

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 5. 10p. Feabhra 8, 1977.

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)



Pontius Pilot Cooney

IRELAND'S WATERGATE

DERRY UNITES TO FIGHT IMPERIALISM

A NEW organisation has appeared in Derry: the Irish Front. It is not a political party but just what it appears to be, a body representative of all parties, associations, committees or movements dedicated to Irish freedom, complete and unadulterated.

In the present phase of the freedom struggle, the Irish Front seeks to be representative of all bodies struggling against British imperialism.

No body is barred from membership. Every anti-imperialist body is invited to join. The idea is to have the Irish Front be as broadly representative as possible.

No member of the Irish Front needs to change policy or constitution to contribute. Every group has full freedom to continue its own policies; each has the right to criticise others politically and to be criticised by them.

Membership ensures a broad, strong and visible body of Irish-orientated opinion, designed to strengthen morale at home and to illustrate to supporters abroad that the freedom movement is stronger than it has been for centuries. In other words, the Irish Front is a catalyst.

The Front is a mirror of the genuine anti-imperialist groups, those bodies which seek an independent Ireland, while differing as to the political colour of the new state.

Those bodies which refuse to join it, while still pretending to be anti-imperialist, or pro-Ireland, by their refusal are shown up for their hypocrisy or worse . . . as crypto-agents of the imperial enemy of Ireland.

Members of the Irish Front at present are: the Republican Movement, the Irish Republican and Socialist Party, the Irish Nationalist Party, the Political Prisoners' Action Committee, the Magilligan Prisoners' Welfare Committee, former members of the Republican Clubs and other individuals active in tenant associations, trade union and cultural groups.

The Front has the following four objectives: To end harassment, torture and repression; to organise full support for the political status campaign, leading to an unconditional, general amnesty for all political prisoners, at home and abroad; repatriation of all Irish political prisoners in British jails; withdrawal of British occupation troops; and an end to British interference in the political, cultural and economic life of the nation.

A statement to the people of Derry says: "The Irish Front excludes no one. Political affiliation is of no consequence to the Irish Front for we are of many voices, all united for the good of the nation. We make no demands on nor have we any desire to replace any political organisation. All we seek is the strength of your support and unity, in a common aim, to stand with dignity in our own land."

FEAR OF exposure as executive culprit in Ireland's "Watergate" was the reason for Patrick Cooney's Pontius Pilate speech before the newly qualified Gardai in Templemore, Co. Tipperary, last week. It was a vain bid to cleanse his hands of the blood of tortured suspects, to have it clearly on the public record that the minister for injustice disapproved of his political enemies being tortured in order to get incriminating "admissions" from them.

But there was more to it than that. Public representatives are getting numerous complaints about state terrorism and by no means all from Republicans. Churchmen are concerned as are lawyers, organisations such as Amnesty International, the Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg and the United Nations.

As well, some 30 civil cases against the state, for institutional violence, are pending. Foreign governments are making inquiries, including the British (contemplating a Strasbourg torture case) and the Russians (as a counter-blast against Western allegations of malpractices against Jews, Baptists and intellectuals).

In the coming general election, details of "Free" State torture of political enemies may be expected to figure prominently. Hardly a day passes without reports of Garda torture appearing in the papers. Among the most worrying for Cooney, Declan Costello, Cosgrave and fellow Leinster House torturers was the Cahir affair (exclusively reported in An Phoblacht).

SUICIDE BID

It takes a lot to convince the public that a man threw himself out of a top-floor window in a Garda station to "escape," as alleged by the Gardai.

Thomas Connors, now being treated in hospital for the considerable injuries sustained, insists that he was driven to try to commit suicide by the terrible tortures endured.

Four Sinn Fein members were taken into Cahir Garda Station between midnight and three in the morning on Tuesday, January 25, under the new Seven-Day Licence.

They were Mr. Connors (25), Denis Guerin, Brookville, Tipperary town; Denis Guerin (25), builder's labourer, Killores, Tipperary; Donald Wills (27), mechanic, Father Mathew Street, Tipperary town; and Dick McCormack (25), builder's labourer, also from Killores.

In public statements they told how they

Cooney's bid to wash off the blood . . .

had been physically and psychologically tortured by punching, kicking, having their hair pulled, being kept close to huge fires, deprived of food, water and sleep.

One man said a Garda had told him: "We will break you mentally and physically on the seventh hour of the seventh day — that's when they break."

LAWYER REFUSED

When they asked for a solicitor this was refused. When they said they had the right not to make a statement they were told: "Under section-two you have no rights whatsoever."

Mr. Guerin said that one of two Gardai who had come from Dublin to force statements from him had said he was "from the Minister and special for the job."

As to the statement required from him: "They suggested things that I should say and when I repeated them they wrote them down. I said I would not sign it and they gave me a few lashes until I signed."

The Gardai then left him but returned to say the statement was "all lies" making him agree to another statement: "I hardly

knew what I was talking about. Everything was a blur. If I hadn't signed I'd say they would still be hammering me."

When he asked to see a solicitor: "All I got was a hiding for opening my mouth about it."

Mr. Guerin was being tortured when Mr. Connors jumped through the window at 7.00 a.m. on the Wednesday and heard the commotion. Two of his torturers left the room to see what had happened and returned to say "that Connors had jumped through the window and that he was dead. They said the same thing would happen to me."

WALL TO WALL

Mr. McCormack said he had been questioned by a number of men who "battered me from one wall to the other . . . then a nice guy came in and wanted me to tell him everything and he said he wouldn't tell the others. They told me it would be the same, day in, day out, for the seven days, unless I signed a statement."

He added: "They told me a story and I

(Ar leantain ar chul)

Truth drugs: detainees urged to have blood tests

AS FAR AS I am aware, no scientific journal as yet has published any matter in relation to the type of gas being used on suspects in a Derry police station, to confess to alleged crimes which they may or may not have committed.

The so-called "truth drugs" used by the Americans and others are not gases but chemical substances, usually sodium amyltal or pentobarbitone.

These are white solids which are mixed with salty water and injected intravenously (i.e., through the veins). The injection is done slowly until the victim appears to be about to fall asleep.

It is at this point that interrogation begins with the least resistance: it is also the point at which "confessions" may be gained most easily and statements signed.

The method is in conflict with the laws of most civilised states and, of course, with international law.

I am not aware of these "truth drugs" having been

used as yet in Ireland, possibly because the mark of the needle would remain as evidence, as well as traces of blood.

Serious side effects

It is known that the British are testing other "truth drugs" on suspects in the Six Counties, drugs that are concealed in a cup of tea or a glass of water. Certainly, after Operation Motorman, they were used on at least some of the hooded men.

It is suspected that they are being tried out occasionally also on suspects in the 26 Counties.

In such cases medical examination will show traces of the drug in the blood. All persons who have been pulled in under the seven-day detention law should have a blood test taken as soon as possible, to look for such drug traces.

It is feared that some of these "truth drugs" may have serious after effects.

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An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 8. Feabhra 8, 1977. Uimhir 6.
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Eire. Guthán: 747611

A SUBJECT people seldom is shocked by atrocities. The greater the slavery, the lesser the possibility of shocking. A perusal of the poetry of Ireland from 1169 to the present day is remarkably poor in verse descriptive of imperial viciousness towards bards, harpers, rhymers, ollaves, guerrilla leaders, never mind the ordinary men, women and children who always bore the brunt of the freedom struggle. Indeed, the ballad, until about a century ago, was alien to Irish literature.

Even over the past eight years there have been remarkably few poems in either language depicting the ferocity of the foreign mercenaries. The reason, possibly, is that imperial atrocity in Ireland has become so commonplace as to have become one of the expected and accepted risks of living in Ireland.

Thus, the recent report of the pregnant Ardoyne woman who gave birth to a child with an SAS bullet in his spine — and who is still alive — has received little more than a paragraph or two (and no picture that we know of), even in the Irish-oriented press.

Strangely, the thoughtful observer, we tend to be moved to a far greater extent when conclusive proof somehow gets through the imperial sieve to show that British justice, with its worldwide reputation for impartiality, is not for the Irish, certainly not for the Irish political enemy.

We have had evidence of that slavish reaction in the newspaper and other reports of what have been called the 'Balcombe Street Siege Trials' in London when the forensic expert, Mr. Douglas Higgs, told the trial jury, in response to expert cross-examination, that the police had told him to withhold vital evidence.

Now, even the liberals are tut-tutting and asking: "How could the British police — the British police, mind you — possibly adopt such a course and put in jeopardy a fair British trial?"

The same people nodded their approval as they heard Patrick Cooney tell a passing-out parade of the

An honest Englishman

newest Gardai last week that never, never, must they break the law by taking illegal short cuts, even when they know in their hearts that the suspect is, indeed, guilty.

Much of the sordid story of the corruption of the Garda Síochána already is out and, no doubt, with a general election in the offing, Patrick Cooney believed himself obliged to widgeiser the torture and other brutalities against patriots.

We had just had the report of the unfortunate man in Cahir Garda Station who could not stand the torture any longer and who tried to commit suicide by throwing himself out of a window, a dramatic enough indictment of Cooney's terrorism.

But the disclosure of Garda Síochána corruption is not confined to torture reports from Republican sources or what emerges during the trials. A significant section of the Garda Síochána is reported in revolt against the favouritism now, apparently, widespread in the force and which ensures that only the most brutal and unscrupulous are sure of promotion.

With the jobs crisis outside showing no signs of abating and the terrifying pressures inside on him to conform and give himself over as an agent of institutional terrorism he is a tragic figure, a character straight from Kafka.

Little wonder that decent members of the Garda Síochána are rebelling, are organising themselves. But, until such time as they are prepared to tell the

entire terrible truth, under oath, to what remains of a once free press, the system will trample on them. Who will be the brave men who will opt to tell that truth, earning the eternal gratitude of the Irish people, thus putting the evil men of violence at the top in the dock as war criminals?

