

# CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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NO  
RENT  
PAY  
NO  
RATES

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 157

Saturday, 5th October (De Sathairn, 5 Deireadh Fomhair), 1974

## Frank Maguire is Standard Bearer for Ireland Appeal for Massive Support

MR. FRANK MAGUIRE, in a statement issued on Tuesday, said that the issue was clearcut. It was between those who stood for fair play, for harmony and decency amongst all the people of the nation, and those reactionary extremists whose hope was the restoration of a ruthless Orange dictatorship.

"I believe passionately", he said, "that true peace will only come when the two sundered parts of our country are again united.

"If elected I will campaign for an immediate end to the crime of internment, an amnesty for all political prisoners and justice for every citizen.

"For far too long our people have been made the victims of the forces of division, sectarianism, nepotism and every political evil masquerading in the name of government. It is time to root out these evils which have put our people at each other's throats and to get together in a conference of friendship and understanding.

"Such a get-together can best be realised in an All-Ireland conference of Irishmen without a single Britisher to disturb or disrupt intelligent discussion of our problems."

But the first priority, said Mr. Maguire, was the defeat of the Leader of the Official Unionists, the man whose recipe for disaster was the restoration of the Orange and Unionist Government of Stormont whose record for fifty years had shocked even the most hard-headed British politicians when it was revealed in all its rot-

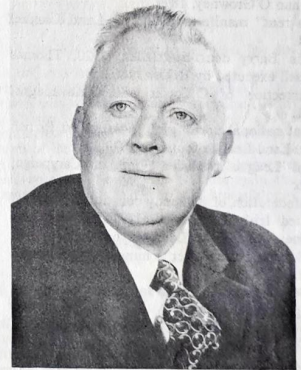
tenness by the various official enquiries which had taken place.

The defeat of hard-line Unionism and the victory of the plain people could only be achieved by a hundred per cent turnout of the nationally-minded voters and indeed of all electors who believed in decency, justice and fair play, said Mr. Maguire, who appealed to the people to take this opportunity to strike a blow for freedom—freedom of speech, freedom from unjust jailing without charge or trial, freedom from the fear of the midnight raid, freedom from police and army bullying, freedom from assassination.

These freedoms, he said, were normal in normal countries. Because of foreign interference in our affairs, Ireland, capable of becoming one of the leaders of thought and justice and intellect in the world, had become in some areas a cesspool of political rotteness, and this northern land a place of chaos and fear.

It was to attempt to rescue Ireland from these inevitable results of foreign interference that he wished to take his place at Westminster, to give leadership to the people in a great crusade of friendship that would, in the words of Tone, unite Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter in the common name of Irishmen.

Mr. Maguire appealed to electors to vote early and to vote to a man to end the period of misrepresentation of this great nationally-minded constituency by a man who represented in his political views everything that was abhorrent to lovers of justice and fairness for every citizen.



FRANK MAGUIRE, the agreed candidate on the anti-Unionist side. Well known and respected, he is certain to topple Harry West.

### PADDY'S WEDDING

PADDY O'HANLON, Chief Whip of the SDLP, was married in Dublin recently. Paddy's wedding was a very posh affair. The guests included many of the Dublin Ministers and a bishop or two. Liam Cosgrave was unable to make it and Jack Lynch didn't forget to turn up. Many of the "moneyed" men of Ireland were there, as well as a few mining kings.

It is Paddy's right to invite whom he wishes to his wedding, but as a member of a party that claims to be of the people and socialist in outlook, is it not strange to find the leading Tories of Ireland at the wedding of a leading member of this party? Remember the old saying: "Tell me your company and I'll tell you who you are."

