

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 2. 8p. Eanáir 18, 1977.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and 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. (See *Dail Eireann*)

BRITS OUT

Campaign gains momentum

THE massive publicity campaign launched by the Republican Movement to secure a British declaration of intent has got off to a flying start. Right across our nation from Ballycastle in Antrim to Cahirciveen in Kerry the slogan "Brits out - Peace In" is appearing everywhere. Sinn Fein cumann have been galvanised into action and reports indicate a tremendous effort in all areas.

The response from the public is favourable and the indications are that the lies, deceit, and hypocrisy from the politicians has not destroyed the fervant national feeling inner most in the hearts of our people.

But quite a different response has come from the establishment. All Special Branch and uniformed police have been fully mobilised to counteract the activities. At least 10 members of Sinn Fein were arrested in Dublin on the weekend of the 8th/9th January and an informer priest telephoned the police when he spotted slogan writers in the Blanchardstown area. But the informers and the arrests failed to prevent a massive number of slogans appearing in the capital city.

In Cork all areas were active with slogan writing, but there top police harassment was to the fore. In Limerick the forces of law confined themselves to counting the number of slogans.

In Summerhill in Co. Meath, "the guardians of peace" were busy with brushes trying to erase the slogans before a funeral of a victim of a hit and run accident passed. Of course they were not interested in trying to locate the person responsible for this death.

A profusion of slogans was noted on the Boyle/Roscommon Road, while in Co. Kerry a thorough job has been done.

A question that must be put to the general public and in particular to a declining minority is what can be wrong with a demand for a British withdrawal and a lasting peace with justice. When this question was put to the Blanchardstown priest - his answer was "it's all nonsense". True and lasting peace in freedom with justice for all our people is nonsense to established politicians, crow thumping Churchmen and over-paid "security forces".

The opposition of these people to the idea of a free Ireland is understood they must loose out when freedom comes. The members of our Movement must now go ahead with all their strength and push those hypocrites aside and drive the Brits from our shores. The current campaign is the most important we have so far undertaken. The opposition only too well understands this and will try to thwart us in everyway.

Members are now prepared to work harder than ever before to attain the primary goal. They need the assistance of many, many more people to shorten the length of time that this nation will remain in bondage.

Offer your help now for this final effort.



As part of the campaign for British withdrawal and to highlight the plight of Political Prisoners in England, Ireland, Scotland and the U.S.A. friends from Luton started their own effective protest by placing this banner on the M.1. Motorway near Luton.

If arrested under Emergency legislation, night or day, ring

(01) 342793

- Remember that all you are obliged to tell under the laws is your name and address.
- As soon as brought into the garda station ask to see your solicitor. Name him.
- Do not sign your name to anything unless so advised by your lawyer. Ask for your own doctor. When released, see him again. Get a full examination as well as a blood and urine test for drugs.

Do you know

that in Port Laoise Prison

- Strip Searches are a daily feature.
- Solitary Confinement imposed for trivial reasons, e.g. two months for talking at Mass.
- No Recreation, Education or Occupational Activities.
- Women and children kept waiting for hours in rain and snow on the main road to visit their relatives in wire cages.

This is done in your name and at your expense and with your consent as long as you remain silent.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD NOW

Issued by the Prisoners Committee.

BRITS OUT PEACE IN

Help the Campaign for British Withdrawal. Contact your local cumann of Sinn Fein or write to 2A Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8.

An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 8. Eanáir 18, 1977. Uimhir 2.
44 Cearnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Eire. Guthán: 747611

NOW THAT the "peace women" have disclosed their imperial objective — a political, cultural and economic confederation of these islands, the Conquest brought up to date, as it were — it is hardly necessary for us to say very much more on the subject.

What they seek are merely new clothes for the emperor. What we seek is the ending of the Conquest, the re-conquest of Ireland. We welcome the "peace women's" political manifesto because it brings their imperialism out into the open.

It is to be regretted, however, that, en route, the "peace women" have contributed to the corruption of semantics, twisting that honourable word, peace, out of all ethical, moral and linguistic sense, turning it into a prostitute among words in the vocabulary of the imperialists, the multi-nationals and the capitalists in general, along with such terms as "violence," "security forces," "terrorists," "murder," "political initiative," "ill-treatment," "interrogation," "helping the police with their inquiries" and much of the rest of the gobbledegook of the agencies of oppression.

It is to be regretted, also, that Sinn Féin has had to qualify the word "peace," a word which should need no qualification to those educated to use words correctly. The Movement has been forced to sloganise the ideal as "peace with justice"; but there can be no peace which is not based on justice, on agreement by all responsible sections of the community to live by the rules of democracy and of a mutually acceptable system of law, both of which are denied by trespassing imperialism, and its armed mercenaries, in Ireland, be they soldiers, judges, police, civil servants, clergymen or the other human links in an alien administration.

It is regrettable, again, that those who claim to be our spiritual leaders and whose training surely, above all else, should inculcate in them a respect for the word, the logos, an Briathar, the leaders of the various clergies, should ally themselves to the imperial pro-

stitution and, indeed, become an integral part of it.

It is more regrettable still that they should try to pretend today that they have not lent themselves the past to institutional violence (in the true sense of "violence") since the Roman Empire adopted Christianity as its official creed, through the various Church schisms and battles with heresy, through the Papal bull, "Laudabiliter," which authorised Henry of England to conquer Ireland, through the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation, into our own time in World War One, World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, Algeria, Kenya, Malaya, the Philippines, Rhodesia, Mazambique, South Africa, Spain, Portugal and, of course, as always, Ireland.

Rev. Martin Smyth last week in a Dublin newspaper took issue with Bishop Cathal Daly, in reference to that prelate's new-year address and, during his reply, stated: "... However, the barbarous methods to suppress the civil war in the South were never needed nor used in the North ..."

The Orange leader did, at least, draw attention to those same barbarous methods, which were supported without protest by the Roman Catholic Church, which continues to support, without protest, that same state's "barbarous methods" in this year of grace, in torture chamber of the Garda Síochana (with its special blood money for those wishing to

enrich themselves by such overtime), in courts of injustice and in the worst political prison in Europe and, maybe, of the entire world.

But this prominent clergyman, this Orange Order leader, either was misinformed or lied when he said that such "barbarous methods" were not used in the north-east.

The history of the B Specials and of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in general proves the exact opposite. Torture continues under RUC auspices. Brutality of other kinds continues in jails and concentration camps in the north-east.

One of the reasons why torture, and brutality in general, continue all over Ireland today is because clergymen such as Rev. Martin Smyth and Bishop Cathal Daly are politicians, first and foremost, allied to the trespassing imperialism, camouflaged as followers of Christ.

They are adopting a classic stand in the interest of their own class while quibbling for the sake of appearances, the best to confuse Catholics, Protestants and Dissenters of integrity, in a foul prostitution of words, these whited sepulchres of our time.

The inevitable result of such studied hypocrisy must be to devalue organised religion, spirituality and morality in Ireland among the young men and women of all religions and none, presenting a most complex problem for the Revolution.

This stresses the need for truth and compassion, justice and equality, principled action and democratic optimism to inspire our socialist vanguard, so as to provide the new morality, the new spirituality, the new social dedication to replace the bourgeois immorality of bishops, ministers, bankers and managers.

Every Republican man and woman has an obligation to act as a missionary in this vital dimension of the Revolution, not in word alone but by daily action so that it may become clear for all, at home and abroad, where is the truth and where the lie.

Déile

CUIRTEAR AN CRÚISCÍN AR A THRIALL INA DHÁILCHEANTAR FÉIN

IS TRUA gan agoid na Gaeilge in eadán an stáit, mar gheall ar a pholasatí fríthdhucais, a bheith ag meadó i gconair. Is deacair a thús-cint ceo fáth a bhfuil tost i réim anois, athuair, tar éis a bhfuil bainte amach le coicis.

Ní hionann sin is a rá go bhfuil móran bainte, Ach, ar a laghad, tá árd an phobail, nó cuid de, agus árd an rialtais, dírithe ar chás na Gaeilge agus tá tógachán mór romhainn uilig sna 26 Chontae.

Le tamall anuas táimse i ngeileic le Conradh na Gaeilge toisc polasatí an Chonartha bheith débhríoch, dar liom, maidir le agoid an teilifíse. Chuireas in iúl, mar shampla, go raibh Maol-sheachlainn O Caollai agus daoine eile ar Choiste Gnó, Conradh na Gaeilge, páirteach i bhfeachtas na teilifíse ach gur vótáil siad ina eadán, nuair a tháinig rún os comhair an Choiste Ghnó.

Is maith liom a chur in iúl go bhfuil an ceo scaipithe anois agus deireadh le cibé míthús-cint bhí ann, óir dúirt rúnai an Chonartha, Sean Mac Mathuna, go poiblí, agus cuntas ar a ndúirt sé i gcló ar roinnt des na nuachtáin, go raibh Conradh na Gaeilge lán-taobh thiar den fheachtas.

Lasmuigh de Theach Laighean, ag crúnnú poiblí, d'áir Maol-sheachlainn ar a raibh ag éisteach leis, agus eile, cur leis an líon tá ag éasamh an fhóid agus ag dúiltú ioc as ceadóina teilifíse go dtí go mbeidh oithrom na Féinne tugtha don teanga náisiúnta agus dá pobal.