The Englishman, Mr. Douglas Higgs, has given a lead. Will those members of the Garda Síochána whose consciences are troubling them, follow his example? Where is the prison warden who will tell the truth about Port Laoise? Where is the civil servant in the Department of Justice who will make public the secret files giving all the vital facts of Ireland's "Watergate"?

What effect the disclosures of Mr. Higgs will have on getting justice for innocent Irishmen in British jails is very doubtful. The disclosures concerning the informer Lennon have not freed Father Fell or his comrades.

Patrick Armstrong, Paul Hill, Carol Richardson and Gerard Conlon, innocent of the Guildford and Woolwich bombings, may have to apply to Strasbourg before having much chance of release and compensation, if any monetary award could compensate them for the brutalities they have suffered since their convictions on trumped-up charges bereft of any sort of weighty evidence.

Nevertheless, we salute the honest English forensic expert as we salute the former member of the Parachute Regiment who told the truth about the Belfast murders and wounding carried out under orders of his officer and the frame up, the mockery of a trial and imprisonment which followed.

Is there not, now, an honest "Free" State soldier to do likewise? An honest member of the Garda Síochána? An honest civil servant in Merion Street to provide the conclusive proof of Cooney's hypocrisy, when he stated: "The end never justifies the means"?

Debe

IS MAITH lion gur thugas cuairt ar scoil gheimhridh de chuid Chumann Mherriman ar an mbaile beag alainn úd i gCo. an Chláir, Baile Uí Bheacháin. Foilsíú na hoidhreacht a téama.

B'fhéidir nach raibh an teideal sin róchrúin agus gur "neamhfhóisiú" na "hoidhreacht" a ba chóir a bheith ann. Ach cuireadh ar an eolas muid faoin bhfáth nach bhfuil an oidhreacht á foilsíú agus na fadhbanna a bhaineann le cibé foilsíú atá ar siúl.

Is minic mise ar an bpoirt, go bhfuil loitrimheacht á déanamh ag gComhairliúcháir ar theagasc, ar labhairt agus ar fhóilsíú na Gaeilge. Tar éis dom freastal ar an scoil scairte sin i mBaile Uí Bheacháin ní dhéanaim go raibh míbhreith á tabhairt agam ar chóir.

Ach tuigim, anois, nach d'aon ghnó a dhéantar gach cuid den loitrimheacht chéanna agus go bhfuil baint ag Gaeilge féin leis an loit, freisin, má is éadán a dtóla féin é.

AR an gcaid uil agus, tá m'áfach choras an stáit le cur sin áireamh. Tá "trahison des clercs" (feall na gclereach, na stáseirbhíoch) i gceist, cinnte, óir is éadain lae, cuid mhaithe d'fóbh, nach bhfuil aon leachailleacht ag baint leo, aon tuiscint don ealaíon, don chultúr, don doimneacht, don tradisiún ná don náisiún.

Laige daonna

Ní shin an t-ionlán, ach oiread. Ar áigean atá líon mór d'fóbh go nímheach in éadán na Gaeilge mar Ghaeilge. Níl i gceist acu ach gur níos í.

B'fhear leo an gnó bheith chomh simplí agus a d'fhéadadh sé a bheith. Muna mbéadh an áireamh ach an t-aon teanga amháin, le dhéáil í, bheadh an saol ní be' éasca dóibh agus ní be' shuaimhnessaí.

Ba chuma leo ceachtar d'fóbh, Gaeilge nó Béarla, a bheith ina teanga oifigiúil ach clao le sin agus le sin amháin. Laige daonna é sin, dearcadh atá ag na hÉagpaigh, chomh maith; dearcadh atá ag an stáseirbhíoch i gCeanada agus ag stáseirbhíochí eile chomh maith; agus dearcadh atá ag Radíó-Teilifís Éireann.

Níl fhios agam an dtuigean pobal na Gaeilge an méid sin. Dá dtuigfeadh, chuirfeadh sé gothaí oibre de chinéal eile air féin, mar a rinne na Pléimínigh agus, ar ndóigh, lucht labhairte na Fraincise i Cúbae.

Tugtar faoi deara agus cuirtear a áireamh cuid den saol atá b'gach dochréide na Gaeilge in iúl dóinn ar an mbaile lách úd i gCo. an Chláir.

Ar na leabhra bréagha faoi cheol a tháinig ar an margadh le déanaí bhí ceann a d'fhóisigh

SCOIL GHEIMHRIDH CHUMANN MHERRIMAN

Comharbhachumann Cois Fharráige agus ceann eile fos a d'fhóisigh an Mercier Press.

D'éirigh leis an dá fhóilitheoir deontas a mhealladh ón gComhairliúcháir ach féach an difríocht: £3,000, do Chomharbhachumann Cois Fharráige agus £200 don Mercier Press.

Cén fáth an difríocht mhillteanach mhór sin? Roinn na Gaeltaigh a thug an £200, roinn tá go hian-suarach i gCo. an Chláir, agus ní ba shuaráil in aghaidh an lae, is cosúil agus gan smid ón tpe tá ina cheann ar an roinn chéanna faoi sin uilig áir ní uilg áir le gnóth nó le cáilíúnt as an suarachas ceanna, dar leis, d'árainn.

Roinn choibh

Seans go bhfuil míniú nó mínithe eile ar an scéal agus orthu, cheapfainn, an méid beag tá ar fáil ag an Roinn le dáileadh ar leabhar. Breith phoiteilíúil ón leibhéal is áirde?

Tá Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge ann chun déláil le leabhra i gcoitinim. Le Roinn na Gaeltaigh, is cosúil, a chaitheas an Bord seo bheith ag plé.

Bord gan airgead atá sa mBord seo. Níor socraíodh ariamh go mbeadh na bailí foicta as a gcuid oibre. Níl cead aige oiread is clóscríobhaí a fhósta ar airgead an stáit. Níl tuarastal ag an rúnaí, ná ag an gceathairleacht ná ag éinne a bhaineann leis. Saor in aisce a thugann na bailí a gcuid ama de phobal na Gaeilge.

Tá sin dona go leor ach ní faoi sin atá muintir an Bhoird ag clámháin, at go leor, ach faoi bheal bocht na Roinne, faoi mhíthuiscint na Roinne maidir le leabhra, faoin gcaoi bharabach a bhfuil an Roinn ag iarraidh leabhra trí churtha in eagar, ag muintir an Bhoird a ghearradh é, abair, 30,000 focal go 25,000 focal, chun méidín suarach áigin airgid a chogait; chun léaráidí a chaitheamh amach ar mhaithe le deontas a laghdú; agus eile, go leor leor eile.

Ar ndóigh, ní féidir le stát ná le státóras déláil le litríocht, le cultúr, Chruthaigh an Gúm an méid sin faoi fadó, cé gur tháinig feabhas as ceann mór ar an nGúm le blianta beaga. Deirfarrónn sé gur measa Roinn na Gaeltaigh faoi léathar ná mar a bhí an Gúm riann.

Teip ar Mhíneach

Ar aon chaoi, ní féidir le Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge foilseoirleacht na Gaeilge a pheanáil a bhíolteach. Tá ag teip ar mhíneach na bhfoilseoirí beaga príobháideacha dá bharr. Ní

féidir leo siúd aon pheanáil fadthéarmach a dhéanamh, ach oiread.

Maidir leis an mBord feoin, ní chreidim, dá fheabhas é, agus dá fheabhas na bailí, gur féidir leis, agus an córas mar atá, an gnó a reachtáil gan daoine garmúla bheith fósúithe go láimseirach ann.

Caitheadh na bailí sin bheith ina sainleaithe agus an gnó mar atá agus a bhfuinneamh go hionlán a chur isteach sa ghnó agus sin amháin, rud a chuir *Coomhinn O'Carraigh* in iúl go hindreacht, agus an scéal cruthúithe go maith aige.

Cén fáth gur éirigh le Comharbhachumann Cois Fharráige £8,000 a fháil in ionad £500? Toisc gur le Roinn an Oideachais a rinne sé margadh.

Tá iarchairge cheoi, a bhí ag obair do Roinn an Oideachais tráth agus a fhuigean an stáseirbhíoch é bhun go barr, ag obair do Ráidí na Gaeltaigh anois, agus don Chomharbhachumann, Fear léach. Fear ar ghrá leis cooi. Fear glic a thuigean an córas. Fear ar féidir leis a chuid féin a dhéanamh den chóras. Gairmíleacht, a dhúine, agus bail ó Dhlia éir.

Tá an gairmíleacht chéanna ag roinnt leis an gComharbhachumann, is trua go mór nach bhfuil an spás agam do chaint chumasach *Sheosainn Uí Chaité* agus do churios gearmnaigh *Dhonnchaigh Uí Ealaithe*, beirt den Chomharbhachumann, agus iad ag labhairt i ndiaidh an tsiompáidiam, agus ón úrlár. Cén fáth nach raibh siad ina gceinteoirí "oifigiúla"?

An meachad a bhí ag Sédamh, go mba chéir cúlra uilig na foilseoirleacht seo a tháidil faoin dté eagrais gairmíle, mar atá an Comharbhachumann agus an Gúm!

B'fhéidir nach bhfuil an tarna rogha ann cé gur mór an chaili a bheas ann má bhíonn ar Sháirdeal agus Dill agus an gComharbhach éir as an gcléibhe, agus roinnt eile den na foilseoirí eile, b'fhéidir.

Seán an ceannródaí

Is dócha go mbeidh formhór na nGaeilgeoirí

liom nuair a deirim go gcaithfear Sáirséal agus Dill a choinneáil beo, ar ais nó ar éigin. Is é a bhíil an branáir. Is é a choinneáil caighdeán ealaíonta, idir scríbhneoirleacht agus dhéanamh na leabhar féin, roimhe i gcónaí.

An caighdeán a chuir *Seán O'Keighartaigh* roimhe, níor theip a bhaintreach, *Brightáil*, ariamh air.

Céard é tharlóis anois do na leabhra taighde ó tá deireadh leis na deontais? Céard é tharlóis do na leabhra a bhfuil éileamh orthu ach tá as cló agus gan aon deontas ar fáil dóibh siúd, ach oiread?

