

# CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

PAY  
NO  
RENT  
PAY  
NO  
RATES

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 132

Saturday, 6th April (De Sathairn, 6 Aibreán), 1974

## Rent and Rates Strike

TRUE to his promise to the Faulknerite Unionists, Mr. Austin Currie is keeping up the pressure to end the anti-internment Rent and Rates Strike. A new attempt is being made to harass rent strikers by withholding bigger portions of their family allowances, pensions and other benefits.

Rates strikers received notices to "pay up within seven days or else". When these were ignored there followed a three-day notice with a threat of court action. Others have had deductions for rates taken from farm subsidies, while milk producers were threatened with payment being stopped from their cheques, while others have been threatened with sale of their holdings. It appears from this latest action that Mr. Currie and his SDLP friends think nothing of breaking their word and promises to the internees and their own people but are very anxious to keep their promises to Faulkner (the man responsible for internment) and their British bosses.

Currie and Co. are the same people who jumped on the Civil Resistance platform in 1971 and shouted "No rent, no rates, no arrears". John Hume is on record as telling people: "Spend your rent, drink it, have holidays. Do what you like with it, but don't pay it back." What a transformation English gold has made of the SDLP top brass and how the English oppressors must feel pleased with their own judgments.

The Rent and Rates Strike was initiated at the end of August, 1971, as a form of peaceful protest against the injustice of internment.

At the beginning it had massive support—it was the popular think to do and therefore had the support of many whose commitment to the cause of justice was never their distinguishing mark. And like the feather in the breeze it was only a matter of time till their enthusiasm was blown away. And so

with the internees practically forgotten, they repaid their rents, bent their knee, put on the yoke once more and threw away the great weapon of boycott used so effectively before in Ireland.

The people who are now withholding rent and rates are the cream and backbone of the Civil Resistance movement. They are steadfast in their commitment to the men and women, boys and girls unjustly held behind the barbed wire and prison walls. The thought of going back on their word has never entered their mind. They are the type of people who will oppose injustice no matter where

they find it or in whatever form; they are people who put honour and principle before self—people any land can be justly proud of. It is on such people the Price sisters, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly and the thousands of other victims of British interference in Ireland can depend and look on as friends.

These, then, are the people that Currie and Co. hope to scare and break with threats of court, etc. What little chance imperial Britain's puppet has of succeeding where former war lord Whitelaw failed? We predict none, and we promise to support all anti-internment rent and rates strikers in their stand.

In the very near future Fermanagh Civil Resistance Committee will sponsor a conference of all involved in the strike and will have present a law lecturer to advise and answer questions. It is hoped that as many participants as possible will attend.

## The Hypocrites

THEY are exhausted condemning violence: "You cannot shoot or bomb 1,000,000 Protestants into a United Ireland" is their favourite cry. Next they say: "Austin Currie was right. Every Catholic should have joined the UDR and got guns and training." Whatever for.

"The Unity Councillors are letting us down; they should be in there to help us against the Unionists" is the cry from the SDLP in Fermanagh. Not very long ago Mr. T. Daly made a long-winded speech after a heavy meal in Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown, in which he told his listeners: "History was made in Fermanagh District Council today. Power sharing has been adopted." Eddie Elliott (of housing fame) was elected Chairman and Mr. Daly was elected Vice-Chairman. All in the garden seemed rosy, but it appears from the bleating of the SDLP Councillors that all is not so well. The Unity Councillors on the other hand made an election promise not to participate in the Council until internment ended. On this policy they were elected. By non-participa-

tion they are keeping their word. People of honour will respect them for this.

"We must have police reform. The RUC in its present form is completely unacceptable" was another SDLP catch-cry.

Now we find our Party councillors co-operating and collaborating on Police Liaison Committees. One of these Councillors expressed horror at the idea of people not giving information to the RUC about "terrorists", while another said: "EVERYBODY IS EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW." (He must have slept for four years.)