Rún ag teastáil

MAR SIN féin, níor mhiste do Mhaoisheachlainn rún a chur le chéile go córamach faoi fheachtas na teilifíse agus é chur os comhair an Choiste Ghnó.

B'fhéidir go ndéanfadh rún mar seo a leanas cúis: "Tugann Conradh na Gaeilge tacaíocht go hionlán dóibh dúit atá ag dul i mbaol an phríosúin as ucht seasamh ar chéad na Gaeilge toisc go dtuigean an Conradh nach bhfuil bealach eile ann dóibh, anois, chun oithrom na Féinne a fháil don teanga náisiúnta, i gconair teilifíse agus eile, tar éis dóibh na bealagán sin a thriall."

"Iarrann Conradh na Gaeilge orthu siód ar

cás leo an teanga pairt a ghlacadh i bhfeachtas na teilifíse. Tuigean an Conradh, agus an rún seo á rith, gur ceist choinsiasa í seo agus nach féidir le gach Gaeilgeoir nó Conraitheoir páirt iomlán a ghlacadh san fheachtas an chéad seana sothuighe; ach tuigean an Conradh, chomh maith, gur féidir le gach Gaeilgeoir atá i ndáiríre faoin teanga cuidiú leis an bhfeachtas ar bhealach amháin nó eile."

Is dócha go bhféadfaí an rún sin a fheabhsú ó thaobh na foclaíochta de ach, go bunúsach, sin an ciall atá a dhíth agus a ba chóir a rith agus a phoiblíú.

Is cóir, chomh maith céanna, buanphicéad a chur ar RTE, fíú mura bhfuil i gceist ach an táon uair amháin gach lá. De réir an dlí, is cpoir an picéad a bheith ciúin agus gan ach ochtar a bheith i bpairt a chéile ann, más buan mo chluimne.

Bíonn toradh ar obair phicéid i gconair ach ba chóir don Chonradh bealagáil eile a leanúint, le greann, le ceol, le siamsa i gcoitinne chun an chraobh a bhaint.

IS DOCHA go mbeadh smaointí speisialta ag leithéidí Críostoir O Floinn agus ag Eoghán O Tuairisc agus go gcuideodís leis an scríbhneoireacht agus an drámadóireacht i gcoitinne a bheadh a dhíth.

Céard faoin gCrúiscín a chur ar a thriall poiblí i mBaile Atha Cliath mar gheall ar an bhfeall tá déanta ag RTE ar an nGaeilge? Cineál "morality play" a bheadh ann, mar a fheicimse féin é im aigne. Níor mhiste an dráma a bheith le feiceáil go minic sa dáil-cheantair a mbeidh an Crúiscín ag seasamh dó.

Dála an scéil, gabhaim párdún ag Ciaran O Feinín as ucht ainm eile — Colm — a a bhaisteadh air sa cholón seo ar na mallabhair. Meairtú Nollaig nó saobhán céille de chuid deireadh na bliana ba chuí leis an earráid.

Beirt as láthair

NUAIR NACH raibh an tAthair Micheal Mac Greil le feiceáil ar na picéid lasmuigh de Phríosúin Mhóinseoghe le linn d'ite Ní Chionnath bheith istigh, mar phríosár ar dhíltú do cheadóina teilifíse a ioc, nó ar aon cheann des na hagóidí eile, is amhlaidh a bhí daoine ag ceapadh go raibh sé ag cur in eadán an fheachtas.

Ba slán an fáth gur chuir Déibé ceist san cagrán deiridh faoin Iosán seo á na bhall den Choiste Ghnó agus de Choiste an Airgid.

Tá cara tar éis a ineachd dom go raibh cúis leis an Athair Mac Greil gan bheith i láthair, mar go raibh a athair tar éis bás a fháil (go ndéana Dia trácaire ar a nam).

Duine eile nach raibh le feiceáil ar na picéid ná eile, ach oireadh, ba é Pádraig O Snodagha, uachtarán an Chonartha, é. Bhí Pádraig ar shlat a dhroma, sífte sa leaba, agus á bpián, an fear bocht, an tseachtain stairiúil úd.

Cleas suarach

CHUALA mé scéal faoi Nollaig a chuir múistam orm. I rith an tsamhraid bhí Pádraig Mac Diarmada ag obair d'Eamon Mac Oitir, an té ar leis an Póitín Stíl i gCois Fharrage, ach d'éirigh sé as an obair toisc go raibh an páir ró-dhona, dar leis.

Mac le Taim Peadaí, an seanacháí, tá sa Pádraig seo agus tá an mianach ceart ann.

Chuala Eamon go raibh Pádraig tar éis éirí as agus chuaigh chun labhairt leis. Faoi dhreacadh is amhlaidh a thairg Eamon ardú páí dó, díreach an méid a d'áir Pádraig.

Chuaigh Pádraig thar n-ais ag obair ann. Ní bhfuair sé a raibh geallta dó. Ná cianóg breise.

Rinne sé slánshlán le Mac Oitir agus d'éirí leis an leithscéal. Ba í Bean Mhic Oitir a dháil an páí amach agus rinne Eamon dearmad a rá léi go raibh sócrú ar leith déanta le Pádraig. Cúiteofaí dó an chéad seachtain



Ite Ní Chionnath

eile. Ach níor cúitíodh. D'éirigh Pádraig bréan den scéal suarach agus d'éirigh as an obair an tarna uair.

Mar dhóilias ar sin, tá an Póitín Stíl crosta air!

Chuala a lán daoine i gCois Fharrage Mac Oitir ag maoinm as a laghad airgid iocann seilena chuid fear. Ach tá ag meadó ar shalbhreas Mhic Oitir i gconair, ar chostas a chuid fear.

Ní fheadar ar chuala "Amárach" an scéal seo? Nó anois, ó tá sé i gcló, an mbeadh lucht a fhóilithe sásta an tuairisc a phoiblíú? Ar na fógróirí sa pháipear sin tá Mac Oitir.

Scoil Mherriman

DEIREADH NA seachtaine deiridh den mhí seo cuirfidh Cumann Merriman a scoil gheimhridh ar bun i gCo. an Chláir. Scoil lánghaeilich í seo, ní fearach scoil an tsamhraidh.

Ar an Aonach, Co. Thíobrad Árann, e bhí an scoil seo i gconair agus dtí i mblána, i mBaile Uí Bheacháin a thóis d'í mblána, Dé hAoine, Eanáir 28, thart faoina 20.00 u.

Bloody Sunday Commemoration: Derry - Sunday - January 30

British students demand troops out of Ireland

ANOTHER example of the mounting pressure inside Britain for a withdrawal from Ireland and the recognition that Irish people should determine their own future occurred at the National Conference of British Polytechnics held on the 3rd and 4th January in York University.

Delegates from practically every polytechnic in England, Scotland and Wales attended the conference and voted to support the motion from Middlesex Polytechnic in support of Troops Out of Ireland Self-determination for the Irish people. The motion also condemned the Peace Movement as a front for British Imperialism and noted that such "peaceful progressives" as the British Government, The Daily Telegraph, The Monday Club, The Queen among others, were in full support of the Peace Movement who in turn had expressed their support for the RUC and the British Troops.

Sue Slipman, leading Communist Party member and secretary of NUS had some difficulty in explaining how her organisation found itself in agreement with such a radical alliance of the British right-wing, the Royalty, the media and the British war machine!

Another pearl of wisdom from the same quarter was that the Protestant working class were economically and socially in the same position as Catholic workers and were therefore not really in support of British Imperialism and Loyalist ascendancy. This was quickly

followed by the assertion that the Protestnat working class would slaughter all the Catholics in Belfast if troops were withdrawn!

Withdrawal Motion

Supporters of the Middlesex Polytechnic motion pointed out that it was the existence of the artificial loyalist state which was the root cause of divisions between protestant and catholic workers and that the British presence is the main guarantor of such sectarian domination.

The motion stated: "Self determination for Ireland as a whole is the only basis for peace, justice and the development of workers' unity."

The decisions taken at this conference may well be blocked by the Broad Left (C.P.) leadership of NUS but nevertheless the Polytechnic conference conclusions are important; for too long now the pseudo-lefts of the NUS executive have deluded the students of Britain with their condemnation of Republicanism as "terrorism" and their description of the British Army as potential peace-keepers. Recognising the extent of this collaboration with British Imperialism,

conference decided to organise a discussion at the Easters NUS conference involving supporters of both the Troops Out Movement and the NUS executive in order to give students a more realistic picture of events in Ireland. Readers of *An Phoblacht* will be informed of the outcome of this discussion unless the Broad Left revert to previous form and decide to avoid such an exorbitant exchange of ideas.

Bloody Sunday

Conference also decided to support the demonstrations organised by the Troops Out Movement and other groups on January 30th to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The demonstration which assemblies at Shephard's Bush Green at 1.30 p.m. will be followed by a rally in Hammer-smith Town Hall organised by the Socialist Workers' Party and Troops Out Movement.

Other speakers will include Bernadette McAliskey, Eamon McAnn and a speaker from the Irish Political Hostages Campaign.



SPECIAL AIR SERVICE



"WELL DONE JOCK ENGLAND IS PROUD OF YOU"

Sinn Féin Notes and News

DUNDALK

THE ACTION of Dundalk Gardai in confiscating money which hunger strikers had collected in the town to buy comforts for political prisoners, has led to a strong criticism from a Sinn Féin Councillor in the town, Mr. F. Browne.