Céard é tharlóis do clubanna na leabhar (an dá cheann "oifigiúil"); an ceann a d'eaighrigh *Sáirséal agus Dill*; an ceann a d'eaighrigh *Cumann na Sagartí*?

Ní mór ceann amháin a bhunú, go gairmíle agus le héifeacht agus eagar airgeadais a chur ar lucht léite na Gaeilge. Níor mhiste do Chumann Mherriman an scéal sin a phlé agus go doimhinn.

Cain deonach?

B'fhéidir go bhféadfaí an diabhal a choinneáil ón doras go ceann tamaill eile trí aithris a dhéanamh ar na Giúdaigh agus ar an gcoras a bhunúigh siad sul má tháinig losrael ar an saol, mar choin deonach ar gach clann Ghaeilch, Trí Thionól?

Ach go dtí go n-éiríonn leis an Reabhlóid beidh an náisiún i sáinn agus, mar chuid den náisiún céanna, an rud is tábhachtaí, is bunúsaí, mar atá an Ghaeilge.

Ní shléidfeá an teanga agus dá bhfuil ag breathnú ar na nGaeilge. Is é Eireannach neamhspleách bunaithe. Ba chóir go dtuigfeadh gach éinne a bhfuil stair na hÉireann ó 1921 go dtí anois ar eolas aige an oeacht lom sin óir ní féidir seirbhís éifeachtach dhílis a thabhairt do dhá mháistir.

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS
Send a subscription today to: An Cumann Cabhrach,
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, Baile Átha Cliath, 1, ÉIRE.

PORT LAOISE CONDITIONS

Sycamore Gardens
Dundrum
Dublin 14

A chara,
We, the undersigned, having recently been released from Port Laoise Prison, would draw to your attention the facts regarding conditions there and as experienced by us. We would also point out that you, Mr. Cooney, rely on reports from your officials and have never been present during any of the alleged occurrences that you related to Leinster House.

- We take issue of the following points—
- 1. FREE ASSOCIATION:** Reasons given by you for the ending of free association have not only been misleading but grossly untrue. How can the ending of free association effect the concealment of material in cells? Or for that matter stop the formulation of plans of the nature you suggest when there is still contact between prisoners for a limited period each day? As to the cost, might we suggest that twice the number of prison officials are now engaged in supervising the few hours recreation that prisoners are allowed.
 - 2. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:** You give the impression that the officials in Port Laoise do their utmost to facilitate recreation. Again you are misleading the people of this country for the facilities you mention are not only infinitesimal but are degrading to the extreme.
 - 3. STRIP SEARCHES:** You agree, Mr. Cooney, that they are distasteful although we find that a mild adjective to describe this practice. Not only are they carried out in an abusive manner but they have on occasions been carried out twice in the space of 30 minutes. As to the obvious enjoyment taken by some wardens in this task we have personal experience of this and so,

Open letter to Patrick Cooney, Free State's Minister for Justice

Mr. Cooney, the implication of capriciousness — your word, not ours — is true.

4. **VISITS:** The statement made by you is a gross lie. Visitors are searched twice and not given the brief rubdown you state. They are kept waiting in all weather outside the gates of Port Laoise for hours and we can give the names of those concerned. There is no opportunity to discuss anything of a personal nature as every word said is written down and two warders are always present and another two within hearing distance. Can you imagine, Mr. Cooney, attempting to discuss family problems with constant interruptions from the prison staff and the knowledge that everything said can and will be dis-

cussed later on. These visits, Mr. Cooney, are conducted at a distance of 2' 6" and there are two wire mesh barriers as well as a perspex one.

5. **OTHER POINTS:** There are many more points, Mr. Cooney, that we will not go into in detail, i.e. letters, the refusal of books, local papers etc. unless bought through the prison — why 99 per cent of the prisoners cannot attend Mass because of restrictions — many prisoners sent to solitary confinement for no reason — the general attitude of the Officials in Port Laoise — the lack of medical facilities — complete denial of Educational facilities — the absence of crafts and hobbies means, in fact, no means for a prisoner to occupy himself during the 17½ hours he is locked in the cell.

To conclude, Mr. Cooney, your prison in Port Laoise is the worst in Europe and bears investigation by those outside your employ and it's not satisfactory to tell the people of Ireland that there is a visiting committee for we feel that they have a vested interest in bolstering the present regime.

To the people of Ireland we would say: Mr. Cooney has admitted that the responsibility for Port Laoise is his but we say that it is the responsibility of every elected member of the present Leinster House regime. The attitude is fascist and is reminiscent of Nazi Germany in the '30s. Men are being degraded and humiliated in the name of the Irish people. We are reminded of the '40s and the torture inflicted on Republicans in Port Laoise culminating in the death of Sean McCaughey. Can we afford to make the same mistake again. Under these circumstances we demand a public enquiry before it's too late.

— Thomas McGinty (Strabane),
Robert Beasley (Kerry),
Frank Rooney (Armagh),
Brendan Magill (Dublin).

Wexford S.F. meeting

THE PRESIDENT of Sinn Féin, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, will attend a special meeting in Wexford on February 26th, when Ireland's fishing limits will be discussed.

Organising the meeting is the Pádraig O'Pearáil Cumann, and also attending will be Sina Fein Councillors, Sean Ó Duill, Ennisicorthy, and Michael Shiels, Gorey. Mr. Philip Fallon, recently elected chairman of Bargo Sinn Féin, will preside over the meeting. A contingent of fishermen, from Kilmore (Co. Wexford) have promised their support.

As seating accommodation will be limited, it would be appreciated if any other organisation, wishing to have representation at the meeting would contact, either S. Hartigan, Mulgannon, Wexford, or P. Kelly, 28 Pinewood, Wexford.

POLITICAL NOTES

by Maren

Election time has come again

SO RICHIE Ryan has scrawled the writing on the wall. It's election time, buddy, and the Minister for Finance is doing his bit for the boys.

There are 13 three-seater constituencies in Dublin and Richie's pro-urban budget aims to return a two-to-one ratio for the Coalition.

A sign of the times is that the farmers get the kick this year instead of the kick-back — and serves them right. They gave their allegiance to the highest bidder and to hell with the rest of the country.

Try to tell the farmers about conditions in Port Laoise and you'll know what I mean. They won't rock the boat in case the Mart prices fall. Say nothing bad about the Government as long as I'm all right, Jack, is their tenet.

Now Richie has given them a belt of the exchequer's wand and watch them bleat. Wouldn't surprise me if the IEA didn't soon send a resolution supporting the prisoners.

But back to those Dublin constituencies. The 13 — unlucky for whom? — are considered by wise political pundits to hold the key to the next Government.

Cosgrave and his merry men feel the budget will make the 2-1 ratio of successes a certainty. The electorate are idiots, they claim, and will only remember the pittance they are given in the budget.

Could be Cosgrave and Co. are wrong. Those Dubliners just might remember instead all those soaring prices and an inactive Government. They might recall the large forces of gardai and army hounding Republicans while a pitiful few are available to guard their streets and homes.

They may remember Ministers of the Government claiming it is more important to put an innocent man in jail with the help of a non-jury Court than to deal with real crime.

Indeed, they may give Liam, Richie and crew a kick up the backside for their hypocritical 'concern' for their welfare which becomes evident when the hustings are due.

They might just do that!

I'VE BEEN watching the newspapers avidly since my piece last week addressed to Ed Garvey, Commissioner of the Gardai, informing him of a man of violence in Athlone by the name of Patrick Cooney.

It amazes me that this subversive has not been arrested, especially in these days of a law and order government. Is Mr. Garvey deaf or blind?

If Cooney is still free next week I shall have to suggest that there is political collusion at work.

Mr. Garvey — there can't be one law for Cooney and another for the rest of us. So do your duty and let the Judges decide if you — I am right, I have named him and have pointed out that even the most slipshod investigation will unearth enough evidence to convict under the law as it stands.

The fact that Cooney has a shekel or two and friends in high quarters here and in the Six Counties and in England should have no bearing on the matter. Cooney is a man of violence, he advocates it and encourages others to violence. He is a bigger threat to the Institutions of the State than Paddy Donegan so let's see him where he belongs, behind bars.

His screws in Port Laoise had had some excellent training. They are about ready now to practise their sadistic arts on him. Keep your hand on your anus, Paddy, Ed Garvey will soon be breathing down your neck.

That's if there is any democracy left, of course!

JACQUELINE KAYE, of the Prisoners Aid Committee in London, says there has been an upsurge of interest and donations towards the cost of an advert in the Irish Post outlining the plight of Irish political prisoners in English jails.

Good on yer, lads. Keep it up and we'll show those right-wing shoneens in the British 'Irish' Associations what we think of them. They refused to help.

PALESTINIAN HUNGER STRIKERS DIE

A NUMBER of Palestinian prisoners have died in Israeli jails, it was reported this week.

A news release from the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said that 'several' Palestinian detainees died as a result of a hunger strike, now in its 48th day.

The Zionist authorities attempted to end it by transferring

about 70 prisoners from Asqalan jail to Ramleh, Kfar Youna and Nablus prisons, but the strike continued and was joined by detainees in the other three jails.

About 400 Palestinian prisoners in Asqalan began the hunger strike to demand better conditions and prisoner-of-war status.

The prisoners — mainly from

the occupied Gaza strip — were being held 10 to a cell, lying on mattresses on the floor.

They complained that the food was poor and that they were deprived of books and newspapers.

The Israel authorities ignored protests from Arab lawyers and the International Red Cross about jail conditions.

YE SEE ROY, POLITICAL LIFE IS MUCH THE SAME — — —
UP THERE IT'S ALL BRITS OUT AND WAIKABOUTS
DOWN HERE IT'S ALL \$ELLOUT AND LAYABOUTS !!