## HISTORIC IRISH DATES IN OCTOBER

- 2 Statue to Charles Stuart Parnell unveiled in O'Connell St., Dublin, 1911.
- 2 Cromwell attacks Wexford, 1649. English Parliament decreed a day of thanksgiving for the massacre of 3,000 men, women and children by Cromwell in Drogheda.
- 3 Cromwell orders massacre of civilian population of Wexford, 1649. Treaty of Limerick signed, 1691.
- 4 IRA destroys RIC barracks at Frenchpark, 1920.
- 5 The Irish Army marched out of Limerick, 1691, to fight against England in Europe. They became known as the "Wild Geese".
- 6 Insurrection Bill passed, 1798. Parnell died, 1891.
- 7 Clontarf meeting banned, 1843.
- 9 Irish Citizen Army commanded by James Connolly carry out sham attack on Dublin Castle, 1915.
- 10 Wolfe Tone and a few French naval vessels arrive in Lough Swilly, 1798.
- 11 Battle of Lough Swilly, 1798. Recognition of Irish Republic sought at Geneva, 1919.
- 12 Rising of the O'Byrnes of Wicklow, 1641. After fierce naval battle Wolfe Tone is arrested, 1798. IRA ambush British at Kanturk and Roscommon, 1920.
- 13 Parnell arrested, 1881. Sean Treacy and Dan Breen kill nine British soldiers in fierce gun battle at "Fernside", Drumcondra.
- 14 Sean Treacy killed in Talbot St., Dublin, by British Army. Treacy killed two British special agents before he was shot in the back by a third agent.
- 15 Battle of Fochairt and death of King Edward Bruce, 1318. Republicans on hunger strike in Mountjoy, 1919. William Orr hanged, 1797. Thomas Davis born, 1814.
- 16 Lord Edward Fitzgerald born, 1763. Arrest of Australian Army chaplain by British in Dublin, 1919.
- 17 M. Fitzgerald died after 50 days' hunger strike in Cork Jail, 1920.
- 18 Smith O'Brien born, 1803. Death of Fr. Eoghan O'Growney, 1899.
- 19 "No rent" manifesto issued by Land League, 1881.
- 20 Kevin Barry court-martialled, 1920. Thomas Russell executed by British, 1803.
- 21 Insurrection of O'Toole and O'Kavanaghs, 1641.
- 22 Great national uprising of 1641 against British rule. Land League founded, 1879.
- 23 Land League publishes Plan of Campaign, 1886.
- 24 Confederation of Kilkenny constituted, 1642.
- 25 United Irishmen formed, 1791. Terence McDewiney, Republican Lord Mayor of Cork, died in Brixton Prison after a hunger strike lasting 74 days, 1920.
- 26 J. Murphy died in Cork Jail after 76 days on hunger strike, 1920.
- 27 Limerick surrendered to Ireton, 1651. Black 'n Tans suffer heavy losses in IRA ambushes in Co. Cork.
- 28 Kevin Barry sentenced to death, 1920.
- 29 Nineteen newspapers suppressed and large numbers arrested in Ireland by British, 1919.
- 30 Irish inhabitants of Galway City banished, 1655. A proclamation read, "An O' or a Mac shall strut nor swagger on the streets of Galway." But it seems they did for later a sign could be read on the West Gate, "From the fury of the O'Flarthaigh, good Lord deliver us."
- 31 Bishop O'Brien executed by British, 1651.

## OUR SHAME

A Chara,

The enclosed verses were inspired by the sight of a police car leading a jeep full of Free State soldiers out of the Monaghan Garda Station. Their errand? The watching, for England, of that Border for so long described by our Southern politicians as UNJUST, UN-NATURAL, IMMORAL, imposed by the threat of immediate and terrible war! The sight evoked a feeling of revulsion and contempt for the "leadership" that commits young Gardai and soldiers to such an unholy and traitorous purpose.

Le gach dea-ghui,

M. O. Cinnéide.

If I were now to list the things  
That bring a blush to me  
My heart would break before the end  
Of my long litany.

The hundreds in the prison camps  
The Curragh and Mountjoy,  
Designed by Paddy Donegan  
Their spirits to destroy

And in the Glorious Northern land  
Long Kesh, that hole of Hell;  
The torment there endured by men  
Defies my pen to tell.

The Garda massed by Braggan's heights  
And Armagh's hills so fair,  
And soldiers in the once-proud green  
Their shameless allies there.

Ignoble is the work they do,  
They're England's lackeys all,  
Despised by every Irishman  
Who heeds his country's call.

I've seen them from their barracks go  
On their unholy quest,  
The fearless fighting Northern men  
To harry and arrest.

The awful deeds of treachery  
Of Lynch—who just forgot?  
Of Des O'Malley, Cruise O'Brien,  
Of Cosgrave and the lot.

Their cowardice caused brave men to die  
And suffer in this land  
In proud assertion of the things  
For which our people stand;  
Unfettered FREEDOM, HONESTY,  
The Heritage of Kings;  
That PRIDE and PEACE which is our right  
And only FREEDOM brings.