The Sinn Féin supporters were on a 12-hour hunger strike at Dundalk's Market Square. Their action was two-fold, firstly to draw attention to the treatment of political prisoners in the Republic and Britain, and secondly to help the prisoners wives and families and to purchase some comforts for the men in prison.

But Gardai said that the money was confiscated, and a receipt given, because the collection was illegal. A spokesman said "these people had no permit to collect, and never applied for one. Any

body wishing to make a public collection must first apply to the local Garda Supr. for a permit."

Mr. Browne says "Our protest was peaceful and orderly and when people saw the action of the Gardai in taking the money, they were astounded. The Sinn Féin members did not take up any collection, people just contributed themselves."

LIMERICK

Sinn Féin in Limerick held a vigil in the city's O'Connell Street, before Christmas to highlight the conditions of Republican Prisoners, North, South and in England. A petition on prison conditions was launched at the vigil.

All through prisoners week a city centre picket was put on at lunchtime. Thousands of leaflets on the prisoners plight were distributed.

During and before Christmas, the prisoners' dependents were not forgotten. A good deal of money was collected for An Cumann Cabhtach during that period, which ended with a successful function on January 7.

BELFAST

Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin have protested against the Army's "campaign of repression and harassment" in the Bone area of North Belfast over the past fortnight during which more than 40 people were arrested.

They say those arrested were taken to the "torture centres" at Castlereagh and North Queen Street for yet more abuse at the hands of the British forces.

The Sinn Féin statement says that Roy Mason continued to give his military adviser a free hand with the result that the Royal Artillery Regiment invaded the

Bone area, causing damage to nineteen homes and verbally and physically abusing anyone who complained.

The statement claims that on Sunday the Army entered a Social Club in the area equipped with full riot gear and launched an attack on the patrons, male and female.

Many of them suffered cuts and bruises and a girl received a broken arm from a rubber bullet.

Sinn Féin also complain of the "beating" of a young mother by members of the Royal Artillery and of kicking of a neighbour who went to her assistance.

HIGH WYCOMBE

The Christmas Raffle organised by the Fitzsimmons/O'Hanlon SF Cumann, High Wycombe was held on 16th December. There were prizes and the first five winners were as follows:-

- 1st prize (Christmas Hamper) Mrs. F. Duffy, High Wycombe;
- 2nd prize (Two Bottle of Spirits) Mrs. W. Higgins, Luton;
- 3rd prize (Turkey) Mrs. H. Bellew, Dundalk;
- 4th prize (Sherry) M. O'Toole, Hayes;
- 5th prizes (Tin of Biscuits) D. Connelly, St. Albans;

Other prizes went to areas as far apart as Liverpool and London, Manchester and Middlesex. A full list of winners has been sent to each area.

The Cumann would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this raffle a success. A special word of thanks to our friend Mary in Blackrock, Dundalk, who, though always kept very busy with her own fund-raising activities made time to sell a large number of tickets for us.

SLIGO

At the last meeting of the Sligo SF Comhairle Ceantair votes of sympathy were passed with the relatives of the late Thomas Kelly, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim; and William Kilgallon, Templeboy, Co. Sligo who died recently.

At a recent meeting of the Prónais Stagg SF Cumann, Dromore West, Co. Sligo a vote of

* Roscommon Co. Council which recently, at a Council Meeting, called for the eight SAS men (believed to be somewhere!!!) to be brought to trial immediately, will no doubt feel flattered that their request was so speedily dealt with.

The unfortunate "map-readers" are due to appear (???) in the Special Court on March 7th.

Rumours have it, that if convicted (see Sean Graham for odds) they will be sent to a special wing in the Curragh military camp.

They will be treated like all other prisoners and will have no special privileges other than being flown home once a month on parole.

Their canteen will be like any other ordinary officer's mess and the price of booze will be English prices to ensure they don't get confused.

However, one sad note for the lads; they are to be taken twice a week back to the border to practise their map reading.

Can't have them making the same mistake again - can we?

Crumlin Road Jail Disturbances

"DEATH is the inevitable outcome of the serious disturbances within Crumlin Road Prison. The negative attitude of the Northern Ireland Office to this growing problem has contributed in no uncertain terms to the deterioration in the situation within the prison," said a statement issued by the Belfast Executive, Sinn Féin.

"Both loyalist and republican prisoners have over the past few months been campaigning within the courts for segregation, and this has been consistently denied them by the Northern Ireland Office. Intervention by several solicitors on behalf of the prisoners have also failed. Two recent letters acknowledged by the Governor of Crumlin Road Prison, Trussdale have now been ignored by the Northern Ireland Office and the situation continues to take a down ward slope.

"On 26th December, 1975 three young Republican Prisoners of War were taken out of their cells and led into the canteen for the usual one hour association period. There they were attacked by 3 specially picked loyalist prisoners. In adopting a defensive attitude towards their attackers these three young men were taken away and charged with 'fighting with prisoners' and punished by loss of remission and association. The same incident was duplicated on 27th December 1976 when three more young Republican Prisoners were taken into the canteen. There they met the same situation - 3 handpicked loyalists.

"However, it appears that in this second

attack the Republican Prisoners were getting the upper hand the prison warders intervened and assisted in the beating of the Republican Prisoners. The names of these warders are GORDON, ROLSTON and GALLAGHER. Again the Republicans were disciplined for 'fighting with other prisoners' with loss of remission and association.

"On 1st January, 1977 one Republican prisoner was led out, for exercise period along with two loyalists. In the yard he was attacked and beaten. He too has been charged and awaits sentence by the Governor of the Prison. These young men are being arbitrarily sentenced for crimes they did not commit, and in incidents manipulated and directed by prison staff. Republican Prisoners are now locked up in their cells for 24 hours per day and since Boxing Day have not eaten prison food, except for 3 mugs of tea per day. They will adopt this attitude so long as they are denied the right of eating in the canteen like human beings.

"We believe that the Northern Ireland Office have adopted its intransigent attitude to segregation of prisoners because of its policy of denial of political status. Political status provides for the segregation of prisoners and the Northern Ireland Office have indicated that there are no loyalist or republican prisoners, just criminals.

"Meanwhile the situation continues to deteriorate and it is inevitable that death or serious injury will ensue in the very near future," the statement ended.

GREETINGS

BIRTHDAY greetings to Joe Doherty, Cage 10, Long Kesh, on January, 20th - from Marie.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Joe Doherty, Cage 10, Long Kesh - love from "Pippy".

ROSCREA

"The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for the repose of the soul of the late Maitre Uí Droma. The mass has been requested by Roscrea Cumann, Sinn Féin.

SLIGO

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VISIT THE

CRAFT CENTRE

44 Cearnóg Phamell, Baile Atha Cliath

FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU

War and Peace

— by RICHARD BEHAL

WITH the launching of the BRITS OUT - PEACE IN campaign it is vitally necessary for Irish revolutionaries to keep in mind that it is the winning of the peace not the war itself that is ultimately decisive.

To properly understand the interplay between the actual war, its objectives, and peace, extracts from an American study pamphlet "The dangers of general war" illustrates my point in this regard.

"The purpose of warfare is not destruction; destruction is the distinguishing means of warfare, not its purpose. The objectives of warfare are political-economic to enable the victor to establish a durable form of political and economic change. War is the instrument by which that is accomplished, on the condition that such changes are indispensable and that other means short of war fail". "The use of destructive forces in warfare is directed to the destruction of the opponents military and logistical war-fighting capabilities to the point that the portion of the opponents nation's population choosing to submit to peace is able to exert its will against the forces wishing to continue the war. That is

elementary.

Hence, the political objective of war-fighting per se is to win over an effective portion of the opponents nation's population to the desire to submit to peace.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The American and Algerian revolutions are both excellent illustrations of that principle. George Washington's army did not decisively defeat British military force. The American Revolutionary efforts, occurring in the context of war between Britain and France, brought the pro-peace party in England to the fore. The Algerian revolutionaries having suffered a decisive military defeat by French forces, won the peace". "Winning a peace lies with the ability to define and pursue a viable set of war-winning objectives and related policies".

It would be disastrous if after the heroic struggle and sacrifice

ended in our Liberation struggle, a final withdrawal of British occupation troops and administration from Ireland, we were to be re-occupied by a combination of native reactionaries, allied to a new Multi-National form of neo Colonialism.

ANGOLA

Our Angolan comrades had a clear sighted long-term analysis of the dangers of the post troop withdrawal period. The director of the MPLA's Department of Information and Propaganda, Paulo Jorge - speaking in 1972 at the height of the Angolan war said - "After independence, it is the Angolan masses who must receive the full benefits of the labour and our collective national wealth. The Angolan people must become the owners of all the potentialities of our country.

Angola, from the point of view of our enemies, can become "independent" in several ways. One way might be to seek so-called "independence" under the umbrella of the European Common Market. In order to maintain its still profitable position of colonial domination, Portugal has been forced to become a neo-colony of the Western powers.

"We believe, however, that the development of our armed struggle, led by a vanguard party with a clear and firm political and ideological line and position, will succeed in a revolutionary way in preventing the realisation of these neo-colonial possibilities in Angola.

