they must have brought it on themselves.

Every day in life we are made aware of the effect of the media on our own people. Sometimes it is our own nearest and dearest which makes it all the harder to take. Most of the time, it is not necessary to engage in a heated argument to counter the British propaganda effort.

We will in our own time and in our own quiet way, tell the world the plain truth about the Anglo-Irish conflict.

How Britain Manages the News on Ulster

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has developed a highly proficient press office in Northern Ireland which has succeeded in managing the news on Ulster. It is under the tight control of the British Foreign Office which works in conjunction with the British army. As a result of this operation, the British government has generally been able to censor the news by slanting, and in some cases, suppressing news releases. Most news releases give as their source "high army officers". The army is thus able to present army propaganda as news.

HERE IS HOW THE BRITISH WORK: The nerve center of the government's propaganda machine is controlled by Lieutenant Colonel Maurice Tugwell, a paratrooper officer stationed at Lisburn, near Belfast. Tugwell works under the direction of Hugh Mooney, a top official in Britain's Foreign Office. Mooney's official title is "Civilian Information Advisor". His top aide in Belfast is Keith McDowell, a journalist formally with the London Daily Mail. Close supervision is maintained by the Foreign Office in London. The objective is to justify Britain's presence in Northern Ireland. Every incident is slanted to achieve that objective. Tugwell has a direct link to the British Embassy in Washington. Special attention is given to reporters from the Associated Press, United Press International and the New York Times News Service. Bulletins are regularly issued to foreign embassies the world over. Three staff members of the British Embassy in Washington are in charge of operations in the United States. A public relations firm in New York City was retained by the British Government about two years ago to round out the operation.

The British army also has its own press office which caters to visiting foreign journalists. "Tours" of Ulster are regularly arranged for visiting newsmen. Major Colin Wallace is liaison officer for visiting journalists. "Confidential" news "leaks" have often enabled the army to plant fictitious stories for publication by gullible foreign reporters visiting Ulster for the first time. Literally thousands of press releases have failed to disclose the source of information for the release except to attribute the information to "high military sources".

Certain Unionist owned newspapers are used by the army press office, including the Belfast Newsletter, owned by leading Orange politicians, and the Belfast Telegraph, a long time supporter of the Unionist Party. Censorship of newspapers by the government is legal under the Special Powers Act.

The government's censorship efforts in the T.V. news media have met with less success and some strong resistance. Early in 1972, about 50 B.B.C. journalists protected Prime Minister Heath's efforts to muzzle them and censor their work. When they made their objections known journalists have grown wary of British army press releases and the censorship of news in general successful in distorting the news from Ulster.

nach bhfuil aon dul as toisc go bhfuil cánsanna eile os comhair na cúirte ó Eirinn, cúiseanna a bhfuil daoine ar leith ar aghaidh.

Tá brú ar chuid deis na daoine sin tarraingt siar agus beidh brú ar gach éinne díobh sár i bhfad. Cloisfidh siad caint faoi chúiteamh, i bhform airgid agus eile.

Iarrann muid orthu an fód a sheasamh go daingean. Tá bolscaireacht na hEireann go dona agus tá gearghá leis an bpoblíocht a thioctas as Strasbourg agus a náireos na Sasanaigh ó comhair an tsaol.

Einne a bhfuil cathú air tarraingt siar, déanadh sé machnamh ar an gcaoi a bhfuil na daoine sa Champa Ghéibhinn agus sna príosiúin agus ar an íde a fhaigheann Poblachtóirí fós féin nuair a bheireann na hainmhithe gallda orthu.

An Phoblacht

IMLEABHAIR 4. UIMHIR 9

PAT IS BACK

The Story in His Own Words



Pat Shannon at the G.P.O.

ULSTER CONVENTION

Sinn Fein Statement

At a Convention attended by over 400 delegates from Sinn Fein Cumann from the Nine Ulster Counties, an overwhelming majority voted against contesting the Six County Local Government Elections on May 30th. Reasons put forward were:

1. The refusal by the British Government to lift the ban on Sinn Fein. The Sinn Fein organisation has been banned in the occupied territory since 1956 and not alone has the White Paper not removed the ban but it has reinforced it. Those who challenge Sinn Fein to contest this election in these circumstances are asking us to fight with our hands tied behind our backs.
2. The fact that under Section 4.D. of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 under which this election will be fought, "any person who has within five years immediately preceding the day of his election or at any time subsequent to that day been convicted of any court in Northern Ireland or elsewhere in the British Islands of any offence and ordered to be imprisoned for any period of not less than three months without the option of a fine" is disqualified from standing would exclude many of our candidates. It should be noted that under this section of the Act people like Dr. Ian Paisley M.P. and Bernadette Devlin M.P., are not eligible for election.

3. Since the White Paper was issued the British Army has not only shown its determination to pursue its policy of military repression but has increased it. Delegates described the harrowing experiences of residents of Belfast, Derry and other areas whose homes have been raided during the past week. Furniture has been smashed and housewives beaten up. Arrests continue and jails and internment camps continue to fill.

