

# CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

port  
sion

Ret misrule and  
justice; we  
thousands  
few col-  
their  
now;  
le.

No. 85

Saturday, 5th May (De Sathairn, 5 Bealtaine), 1973

## YOUR CANDIDATES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS



Fermanagh Unity candidates for the forthcoming Local Government Elections pictured with Frank McManus, M.P. (far left) on nomination day, Wednesday, 2nd May. They are, left to right: Front row — John McMahan (Lisnaskea), John James McManus (Enniskillen), Mrs. Traynor (Maguiresbridge), James Gallagher (Irvinestown). Back row — Anthony Maguire (Enniskillen), Patrick McCaffery (Kinawley), John Joseph McCusker (Newtownbutler), Francis Stewart (Belcoo), James Breen (Tempo), Patrick Flanagan (Garrison) and Joseph Owens (Enniskillen).

● **RELEASE THE PRISONERS**



## WOMEN BEHIND THE WIRE

ELIZABETH McKEE, aged 19 years, was the first woman to be detained without charge or trial in Western Europe. With many other fine Irish girls she now shares the filthy dungeon of Armagh Prison. Until these women and their comrades in Long Kesh and Crumlin Jail are released there will be NO peace.

## HE IS DEAD

He is dead, he is dead,  
I do not weep.  
In his death dies one hundred thousand wrongs,  
His boot no longer opens the locked door,  
His hand no longer wields a heavy baton upon my head:  
He is dead, he is dead.  
I bore him no hate when alive,  
For I knew him not.  
I knew only that I hated his actions,  
And I knew that I hated his masters,  
And I hated his shooting of our innocents,  
And the words that he said.  
Now he's dead, he is dead.

Alas, in his place will step another  
(It well may be his brother).  
And my second thought will be:  
Let him, too, step into the range of the rifle,  
Let him fall to the sound of the revolution,  
If he will not ask "Why?"  
Let him die, let him die.

My first thought is a constant prayer,  
A prayer that they may see their evil deeds  
In true light;  
That they will leave our island alone  
So we can forgive,  
And let them live . . .

R. Lavery

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE SOCIETY

WON £5 EACH

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS—

MISS PEARL CAMPBELL,  
c/o County Hospital,  
Sligo

MR. GERALD COX,  
Mullinskeea, Garvary,  
Enniskillen

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS—

MR. FRANK O'NEIL,  
Clones,  
Co. Monaghan

MR. PHILIP McCAFFERY,  
Mullinskeea Lower,  
Enniskillen

# Letters to the Editor

## BRITISH AGENTS

A Chara,

Any remnants of credibility which William Whitelaw might once appear to have had are surely in tatters after his "Blame the Silent People" charade in answer to the elusive (elitist?) murderers. Does the "Supremo" (not much in use nowadays) really expect people of average intelligence to believe that all the Queen's men, and that includes the British Army, UDR, Scotland Yard, RUC and the ABD (Alpha Beta Digit), British Secret Service (SAS, SIS, MI5, MI6, C3, AFI, DNI, PCPs and MRF), cannot come to grips with over 150 murderers in an area not much greater than Cornwall? Would Mr. Heath tolerate such slaying in any six shires in England? Of course, to use Mr. Whitelaw's own words, he may well be more interested in "keeping Republican's heads down" despite the lessons of history.

No, Mr. Whitelaw, there is a reason, a very good reason, for that wall of silence. Nobody but a damn fool would risk giving information to the so-called Task Force when that very force itself is by no means above suspicion. Why write one's own name down on the death list? "See no evil, hear no evil" is the line which has been taken and in fairness there is every justification for it as here the seekers and the killers may very well be one. It is strange for instance that several arrests could be made all of a sudden when a united churches' front spoke out. In some cases the alleged crimes were committed almost a year ago. Bad publicity abroad was in the air, of course, and the Catholic community had stood firm in the teeth of this savagery; they were not going to be intimidated now after suffering over three years of unilateral misuse.

"Pseudo gangs" have murdered before, as William Whitelaw only too well knows, in places with a familiar ring as far as British ears are concerned: Kenya, Muscat and Oman, Cyprus, Malaya, Borneo . . . the murderers then vanished into thin air! One wonders how thin the air is over Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, how "low-intensity" are the wires, how thick the walls of silence?