PORT LAOISE

Civil Rights Association denounce barbarities

"SINCE our reactivation on 31-10-1976, our Association has received and has investigated (subject to State constraints) very many complaints regarding the conditions which prisoners in Port Laoise are having to endure in the course of serving out their sentences, said a statement issued by the Irish Civil Rights Association.

The statement continued: "These complaints varied from visitors having to wait outside the gate for long periods after the scheduled opening time, to crude probbings of the back passage by jeezing warders. Complaints about long stretches in solitary confinement for offences such as turning off lights, talking at Mass and refusing to bend over to enable warders to examine the back passage were coming and are still coming at an alarming rate. The way the details of such complaints match-up in spite of coming from different sources make it painfully obvious that they are based on truth.

In order to process the complaints responsibly we contacted the Chief Prison Officer in Port Laoise, who confirmed to us that prisoners are not allowed to discuss anything in the nature of a complaint with their visitors. He assured us that "nothing happened in the prison that wasn't necessary". We subsequently interviewed released prisoners. This we have done objectively, and we have

come to the conclusion from the evidence before us that the complaints are true. We are convinced that the prisoners in Port Laoise are being degraded and inhumanly treated. It has been suggested that the explorations of the back passage (by people with no medical training) were necessary because the Gardai believe that this was the only way that explosives could have come into Green Street Courthouse, last summer. The facts are that in spite of all hydroby searches (up to 5 times per day per man) nothing has ever been found.

"We call on all the people in this country to denounce these institutionalised barbarities through their organisations and through their public representatives. This is plainly harassment and not security as alleged. Security reasons are invalidated by the presence of two prison warders, two wire-mesh screens and two perspex barriers at every visit, the visitor having first of all been searched twice in the reception area", the statement ended.

Northern Aid Dinner



On January 21, 1977 Irish Northern Aid Committee held its Fifth Annual Testimonial Dinner in the Astorian Manor, Astoria, New York. Fifteen hundred people attended at twenty-five dollars per person.

The Guest Speaker was Dr. Nora Connolly O'Brien, daughter of James Connolly.

The photograph shows (left to right) Brendan McCusker; Mr. Jim O'Gara, Co-Chairman of the Testimonial Dinner; Mr. Gabriel Kennedy, Chairman of the Testimonial Dinner; Dr. Nora

Connolly O'Brien, Mr. Jack McCarthy; Mairin Callanan, Mrs. Connolly O'Brien's secretary; Fr. Sean McManus, President of the Irish National Caucus.

The inscription on the plaque reads: "To Dr. Nora Connolly O'Brien: The Symbol and Personification of 'The Unbroken Tradition'".

FIRST BOOK

"The Unbroken Tradition" was the title of Dr. Connolly O'Brien's first book written and published in the U.S. in 1917 and banned by the

U.S. Government. Dr. Connolly O'Brien is, also, scheduled to speak in many cities in the U.S. On February 19th she will speak at Northern Aid's Annual Banquet in Boston and on the following day she will speak at a forum on Ireland, sponsored by the Irish National Caucus, in Faneuil Hall. Faneuil Hall holds many memories for Dr. Connolly O'Brien. When her father travelled to the U.S. around 1902 to raise money for his paper "The Worker's Republic", he spoke in that famous hall.

St Brigid's day protests throughout Ireland



WHEN Teiflis Eireann began, it carried as its trademark an crossog Bhríde, the St. Brigid's cross, still being made from rushes throughout Ireland to mark the festday, on February 1, of one of the major patron saints of this country. Later, the symbol was dropped as "too Irish".

This year, the saint's feastday was marked by a peaceful protest throughout Ireland, including the Six Counties, by those in the vanguard of the cultural revolution.

They were complaining that only two per cent of Teiflis Eireann programmes are in the Irish language though most Irish viewers, according to independent survey after survey, are demanding a fairer deal.

University students and supporters on Tuesday marched from U.C.D. in Belfield, to the RTE studios in Montrose, Donnybrook, Dublin, at 14.00 hours, and picketed the station from 14.30 to 17.30 hours.

Broad support

Similar marches and pickets took place in Galway, Cork, Waterford, Sligo, Athlone and elsewhere, with the full backing of the Union of Students in Ireland, Aontas na Macleinn, Cumann na bhFiann, Ogras, Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Naisiunta na Gaeilge and other student, language and trade union bodies.

Among the speakers at a

public meeting at Montrose was the Royal Irish Academy and Institiúid Ardleann leader, Professor David Greene; and Conradh president, Pádraig O Snodaigh; the Comhdháil president, Donnchall O Lúbháin; and the USI leader, Joe Little. T.D.'s, Seanadóir and M.P.'s were told of the protest in advance and invited to take part in it.

Surveys have shown that the RTE programme, "Tram agus Eastrom", is seen and enjoyed by some 70,000 viewers. "Feach" has a similar number of viewers. Most people interviewed in independent surveys, in answers to questionnaires, agreed that far more Irish language programmes should be screened by RTE.

Full spectrum

Conradh na Ageilge demands a full spectrum of programmes in Irish for children, teenagers and adults and points out that if this demand is not met the Irish language will be destroyed.

Welsh demonstrations have succeeded in getting fair play for the Welsh language on British TV stations. In Spain, since the dictator's death, Basque and Catalan language programmes have been increased on Spanish state TV channels though the demand still exceeds the supply, as in Ireland.

In Brittany, a TV licence boycott campaign, similar to the Irish protest, is getting under way.

Meath SF meeting

MR. A Connolly (I.T.G.W.U.) was guest speaker at the meeting of Meath Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair.

Mr. Connolly told the delegates that Navan Trades Council is sponsoring a Public meeting in the town at which a Branch of the 'Resources Protection Campaign' will be formed, and he said they would be seeking the help of all workers in Co. Meath. He urged the delegates to do all they can to help in this campaign of national importance.

Mr. Paddy Gogarty thanked the speaker for his very important lecture and assured him and the Navan Trades Council of the fullest co-operation of all Sinn Fein Cumainn in Co. Meath.

Mr. Connolly later accepted an invitation to address a Sinn Fein Public meeting in Navan on Friday night 4th February at 8 p.m.

Brits out campaign

The 'Brits Out - Peace In' campaign is in full swing throughout the county. Everywhere painted slogans and leaflets are being read with keen interest. A car cavalcade was held in Trim, and afterwards in Athboy and Oldcastle a public meeting was held in Navan on Friday last.

Jailer's death

Major Michael Oldfield, governor of Wakefield prison and the man who supervised Frank Slagg's death, was called to a better world when he departed this life late last year. Major Oldfield entered the prison "service" in 1952 after serving with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry during the Second World War. Appropriately, he retained his military title while ruling the prisons.

The late Kevin O'Driscoll

With the death recently of Kevin O'Driscoll, the Republican Movement in Cork has lost yet another of its long serving members.

Kevin was a life long Republican but one whose name never hit the headlines. Not for him the glory of the battlefield, rather for him the dreary routine work which must be done behind the lines, the work without which the war could not be fought. No task was too small or too big for him, they all had to be done and if he could do them they were done. In the middle and late 1960s, as caretaker of Halla Tomas Aghais, he carried out a difficult task in a firm but courteous manner. When the split came in 1969 he was one of the first Provos in Cork. He played a major part in organising support for An Phoblacht in Cork when it first made its appearance. Always ready and willing to assist any Branch of the Republican Movement that required his assistance, his name is never likely to appear in any history book, as he was one of the large band who serve faithfully but silently, but he will for ever be remembered by those of his comrades in Cork who had the honour to serve with him.

What a pity he had to die just as his life's dream of a free Ireland is about to become a fact.

To his family I wish my own and the Republican Movement's deepest sympathies.

-Georaid Mac Carthaigh.

Sinn Fein national finance committee

In order to further strengthen and consolidate the Sinn Fein organisation in all areas and to enable us to carry out our policy of expansion, i.e. to establish a Sinn Fein Cumann in every parish in the 32 counties, a National Finance Committee has been established.

The following officers have been elected: Chairman, George Lynch; Secretary, Jack Murphy; Treasurer, Brendan Golden, Charlie McGlade and Tony Ruane have been elected to serve on the Committee.

Flanagan - the fascist Defence Minister

very well have fought for the privilege of breathing the fumes.

Finally, I think the following deserves a wider circulation than that provided by the 'US News' from which, with thanks, I have gleaned it. It is an excerpt from the Dail Debate, Volume 91, Column 569, and the year was 1943. Try, if you will, to guess at the identity of the speaker.

"How is it that we do not see any of these Acts directed against the Jews who crucified Our Saviour 1900 years ago and who are crucifying us every day of the week? How is it that we do not see them directed against the Madxio A. is considered an illegal organisation? There is one thing that the Germans did and that was to rout the Jews out of their country."

Readers may be forgiven for assuming that these words might have been uttered by Adolph Hitler or Joseph Goebbels during a state visit. They were in fact spoken by the gentleman whom Mr. Cosgrave has recently seen fit to honour with the post of our Minister for Defence. Yes, the speaker was Mr. Oliver J. Flanagan.

-Hugh Leonard



One year ago . . . 12th February 1976.

Peace people spurn discussion with Republicans

It is appropriate, in view of the activities of a group styling itself 'The Peace Movement', that certain points be made clear.

First of all, these people have seen fit to discuss their ideas with Groups of all colours, but for some reason clear only to themselves, spurn discussions with republicans. The most publicised episode, in this respect, was their refusal to take part in an in-depth debate on the Six-County situation on French TV if Sinn Fein speakers were included. They have now refused to share a platform with Sinn Fein speakers in U.C.D. This is, of course, well in line with the practices of those entrenched in power, who deny Sinn Fein the right to free speech in putting forward their comprehensive Eire Nua Policy.

The fuzzy logic of this movement ("Highly Political", yet "Non-Political") has been known on several occasions to crystallise into an undeniable clarity, e.g. Their calls for full support of the British Army

and R.U.C. as well as calls for more tours and informers. It is not coincidental that these calls are echoed in statements from Roy Mason and Paddy Conroy. Indeed, the strange silence of a 'Peace' Group on such issues as special non-jury courts, brutality in prisons, and British Army outrages, is rather perplexing until seen in this context.