Many delegates reported that they were stopped and searched at various check points on their way to the Convention.

The rejection of the White Paper by the Leadership of the Republican Movement was unanimously endorsed by the delegates and enthusiastically applauded.

A Resolution was passed expressing solidarity with Republicans in jails and in internment camps in Ireland, north and south, in Britain and the U.S.A.

A Convention was opened by Maire Ni Dhroma, Acting President of Sinn Fein and presided over by Daithi O'Connell, Vice-President of Sinn Fein.

Arrested outside G.P.O. on March 10th. Was taken to Store Street police station. Charged with obstructing traffic. Taken to Bridewell, put into filthy cell. 3 Blankets and 2 sheets which were absolutely filthy. Toilet right beside bed which could only be flushed from outside the cell. Remained there from Saturday to Monday when he was brought up before the courts. Refused to recognise the court, was wearing cap and refused to remove it. Told Judge, that as a Republican, he would not recognise the court. Sentenced to 7 days in Mountjoy.

Got to Mountjoy between 6 and 7 on Monday evening. They said that they were taking his clothes. He told them that if they were taking his clothes, he was going naked. They said that it was a bit cold, but he persisted. Got a doctor, and he examined him. And the warden said to him that they were not taking his clothes but they were putting him in hospital. Kept in hospital and was taken up to court again on Thursday. After that he put him back again until the 19th. Were determined to keep him in until after Pat's day. (17th March).

Brought back again on the 19th. Attitude unchanged. He asked him the second time to remove his cap. He said no. He said "I don't think your attitude is right." Pat said, "you are entitled to your opinions but I am entitled to mine. I have suffered for mine and I am prepared to suffer." The judge entered a plea of not guilty and he dismissed the case.

Pat emphasises that the Bridewell was filthy and not fit for pigs, not even for English pigs. That one of 16 there in 1940 and that the conditions were no better now than in 1940.

While I was in Store St. a plain clothes man came in and said to me, "Pat, you are only a tool of an organisation. All those fellows around there are only tramps." Pat said, "O.K. I am one of them and I would rather be one of them than one of you."

Republican Movement

LIAM LYNCH

COMMEMORATION

1923-1973

FERMOY

Sunday April 8th 1973

Parade Assembles in Fermoy at 2.30p.m.

"We have declared for an Irish Republic — and will have no other law" — General Liam Lynch

Honour One of Ireland's Greatest Sons

Appeal

an cumann cabrac

THE REPUBLICAN AID COMMITTEE

(For the Relief of Republican Prisoners and their Dependents)

c/o AN PHOBLACHT OFFICE
Kevin Barry House,
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

A Chars,

The above Committee find it necessary to make an urgent appeal for funds. During the periods when Republicans are not imprisoned or interned, An Cumann Cabhrach continues to aid dependents of those who have been incapacitated or who have made the supreme sacrifice because of their steadfast loyalty to their ideals. The proceeds of our Annual Acnagh has up to the present made this possible.

In recent times, however, with the increasing number of arrests both in the Six Counties and in the Twentysix, our resources are strained to the utmost and, while we endeavour to alleviate some of the hardship and anxiety of those in prison by assuring them that their dependents will be cared for, we cannot continue to do so without your full co-operation.

M. Ni Cearnaigh,

Runaí.

Another Arrest

Paddy Ryan, the well known Republican, was arrested after a gun battle and car chase on Wednesday 28th March — He is at present on remand in Mountjoy Prison—.



Caption Required

We will give a special prize to the best caption received for this photo which was taken in a pub near Greenstreet Courthouse during the Arms Ship Trial — Closing Date 12th April.

SINN FEIN

STRABANE

The following statement has been issued by the Eugene Devlin Sinn Fein Cumann, Strabane:—

Now that the farce of the Border Poll is over and the predictable results have been formally announced, we the members of the Eugene Devlin Sinn Fein Cumann would like to thank all the people of Strabane who played such an inactive part in yet another of Whitelaws follies.

Ian Paisley on Television recently described the 6,000 odd people who had voted for the removal of the border as 'democrats'. However we say to Mr Paisley that we, the Republican people of the six counties supported democracy by refusing to take part in this charade of appeasement.

What in fact was being asked of us was to recognise that the six counties and the people therein, have the 'democratic' right to decide its future. We repudiate this entirely, Ireland is one, indivisible.

The people of the 32 counties, and they alone, must decide Ireland's future without intervention, or fear of intervention, from any foreign Government.

This is our democratic right.

Press Officer,
S. O'Farrell.

Kilrush Collection

On 23rd March the business people of Kilrush subscribed £45.00 to the victims of British imperialism (Prisoners Dependents). Collectors — Martin Calligan, Pat Fennell, James Keane, Pat Bermingham and Sonny Mescall.