## PRIESTS 'EXPOSE' ARMY VERSION OF TYRONE MURDER

STATEMENTS by the Army following the murder of Mr. Michael McCourt (30) by the explosion of a booby-trapped transistor radio left on Monday last at the office door of the factory of which he was managing director have been strongly criticised by Fr. Michael McGirr, C.C., Pomeroy, and Father Denis Faul, Dungannon.

The priests point out that on the day of the incident and on the following day, BBC Radio and TV carried repeatedly a statement from the Army saying: "We were not summoned until several hours after the explosion. By that time all the wounded persons had been taken away." They also say that the "Belfast Telegraph" carried a statement that the police were not summoned until one hour after the explosion and that the "Tyron Courrier" published a statement from the Army that the bomb was a least 30 pounds in weight and could have been in a transistor radio.

The statement by Fathers McGirr and Faul on behalf of the relatives of the dead man and the people of the Pomeroy area we wish to deny all these statements which are sinister and misleading in their insinuations, seeking, as it appears, to imply that Mr. McCourt was making a bomb that exploded. This is a gross calumny on an innocent victim of a foul murder and has caused grave distress to his family, friends and neighbours.

### 'The facts'

"The facts are: RUC men arrived on the scene within eight minutes of the explosion. They are the civil power and it is their duty to summon the Army who are assisting them. The only man seriously injured was removed to the South Tyrone Hospital immediately and any official could have seen him there. Also, several people of different creeds, and political points of view had been in the factory on business on Monday morning and had seen a normal picture of factory life.

"The behaviour of the Army has been disgraceful throughout—in keeping with their record in Pomeroy over the last three months of unceasing harassment resulting in one major tragedy.

"There has been a single incident in the parish for over twelve months, yet the people have to put up with bad mannered thugs going about breaking the law and intimidating innocent people."

The best kept secret since the Troubles began in the North must surely have been the recent Operation Kidgloves. 40,000 pairs of kidgloves were issued to British Army headquarters Lisburn on the eve of the Ulster Workers' Council's strike. (The R.U.C. had already been generously equipped with Sam Kidderminsters for over 50 years now). Even the "Queens Own Ebony" took to leather and refused to do the Fenian swing.

In what appeared to have been a smooth puppy operation both appeared to "fit" like a well-worn "Sunningdale" brogue. No kidding!

## BARNEY McFADDEN ILL-TREATED IN LONG

### KESH

The Bogside Community Association, in a statement yesterday, said that they were contacting the authorities in Long Kesh authorities about the case of Mr. Barney McFadden.

"Last Friday morning, at 5 a.m. approx. said the statement, soldiers of the Royal Hussars raided cage 7 of Long Kesh. The prisoners were ordered out of their beds and forced outside. Many of them were in their under-clothes only and outside they were forced into a search position against the barbed wire of the perimeter fence.

"One of the men, 54-years-old Mr. Barney McFadden, refused this indignity. He was then beaten and thrown into

the back of a Saracen, where he was forced to lie face down for an hour. Later his clothes were brought to him and he was taken to the 'cooler' (solitary confinement) until 11 a.m. approx. Finally he was delivered back to cage 7.

"There are three features of Mr. McFadden's case which makes it even more outrageous than most. First there have been many appeals for his release on compassionate grounds because of his wife's continuing ill-health; secondly, for a man of his age to be subjected to such ill

treatment is especially degrading; and, finally, he was interned after Jim Fenn, of which he is a prominent member, was legalised.

"This barbaric behaviour violates every code of ethics and is a total indictment of the Long Kesh prison system and of the process of law and order in this province. The people of the Six Counties are being dictated to by a military regime which at times chooses to hide behind the politicians and so-called civil authorities. The authorities in Long Kesh are being contacted by the Bogside Community Association so that the strongest possible protest against this type of action is lodged."

## Open letter to S.D.L.P. member

FOLLOWING is an open letter sent by me to Mr. Paddy Duffy, S.D.L.P. Mid-Ulster.

A Chara, Mr. Duffy

Of all the surprising, startling and disgusting news we have read in a long time, your belief that England should retain six of our counties and that she should own them henceforth, is almost

incredible.

Mr. Duffy, you have no respect for Tone, Emmet, Pearse and the rest of our greatest, when you say such traitorous things. We don't wonder too much, though, as the S.D.L.P. have been questionable for long. Now however, the cat is really out of the bag and you show clearly what you are—traitors to our country. Not only that, but you

seem never to have heard of the Seventh Commandment of God!