In short, Mr. Whitelaw, does Kitson still rule in "Ulster"? It would appear that some professional sadist's hand is at work behind scenes. Conceivably too there is much sound political collusion with the "terror before the white paper" technique. We recall Mr. Whitelaw's tongue-in-cheek performance during the "Four Square Laundry" expose and his frantic efforts to have the MRF murder gang white-washed at all cost.

After Dublin's well-timed bombings, and brutal killings in Cavan and Donegal, can any Irishman worthy of that name afford to trust a British agent?

Diarmuid O Suilleabhain

Guaire, Co. Loch Garman

## DUBLIN PARENTS REFUSED VISIT TO SON AT LONG KESH

Sir,

I would like you to publish this letter pointing out the ill-treatment my husband and I encountered at Long Kesh on a recent Saturday after travelling over one hundred miles from Dublin to visit our son.

We were refused a visit to him, on the grounds, according to the authorities, that he would not remove his shoes.

It was a terrible disappointment to us after travelling so far and incurring great expenses to be refused a visit on such petty grounds.

Yours,  
Southern Parents

Dublin

## DUAL STANDARDS OF TREATMENT IN HOSPITAL

A Chara,

We should like to direct attention to the dual standards of treatment being meted out to the different types of political prisoners who require treatment in Purdysburn Hospital. This is stated with the complete acceptance that to the vast majority of the nursing staff politics does not enter into their jobs.

A Republican remand prisoner from Armagh jail was recently placed under close surveillance in a locked room in the hospital with a constant guard consisting of a policewoman and four policemen armed with sten guns.

On the other hand, a "loyalist" prisoner convicted of carrying arms and explosives was given the freedom of the grounds and therefore could come and "go" as he pleased.

This would seem to indicate that the one-sided "democracy" of the Anglo-Whitelaw regime reaches into the realm of the once-proud non-sectarianism of the hospitals.

Is mise le meas,  
Acting PRO,

Terry McDermott Sinn Fein Cumann

Gransha.

## THAT PICTURE

Dear Sir,

Your 21st April edition of ConcERNED carried a photograph and comment which truly entitles your paper to its name. If it were not already called ConcERNED it would be christened so, by this reader at least. Indeed I feel I may say by all who should have chanced to see the moving photograph and have read your paper's comment.

"Capturing the naked soul of a system which has lost all dignity and self-respect" accurately describes the dark side of the South, so clearly visible in the photograph of the priest and the hostile police. The story of St. Francis and the wolf came to my mind. I can only hope that the son of St. Francis was as successful in taming wolves in human guise as was his spiritual father in taming the wolf of Franciscan legend.

I hope that very many people have seen that particular edition of ConcERNED. Perhaps for some it will be a first close-up view of the Unfree State. The camera never lies and no matter how horrible the truth it must not be swept under the carpet, even when failing to do so reveals an unfree State as also an unChristian State.

Thank you, ConcERNED, for being concerned at a time when so many should be but so few are.

"Shocked and Disgusted"

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .

FRANK'S BAR

Home of Traditional Song and Music

MAIN STREET LISNASKEA

JAMES CAREY

Select Grocers and General Hardware Merchants

Crown Paint and Wallpaper Specialist  
PHONE: LISNASKEA 337

# Many clergy and religious support resistance campaign to oppression

AT the outset let us say that very many Catholic clergy and religious both overtly and covertly have been supporting the present resistance campaign to British oppression, brutality and murder in Ireland. We are glad to put on record that which has always been the case in the age-old struggle against oppression in this country. The people of Fermanagh are well aware of this fact, especially platform speakers who receive such a tremendous response if they mention the names of Canon Maguire or Canon Coyle. These names represent the best known Fermanagh priests of the past who stood by and led the people in their fight against oppression. When these priests were recently praised by Aidan Corrigan at a meeting the crowd brought the hall down with enthusiasm, cheering and clapping.

## MANY FOLLOWERS

There are many priests in this country today who are either quietly or indeed publicly carrying on the good work of Canons Maguire and Coyle; in every county in Ireland there are many clergymen and other religious who are actively supporting our cause and working tirelessly for the oppressed people of the North. We are glad to record that this is so in our own county. We have many visits and letters from clergymen telling of their anger and disgust at the sordid, vicious campaign which is being waged by Erne Sense (also a clergyman) against the internees, the political prisoners, the men on the run and the Freedom Fighters. As has always tragically happened in Irish politics we have in all spheres of life both the grain and the chaff, the patriots and the deserters.