We could not accept having fought a long and bitter struggle to rid our country of Portuguese domination and exploitation only to live after "independence" under a neo-colonial puppet regime. We are fighting to liberate our people and our country, to be genuinely independent - politically, culturally and economically. And I have confidence that the MPLA will succeed in achieving this goal.

Nevertheless, we are constantly on the watch for, guarding against and preparing to confront the neo-colonial manoeuvres which we are sure our enemies will try to make".

Substitute the name of Angola and Portugal for Ireland and Britain and it could readily apply to our position. Our international revolutionary brothers and sisters can provide example and warning to us. Our own bitter experiences of events following the partial British previous withdrawal in 1921 in the 26 Counties has been a valuable warning to subsequent liberation struggles around the world, let it remain a grim reminder to us once again. BRITS OUT - PEACE IN - EIRE NUA.



This MPLA Freedom Fighter portrays the ideal role of Soldier and Worker - War and Peace.

Ordeal in the Bridewell

ON Saturday 1st January, Patrick Tierney, Joe Stagg, Jack Murphy, David Curran and Paddy O'Connor were arrested outside the Church of the Annunciation Finglas, Dublin.

Having been arrested under Section 2 of the Emergency power act they were taken to the Bridewell Garda Station, Dublin by the Special Branch. They were each then searched and after a short period of questioning were led to single cells.

It was announced by the Gardaí that one man had been released that night,

(This was after the arrival of his parents). This "man" was David Curran who is 15-years-old and is not a member of Sinn Fein or any political party.

On Sunday there was a further period of questioning. That night the remaining four were given a half an hour exercise in a hallway, during which they decided to go on a thirst and hunger strike in protest against their unjust detention.

On Monday morning Patrick Tierney learned that Joe Stagg, Jack Murphy and Pat O'Connor had been released. He continued his

thirst and hunger strike.

Food was still being brought to him at me 1 times, this consisted of:

Breakfast: one plastic mug of tea with powdered milk and a slice of bread and butter.

Dinner: Semi-dehydrated instant mash potatoes and peas, plus a thin slice of meat.

Supper: Three slices of bread and jam and a plastic mug of tea.

Patrick Tierney continued until release at 11 a.m. on Wednesday 16th, 1976: 87 hours unjust arrest and 63 hours without either food or water.

The late Mary Stevenson

THE many friends and particularly members of Irish Northern Aid, Queens Region, were saddened by the untimely passing of Mrs. Mary Stevenson of Jackson Heights. Having been in poor health in recent months, she was missed from Northern Aid functions, nevertheless, the news of her demise shocked all who knew her. It seemed unbelievable such a wonderful and kindly person should be called away at her early age.

Being native to the Belfast area our late member was keenly aware of the suffering and privation of the nationalist people, and consequently was an arduous supporter in the provision of funds for the relief of our persecuted friends, and their dependents. She was one of those loyal Irish persons who championed "Peace With Justice", which is that kind of peace to which all loyal Irish Republicans and supporters of Eire Nua aspire.

All of us in Irish Northern Aid will cherish the memory of our kindly friend Mary Stevenson and we offer our sincere condolences to her husband, our esteemed member, Tom, and to the relatives of this devoted family in Jackson Heights, San Francisco, and Belfast Rest in Peace.

-Tim Brennan

British journalist held under Emergency powers Act in Ireland

PETER Jennings (29) a member of the NUJ London Freelance Branch was arrested and held in Ireland on the evening of Wednesday, December 15, under Section 2 of the Emergency Powers Act 1976.

Arrested with him at the Ardboyne Hotel, Navan, were Mr. Sean Mac Stiofain, former Chief of Staff of the Provisional IRA and Mrs. Frances Magill, wife of Mr. Brendan Magill, former British Organiser of Sinn Fein.

Peter Jennings was talking to Mr. Mac Stiofain about his book "MEMOIRS OF A REVOLUTIONARY" when about 12 uniformed garda and 8 members of the special branch, several carrying Uzzi machine guns, arrived.

After being bundled into cars the three were driven under armed escort to Navan police station where they were interrogated separately for three hours before being released.

On his return to England, Peter Jennings commented that the Dail Eireann controversy over the new anti-terrorist legislation which had resulted in the resignation of the President, included references to the possibility of the Irish Republic becoming a "police state".

"The arrest and subsequent interrogation of a journalist who in the course of his work was interviewing the writer of a book, a man who was not wanted by the police, would seem to bring this frightening concept closer to reality".

Albany prison - the facts

A PRISONER in Albany prison Isle of Wight, Sean Campbell, has again been assaulted and has been given an additional 14 days solitary to follow on from the 90 days he was given following the attack on Irish prisoners by warders in September last year. After that attack Sean Campbell suffered a broken leg, broken finger and fractured ribs. Five other Irish prisoners were injured. Fr. Patrick Fell and Liam MacLarnon finished their solitary on Christmas Eve but were immediately put back in solitary in the block in Albany under Rule 43, "good order and discipline".

All Irish political prisoners in Albany are now in solitary and one of them, Brendan Dowd, has been in solitary since August.

Six of these prisoners who have initiated legal action against the Home Office have had their letters to their solicitor sent to the Home Office, thus contravening Golden decision in the European Court of Human Rights in 1975 which ruled against the U.K. government for refusing to allow prisoners to receive legal advice from solicitors and access to the courts for a civil action.

We expect the Home Office to use every trick at their disposal to prevent Irish political prisoners from airing in open court the way they have been treated in prison.

For further information contact me at (01) 359 7760:

- Jacqueline Maye, Secretary, Prisoners Aid Committee, c/o, 142 Drummond Street, London N.W.1.

ALBANY LETTER

IN this letter written by Eddie Byrne, we set the truth about what happened at Albany Prison on September 16th, 1976:

On the 16th September 1976, at approximately 7.30 p.m, six Irish Prisoners walked onto a wing of Albany Prison, placed a 3 ft. table across an 8 ft. corridor and sat down behind it. The staff were informed we would not move until we had representation to the No. 1 Governor regarding the harassment and victimisation of our comrades, Brendan Dowd, then held in solitary

confinement.

At approximately 10.15 p.m. after all other prisoners were locked up, the deputy Governor arrived with about forty prison staff in riot dress. He ordered us to move to the Segregation-Unit. We once again repeated our request to speak to the No. 1 Governor and refused to move until we had done so. He ordered the riot staff to draw batons and remove us. What follows is my own personal experience of that terrifying ordeal.

When charged by baton wielding staff, I attempted to retreat to an open cell, before reaching the door I was hit with a baton and fell to the floor, while on the floor I was repeatedly kicked, punched and jumped on. Next I was dragged by the hair to a flight of stairs and dragged and kicked by them all the way down. Once on the ground I was picked up and carried to the Segregation-Unit, en route all the punchings and beatings continued. I was taken into the Segregation-Unit cell and kicked about my body, my clothes were ripped off, and an attempt made to break my leg by twisting it up behind my back. The last thing I remember was being used as a battering ram on the cell wall. I passed out into unconsciousness. When I came to I was lying naked on the cell floor. I crawled onto a piece of foam and I spent the next fourteen hours without clothes or bedding in an unheated cell.

Compared with the other five men my injuries were slight and were as follows:

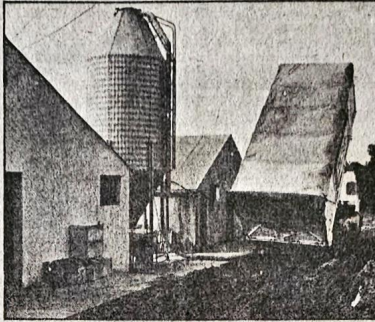
- (1) Bruising to my eyes causing them to swell and close.
- (2) Lacerations and swelling to left forehead and crown of head.
- (3) Lacerations and bruising to back of head.
- (4) Swelling under ear and on left jaw.
- (5) Bruised and swollen lower lip.
- (6) Severe and extensive bruising to back and shoulders.
- (7) Bruising to upper arms, lower rib cage and kidney area.
- (8) Fractured left elbow and wrist.

For me that ordeal is over, but will someone somewhere try to prevent it happening to others?

Pig production

in Cavan

by TOM ENNIS



Feed accounts for about 80 per cent of the costs in a pig enterprise.

The Sheelin management at Crosserlough will likely drag out the proceedings and look for ways of "rooting out" the Union. Their protests of running at a loss ring hollow when it is easy to cook the books as the pigs are sold to a small group of fatteners who themselves jointly own this weaner producing unit in the first place. Exclusive groups such as these don't like being called to account, to pay decent wages, rather they see themselves as kindly "God-fathers", to coin a phrase, in the present climate of unemployment, jobless school leavers etc.

WORKERS' VICTORY

The workers have won a partial victory and with solidarity and discipline can gain more. They now have some security of employment, increased pay and a voice of their own in their jobs. As always in history everywhere it was not handed to them, they had to fight for it, a fight that never

SINCE joining the Common Market a number of sharp ups and downs in Agricultural prices has thrown agricultural production into chaos and uncertainty.

Despite appearances many small farmers have been reduced to near pauperism but for supplementary income payments under the "Small Farmers Dole" Scheme. This is more clearly underlined since the loss of pig production in recent years by small producers; for generations pigs were a close economic second to milk production in small farm incomes. In their own minds most small farmers see the truth of these trends and dangers but they feel unable to counter in the face of huge capital requirement and rampant inflation.