The S.D.L.P. have shuttled between Belfast, Dublin and Westminster seeking easy nests for themselves. They won't settle down yet, because now Mr. Duffy, you have blown open an hornet's nest.

Rev. P. Malone,  
Clonbur P.O. Co. Galway.

## G.A.A. raps British intrusion

A STRONG protest has been made against the British decision to interfere with the Crossmaglen G.A.A. grounds, by the management committee of the G.A.A. Central Council, in Dublin.

Military used bulldozers last Sunday to demolish one of the walls of the Grounds to prepare a landing pad for helicopters. Local people say it was not necessary to interfere with the pitch as other military land is available nearby.

The incident is seen as yet another British bid to annoy the people and interfere with their social activities and way of life.

A compulsory acquisition order under the Special Powers Act was delivered to Mr. Tom Lynch, chairman, Armagh Co. Board, but it does not meet the legal requirements, since the owners were not notified.

Mr. Paddy Short, a member of the club's officer panel, said: "This is a deliberate action and another intrusion of the Army floating local feeling. "This decision has come after an assurance received from the army that these grounds would not be used as a helicopter landing base during football games."

# SMALL FARMERS

# FACE RUIN

From AN PHOBLAIGHT by GERRY O DANACHAIR

## INCREASED OUTPUT

The crisis can be explained by the great increases in the output of young cattle in this country during the past few years. Cattle numbers increased more during the past decade than during the preceding century, cow numbers, which remained virtually unchanged for 140 years prior to 1960 have since almost doubled. But these increases in cattle output have not been matched by a similar increase in either export facilities or supplies of fodder. Indeed, government policy has been to restrict exports and fodder supplies have actually decreased substantially in proportion to livestock numbers — from 2.354 acres per grazing livestock unit in 1970 to an estimated 2.001 acres this year.

## BUT NO OUTLET

In practise, having been greatly encouraged to expand cattle output, small farmers are now finding that they cannot sell their increased numbers of young cattle even at prices much less than half of last year's level. There is every likelihood that hundreds of thousands of young cattle belonging to small farmers will starve to death during the coming winter. Large farmers, on the other hand, are profiting from this situation. Whereas in 1973, a large farmer bought animals per 10 cwt. for £100 from a small producer, fattened it and then sold it for £179, this year he can purchase at as little as £27 per 10 cwt. and sell at £157 (C.V.F. statistics) — which obviously represents a much greater profit margin.

The plight of the small farmers is made much graver by the great increase in their indebtedness to banks, the A.C.C. and hire purchase companies, which they were encouraged to incur in order to increase their output of young cattle. As a result of the collapse in their incomes and the increase in their indebtedness, many small farmers are now virtually insolvent. And in overall terms, the excessively rapid increase in stock numbers was at first sustained by using up various fodder reserves. These have now been exhausted and the cattle industry faces the coming winter with 7½ million cattle but fodder supplies adequate for only 5 million head.

That such a situation could evolve seems incredible in what is supposed to be an era of advanced economic planning. But is the present crisis the result of ineptitude or was it deliberately allowed to happen? To find the answer to this, we must first examine the precise factors involved in the crisis and discover where the responsibility lies. Only then can we attempt an evaluation of the behaviour of those involved.

## WHO'S TO BLAME

The I.F.A. and I.C.M.S.A. are today raising a lot of dust and making a lot of noise about the crisis. And yet, primary responsibility for the present disaster rests on these two main farming organisations and on the banking system. Agricultural developments since 1968 have been largely dictated by such men as T.J. Maher who solely represent the interests of the large farmers. The E.E.C. beef intervention scheme has guaranteed high prices for the fat cattle which large farmers produce. The expansion of young cattle supplies six times more rapidly than the demand for these has provided the large farmer buyers of these with an abundant supply at prices lower than at any time during the past decade.