Such spectacles as public police perjury the savaging of defenceless prisoners, the seven-day torture and beating sessions, people being hung through windows or rushed to hospitals and mental homes after 'interrogation', do not make any imprint on the tender sensibilities of McKewen's Movement.

A very strange "Peace" movement, one might say; but many things slip into focus when seen against the background of stated policies, including their new year package of a "federation of the British Isles" and their earlier policy of a "New Northern Ireland Identity" (a strange

connection). A bevy of pseudo-intellectuals and right-wing clerics have flocked to the support of these ever-changing policies, while all the time carefully avoiding open debate with Sinn Fein, and too easily acquiescing in the banning of discussion on our policies. Sinn Fein holds that they key to a solution of the Irish problem must be found rationally by real policies.

"These policies must give power back to the various communities in Ireland, so that the people can make and influence political decisions. The British should declare their intent to withdraw from Ireland, in a responsible way, according to a timetable."

What Ireland needs is open-ended discussions between all groups concerned. Sinn Fein stands for this. We do not stand for profounding illogicalities behind the smoke screen of British and West British repression.

— Colm Keenan Cumann, Sinn Fein, U.C.D.

EIRE NUA

Document calls for constructive criticism

DEASUN BREATHNACH is to be commended for his proposal that Sinn Fein issue a clear declaration at the next ardheis of its socialist objective. The fight for national freedom as he points out does not absolve the revolutionary Party from the obligation of "defining its socialism".

Six years ago the Eire Nua document was issued as an outline of Sinn Fein's projected social and economic system and its proposed federal structure of Nua often referred to as a 'discussion document' and it is generally recognised that it is not the last word on 'ex cathedra' pronouncement on the nature of Sinn Fein as a revolutionary movement.

The Eire Nua document itself called for constructive criticism and comments, and it is contributions to your columns such as that of Deasun Breathnach, ("Against Private Enterprise", An Phoblacht, 25/1/77) which give life and force to that document. They will also ensure that Risteard Behals' words are given the heed and attention they merit, words of warning that we could win the war only to lose the peace.

The editor of Republican News, in the first few weeks of its existence, declared that the Provisional Republican Movement stood for "the socialism of Connolly, the revolutionary nationalism of Pearse, and the unrepentant Fenianism of Clarke". This must be taken, with Deasun

Breathnach's welcome emphasis on the principles of Fintan Labor, as a summary of the ideas content of Irish Republican Socialism.

It expresses, I submit; the basic Sinn Fein philosophy, the spirit and values of the revolutionary tradition that should guide the movement in the formulation of its social and economic programme, in the task of developing the Eire Nua proposals into a Republican Socialist Manifesto to put before the people of a sovereign, free Ireland of 32 Counties. The free people in free Ireland we can then rely to record a massive assent for a federal socialist republic.

We cannot, however, rely on their votes if we strike the reformist note of "the punk politicians" you so soundly trounced in your editorial "Slogan of strength". To thwart the carpet-baggers of party p'phtics, or as Deasun Breathnach put it, "to fail the trick-of-the-loop men, the political thimble riggers, the sleight-of-word politicians who will crowd the bandwagon in another year or two, the revisionists, the bishops and lodge masters and, above all, the civil servants", the socialism we stand for must be clearly defined and clearly understood.

It is not good enough in the late seventies to say we would seek to "strike a balance between Western individualist capitalism with its poor and hungry amid plenty on the right, and Eastern Soviet State capitalism (or any of its variations) with its denial of

freedom and human rights on the left" (Eire Nua, page 4).

However you read this, backwards and forwards and up and down, or diagonally and dialectically, it is nonsense. Some-thinking between Western individualist capitalism and state capitalist slavery could be the "mixed economy" of Callaghan, or the socialism of Sweden where the voters have just recently returned the Conservatives to power, and done so after forty years of so-called socialism or social democracy.

The Eire Nua concept of the nation, not as an abstract idea, but as a community of communities in control of its own destiny, with political freedom linked to real social and economic freedom, the devolution of state power and authority into the hands of the people, then free associations and co-operatives, all and sundry, and production socialised for the benefit of all the people — the abolition of capitalism (the most foreign thing in Ireland) not its management — such a revolutionary goal must be campaigned for now at ideas level, we listen to, and hear Labor, Connolly, Pearse and Mellows. Their directions were clearly to the left.

Ireland will then have the great opportunity, freed from the shackles of British and Free State oppression, to present the world with an inspiring libertarian socialism, a free people in full control of their own lives.

M. O Callanain.

London rally calls for Brits out

by Peter Steele

Last weekend saw a sharp contrast between London's Oxford Street and Shepherds Bush Green. On Saturday Oxford Street was unusually deserted! While a day later, well over a thousand people thronged the streets around Shepherds Bush Green. These demonstrators were demanding, 'No More Bloody Sundays — Troops Out Now?'

The demonstration was followed by a massive rally at Hammersmith Town Hall. There, speaker after speaker denounced British brutality, and called for the immediate withdrawal of the British terrorists from Ireland. Solidarity with the Republican prisoners-of-war and opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act were also seen as essential demands.

FREE SPEECH

The Sunday had started with a thirty-strong token picket at Trafalgar Square demanding 'Free Speech on Ireland'. For the Vety-Claran-Maired circus had performed at the Square back in November. Now the Troops Out Movement has taken place in the Square, British democracy is again living up to its reputation for justice and equality!

GATHERING THROG

Anyway, onwards to Shepherds Bush Green. Here the gathering throng heard a number of speakers. Amongst them Michael Holden of Luton Sinn Fein. He took up the case of prisoner Sean Campbell now in his third week of hunger strike. Sean Campbell has stated that, 'he would rather die than live in Albany where not a day passes without some form of brutality occurring'. However, the Home Office are treating Sean Campbell's claims with calculated indifference. Yet as Michael Holden pointed out: "This is a far cry from the concern they showed to Robert Reif, the fascist and racist, who last year went on hunger-strike. As a result he was treddy by a Home Secretary, Roy Kenyon, who had already allowed two Republican prisoners to die."

TROOPS OUT

The crowd grew to well over a thousand before moving off. Banners included many

socialist groups, the three trades councils — all demanding 'Troops Out'. A strong contingent backed the Irish Political Hostages Committee demanding political status for the prisoners in English jails.

First stop was the Shepherds Bush BBC TV centre where a letter was handed in to the Director-General. This was to protest at TV censorship of war news and of political debate. The second stop was outside one of the headquarters of the Parachute Regiment. A minutes silence was respected for their victims of five years ago.

The demonstration threaded its way through the White City Estate, the biggest housing estate in West London. This estate is populated by many immigrants — both black and Irish. The demonstration was fraternally saluted from many corners.

UNION JACK

However, further on the demonstrators were greeted by salutes of a very different kind. The Nazi salute! A small pathetic group of National Front fascists were huddled around a tatty Union Jack.

They wanted to do all kinds of nasty things to the IRA, but throwing a couple of eggs was their limit. So much for the glory of the British Empire! Past these comics, we were quickly into the joint Troops Out Movement — Socialist Worker Rally.

INTIMIDATION

The first speaker was Sue O'Halloran from the Trade Union Committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). She explained how the PTA was being used to intimidate Irish people from opposing British repression in Ireland. That more than 2,200 men and women have been arrested under the PTA. Nearly all of these are Irish.

The Brits fear that open debate launched by the Irish in Britain could expose to British workers the realities of the Irish war. She herself had been arrested under the Act just so that the Special Branch could get their hands on the files of the anti-PTA committee.

POLITICAL HOSTAGES

Next speaker was Michael Maguire of the Irish Political Hostages Committee. He detailed the

horrific treatment being handed out to Irish prisoners. He went on to pay tribute to some of the Angry Brigade prisoners.

In particular he recounted a little-known story of how Jake Prescott, an English anarchist, had sided with Hugh Feeney to prevent him from being beaten up. The audience was quick to appreciate that despite large political differences, here was a real example of international working class solidarity.

TRADE UNIONISTS

The next two speakers were both trade unionists with vast experience of bitter struggle. Both expressed the need for British workers to show solidarity with the Irish struggle and to demand an immediate British withdrawal.

First was Mervyn Metcalfe an engineering shop steward from Coventry Trades Council who was over on the Labour Delegation last September.

And second was Jimmy McCallum of the newly-formed Socialist Workers Party. He is a former trade union convenor from the John Brown shipyards in Glasgow. He called on the audience to continue to defy Fleet Street who had tried to make use of the London bombs to frighten away todays demonstrators.

A message of solidarity was then read out from Bernadette McAliskey, who had been unable to get to the rally because of international airline schedules!

AIREY NEAVE

The next speaker was Paddy Prendiville on behalf of the Troops Out Movement. Some Northern readers may recall his agile handling of a hostile UTV reporter following the British Abolition Delegation last September. Also in good form this time he tore into Airey Neave, Tory spokesman on Ireland.

The previous weekend Neave had made what must rank as one of the most hysterical and belligerent contributions made by a British politician during the war. Paddy Prendiville stated that the main reason for the tone of Neave's speech was the despair felt by the ruling politicians at the continuing inability of the British Government to solve the 'Irish Problem'.

MISERABLE TOM

The fact that the bulk of Neave's speech was

directed at what he called the 'miserable Troops Out Movement' was further evidence of the fear that exists in Tory circles that an increasing majority of Britain's population are in favour of a British withdrawal. In summary Neave's speech advocated the following: more interment, more use of the Army, the RUC, UDR and the infamous SAS; less impartiality from the media.

Neave had then stated that this was not a military solution. Paddy Prendiville wondered what Neave believed to be a military solution. This presumably would involve the RAF strafing the Falls Road and the Royal Navy shelling the Bogside!