As a short term measure they move even closer to depending on their status quo, on Gov' hand out', and supporting the increasing repression of the government in holding down workers wages, cutting back in education, health etc., and remaining silent on the North and cruel punishment of political prisoners. From their own community, Society does not stand still and new modes grow out of the ruins of the old structures. The economic conditions of life are plain to most people but the political roots and henchmen are often not as apparent or blameworthy at first sight.

During the crisis of 1973/74 in pig production many small producers in the traditional pig area of Co. Cavan got out of pigs unable to absorb the losses taking place. This process was protested to the Coalition at the door of Leinster House when a number of young farmers in Sinn Fein in Crosserlough landed a "redundant" sow at the house and staged a protest meeting, calling for subsidised prices, cheaper meal costs, and orderly marketing.

The slack has been taken up by a then expanding but small number of huge sized capitalist style producers who have now monopolised and integrated their production from piglet to the bacon processing stage by forming joint sow and weaner units to complement their independent operations and cut their own financial risks in the uncertain and skilled area of rearing pigs to point of entry into fattening stage.

SHEELIN FARMS CROSSERLOUGH

Situated in Crosserlough Co. Cavan is one such unit operated by Sheelin Farms Ltd., a group of big producers spearheaded by Fine Gael Co. Councillor Mr. P. (Buddy) Kieran, employing 14 men on a unit of 1400 sows. A safe estimate of 25,000 pigs out the gate per year gives some idea of the scale of these modern units. For a long period Sheelin Farms have operated a ruthless and cynical labour policy of hire and fire at will. The wages paid from £3 per week down for a 48 hour week, including alternate weekend working. A variable bonus decided solely by the management of roughly £20 per month.

The men joined the ITGWU Cavan branch 100% on the job. Meetings brought no results and finally the men went on unofficial strike on November 2. High court injunctions were served on them on November 4 but the workers returned only after a meeting with management conceded a £3 per week increase, no disciplinary action against members and their case be sent to the Labour Court.

The men's union is pressing that they be classified as Bacon Industry Workers as opposed to the Agricultural category maintained by the management. Kieran and friends at first caught by surprise at the workers initiative and solidarity began to fight back dirty in typical F.I.E. style which Sheelin Farms had recently joined, hopefully to crush the Union and maintain cheap labour. Sow numbers were reduced and one man sacked, a lorry driver who joined the union on a nearby unit was sacked starting back from holidays. Further moves in this direction brought a threat of official strike at a meeting. The implications were clear as union backing of all supplies would have crippled Sheelin's shareholders. Other farms and Roscoog bacon factory. It was agreed to re-instate the two men and replace the 100 sows removed. The men are still awaiting the outcome of the Labour Court on the Grade issue.

POLITICAL NOTES

by Maren

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

THINGS are fairly quiet on the Leinster House scene just now as our rulers are still on their pool for the holidays. They exhort you and I to do our bit for the country by getting back to work as quickly as possible but the same does not apply to them - no sir.

So this week we'll take a look at that oft repeated phrase "Freedom of the press" and what it means nationally and internationally for our politicians. We all know that Conor Cruise O'Brien thinks the press should be free to print what it likes as long as it agrees with what he thinks. Anything that is not pro him and his beliefs propagandist is nothing but propaganda - simple as that.

But how prevalent is his view - is there an international threat of censorship of the press, radio and film? What is the international view of freedom of the media?

Article 1 of the UNESCO charter calls for a free exchange of visual and verbal ideas, says a leading article in the West German magazine "Skaia".

For the freedom of the press, its right to gather and distribute information without submission to any form of restrictions, is of paramount importance if the freedom of mankind is to exist anywhere but on paper.

Anyone who has access to all kinds of information, who is free to express and spread his own opinion, gains in his capacity to form judgements and in his freedom of decision; he exerts an influence on public opinion. And this is not to everyone's liking.

This is what prompted representatives of UNESCO member states, and Ireland is one, meeting in Paris in December 1975, to approve a draft declaration on basic principles concerning the role of the mass media in strengthening peace and international understanding and in combating war, propaganda, racism and apartheid.

This draft, with its long but innocuous sounding title, was then presented to delegates from 137 UNESCO member states meeting in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, in October and November last for the organisation's 19th. general conference.

The catch is often contained in the small print and this declaration was no exception. Instead of a free flow of news, the draft demanded a flow of free and balanced information between the developing countries and the rest of the world.

It was proposed to give the State control over press, radio and television, thus marking the beginning of the end for any press freedom remaining in this world of the 20th century.

This is only part of a systematic campaign against the freedom of speech, to impose press censorship on a world-wide scale to muzzle the individual journalist.

At a number of media

conferences over the past two years - the one in New Delhi, for example, on the idea of a news pool for the non-alies. They exhort you and I to do our bit for the country by getting back to work as quickly as possible but the same does not apply to them - no sir.

But any restriction on the freedom of information will inevitably lead to the end of press freedom.

Shades of Conor Cruise and the attack by Roy Mason on the BBC for daring to give the viewpoint of those who oppose the Brits in the Six-Countries - something, of course, Conor would never allow.

West Germany, to give it its due, has threatened to resign from UNESCO unless the declaration small print is amended and the draft has now been referred to a specially formed committee to present a new version. Irish delegates, naturally, were silent.

But, as "Skaia" says, the time has come for the freedom of the press continues to tick...

I see Brian Faulkner, architect of internment and instigator of torture and brutality to prisoners, has been given his reward in the New Year honours list.

Will the new Peer, fall-guy for his British masters when the Strasbourg hearings went against them, take the title of Lord of the Isles?

Just what is wrong with the Irish in England? The Prisoners Aid Committee in London is putting a full-page advertisement in the Irish Post about the anniversary of Bloody Sunday about the conditions under which Irish political prisoners are suffering in English jails.

PAC will ask for donations from Irish associations in England but not one of them bothered to reply and one group was very nasty when approached about not doing so.

The question of the advert was raised at the Central Committee meeting of the London Irish County Associations and they decided to do nothing about it. They decided not to reply.

Sacking isn't! PAC will acknowledge in the advertisement the donors of financial help if they so wish, as the name of the organisation making the donation.

Sinn Fein Cumann and/or Comhairle Comataí wish to make a donation should send it to Miss Jacqueline Kaye, Prisoners Aid Committee, c/o 142, Drummond Street, London, N.W.4. - and why not mention An Phoblacht while you're at it.

Incidentally, unless you want your money to go into the pockets of the British Special Branch, don't send cash. Send a postal order or cheque.

Our prisoners need a morale-booster - why not let us see if we can make it two pages. And to hell with those slaves in the "Irish" associations!

CHRISTMAS SPLASH . . .



"AN Cumann Roibeard Emmet, Inse Caoir, Sinn Fein, held for the first time their Christmas splash in aid of the Prisoners Dependents. The venue was the 3rd Lock Bridge on the Canal. Quite a large crowd turned up at 11 o'clock on Christmas morning to view the event. They were served soup and punch and the Cumann had a good fire to keep out the cold. Up to £200 was raised at the event, the proceeds will be handed over to An Cumann Cabhrach.

It is hoped to make this an annual event. Finally we wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave generously to this worthy cause. - An Ruail, An Cumann Roibeard Emmet.

Big turnout for Sean Sabhat Commemoration

THE annual Sean Sabhat Commemoration parade was held to the Republican plot in Mt. Lawrence Cemetery in Limerick on Sunday, January 2nd. Despite the hostile weather and travelling conditions, there was a very large turnout. Padraig O Maolchatha of Limerick presided, and a decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish by Brian Mac Lua of Ennis. A wreath was laid on behalf of Sean and the South's comrades by Liam O'Giollaigh and the oration was delivered by Daithi O'Hoanin, a member of the Sinn Fein Ard-Chomhairle. Speaking in Irish and English, Daithi said that Ireland today was badly in need of people who could popularise the causes which Sean Sabhat stood for. The people of Ireland were never more disenfranchised at the hypocrites who govern the country, North and South, in British and pro-British interests. These selfish politicians, he said, were the real 'subversives', since they were subverting the whole essence of Irish nationality, had sold out Irish interests in every field, and had subverted all

human and civil rights. Sinn Fein, he said, wanted to dismantle the whole government system, North and South, and replace it with a system of real democracy which would give the people the right to influence political decisions. What Ireland needs today is more and more discussion of democratic structures of this nature. Instead, however, pseudo-intellectuals in both lay and clerical garb were promulgating all types of theories which ignored the root source and cause of violence in Ireland - the British overlordship. It was depressing, he said, to note that these pseudo-intellectuals too easily acquiesced in the denying of free speech to Republicans. It was time, he said, for the Republican voice to be allowed to be raised and heard. He challenged those who purport to openly discuss the Irish situation, to do so with Sinn Fein, and not continue to ignore the basic issues which must be tackled in finding a solution.

JAMES HOPE

What do we mean by revolution?

"WE Republicans are not interested primarily in the modes and forms of government. We are interested sensibly in the form of LIFE, the kind of SOCIETY that we have always, without ever clearly defining it, associated with the ideas and personalities of Tone, Lalor, Mitchell, Davis, Connolly and Pearse, centred above such fairly clear principles as the Rights of Man, Personal Freedom, equal rights and equal opportunities and a government representative of every section of its community including especially Tone's best friends — that large and respectable class, the men of no property. We have never had any such government, nor even any party however small, with a social policy that we could vote for in the name of that revolutionary image of life.