Between 1972 and 1974 the banks doubled their profits from £20 millions to £40 millions and the main factor in enabling them to do this was the increase in farm indebtedness to the banks from £123 millions to £230 millions in the same period. Taken individually, such loans may seem beneficial but in economic terms, the law of the composition of error means that what is good for the individual farmer can be bad for the agricultural community as a whole. The Central Bank of Ireland was guilty of gross negligence in its function as the national economic watchdog in failing to intervene once this trend became visible. The commercial banks and the A.C.C. abused their power in granting credit to the extent they did without taking into consideration the inevitable consequences of increased cattle output in the context of E.E.C. and Leinster House agricultural policies.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The Department of Finance must be taken to task for its failure to perceive obvious consequences of an annual 6% increase in cattle numbers, while the underlying capacity to carry cattle was increasing at 1% or less annually. It must also be blamed for not intervening when the Central Bank did not fulfill its responsibility of requiring the commercial banks, the A.C.C. and the hire purchase companies to use their credit creating powers in a way consistent with the welfare of not only the agricultural community but the Irish people as a whole.

Another 26 county government department bears even more of the responsibility for the present crisis — the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This Department has

DURING the immediate months following our entry into the E.E.C., agriculture in the south never seemed to have it so good. Yet the warning signs of an impending crisis were very visible. In recent weeks, the bubble has burst but yet neither the real nature of the crisis or the measures which must be taken if full disaster is to be averted are appreciated by the Irish people — be they involved in agriculture or not.

The present crisis in the Irish cattle industry is primarily a crisis for the small farmers but it is one which must eventually effect almost all sections of the population. It is estimated that the blunders in the cattle industry of the past five years will cost the country some £400 millions. Such a loss must have repercussions throughout the entire Irish economy — producers not directly involved in agriculture will be effected by higher costs and less employment, the consumer will have to pay higher prices and the public at large will suffer an even higher level of taxation than currently exists.

consistently followed policies which have been highly inimical to the interests of the small farmer producers of young cattle. Despite the clear lesson of the 1966/67 crisis, brought about by the overrapid increase in cattle numbers, the Department for the past five years has energetically pursued a policy of increasing the numbers of young cattle produced while depressing the demand for these. In 1972, 19,000 Irish cattle were exported per week whereas for the week ending 17 August 1974, the figure was only 16,000. But while the small farmer has to sell at huge losses, his larger counterpart is able to buy young cattle cheap and sell at a massive profit level. Government policy would appear therefore to be directed towards benefiting large farmers at the expense of the small farmers. Of course, Mr. Clinton can hardly be said to represent the interests of the small farmers. His recent subsidy scheme which on cattle slaughtered rises from £9 per head in August to £32 per head in February — and which will cost Irish taxpayers £6 millions — is designed to encourage large farmers to retain fat cattle through the winter. (Off farm sales of prime cattle for the first seven months of 1974 were 68 per 1,000 head of cattle stocks compared to 89 per 1,000 head in the same period in 1972). In a situation where probably 30% of the national herd will starve this winter a policy geared towards fattening a small number of animals as opposed to starving the maximum number and of restricting instead of encouraging exports is suicidal for the national economy but in the short term, at any rate, beneficial to the large farmers — the backbone of Fine Gael.

## THE E.E.C. FACTOR

The role of the E.E.C. itself in this crisis is difficult to evaluate. The disaster must be attributed to the policies we have outlined rather than directly to our entry into the E.E.C. On the other hand, E.E.C. membership facilitated such policies by providing Mr. Clinton and Co. with an extra-national dimension with which to shrug off the responsibility. "My hands are tied my Brussels", said Mr. Clinton to the National Land League in 1973 when he refused to take the steps they considered necessary to avert the crisis. But he was not being completely honest. Under the terms of the Treaty of Rome, his hands were tied — and still are but so are the hands of every other agriculture minister. It has not prevented them doing as they considered best for their own national economies. So once again, the Irish people suffer because the Dublin government does as it is told — be it by Brussels or by London.

## REMEDIES

In his new book "The Cattle Crisis and the Small Farmer" (published by the National Land League, 30p) Raymond Crotty details the background to the present crisis and courageously affixes the responsibility where it must lie. But Mr. Crotty — interested as he is in people rather than in historical statistics — outlines the steps he considers must be taken to retrieve as much of the situation as we can and prevent it re-occurring. Basically, he calls for an agricultural policy of storing rather than fattening cattle this winter and increased exports. He believes that the debts incurred by the small farmers to the banks may have been unlawfully contracted and were certainly morally wrong. From both economic legal and moral viewpoints, he feels that these should be slashed. From specifically the small farmer's standpoint, Mr. Crotty advocates increased political awareness, withdrawal from the large farmers' organisations and a greater level of involvement in public life and on state or semi-state bodies.