Prendiville concluded that Neave's ravings were not merely as a result of right-wing Toryism, but also as a result of a sense of frustration at Britain's inevitable failure to determine Ireland's future. He pledged that the Troops Out Movement will redouble its efforts to mobilise progressive opinion inside the British labour movement to force British withdrawal.

UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT

The final speaker was Eamon McCann. He stressed the necessity for the British left to take the Irish national liberation struggle seriously. He pointed out the lack of response to the show trial after show trial being mounted in London. He called on socialists to give unconditional support to the Provisional IRA.

Meanwhile, sitting in the Chair was Paul Foot, one of the editors of the weekly Socialist Worker. He applauded McCann's point by point throughout his speech. Let us hope such sentiments show through. For Socialist Worker has hardly treated the war as the central issue that McCann demanded.

MILITARY ACTIVITY

Irish republicans do not expect the British left to engage in military activity. But they certainly demand one thing. The British left must acknowledge the right of Irish republicans to wage war against Britain inside both Ireland and in Britain.

This means not only calling for the withdrawal of British troops. It means taking seriously the struggle of Irish political prisoners, in the forefront are hunger-striker Sean Campbell, and also Shane O'Doherty incarcerated in Wormwood Scrubs covered by only a blanket. Plenty of work needs to be done. There are now over one hundred such prisoners.

'BRITS OUT' campaign

HOW NEAR to a total police state is the 26 Counties? Recent events indicate that this statelet is gone farther along the road towards totalitarianism that could ever be imagined even five years ago. The employment of the whole police force to try and stifle the purely political campaign of "Brits Out" is a clear indication of how far this present government is willing to go to eliminate political opposition.

And all this police work is at the expense of any real law and order in the state. Much state time and taxpayer's money has been spent trying to prevent the people hearing anything about the occupation of our country. The politicians are now well aware that despite all the propaganda dished out in recent years in favour of the present status quo, the people desire a 32 County Republic and will support those whom they feel can attain that ideal.

Schemer-in-Chief in the "Brits must stay to save our bacon" brigade is Conor Cruise Goebels O'Brien. He has again unearthed his idea of changing the 26-County constitution. (This constitution has no place anyway in the hearts of Republicans). He wants to ensure by his suggested changes that England will have a foothold in this country for ever; "poor fellow" - even his boss "wee Liam" can see further than Conor.

Forces. The support for the "Brits Out" campaign is steadily increasing and there is evidence of activity everywhere. On a drive from Dublin to Waterford, slogans and posters were very noticeable in Naas, Kilkenny and Athy in Co. Kildare. In Athy, a huge board holding a dozen posters were exhibited in the town centre. In Co. Kilkenny, slogans were noticed in many places especially in the Mooncoin area. Waterford City too had been at work but here it could clearly be seen that the Special Branch had been out on THEIR painting rounds. All roads leading into Carrick-on-Suir have been painted with slogans, as also has neighbouring Portlaoine.

Public meetings in many areas

Public meetings have been held in many areas and many other areas are



■ ABOVE: A picture taken at Clontarf. Readers are invited to send us pictures of good slogans in their areas.

"Wee Liam" knows that a referendum smacking of any hint of giving away part of our National territory would not be a good thing just now. In fact, those close to most politicians believe it could be the death knell of the proposers of such a suggestion.

Withdrawal favoured

So now "wee Liam" wants to dump Conor and if, — and there are many "ifs" — the coalition get a majority at the next election and if Conor does not lose his seat, his chances of getting a cabinet post are very slim indeed. Liam does not want to commit Hari-Kari on the National territory issue.

But, Conor is trying to fight back. Has he not full control of the News Media and on the "Here and Now" programme he showed he can use the media to his personal advantage by making an appeal to listeners to join the Labour party. Putting aside the blatant misuse of the Radio, which is paid for by every taxpayer regardless of political persuasion, he has stolen a march on Fine Gael by getting in an extra political broadcast for Labour.

But, political broadcasts in favour of one side and political censorship on the other side, will not do Conor much good at this point in time. He has anchored himself to the wrong side by supporting a British stay in this country. If the evidence of recent weeks is anything to go on, then those who follow Conor and his like are in for a very grave shock in the months ahead.

The evidence on all sides is that the people favour a withdrawal of the British

planning some in the future. In the South Dublin area, a four hour Car Cavalcade passed through Clondalkin, Walkinstown, Crumlin, Harold's Cross, Rathmines, Inchicore and Bluebell stopping at various points to speak to Saturday shoppers. The reception received showed the goodwill of the people to the campaign.

Not another 1921 treaty

Despite a bitter, cold day, a public meeting in Carrick-on-Suir was well attended and the speakers were received enthusiastically. Ualtair O Loinsigh, Ard Kunai, stated in the course of an address that "the policy of this movement has been very straightforward and clear. We believe that in order to build a better Ireland we must eliminate the cancer that impedes the development of the Nation. That cancer is British rule, British occupation and British interference in Irish affairs. There are now signs that Britain will pull out of our country and many politicians who formerly opposed a British withdrawal are beginning to claim that they always wanted the Brits to go. But we must be very careful with these politicians and ensure that they do not sell us out for something less than full freedom.

"We do not want another 1921 Treaty."

William Coady, Sinn Fein councillor and chairman of Carrick-on-Suir Urban Council, said that "The Peace Movement was now seen for what it was — a support group for the occupiers of our country". Eddie Doherty, chairman of South Tipperary Comhairle Ceantair, presided at the meeting.

News from the North

Widespread bomb attacks covering the Six Counties and the British Capital took place at the weekend. Twenty six in the North and over twelve in London.

A statement issued in Dublin on behalf of the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, accepted responsibility for the London bombs and warned of a new offensive.

In Derry a top industrialist was shot dead. A leading U.D.A. man was assassinated by the U.V.F. and attacks on the R.U.C., U.D.R. and Prison Warders continued.

Roy Mason told foreign journalists that the North was "quieter now than for some time".

About time he read this paper!!!

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

London: Over a dozen incendiary and explosive devices exploded in the heart of London's main shopping and business areas. Most of the attacks were centered on the Oxford Street complex.

Damage was estimated at nearly one million pounds. DUNGANNON: A bomb exploded in Nobels store in Irish Street. There were no injuries and damage to the store was extensive.

Later it was stated that damage amounted to £100,000.

LURGAN: Incendiary devices destroyed 4 lorries at Hadden's Quarry near Carrickmore.

A bomb destroyed Upholds store in High St. A fire later gutted the premises.

BELFAST: A bomb exploded at a derelict house in Hooker St. Ardoyne. There were no injuries.

Two children received slight cuts when a bomb, believed to have been planted by Pro British Elements, exploded at a paint shop on the Crumlin Road.

NEWRY: The Belfast Dublin railway line was closed after a hoax-bomb was planted. It was later re-opened.

SUNDAY, JAN 30.

BELFAST: A 40-year-old Catholic received severe injuries after Pro-British elements planted a booby trap bomb at his front door in the Rathcoole area of the city.

As he left for work he opened his door triggering the device. He received eye and leg injuries, necessitating an amputation.

Several houses close by received structural damage.

A bus hijacked near Lurgan was found at the Drumbragh roundabout near Belfast. A five lb. bomb planted on the bus was defused some hours later.

The roads leading to the roundabout were blocked off causing severe traffic hold ups.

MONDAY, JAN 31

BELFAST: A leading member of the Ulster Defence Association was found battered to death, at Adela St, off the Antrim Road.

He was named by the R.U.C. as James Moorhead a member of the U.D.A.'s notorious West Belfast Battalion. It is believed he was killed by another Pro-British element of the U.V.F.

CO. DERRY: The I.R.A. admitted responsibility for the latest attack on a member of the R.U.C.

A bomb placed on a window at his home exploded causing extensive damage and also damaging two cars parked nearby.

The R.U.C. man received minor injuries.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1

ARMAGH: An R.U.C. man escaped injury when a booby trap device attached to his car was spotted by his wife. A British bomb disposal unit took several hours to defuse it.

BELFAST: The home of a Prison Warden in Alliance Ave, was badly damaged after a bomb planted at the front door exploded.

A warning had been phoned to the "Samaritans" stating that a 3 lb. device had been left.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 2.

DERRY: The leading Industrialist in the North West Jeffrey Agate was shot dead as he parked his car.

He was hit by five bullets and died immediately.

The attack took place at Talbot Drive.

CO. TYRONE: Two members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were shot and wounded when four men opened fire on their house near Castlederg. The men attacked from the front and back doors. One of the U.D.R. men was later described as "seriously ill".

A woman who was in the house was slightly injured.

BELFAST: Pro-British elements failed in their bid to assassinate Sean Fox of Harman Park. They had planned a 10 lb. bomb under his car but his wife spotted the protruding wires in time.

THURSDAY, FEB. 3

BELFAST: The Pro-British Ulster Freedom Fighters continued their selective assassination of innocent Catholics when they murdered 51 year old, Joseph Morrissey, a married man with a family from the North of the City.

His body was found in a favourite dumping ground of the UFF, near a Mission Hall on Forth River Road in the Glencain area. His throat had been cut and his body badly mutilated.

A Top Civil Servant living at Lismoyne Park on the Antrim Road survived a booby trap explosion when his car triggered off the device. The Civil Servant, Patrick Oakey is a solicitor.

A young man, had a narrow escape from death when he was kidnapped in the Clonard area. He was bundled into a car and his assailants struck him several times with knives. He was bundled out of the car and it then escaped towards a Loyalist area.

ARMAGH: The village of Newtownhamilton was evacuated after a warning of car bombs in the area.

In an ensuing explosion a woman was seriously injured when a bomb exploded outside the local Post Office.

LIVERPOOL: An incendiary device exploded at a bookshop in the City Centre. British police confirmed it was a similar device to the London bombs at the weekend.

FRIDAY, FEB. 4

CO. ARMAGH: A letter bomb sent to the home of an RUC man in Bessbrook was defused by a British Disposal Unit.

BELFAST: Workers in East-woods Scrappery, Andersonstown had a narrow escape when a bomb inside a car they were breaking up exploded. The car had been left by the City Corporation Dept. They had found the car abandoned on the Cavehill Road. It is believed the explosive device was 10 lb.