"We were right not to believe that Constitutional formalities could, of their own verbal force, achieve Tone's and Pearse's social aspirations. We had only to look about us at the Society that was spawned both by 1922 and 1932 to see on all sides the most blatant inequalities, the clear absence of equal opportunities for all, a large and flourishing privileged minority, a bourgeois class utterly devoid of moral courage, an indescribably repressive and obscurantist church, and the most constant and shameless inroads on personal freedom."

— Sean O'Faolain on Commemorating 1916 in 1966.

The keystone of this inequality which we have perpetuated — particularly in Southern Ireland — is Education. Of course, like the Ritz, education is an inalienable right. It is not open to the low income groups who cannot remain long enough at school to benefit from it or whose home environment is so bad or so crowded that reading and study are impossible. In how many workers' homes will one find a shelf-full of books? Precious few. Yet this is a reflection upon the state we have created, and upon the individuals themselves. We prefer to pump in, by way of the television and radio airwaves a sub-human mid-Atlantic zero culture in order to earn a paltry £5m in advertising revenue while corrupting and perverting the less educated and the impressionable. The children from these homes rarely proceed to secondary education; they are unfitted for it. Children from better off areas have a 6:1 greater chance of reaching a University whose students are subsidised to the tune of £1,250 per head. Thus working class parents may, in fact, be helping their children from the children's area while remaining deprived themselves. Yet there is a distinct link between unemployment and the low level of education. To quote the Economic & Social Research Institute (1970):—

"The problem of unemployment is largely a problem of skills. Most of those who are workless at any given time are those who emigrate, are unskilled, the majority have no post primary education."

It is not enough, however to see education as part of a job-hunting exercise. There are far

too many people in our universities who are, in truth, uneducated; specialists in a narrow range of skills and totally ignorant — as one will rapidly discover from conversation — in most other things. Education should be sought after for itself; as part of the opening up and lighting of the dark mansion of Life, a fabulous thing which we should carry as a lantern to illuminate the way, to fall back upon in solitude and to pass on.

The Irish state has brutally failed in this. It has not even seen it as a mission. The whole ideal has been lost.

Accessibility to schools, the make-up and composition of classes, crowding in the home, the level of income, the ability of parents, all conspire against the child. As Dr. Paul McQuaid of the Child Guidance Centre expressed it in March 1971, "there is a high rate of school non-attendance in certain areas of the city of Dublin that already have additional socio-economic disadvantages?"

These are the areas where unemployment is at its highest, and where the social outlook for the people is at its bleakest. We have not even begun the process of revolution if we are not determined to change all that.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment, like bad housing, is a dramatically visible form of inequality. Yet — as we have shown above — there is a direct link between unemployment and a low level of education. The central and peripheral areas of our cities have a rate of unemployment well in excess of 30%. It is chronic, persistent and everlasting. It is passed from father to son and daughter. There is no hope that the children from areas like Sheriff Street, for instance, will ever find employment in Ballsbridge. Nor can they find employment within themselves. Their ghetto is too big and too poor to enable them to find the occasional odd job so readily available in middle-class and rural areas.

My own belief is that we have done wrong not to have made a wholesale onslaught upon the systematic inequality which this State has engendered; that we have been too polite in not drawing upon the raw politics of the street to change the system; that we have dallied while others, like the rich farmer organisations, the professional groups, the employer combines, but most of all the sinister bureaucratic echelons of the higher civil service have consolidated their positions and killed what democracy we had. To-day in Ireland there are more people in prison for what are deemed to be political offences, more people on the run, more unemployed, more badly housed than in any other country in Europe. Yet all of this is accompanied by vast prosperity of oppressive law, edicts and decrees that are added to yearly without let or hindrance. The 5% who control the real wealth of this State also control its voice, and by manipulation and cajolery hold the majority in bondage.

It is time that we spoke against this; that we spoke for the people against this small minority. This we can do by not speaking in obscure terminology, but by charting in graphic terms the inequalities and the economic bondage in which the mass of people live.

increase made Patrick Maxwell to make several approaches to political parties for membership to find compromise. Accepted by the nationalist's a few years later as a contender for the party leadership spurred Patrick Maxwell into thinking wrongly that sooner or later the prize of long awaited recognition would first be for the asking. But, first a publicity campaign was urgently required to build up popular support.

By the 1950s the popular image was achieved. Patrick Maxwell managed to shake a rein or two of unionist supremacy, and in a flamboyant fashion, cracked open the establishment's enforcer's of law and order, the R.U.C.

This attitude of abhorrence to Crown institutions continued until the mid-sixties. During that

particular period the nationalist party was beginning to show signs of disintegrating and in the process Patrick Maxwell like a rat cornered in a sinking ship deserted to leave the remaining crew to their own devices. Soulless but physically in good condition Patrick Maxwell patiently waited amidst the multitude for the right opportunity to emerge. Patrick Maxwell, the once upon a time patriot dutifully obliged the Crown command to take control of Ballymena's judicial system which later included him in attaining the much sought after post of the Crown's Resident Magistrate in Derry.

The year 1977 will indeed be a memorable one for Patrick Maxwell as R.M. in a city alienated against everything representative of the Crown.

News from the North

The 3rd British soldier to die in the Six Counties since January 2 was shot dead by a sniper operating in the Ardoyne area, of North Belfast. Earlier in the week a bomb disposal expert was killed in Fermanagh. In North Armagh the local I.R.A. issued a statement that they now considered RUC families as "legitimate targets". In Belfast several men were "kneecapped" and a woman "tarred and feathered" for alleged criminal activities in the area.

SUNDAY, JAN 9

FERMANAGH: Sgt. Martin Walsh a member of the British Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squad was killed when he attempted to dispose a 100 lb. bomb left by the Provisional I.R.A. in Fermanagh. The explosive packed into a milk churn was left in a shop at 6 p.m. on Saturday by four men who gave a warning. When the bomb failed to explode the British Sgt. then attempted to defuse.

It exploded killing Walsh immediately. In a telephone call to Newspapers the local I.R.A. in Fermanagh accepted responsibility. Walsh is the 16th Bomb Disposal Expert to be killed in the Six Counties.

ARMAGH: The I.R.A. in North Armagh admitted responsibility for the fire bomb attack which badly damaged two shops in the town.

The most seriously affected shops were English's grocery store, at Kinelowen Street and Mone's house furnishes in Divis Street.

A device ignited in Boyd's grocer's shop but was kicked outside by the owners nephew. Only slight damage was caused.

A fourth fire bomb went off in the letter box at the Post Office, but again damage was slight.

DERRY: Several shots were fired at the Creggan Army Base. An incendiary device caused severe fire damage to Austins drapers store in the Diamond.

MONDAY, JAN 10

FERMANAGH: A bomb exploded at Bryson's chemist shop in Linsheen, half an hour after a warning had been phoned to the Samaritans and a local pub.

A short time later an incendiary device started a fire which destroyed Dowler's timber store, at the Newtownbutler end of the town.

Mullan's Customs post between Swanlibar and Eniskillen was destroyed by fire believed to have been started by an incendiary. Later the I.R.A. claimed responsibility for the above actions.

BELFAST: Around 10 p.m. shots were fired at a house in Elmfield Park. One shot was fired through the door when a girl went to answer a knock.

When she didn't open the door, her attacker fired three rounds through the front window. He made off in a car. No one was injured.

TUESDAY, JAN 11

BELFAST: As a British Patrol was setting up a vehicle checkpoint on the Oldpark Road a sniper fired a single shot from a nearby house. The bullet struck gunmen Mullen in the neck. He died immediately.

Two men and a girl carried a 10 lb. bomb into a paint shop. It exploded later starting a fierce fire which completely destroyed the premises.

DERRY: A sniper opened fire in a foot patrol as it operated in Bishop St. There were no injuries.

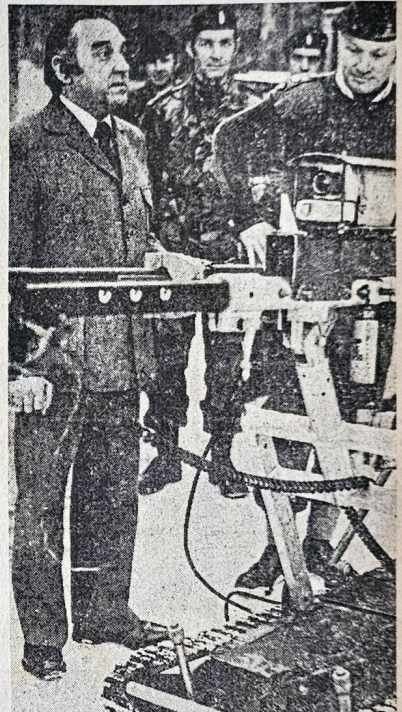
part in the large number of arrests and harassments referred to in Tuesday's Journal.

"It is well-known that we do not usually attack economic targets outside the 'security area'. However, in the case of premises being used by the British army this does not apply. We have no businessman. But we warn that any building used by the security forces will be considered a legitimate target whatever its location" the statement concluded.

BELFAST: A supermarket facing a British army base was extensively destroyed after a bomb, believed to have been left in a "trolley" exploded. No one was injured by the explosion and a warning had been given.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

CO. DERRY: An RUC reservoir, William Steer, was killed by



LURGAN: An RUC man had a narrow escape after several shots were fired into his home on the outskirts of the town.