## ACTION — NOT TALK

Mr. Crotty's book is well documented and deserves careful consideration not only by the agricultural community but by our people as a whole. Economically, it can only be described as excellent. Politically, however, one might feel that while Mr. Crotty points out the governments failings and the benefits accruing to large farmers because of their policies, he does not link the two and draw the logical conclusion that the Leinster House government's agricultural policies have always and deliberately benefited the large at the expense of the small farmers. Neither does the National Land League (if one is to judge by their recent press conference in Dublin to launch Mr. Crotty's book) fully appreciate the real danger of the small farmers being used once again by such as T.J. Maher to advance not theirs but the latter's economic interests. Unless the National Land League is prepared to provide a viable leadership alternative to the I.F.A. and the I.C.M.S.A. and to work with such organisations as Sinn Féin, who like the N.L.L. opposed our E.E.C. entry and has as its primary concern in agricultural policy, the improvement of the lot of the small farmer, it will not win the support of the small farmers. And only as militant a policy as that of the large farmers, will force the government to act in the interests of the smaller producers.

## THE PET HACK OF THE DOC'S RAG

RECENTLY Fermanagh readers of the Irish News—the Doc's Rag, in other words; it's called by that derisory title because the paper itself is run, editorially and otherwise, by the Doc McSparran, a fanatical SDLP supporter, and nothing goes into it without his sanction—have been bombarded with a series of articles about Fermanagh/South Tyrone by a man called Tom Samweys. A short biography of the pundit in question should serve to dispel any doubts people may have about his integrity—he has none.

Shakespeare may well have had Samweys in mind when he described Falstaff in Henry IV as "a gross fat man". His is so fat and scant of breath that on the least exertion he "sweats to death, and lards the lean earth as he walks along". His main "newsbeat" lies between "The Oul House", an NLF pub, his Irish News office and SDLP Headquarters.

As a political correspondent his sources of information are lamentable: namely, Major Ronnie Sampson, an army PRO, Lisburn, whose main claim to fame was his disclosure last year of a photo of Jim Bryson before alleged plastic surgery and Bryson after plastic surgery. His disclosure and photographs were carried by all the national dailies, including, of course, the Daily Mirror, which had on its front page the banner headline—The twin faces of a terrorist: Bryson before, Bryson after—with the two photographs supplied by Sampson. Imagine the discomfiture when it was discovered that of the photographs one was Bryson alright, the other was that of "Blue" Wilson, a colleague of Bryson's. The plastic surgery story, of course, was rubbish. That's the standard of one of Samweys' sources.

The other main source is the SDLP, and that's enough said.

Samweys did take himself out of Ireland once to go to Sunningdale to report for the Irish News. Alas, Tom fell foul of the bottle and did not succeed in sending back any reports. The Irish News had to depend on PA reports and not on their "man on the spot"—who was in a spot alright when he got home.

But because he is the Doc's pet hack he is still employed on the Irish News, although now he is on a freelance basis instead of permanent as the Doc's patience is wearing rather thin since Tom's last drinking bout.

That's the man who writes about Fermanagh/South Tyrone. Remember the name.

## MAN SAVAGED BY BRITISH PARA AT MAGUIRESBRIDGE

A BRITISH soldier, a member of the notorious Parachute Regiment, savagely attacked and seriously injured a middle-aged man in Maguiresbridge on Sunday last. A dispute arose between the two over a card game in the old A.O.H. hall and as the civilian was leaving he was followed by the para and brutally assaulted. His clothes were ripped and slashed by a knife. He received several stab wounds to his face, neck and legs; so severe and serious were his wounds that he required hospitalisation for a number of days.

The army bully was placed under military arrest and is supposed to be in custody in Omagh Military Camp.

An interesting fact of this case is that this same para was born and reared locally and regarded as a "quiet boy". He was home on holidays at the time of this incident.

If the training he received in the British Army has turned him (a quiet country boy) into such a savage, what has it not done to the unfortunate back-street boys of the English and Scotch cities, many of whom roam the streets and countryside of the Six Counties in British Army uniform.

## The Three Stooges



Lord John Brooke—"hang 'em".

FROM time to time history shows the humiliation, disgrace and degradation of peoples and nations by those who posed as their leaders.

Seldom, though, can history produce a parallel for the anti-national actions and statements of the three "MINISTERS" in the present Dublin government.