## PATRIOT PRIESTS IN 1916

In 1916 and the following years, as the pages of history reveal, we had the Canon Maguires and the Canon Coyles, the Fr. Dalys and the Fr. Sheerans who are all mentioned in an RIC Inspector's report dated 1916, and referred to as subversive, dangerous Roman Catholic priests who had come under the influence of "dangerous" men like Tom Clarke and Patrick McCartan, two 1916 leaders. The RIC Inspector's report continues: "I was directed by the Inspector General, on the file quoted, to see the Bishop of the diocese, Dr. McKenna of Monaghan, and bring the matter under his notice, which I did. As a result of my interview Fr. Sheeran was transferred to another county and Revv. Coyle and Daly of Clogher were cautioned by the bishop, who assured me that he would do anything in his power to prevent action such as I complained of by any of his priests. The result of this and of the general action of the head constables, sergeants and selected men of the district was that it was only in February of this year that a branch of the Irish Volunteers could be formed at Fintona."

## BLACK SHEEP CO-OPERATE WITH POLICE

The report, after outlining the "pernicious influence" of leaders like Patrick McCartan, goes on to say: "The influence of the police, however, exercised through Mons. O'Doherty, P.P., Rev. J. Harkin, C.C., and other influential persons, prevented any of the people of Omagh from openly joining the movement. Mons. O'Doherty, at the suggestion of Sergt. Cronin and Constable Hynes, prevented the meetings of Dr. McCartan and his followers in a parochial hall in Omagh. At Fintona the local Nationalists—followers of Mr. Redmond—prevented Rev. M. Coyle and his followers from using the parochial hall there for meetings. Fr. Coyle, however, broke open the hall, put new locks on it, and retained possession of it..."

## BRITAIN'S MEN ON ANTI-UNIONIST SIDE

Reading this report we can see history repeating itself very clearly and very accurately today. In those days the British Government tried to defeat us by throwing their support behind the men like John Redmond; nobody needs to ask who is the British Government backing today. Who is given unlimited time on BBC and RTE? Or should I say Royal Television? You know who are regarded the nice boys round Westminster and Leinster House.

This priceless police report continues: "All the efforts of the PPs and others at Omagh, Green-castle, Sixmilecross and other places were directed to thwart the Sinn Feiners."

## SUCCESSORS

It is sad to record again this time that there are men, especially like Erne Sense, who took the side of the enemy. Those poor, misguided priests mentioned in the 1916 police report who co-operated with the police of the day against the Sinn Fein movement and 1916 Rising have their followers in Erne Sense and one or two other clergymen in Fermanagh today who are trying to prevent the sales of CONCERNED outside churches on Sundays. These men no doubt will receive their rewards, like their predecessors fifty years ago, by being praised in British Army and RUC reports. It is sad that these couple of men are now choosing to be remembered as the Redmonds of their day, as the men who gave consolation to the British Army and British Government, as the men who helped to split the people once again in this last attempt to free our country. Had everyone united in the 1916-24 period, then the current struggle would never have been necessary. Had the men mentioned in the police report already referred to backed Tom Clarke, Patrick McCartan, Canons Coyle and Maguire, Fr. Sheeran, Fr. O'Daly, Fr. Small, etc., instead of collaborating with the British against them, then we would not

have had to endure 50 years of Unionist misrule and misery, 50 years of suffering and injustice; we would not have now over 700 dead and thousands injured. I hope that Erne Sense and his few collaborators realise what they are doing by their collusion and collaboration with the British now; they are laying the foundation of further trouble, further bloodshed, further misery, further anarchy. The priest in the Ederney area, Fr. Dawson, who is opposing the sales of this paper because he disagrees with our strictures on Erne Sense is in fact supporting the vicious assaults by Erne Sense on our men in jail and their organisations. We therefore invite Fr. Dawson to use these columns, which will be put at his disposal, to explain to many of his parishioners why he has embarked on this line of action against us. Does he support the oppression of the poor whom we defend? Does he support Erne Sense's sordid attacks on Republicans? Does he support Erne Sense's implicit assaults on defenceless political prisoners? Or does Fr. Dawson go for the big, rich man's party, e.g. the SDLP, who associate with millionaires like Hughes of Tynagh Mines, etc., etc.? Is it a matter of respectability with Fr. Dawson? Or does Fr. Dawson, on the other hand, support men like Fr. Fell? We await a reply from Fr. Dawson. We cannot believe that he could sincerely attack us since our fight is for the poor and oppressed, which is also what Christianity is all about.