Two bombs exploded at the Midlands Hotel, White Street, causing minor damage.

Hunger Strike ended

SEAN CAMPBELL who had been on hunger strike since January 15th, has received assurances from the prison authorities that he will not be transferred back to Albany Prison.

Sean serving ten years began refusing food while in Albany, where he was being kept in solitary confinement after being injured twice by

prison officers during protests.

He was taken to Parkhurst, as Albany has no hospital wing, and there told his wife, Mrs. Mary Campbell, of Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, that he would refuse food until guaranteed that he would not be sent back to Albany.

†
Stagg: First anniversary in memory of Frank Stagg who died on hunger strike in Wakefield Prison, February 12, 1976. Mass offered. "He saved my life and lost his own".
— Geairid O Maille agus a clann.

†
In proud and loving memory of Proinsias Stagg who died on hunger strike in Wakefield Jail, February 12, 1967.

Remembered with pride and gratitude by An Cumann Proinsias Stagg, Manchester. "He died that Ireland might be free."

REPUBLICAN POST BAG

EXCLUSIVE

Fr. Sean writes to Carter

FOLLOWING is a copy of a letter sent to President Jimmy Carter of the U.S.A. following his inauguration.

Dear President Carter: On your first day in office you demonstrated your compassion by granting pardon to those of conscience, and your sense of history by selecting the desk used by Rutherford Hayes for your White House office. These seemingly disparate acts actually have a significant connection.

About one hundred years ago, President Hayes was asked by the Irish American community, through the medium of an unanimous resolution passed by both Houses of Congress, to intervene on behalf of Edward O'Meagher Condon, who had languished for eleven years in an English jail because of his devotion to the cause of Irish freedom. The people's voice was heard, President Hayes demonstrated compassion, and a family was reunited.

Today the Irish American community must again call on the compassion of our President. An Irishman, Jimmy Conlon of New York, has been told by our government that he is to be taken from federal prison in Pennsylvania and deported to Northern Ireland. If this is done, his wife and children will be heartbroken and Jimmy will certainly face political persecution, imprisonment, or even death.

In your inaugural address, Mr. President, you re-emphasized your total commitment to human rights. There will be no human rights for Jimmy Conlon in Ireland. In Southern Ireland the Dublin Government is forced to derogate from the European Convention on Human Rights, and in Northern Ireland the British Government has been found guilty of torture by the European Commission on Human Rights.

When you met with the Irish National Caucus in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, October 27, 1976, we shared a common cause and a mutual dream. We were deeply impressed by your sincerity and imbued with a strong hope that in all circumstances you would exercise compassion. Jimmy Conlon broke the law of this country. He makes no excuses - nor do I - for his action. He has been punished, and the punishment has fitted the crime. Surely that is enough? The proposed deportation to Northern Ireland will actually - in the circumstances - constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

Mr. President, you promised to strengthen the family. The proposed deportation will tear an Irish family asunder. On behalf of the Irish National Caucus, which represents all the major Irish American organisations in the United States, I plead with you to, please, save this Irish family. They have suffered enough.

President Hayes saved the O'Meagher Condon family. How beautiful if history can record that from that very same desk, President Carter saved the Conlon family!

Very respectfully yours,
-Rev. Sean McManus,
National Coordinator Irish National Caucus.

BOOKS FOR PRISONERS

MANY thanks to everyone who

wrote to Sio-County Republican prisoners following my letter of a few weeks ago. Some, at least, of the letters and cards have been received. One recipient tells me that beforehand he knows no-one south of the border, and now he is hearing from four people. If anyone else is interested in writing, I am told that there are many other young P.O.W.'s eager for names and addresses to write to.

Meanwhile, maybe someone could help with the following? Several P.O.W.'s in Magilligan are studying Irish using "several variations of a course devised by Prionnsias Mac Art in the early days of internment" but are finding some difficulties.

So, on their behalf, I am looking for:

- 1 simple books in Irish
- 2 a modern grammar book
- 3 if possible, some Gael Linn language records
- 4 "basic guidelines" which they ask for on teaching methods which have required adaptation to circumstances. (Maybe a teacher of Irish, or someone with previous experience of such courses in prison camps can help us here? If they write to me, I can put them in touch with those concerned).

An bhfuil eolas na cabhrú eigin ag cinne faoi na rudaí seo? If you contact me, we can make arrangements about getting books etc. to Derry where they can quite easily be included in one of the lad's weekly parcels.

Go raibh míle maith againh. Eibhlin Ní Sheidhir,
109 Upper Rathmines Road,
Dublin 6.

PARAS SCARED

THE cowardly attacks by Paratroops, reported in the Irish News January 18th, are typical of this regiment.

I witnessed on the previous day, an intoxicated man being struck and kicked when down at the junction of Whitecroft the Holy Family Club, and lost.

The only time I saw Paras fighting on even terms was just before the 1969 troubles when their boxing champions took on the Holy Family Club, and eight bouts to nil, including three knockouts.

Since then they refused to accept man to man punches, the last challenge being six weeks ago in Newry.

Obviously, Paras believe in fighting only when the odds are heavily in their favour.

I would like to see a ring erected in Dunville Park and the so-called Red Devils invited to meet local boys.

-Ex-professional

BUIOCHAS

The Sean Treacy Cumann, who organised the bus to Derry for the Bloody Sunday Commemoration, would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of the Creggan and the Bogside.

Everywhere we went the people welcomed us with open arms and went out of their way to help us in every way possible. It would be impossible to mention everyone personally so we hope that they will accept our thanks and appreciation through this letter.

-P.R.O.
Sean Treacy S.F. Cumann,
Dublin.



On the instructions of the Free State government Prionnsias Stagg's grave is filled with Concrete. This photo was taken exclusively by an Phoblacht photographer.

I gCUIMHNE

In Proud and loving memory of my dear son Prionnsias, who died on Hunger Strike on the 12th February, 1976.

It does not take a special day to keep you in my mind,

For days without a part of you are very hard to find.

Deeply regretted by his loving mother Mary of the Gael, pray for him.

STAGG: In proud and loving memory of Prionnsias, who died on hunger strike on 12th February, 1976.

"Your memory is with us always; We will toil ceaselessly to achieve your ideals".
Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar do anam uasal.
Mary, Joe and family, also grandson Patsy in Port Laoise jail.

STAGG: In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Prionnsias, who died on Hunger Strike on the 12th February, 1976.

"Will those who think of him today
Always remembered by your loving sister, Maureen, Jarlath and family.

STAGG: In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Prionnsias, who died on Hunger Strike on the 12th February, 1976.

"Absent, unseen yet always near, still loved, still missed but very dear".

Always remembered by your loving brother, George, Mary and family.

STAGG: In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Prionnsias, who died on Hunger Strike on the 12th February, 1976.

"If anyone should ask us why we thought the world of you,
We could give a million answers and each one would be true".

Sadly missed by your loving sister, Rosaleen, Jimmy and family.

STAGG: In proud and loving memory of my dear brother, Prionnsias, who died on Hunger Strike on the 12th February, 1976.

"You have not been forgotten, you know you

never will".
Sadly missed by your loving brother Sean, Ron and family.

STAGG: In proud and loving memory of Prionnsias who died on hunger strike on 12th February, 1976.

"Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations".

Always remembered by Brid, Tosh and family.

STAGG: The McAdorey-/McCusker Cumann, Luton Sinn Fein, England, remember with pride, Frank Stagg, who was murdered in Wakefield Gaol, Yorkshire, on February 12th, 1976. "They murdered a revolutionary, but they cannot murder the revolution".

STAGG: The Committee and Members of the Connolly/Keegan Cumann, West Hertfordshire (England) remember with pride Frank Stagg, who was cruelly murdered by his enemies in Wakefield Gaol, Yorkshire, on February 12th, 1976. "From his bravery we take our inspiration".

STAGG: The Home Counties Comhairle Ceantair (England) remember brave Frank Stagg murdered in Wakefield Gaol, Yorkshire, on February 12th, 1976, go ndeanna dia trocaire ar a h-anam.

STAGG: The Committee and Members of the Paul Best Cumann, Bletchley, (England) remember our comrade, Frank Stagg, whose anniversary occurs on February 12th. "Peace can only exist in a society of free men". - N. Jenkinson.

Prionnsias Stagg Commemoration



THE first Prionnsias Stagg Commemoration will be held in Ballina on SUNDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY.

Fulllest support expected. Further details later.

ASSEMBLY at the Cathedral at 2 p.m.
Prominent Republican speakers
Buses will leave No. 5. Blessington Street Dublin at 9.30 a.m. on February 20th.
For booking please Phone 315638
Organised by Patrick McAdorey S.F.
Cumann Artane.

GPO PUBLIC MEETING

A "Brits out - Peace in" public meeting will be held at 3.30 p.m. at the G.P.O., Dublin on

Saturday, 12th February
The meeting will be proceeded by Poster Parades beginning at 2 p.m. in support of the

PORT LAOISE PRISONERS

The Northside Parade leaves, 5 Blessington Street at 2 p.m. the Southside Parade leaves Harcourt Street at 2.30 p.m. Both parades will proceed to join the G.P.O. meeting.
(Issued by Dublin Sinn Fein).

Cumann Cahhrach
Ath Cliath
SUPPER CEILE
at
OSTAN JOHN DEVOY
on THURSDAY, MARCH 17th
Rinnce 8.30 pm. to 1 a.m. Taillee £2.00
Bus leaves 44 Parnell Sq. at 8 p.m.

ENGLISH ATTACKS

After last weekend's attacks in England the IRA, through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, claimed responsibility and warned of a new offensive:

Peace meetings held at U.C.D.

STUDENTS at the College attended two meetings on the campus. One, organised by the "Peace People" was held at the Lake and the other organised by several "left wing" groups was held in a theatre inside the College.