Roy Mason "talking" to his new robot (foreground).

This was the first attack in the area on an RUC man since the recent statement by the local IRA that RUC men and their families were legitimate targets.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 12

DERRY: A boutique at Waterloo St. in the city was completely wrecked after an explosion.

The bomb had been planted earlier and a warning given. The area was evacuated and there were no injuries.

In a supplied statement the Irish Brigade stated: "The Irish Republican army in accepting responsibility for the bomb attack on 'Cagney' wish to make it clear that the reason for doing so was the use of the building by the British army for the purpose of spying. An army photographer has used an observation post in the building for some time and has no doubt played his

part in the large number of arrests and harassments referred to in Tuesday's Journal.

"It is well-known that we do not usually attack economic targets outside the 'security area'. However, in the case of premises being used by the British army this does not apply. We have no businessman. But we warn that any building used by the security forces will be considered a legitimate target whatever its location" the statement concluded.

Demand the withdrawal of the Occupation Forces

The National Demand

BRITS OUT PEACE IN

A true and enduring peace must be based on justice. Where there is injustice there cannot be peace.

To establish a lasting peace in Ireland the national rights of the Irish people must be respected and the basic cause of violence must be removed.

This can only be achieved by a British commitment to withdraw from Ireland forever and by the establishment of a just social and economic system which will give everyone a living in dignity and happiness.

The necessary British withdrawal must not be done overnight, but in a phased, orderly and responsible way. The declaration of intent to withdraw must be given NOW.

This is the only basis for peace and prosperity in Ireland. A new 32-County Federal system, with community government, would guarantee the rights of all.

Such a structure would provide for the right of all the Irish people to sovereignty and the right of the people of Ulster to self-determination.

A Nine-County Parliament for Ulster is the key. Only selfish party politicians oppose it; they would condemn us all to an indefinite continuation of strife.

Demand a British withdrawal now.

AN tEILEAMH NAISIUNTA

SASANAIGH AMACH — SIOCHAIN ISTEACH



Regretted Death

THE LATE Mr. Kelly, who died at Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton, aged 84 years, was a member of a well known and highly esteemed Dungannon family with strong Republican sympathies, which he himself held. He was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in his youth and last year was on the platform at the massive Diamond Jubilee demonstration in Dublin at Easter. He was a son of William John Kelly, friend and comrade of Tom Clarke,

executed in 1916. Mr. Kelly took an active part in the War of Independence and the Civil War. He was interned at Frongoch after the Easter Rising and later in Newbridge until the mass escape from there. Mr. Kelly's wife died 4 years ago. He is survived by two sons and five daughters, a brother and three sisters.

The Tricolour draped coffin was received at St. Michael's Church, Glenfarne by Rev. P. Young C.C. on Saturday morning. Mass was

celebrated by Fr. Young. A large crowd accompanied the Tricolour draped coffin to the family burial plot at Dungannon. Prayers at the graveside were recited by Rev. T. Taggart, C.C. An oration was given by P.J. Kearney, Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle.

A grandson of Mr. Kelly's was arrested at his home by the Gardaí on Wednesday morning. He was not given time to get ready or have his breakfast or make any preparations before they took him away.

Republican Post Bag

SCOTTISH SUPPORT

SINCE we have started receiving 'An Phoblacht' and 'Republican News' we have been following with interest the growing campaign to support Republican prisoners and political status. We view with dismay the lack of resistance within the British Labour Movement to attempts by British governments to depoliticise and degrade the struggle of the Irish people against national oppression — annexation and partition. We see the struggle to maintain political status and the national question to the forefront as vital and would be grateful for any communication from yourself or from the PAC advising us how we might take up the struggle in Edinburgh.

J. Smithy,
39, Balfour Square,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND

REGARDING your article about the Mullingar Town Band, I must inform you about the James Connolly Republican Flute Band. As everybody knows, the band only play for Sinn Fein, when we travelled over to Dublin for the Diamond Jubilee parade, the Ancient Order of Hibernians barred us from all their parades, because we played in Dublin, now the A.O.H. in Scotland have the cheek to invite the "Liam Reid" Band from the New Lodge Road over for their demonstration. We travelled to London for an interment rally, and when the march was ending, 200 police surrounded the band and took everyone's name and address, now the police have been round the houses, telling us that we will be appearing in court, charged with wearing an illegal uniform, a green-white-gold-pullover, green trousers, some illegal uniform? Now we have received word that the police have barred us from marching in Glasgow — imagine being barred from marching in your own city. We cannot hire a hall for a dance etc. to raise funds, the police always block it.

This year we have travelled over to Dublin, Belfast 3 times, once for Bodenstown but the

Brits cancelled the buses from Belfast — Coalbrook — London and Derry in January. If this is the kind of harassment, we receive for playing for Provisional Sinn Fein — we would do it all over again, and despite this harassment, we will continue to play for the "Provos" anywhere. A Merry Christmas to all our political prisoners being held, in stinking jails, everywhere and we hope to have them all out soon.

—Gerry Coll,
42, Annbank St., Glasgow G31,
ISS Scotland.

DECADE OF DECEPTION

WHEN a history of the present struggle in the Six Counties comes to be written, the seventies must surely be described as "the decade of deception, distortion and dishonesty". For never in history have leaders of Church and State ascended to such depths of degradation in their selective condemnation and double standards.

The hypocrisy and hubbub displayed by these people in recent years, only goes to show their total disregard for the truth and their contempt for the intelligence of the people.

Since the Heath-led Tory Government, backed by a Multi-million propaganda machine, launched a campaign of terror, torture, internment, intimidation, brutality and blackmail against the Nationalist population in 1971: these pathetic puppets have accepted every lying statement from Lisburn as if it were the unchallengeable truth and meekly acquiesced in every atrocity perpetrated by the so-called security forces.

The message from the recent conference of the hierarchy pledging support for Dr. Lamont for his actions in supporting the Rhodesian Guerrillas, sounds hollow and hypocritical, when we consider that in a similar situation nearer home, they prefer to remain silent, lest they should embarrass the establishment. For half a century they have subserviently accepted the apartheid policies of successive Stormont Governments and during the past seven years they have consistently condemned and denounced fellow Irish men and women who refused to be intimidated by the Westminster

warmongers. A classical example in double standards was when in 1973, the British Government sent Bishop Tickle to Derry to tell the people of the Bogside that the paras were within their rights in shooting them down in cold blood on bloody Sunday. On that occasion, there were no "Yeelings of revulsion", no "raising of hands in horror", on the contrary, he was cordially received at a number of episcopal palaces.

Since the assassination of the unfortunate British Ambassador, we have been repeatedly told by political and Church leaders that "we should be ashamed of ourselves, for such a crime being perpetrated in our name". Yet, I can not recall any member of the British Government or any Church leader in England telling the British people that they should be ashamed of themselves for the many atrocities perpetrated by the British Army since August 1969 to the present day.

The crocodile tears shed on the bier of the British Ambassador were scarcely dry, when we had the spectacle of many of the chief mourners rushing to Beal-na-Blagh to pay tribute to the man whose name is a by-word among Guerrilla groups throughout the world, a man noted in particular for his expertise in eliminating enemy agents and their touts.

A well-worn cliché bandied about by pro-establishment elements, is that the men of 1916-1921 would be appalled and horrified at the actions of present day republicans. Let us take just one example for comparison.

A few weeks before the truce in July 1921, a survivor of the G.P.O. 1916 and later a member of the first Dail and a noted guerrilla leader, was summoned to Dublin, where he was instructed to recruit and equip a Volunteer Guerrilla Unit and proceed to London and assassinate as many members of the British Cabinet as they could lay hands on. As the truce between the I.R.A. and the British Government was called a short time later, the plan did not materialise.

What, I wonder would be the reaction of the incumbents of Leinster House or the episcopal palaces if a similar plan were uncovered at the present time? —Owen Sharkey, Kincasslagh, Co. Donegal.

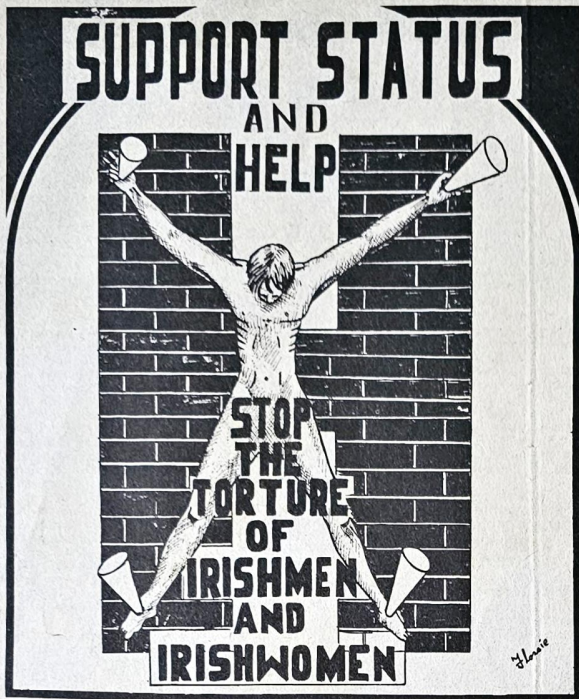
BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION



There were shots and the people ran. Within seconds, 13 men and youths lay dead; a fourteenth died later of his injuries.