## Letter from an English prison

This letter was written by Hugh Feeney, one of the people arrested by British police after the London bombing, and sent by a friend of his family to CONCERNED.

H.M. Prison,  
Jebb Avenue,  
Brixton,  
London, SW2.

Dear mummy, brother and sisters,

I write this letter from prison, and since I was picked up last Thursday I have thought of you and my mummy at all times. I was picked up at the airport at about mid-day and taken to an office at the airport; and from there I was taken to Ealing Road barracks. There I was stripped completely (even my glasses) and put into a cell on my own. Later that night I was interrogated by a British man from home. He was not genteel. I would not wear any of their clothing and until Monday had only a blanket around me—and I didn't eat until Saturday night. I had no mattress either until Saturday night. I was on my own until Sunday, when they put another fellow in with me. It was good to have company, and he gave me a fag, my first since I was picked up. It made me dizzy and I thought it was drugged for a moment by the Branch man. For any worry I have caused you all I am sorry. I don't know how long I shall be on remand, possibly five to seven months.

I am given thirty minutes' exercise every morning and in the afternoon as well. I also get two and a half hours in the afternoon in a sort of common room with the other six boys here with me. We are a happy bunch. Today we were playing football and we lost the ball over a wall, but they wouldn't let us climb over a wall to get it! Tell Lisburn I was asking for them all, and all my friends and relations. Thank Charlie for coming with my mummy. Sarah, look after the animals till I get back. Mary, stick it out and finish college regardless of what happens. By the way, all ten of us are classified as Category A, viz. we have special security arrangements set up for us. Please write to me as soon as possible and get everyone to do the same. Tell Lisburn I miss them all and get Kate to put a word in with A. Mullen for me as I think that dinner dances will be starting up again when I get out and I'll take her to one. Send me in food parcels and cigarettes and safety matches. I am also allowed a transistor and books, which I think must be new, for some strange

reason. I am beginning to run out of ideas. But remember, don't worry because I have done nothing wrong and will see you all again. Another thing, don't cry; that's one thing I beg you not to do. Mary, how's Dessie. Tell him I was asking for him, and get him to write to me. Well, Hughie, how are you? I hope you are all right.

Mary, would you get in touch with Briard and tell her I'm sorry if my being arrested has caused her any inconvenience at college. I'm writing so small because of lack of paper. By the way, if you see anything scored out in my letter it will be because it has been censored by the 'God' who does this to all mail coming and going.

I was beginning to feel like somebody important I had so many photos taken of me and my fingerprints taken of me so many times. English policemen are not bad as a rule, but you get the exceptions. As for the Special Branch man from Belfast, well I'll never forget him or his methods until the day I die. He left his fingerprints on Dolores's arm. He didn't leave any marks on me, but I can still feel the weight of his fist and boot. I think he was trying to get my cheeks and jaws to swap places with one another, likewise with my testicles. And with only a blanket around you, you can guess what it is like. But, sure, I'm all right and that's the main thing.

But more important than that is that you Aidan, Sarah, Mary and Mummy are all O.K. I'm not worried because as always my daddy is looking after me, with my granny and Aunt Tessie and Malachi. Tell Susie and Anne to pray for me. I'm going to bed now, so good night. Anyway I have no paper left. Hoping to hear from you all soon.

Your son and brother, Hugh.

P.S.—My solicitor and his clerk have been very kind to me and the others in the way of cigarettes. He was very angry at us being held 126 hours without legal aid. Out of that time I got 12 minutes' exercise, 3 minutes a day. I love you all very much. Send me back Irish textbooks as I'm going to teach the boys Irish.