Speaking on the theme "Peace through Freedom", Eamon McCann, Derry, told the meeting that it was important, especially speaking to people in the 26 Counties to destroy the myth of what the Civil Rights Movement in the late 60s stood for.

Most people believed that Civil Rights was a great movement and that the IRA had destroyed its impetus by violence.

"Nothing was further from the truth", Eamon stated. He then gave a detailed background to the role of the Unionist who would not give an inch, the RUC who went in heavy handed and with a certain amount of eagerness to baton the people from the streets. It was only when all else failed — all peaceful and political methods — that the "troubles" as we now call them erupted.

Detailed analogy

Gerry O'Hare, Belfast, gave a detailed analogy of the way in which the Free State Government had harassed, hounded and obstructed peace within the 26 Counties. "Beatings, torture, frame ups are a part and parcel of everyday life in Garda stations.

"Systematic torture, both mental and physical was being operated in Port Laoise and to a lesser degree in Limerick Jail," he stated.

Referring to Fine Gael he said:

"One of the extraordinary aspects of the present situation in Ireland is that any group of politicians, outside the peds nros, and koloans, the garrison unionists of the north-east, should be demanding that the imperial occupation continue."

"Why, then, this hysterical screaming from the Fein Gael politicians that the imperialist remain? Because the Republican

Movement has pushed the contradictions to the extreme of logic and the traitor politicians have been trapped and stripped naked in their cul-de-sac of history, as were the Petains and the Quislings of the Nazi occupation of continental Europe; as were those who sided with the foreign invaders during the Russian Revolution; as were those who backed Chiang Kai Chek in China. Traitor Salgon knew such hysteria in its last days before those much despised "little men in black pajamas" ended US imperial rule.

Labour must wait

"Fine Gael's reactions are understandable enough, you may say, but where do you leave the Irish Labour Party, remembering that it was founded by James Connolly and remembering, too, that a son of that socialist pioneer is one of its most prominent members?"

"The truth is that the Labour Party's soul died quite soon after Connolly's death. Its last contribution to solving the national question and taking its place in the vanguard of the revolution on the class was the Democratic Programme of the First Dail, a programme which terrifies to this day the latter day social democrats of the modern party as much as it terrifies Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

"De Valera told them that Labour must wait and they believed it. Now they are waiting, hand and foot, on the Blueshirt party and one of their most extrovert and boisterous leaders, the Minister for Boasts and Belly Laughs (or, if you prefer it, Telling Gaffs) is the greatest unionist of them all, greater, even than Castlereagh, out-sirring Sirr, out-reigning Reynolds, the '98 informer. Cruise O'Brien, the erstwhile socialist who stands guard over the money bags of the multinationals, Cruise O'Brien, the writer, who presided over the destruction of the books and manuscripts of Eamonn Mac

Thomas in Port Laoise Jail; Cruise O'Brien, the erstwhile civil rights protestor in the streets of New York and major suffocator of the civil rights of Irishmen; Cruise O'Brien, the erstwhile fighter for the unity of the Congo, the man of violence against Katanga, who now stands four square with the SAS, the Paras and the rest of the imperial paraphernalia of viciousness, against the unity of his own land. Does it take much imagination to hear in one's mind how Connolly, if he were alive today, would lash these labour fakers with his tongue, as long as he could remain in liberty, for Port Laoise Jail is reserved for the likes of him."

Mrs. Nell McCaffery, said that she would not want any part of Eamon McCann or Gerry O'Hare's United Ireland as women would be no more free in it than they are today. Because both the men speakers had refused to speak about women's role in Ireland she was making her speech brief.

A member of the "Peace People" then asked for permission to speak from the platform.

Asked as he ever in the North, he said: "I come from Belfast and I admit I had a proper middle class upbringing but I must admit I have never been in Andersonstown, Ballymurphy, Ardoyne, the Shankill or the Crumlin Road but when I go home the next time I will visit these places." (He had lived in Belfast for 18 years!!!)

In conclusion, he thanked the speakers for allowing him time to state his views and added "Don't judge the UCD Peace People by what Betty Williams says. We quite often don't agree with her."

S.F. Public Meeting

A public meeting under the auspices of Sinn Fein will be held in Ceanannas Mor, (Kells) Co. Meath on Saturday, 12th February at 9 p.m.

Messrs. Guerin and McCormack were taken to the Special Criminal Court and charged but the charges against them were dismissed because of a technicality. Both men said that none of their torturers had appeared in court.

Messrs. Connors and Wills were not charged. The case, one of the worst to be so widely publicised over the past 12 months, is bound to cause considerable public unease, to say the least, and was such that Cooney and his colleagues believed it imperative that Pontius Pilate statement be made for the public record.

The Gardaí have denied indignantly that the four men were treated other than kindly and compassionately, in a Christian manner and strictly according to law. This has the public seal of the opinion of a Garda superintendent.

The Association for Legal Justice has bulky

Clonard is crucified by Paras



FOLLOWING THE death of Mr. Frank Moyna on Tuesday, 25th January, 1977, the Parachute regiment was withdrawn from this area, and for the first time in many years the Clonard district of Belfast experienced peace. However, this regiment have now emerged again on patrol in our area and again the harassment occurs.

A foot patrol of Paras, containing also several members of the Scots Fusiliers, kicked in the back doors of two homes in Bombay Street. This break-in took place at 5.45 a.m. When the women pulled these soldiers about their behaviour they were informed "that they (the soldiers) were cat burglars, isn't it great and we get paid for it too".

In one period alone this area was beset by five different foot patrols, and every man, woman and child was stopped and questioned on the street. Youths were pushed against walls and searched.

It would certainly appear that all the efforts of the women of this district to put a stop to this brutality have failed. This, despite the fact that 9 per cent of the district signed 'a paras out petition', and the fact that this petition was delivered to Stormont Castle for the attention of Mason himself. We would reiterate for the information of all those interested that our district is being crucified by the British Army on our streets, and that urgent action will have to be taken in order to prevent what occurred in the past two weeks when one resident was very seriously injured and another killed.

■ Our picture (above) shows one of the roadblocks set up by the residents of the Clonard area following the death of Frank Moyna.

Plea for prisoners

A PLEA FOR Leitrim Co. Council to Roscommon Co. Council to support a resolution asking the Irish Government to protest to the British Government about the harassment of people in the Six Counties as outlined by Father Denis Faul was "noted" at last week's Council meeting.

Leitrim also asked Roscommon and other Co. Councils to take more interest in the plight of Irish political prisoners in British jails.

Connemara campaign

THE SCENIC beauty of Connemara was enhanced last night by the overnight appearance of slogans with the message spelled out loud and clear, "Brits Out Peace In". Posters with the same message were also in evidence throughout a wide area of Connemara.

But the message was short. Many of the posters were ripped down. The slogans were all but erased by that well tried method of applying downward pressure to a brush and rubbing.

But the message for the "Brits" remains and cannot be erased: "Pack up and get out."

Posters confiscated in Roscommon

A QUANTITY of posters bearing the legend "Brits Out Peace In" were taken from two members of the Sean South Cumann, Roscommon town, in the Square, Roscommon, by Gardaí.

A spokesman for Sinn Fein commented: "The aspiration that the British should leave the Six-Counties is held by a large proportion of the public and Fianna Fail leaders, including Mr. Lynch, have gone on record publicly asking for a declaration of intent from the British Government.

"No action has been taken by the gardai against Mr. Lynch or his party colleagues but posters advocating, in effect, the same aspiration are taken from Sinn Fein members. The question must be asked: "Is the law impartial?"

In faithful memory of Proinsias Stagg murdered by the Crown, 12 February, 1976.

To God and Ireland true. Holy Mass offered. — Bridget Rosaleen Conlon.

✠
In loving memory of Proinsias Stagg, murdered February 12, 1976. — Pat and Mary Ward.

SYMPATHY

Sinn Fein Eamonn Lafferty Cumann, Cahir, members sympathise with the Wills family on their recent bereavement.

IRELAND'S WATERGATE

files of cases similar to what is described here. The Langley Trust is being availed of to pay the legal expenses of bringing well documented cases of state terrorism into the civil courts.

It is only if or when such cases do not succeed in such domestic courts that they may be brought before the Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg (though any sympathetic government at any time may take up such cases and go straight to Strasbourg with them, ignoring the domestic courts).

A high-ranking civil servant in the Department of Justice, one who, at this stage, obviously cannot be named, told us that Cooney and his advisers were very worried about the pending civil action cases; about the growing publicity of Garda torture suspects; and, very particularly, the Cahir case.

He pointed out that there is very considerable pressure on Gardaí to get results at all costs, for statistics purposes, having the maximum possible number of cases marked "detected".

Thus, when politicians and others ask for figures about the crime level they are able to

quote statistics showing that the situation is under control. Brutality, he stated, was not used against Republicans only.

He quoted the example of a "man with a record" in the Finglas area of Dublin, suspected of having stolen goods but against whom there was no evidence whatsoever.

"He was taken in and beaten until he agreed to sign a confession," said the civil servant. "That was bad enough and quite illegal but worse is happening. Innocent people are being made to confess to crimes they have not committed.

"In most cases they are so intimidated that they will make no protest and go to jail. It is only the political suspects who are making any sort of a stand."

Most lawyers and judges, as well as the civil servants, he said, had "a pretty good idea" of what was going on, between perjury and brutality.

The civil cases on the way might result in some reform. He doubted if it would be possible to get a public, sworn inquiry: "The thing has gone too far. It would be political dynamite."

(Ar leantain o ch 1)

told it back to them and they wrote it down. They eased off once they got a story."

The first time he had got a chance to sleep was early on Thursday. They had punched him low down on the back and in the stomach: "They told me that I wouldn't be able to bring charges against them because there wouldn't be a mark left on me."

A doctor was allowed to see him at 2.00 a.m. on Thursday.

When Donal Wills was released on Saturday to attend his sister's funeral, a doctor referred him to St. Luke's Mental Hospital, Clonmel, for treatment.

He, too, gave details of physical and psychological torture. He left hospital after spending a week there.