The annual Bloody Sunday Commemoration will be held in Derry on Sunday, 30th January. True peace mans "Brits Out".

- Your place is in Derry on January 30th. Be there:
- to honour our martyred dead;
- to demand a British evacuation.



SUPPORT POLITICAL STATUS

POLITICAL prisoner status has now become a crunch issue with the Nationalist people who are concerned at the treatment being meted out to the prisoners in jails here in the North, in the South and in English prisons. We have noted with some concern that the Northern Ireland Office still refuses to consider the legitimate demands of Republican and Loyalist prisoners in Crumlin Road Prison for segregation.

The prisoners have asked and demonstrated their desire for this segregation very forcefully in the courts over the past few months in an effort to show the unthinking civil servants that their situation is serious. Already many riots have occurred between the two sides, and many men injured. It appears that the Prison Staff within that prison are also contriving in these riots and unrest.

However, the point must be brought home as to why the Northern Ireland

Office refuses to be moved on the issue of segregation of these prisoners. Segregation is in part political status, and this is the very reason why the British Government is prepared to let prisoners die rather than backtrack on this issue. They have made it clear that they will not concede on the issue, that there are no groups of prisoners, just criminals. For them to recognise and carry out segregation would be a clear acknowledgement that their policy over the political status issue had failed and this they are hesitant to do no matter what the consequences in the prisons.

This ostrich-like attitude is contributing more than anything else to the explosive situation which exists within Crumlin Road Jail and it is at the door of the Northern Ireland Office where the blame will be laid when death or serious injury results in that prison.

— Clonard Martyrs S.F. Cumann, Belfast.

ALBANY PRISON

READERS of last week's paper will no doubt remember the story about Sean Campbell in Albany Prison.

As a sequel to that story we have received the following letter from Helen O'Brien, a sister of one of the men involved.

A group of MPs is expected to present a report to the British Home Office severely criticising the authorities at Albany Prison, in the Isle of Wight, and calling for an inquiry into injuries received by five Irish prisoners there last September.

The report is being drawn up by Amnesty International, the National Council for Civil Liberties, and the Howard League for Penal Reform, which have united to investigate the incidents, in which the prisoners were injured, because of persistent reports of excessive force used by prison officers.

The joint report will criticise the failure of the authorities to provide independent medical examination for the prisoners as requested by relatives. It will ask how 19 prison officers in riot gear sustained injuries against such a small group.

The officer in charge of discipline, a deputy governor, is expected to be singled out for special criticism. The prison

medical officer who carried out the examination of the prisoners after the incident is believed to be the same officer who was involved in force-feeding Michael Gaughan who died on hunger strike in 1975.

Mr. Frank Maguire, the Independent MP for Fermanagh-South Tyrone, made a fresh criticism of the treatment of prisoners. He said he had been told by a relative that Gerry Cunningham and Ray McLaughlin, both of whom were involved in the Hull prison roof protest last August, had been placed in solitary confinement until the end of next May.

Mr. Maguire said that according to his information, the large number of English prisoners involved in the same protest had not been placed in solitary confinement.

Sister's letter

A chara,
Prisoners in Albany, Isle of Wight, have recently written

letters to their relatives giving them authority to contact a solicitor in Southampton with statements of how they found these prisoners on visiting them after the riot on September 16th last.

These letters have been stopped by the prison. As a sister of one of the six men, I went ahead with my statement to a Southampton solicitor and hope it is in order.

I would like you to print in *An Phoblacht* that these men are asking for an independent inquiry as to what happened at Albany as the Home Office is trying to prevent the six men from voicing what actually happened.

These men have all been in solitary confinement since September. Some are due for release any day. One or two others have still to go on till February 13.

— Helen O'Brien
Leicester, England

Armagh G.A.A. condemn Port Laoise conditions

AT A recent convention of the football board in Co. Armagh, strong criticism of the British Army and the RUC was expressed. The convention was complaining about the repeated campaign of harassment "to suppress not only our games but even our clubs".

"The present attack on the Rangers Club," the report continues, "can be seen only as a blatant attempt to put this club out of existence, and the GAA as a whole must rally to the aid of the club and help in whatever way it can to thwart the aims of these gangsters in (and out) of uniform."

Then in a reference to Port Laoise, the secretary of the board, Pádraig MacMathúna, said, "However, I would be failing in my duty if I did not point out that fellow members of our association are at present living in a hell-hole known as Port Laoise Prison and denied even the most basic human rights."

"While Long Kesh is no holiday resort, at least the authorities there permit the playing of football and hurling. The authorities responsible for Port Laoise even refuse to allow into the prison the football gear which was sent to the prisoners from the clubs in Armagh and have steadfastly

refused to meet our county chairman and league chairman."

"To say the least, it is rather ironic that on All-Ireland Hurling and Football Final days, the GAA members in Croke Park are asked to stand in honour of the man who is ultimately responsible for these atrocities," the report says.

"We have often been told that the Gaelic Athletic Association is a sleeping giant — it is high time that we gave the Southern portion of the giant a little more than a gentle prod to make it wake up and realise its responsibilities to members and clubs, North and South of the Border."

"We were getting suspicious" says American on "Peace Tour"

ENCLOSED is a letter sent to us by some of the 107 Americans in Ireland in December on a much-publicised "Journey of Reconciliation". This was organised by the "Peace People" while in America.

However, as the enclosed letter reveals, at least some of these Americans were deeply disillusioned with the "Peace People". Many of these people were of Irish extraction, and came with genuine goodwill towards the people of Ireland. But they were shocked to discover the "Peace People" quite unconcerned about justice.

One of the Americans, a nun from San Francisco, was told by a priest who visited Derry in September to look up a young couple there. "They'll open your eyes to another side of the situation," the nun wrote to the couple, who organised a group to meet with the nun and as many of her fellow travellers as wished to come along. Six of them broke away from the main group of Americans, giving up a dinner at a plush hotel to take a fry-up in an ordinary Creggan council house in Derry.

Up in Creggan, the six met prisoners' relatives, the Magilligan Welfare-Committee, ex-prisoners, members of the Republican Movement, and ordinary members of the public who had been abused by the BA and RUC. For three hours, the Americans listened, spellbound, learning from the people themselves of grossly unfair trials, relentless and savage house raids, beatings during interrogation, attempts to force children to become informers, murders and injuries done to innocent people by the Forces of Occupation. The six were so impressed by what they were hearing that they stayed well beyond their scheduled departure time, and took the train back to Belfast to re-join the rest of the group.

"This afternoon was the highlight of our whole trip," said one American afterwards, "We thought we weren't hearing the whole story." Another stated, "We were getting suspicious of the tour we were getting. We met only middle-class and professional people, stayed in only the best hotels. We wanted to meet the ordinary people. Another commented that they weren't allowed to get out of their buses while touring the Falls Road in Belfast. I commented that the weather was bad, anyway, but this visitor wasn't one bit aware." The reasons we weren't allowed to get out of our buses were political, not climatic, I'm sure." The six said they knew very little about the Irish situation, and were aware of the slanted and heavily censored nature of what news they did get, and that is why they wanted to come "see so for themselves".

Back in Belfast, they got in touch with 170A Falls Road and met the Turf Lodge women on Blanket Vigil. "These women told us the same sort of things we heard up in Derry," wrote one in a Christmas card sent to Derry. "We met Fr. Faul, too, and loaded up on literature. We are so glad we met with you. We would have never known this side of things otherwise."

Up in Creggan, we suggested they ask the

"Peace People" one question: "Will there ever be peace in Ireland, under British rule?" Apparently they got no satisfactory answers, for at the much-publicised Boyne Peace Rally in Drogheda — the very event they had come from America to attend — 25 Americans in this party of 107 BOYCOTTED, in protest against the very one-sided, anti-Republican nature of the "Peace Movement".

Others did march at the Boyne, but with a banner they had brought with them from the States (see photo), "Peace with Justice." Some Americans went still further — they were angry and felt they were "used" to further not the aims of genuine peace, but the aims of the British Occupational Forces, and demanded their money back from the organisers of the trip.

One indication of the disappointment the media felt with some of this group is that before they arrived in Derry, television viewers got two nights newscast coverage, interviews, etc., with the American "Peace Tour". After Derry — when they had anti-government views — the media completely ignored the American tour, as far as interviews went. The only other American interviewed on television in connection with the Peace Rally was Joan Baez, who still somehow supported the "peace people". (Her reasoning was a bit fuzzy — it had to do with the way "Peace" sounded when spoken in an Irish accent, viewers will recall.

— Derry Sinn Fein.

U.S. letter

We came to Northern Ireland from America with the *Journey of Reconciliation*.

We came because we believe in Peace, Justice and Reconciliation.

After our brief visit we do not claim to understand the complexities of the present situation; however, we question the fact that the Irish Peace Movement is not equally addressing itself to the institutional injustices committed by the British Occupational Forces, particularly in the Catholic ghettos of Northern Ireland. It is our belief that there will never be Peace unless justice and respect for the rights of all persons are upheld.

We admire and respect the efforts and sincerity of the Peace people. We support the efforts of all who strive for Peace based on Justice and we marched at the Peace Rally of the Boyne with that same commitment to *Peace With Justice* on our banner and in our hearts.

James D. Kiltry
Sister Joan Murphy
Kate Holland