**OWEN CORRIGAN**  
GROCER · HARDWARE MERCHANT  
KINAWLEY  
Telephone Florence 285

# Living for Ireland



Ruairi O Bradaigh

RUAIRI O BRADAIGH was born in Longford on 2nd October, 1932. His mother was a Belfast woman, Mary Caffrey; his father, Matt O Bradaigh, was a Longford man. Ruairi is one of a family of three, all active in the National cause.

He was educated at Melview NS, Longford, St. Mel's College, Longford, University College, Dublin, where he received his B.Comm. in 1953. He has the Higher Diploma in Education from UCG and a TTG to teach Irish.

He is a pioneer and a non-smoker. In 1954 he took up a teaching position in Roscommon Vocational School as teacher of Commerce and Irish.

On 1st January, 1957, he was arrested and after six months in Mountjoy Jail he was interned in The Curragh.

In March, 1957, he was elected to the "Dail" (while in jail). He escaped from The Curragh in October, 1958, and was on the "run" until internment ended in the South in 1959.

In October, 1959, he married Patricia O'Connor, a Roscommon-born Vocational School teacher.

One month after their marriage he was again arrested and given six months in Mountjoy Jail. They have six children: Matt (12 years), Rory (10 years), twins Conor and Deirdre (8 years), Eithne (5 years) and Colm (2½ years).

He returned to his teaching post in September, 1962, and continued until September, 1970, when he went full time with Sinn Fein, of which he is President.

Mr. O Bradaigh is at present in The Curragh concentration camp, a victim of Lynch's Offences Against the State Amendment Bill, that obnoxious and oppressive legislation which was rushed in with violence of two bombs. (They saved a Fine Gael split, the out-voting of Fianna Fail, and put O'Malley one step off Whitelaw.)

Ruairi O Bradaigh is as well known in Fermanagh as he is in every corner of Ireland. In 1966 he contested the Fermanagh/Sth. Tyrone Imperial seat on an abstentionist ticket, in which he was opposed by J. J. Donnelly.

He is a guiding light and inspiration and he is admired for his dedication and sincerity and devotion to the building of a New Ireland.

Today many of the well paid politicians tell us it is foolish to die for Ireland; better, they say, to "live" for Ireland. Compare then the efforts of men like Ruairi O Bradaigh to gain for Ireland and its people full political freedom, justice and equality with the mouthings and lip service paid by politicians such as the one who lay on a couch in Leinster House shouting "Up the Republic!" after he had supported the "bomb" bill which has landed so many of Ireland's best in The Curragh; or the

slavish clap-trap of Gerry Flitt, begging in the English Parliament for a chance to defeat Sinn Fein and stating he does not believe English soldiers murdered civilians in Belfast, Armagh, Newry or Derry.

Men such as O Bradaigh could hold positions of wealth and power in government (Dublin, Belfast or Westminster), but they refuse to compromise on such important matters as national freedom; for this they and their families are harassed, imprisoned and tortured, but in spite of this they remain faithful. And for this they will be remembered with love by the people of Ireland when the double dealers are long forgotten.

## POPIISH PLOT WITH A DIFFERENCE

by S. Mac EIREANN

WHAT an emotive caption—"IRA pit Pope against Pope" (Irish Independent, 27th April, 1973). The shoneen IQ is rising. The lad who thought up that one for an eye-catcher is sure of promotion. It was not "cogged" from the British press. I wasted money on the ones which specialise in that kind of muck, but I did not find it. So it was "made in Ireland". Probably by someone who cares very little about what ANY Pope says or doesn't say. I wonder if he could have quoted Pope John—and correctly—as the Provision IRA did in its statement? I have my doubts.

I would wager that the IRA is more interested in what ANY Pope says than the manufacturers of the ugly, emotive piece which made the front page in the Irish Independent, and more interested not from any ulterior motive. I must not forget another irritation which the caption caused. The manufacturer forgot—or does not know—that a collective noun expects a singular verb. The IRA "pits" then, not "pit". Funny the little things which can make dirt more dirty.

"The IRA quoted Pope John IN REPLY to Pope Paul's plea for peace in the North." Note the IN REPLY. That is important. The caption would be lost without that twist. Yes, twist is the correct word. The IRA was (not were, as the manufacturer would say) not replying to Pope Paul's plea. Come to think of it, I think the Pope's plea was made to Britain and to those who stood and stand idly by in Ireland as a whole.