At a time when the enemy of their country is in occupation of part of that country, when a foreign army is harassing, murdering and driving from their homes their own fellow countrymen, when that same army is blasting roads and bridges so vital to the livelihood of whole communities, we find these same "Ministers" hard at work trying to vilify, hinder and frustrate every effort being made today by true Irishmen to rid their country of the robbers and murderers who have plagued this fair land and its people for over 800 years.

During the past few weeks we have seen Dr. Fitzgerald, Dublin's Foreign Affairs Minister, rushing from one end of America to the other at the expense of the Irish taxpayer, pleading to Irish Americans not to send money to the oppressed people of British occupied Ireland. Whose cause was he serving only that of Britain? And we must not forget this is not Mr. Fitzgerald's first effort in this field, but like the past his pleas go unheeded for Irish Americans proved they are capable of recognising a dupe when they see or hear one. Their reaction to Fitzgerald's plea was such that he had to have a police guard for the duration of his tour, which he cut short—scurrying home to the security of Leinster House.

Mr. Patrick Cooney, Dublin's Minister for Justice, badly rattled by the Portlaoise escape, has reacted like a wasp nearing the end of his days by stinging all round him. He declares "no trust" in the Garda—they must be searched on entering the IRA jail in Portlaoise. All prisoners, regardless of crimes, are forbidden food parcels. Minister for Justice?—God help us! And now Mr. Cooney has come forward with a new form of democracy. I suppose one could call it "National Attonement". The idea is that the majority sacrifices the nation to the wishes of a minority. Even John Hume felt he could not approve!

Then there is a third Dublin Minister, the "intellectual" Dr. C. Cruise O'Brien, who informed us this week that the army of the Free State is capable only of defending the people of a border town such as Newry in what he termed a "doomsday" situation. What an insult to the officers and men of that army! If Mr. O'Brien is correct, why continue to spend millions of pounds on an army in the Free State at all? If Mr. O'Brien is right, would it not be a good idea to ask the Provos to consider taking over this so-called army and their equipment and begin the job of making real Irish soldiers of them?

Of course, it would be unfair not to mention Mr. Patrick Donegan's contribution (he is Minister for Defence). Mr. Donegan in a recent outburst seems to favour the death penalty for "terrorists". Supporting him in this is our own Lord John Brooke and another great champion of law and order, Unionist Major William Brownlow. While Mr. Donegan did not elaborate on his latest thinking, it is felt that tinker shooters would be immune as in his book they do not qualify as terrorists.

The Dublin Ministers are paid over £200 each per week. Are they worth it?



Patrick Cooney, "Minister for Attonement".

## PADDY DEVLIN: "SUPPORT LABOUR"

MR. PATRICK DEVLIN of the SDLP has called on the Irish voters in Britain to vote Labour and ignore the Irish Civil Rights candidates in the coming Westminster Elections.

In a statement a spokesman for ICRA in England said he was in no way surprised at the Devlin call. He described Devlin as a "puffing bluffer", an individual devoid of principle who has displayed a callous, indifferent attitude to the sufferings of the men and women in the internment camps and jails. This callous attitude was clearly displayed by the SDLP and in particular by Mr. Devlin and Mr. O'Hanlon during the Sunningdale debacle.

The Irish in England have not forgotten the two "singing Paddies" trying to amuse their British masters while four young Irish people lay dying of hunger strike only a few miles away in an English jail.

Nor are they likely to forget Mr. Devlin's desperate attempts to exploit the sufferings of these young patriots a little later when Harold Wilson and Co. sacked him and his cronies and disbanded the second Stormont. The antics of Mr. Devlin in his new found interest for the Price sisters was nothing short of disgusting. In conclusion the spokesman said: "Let Mr. Devlin or his SDLP collaborators refrain from attempting to lecture the Irish voter in England, for most of us have been about long enough to recognise a phoney when we see one and our love for our native land is strong enough to make us detest traitors and native slaves, all the more so when the treachery is for England good."

Mr. Devlin's plea on behalf of the English Labour Party comes as no surprise. Was it not this party who encouraged the establishment of the SDLP and helped finance it. Well known now are the machinations of that shadowy figure, Maurice Foley, who bedded down more than once at the home of Austin Currie. In calling to Irish voters to support Labour in England Mr. Devlin is only obeying his master's voice.—Editor.

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