Is it wrong if the IRA tells the Pope the truth? I rather think, indeed I am certain, that His Holiness would appreciate ANYONE or ANYBODY who would tell him the truth. He certainly will not hear the truth from Britain, and if the offensive bit in the edition of the Irish Independent is anything to go by, he certainly will not hear the truth from the Irish Establishment either.

Am I right in saying that Sean T. O'Kelly had to go in person to the then reigning Pope to tell him the truth because he knew Britain was not telling and would not tell the truth about what Britain was doing to ALL Ireland at the time?

Of course Ireland is now "free". So is a man on the gallows—except for his neck!

## MEETING

of Election Workers and all interested in helping in the Florencecourt / Kinawley district

in

ST. PATRICK'S HALL, KILLESHER

on

THURSDAY, 10th MAY, 1973

at 9 p.m.

## THE SPIRITUALITY OF "A TERRORIST": BILLY McKEE

IT was by chance I came upon a February copy of The Irish People, an American Irish Republican publication. As so often happens, it was a happy chance find because it gave me the opportunity of meeting the soul of Billy McKee in a letter written by him to a young girl. My meeting with his soul was a profound experience and one I want to share.

I gather from his letter that the young girl to whom he had written the letter is not very old. There I may be not quite correct, since it is by no means unusual for very spiritual souls to see ALL people as young and tend to be drawn to the playground, as the moth is to the light, rather than to the salons, when in search of sanity. I do not know what age Anne is, but as I read, and then read again, Billy McKee's letter to Anne, I became aware of the privilege that was mine. I was seeing the soul of a truly wonderful person.

In ordinary circumstances and normal situations man can deduce the power, the beauty and the wisdom of God who created and sustains the world through gazing out on the vastness of creation, the beauty of the skies and, of course, order and harmony. Billy McKee is cruelly cut off from THAT approach, so one would expect that he would be impressed less with the order and harmony of nature and simple things than with the disorder and disharmony of the hell called Long Kesh.

But that is not so. His nobility has not allowed British unrestrained fury to limit the soul's horizons. Anne is privileged in receiving Billy's letter. I bless the chance which brought me upon a copy of the Irish People, in which the letter was published. That is why I am sending a transcript of his letter so that readers of CONCERNED may share my glimpse of the spirituality of "a terrorist". Like me, you will not envy him the great treasure of his spirituality. We know he has need of it in the hell in which lesser mortals have confined his person and in the hell to which less spiritual mortals WOULD consign his soul.

"Dear Anne,

Glad to hear from you and I hope you had a merry Christmas. I can tell you that we made "the best of a bad job". We had Holy Mass with a big turn-out for Holy Communion. We had a very good Christmas dinner followed by a concert which was put on by the prisoners themselves. It was very good and enjoyed by all. We finished up with a sing-song. You may not believe it, Anne, but one can have a happy Christmas in prison. About a week before Christmas, when cards and parcels began to arrive, the atmosphere seems to change. More so than outside—everyone feels it. It is hard to explain, but my feelings seem to equal those of children at Christmas. When the cards came in everyone was watching and waiting to see if their cards were among the lot. The same, of course, with the parcels. So, you see, Christmas is what you make it, Anne.

I have had letters and hundreds of cards from people in the US. I could not answer all the letters and cards. Our Mass on Sunday will be offered here in prison for all their intentions, 7.1.73. (Billy was still in Crumlin Road awaiting transfer to Long Kesh at moment of writing.) Well, Anne, I shall close here. God bless you and let's hope '73 is the year of liberty.

Yours sincerely, Billy McKee."

Much of his letter has been omitted by me and what I have quoted are the parts which I see as relevant to highlight all that I have said in my preamble. But can this be the letter of a monster, a thug, a terrorist, an ogre to frighten children, a man of evil? One thinks of some of the greatest of the saints and remembers that whenever their mission was to disturb the Establishment for Christ and Christ's sake, THEY were called fanatics, disrupters and trouble-makers. Christ himself was told that He did good by the power of the Prince of Devils. Give me the BILLY McKEES of this world, and those who want others with whom to walk can have them FOR FREE.

S. Mac Eireann