But then one has only to remember that the RUC now protects the SDLP big fellows. Did Mr. Currie and Mr. Hume not take the RUC Special Branch with them through Killmacormick, Hillview, Cornagrade and elsewhere in Fermanagh during the recent election?

Oh no, the RUC did not reform—but the SDLP did!

## Winchester Hostages 144 Days of Torture

# An open letter to the new British Government ENGLAND LEAVE MY NATIVE LAND

As an Irishman who loves his native land and his people, as a hater of tyranny who embraces the cause of all those who struggle to throw off the shackles of imperialism and end the oppressions of all other yokes, and as someone who was jailed during the tenure of office of the late Tory administration for his beliefs and for daring to support the fight for freedom now being waged by the risen Irish in the occupied part of our land, I address this letter to you, the members of the new Labour Government, who now occupy the highest seats of Parliamentary power in Britain.

While I bear no malice against you, I want to make it quite clear from the start that, contrary to the impression you are now trying to convey to the public at large, I consider you to be morally bankrupt as the Tory rulers whom you have superseded and that your hands are not one whit less stained with blood than theirs. I, for one, do not and cannot forget that when you were last in power you sought in that most cruel and terrible way to crush the risen Aden people, and then tried to hide from your electors in Britain the true extent of the barbarities perpetrated by you in Aden. I do not and cannot forget that you deliberately caused obstructions of many kinds to be placed in the path of various public bodies seeking to investigate such crimes. I do not and cannot forget the fact that while you, the members of the British Government of the time, were responsible for acts of horror in Aden of a kind which led to German and Japanese public officials being tried and sentenced after the Second World War, you managed to evade arraignment before a duly appointed court of law.

## MASSACRE OF IRISH PEOPLE

To elaborate upon these matters more fully; during the term of office of the late Tory administration a massacre of Irish people took place in the city of Derry on a certain dark day to which our nation in its sorrow and grief has appended the name of Bloody Sunday. But during your last term in high office there was not one but many such Bloody Days in Aden when British soldiers were let loose like mad dogs and slaughtered non-combatants wholesale — most of whom, I might add, were defenceless women and children. And while the recent Tory Government has been held responsible for the frightful psychological torture of helpless Irish prisoners you are as equally guilty of the same kind of crime; for during your previous term in power you were the architects of the policy of ruthless and unspying repression in Aden which included the torture and brutal treatment of great numbers of helpless prisoners, among whom were many trade unionists.

But the worst of all your wrongdoings is not the actual crimes against humanity committed in the field by the monsters of the British Army Murder Machine which you sent to Aden but the fact that you yourselves as a government claiming to be responsible as well as civilised sought by both the direct means of obstruction and the indirect means of deception and the concealment of evidence to prevent the world at large from being informed of the execrable outrages you were guilty of in Aden, and to evade being held to account for such crimes. Among those obstructive devices used by you were:

- the refusal to allow a visit to Aden by the sub-committee delegated by the United Nations Special Committee on Colonialism;
- the long delay in admitting a delegate of the International Red Cross;
- the refusal of facilities to Amnesty International's delegate, Dr. Selahaddin Rastgeldi, when he was eventually allowed to go to Aden;
- the setting up of the Bowen Commission to whitewash as much as possible the black acts of British interrogators in Aden;
- the making by government departments of "non-attributable" statements to selected newspaper correspondents aimed at destroying the

reputation of Dr. Rastgeldi as a fair and impartial investigator after his findings showed that Aden's allegations of torture and brutal treatment of prisoners were substantially true;

(f) the refusal to allow journalists to inspect the interrogation methods at the Initial Interrogation Centre at Ras Mordub;

(g) your failure to reply to questions about who were the persons you employed to interrogate, what were their contracts of service, under what code of discipline did they act, to whom were they responsible, and whether any of them had been the subject of similar complaints in Palestine, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, and other places; and

(h) the abduction and torture by your security services in April 1967 of one of your professional soldiers, Corporal George Lennox, who had contacted the Sunday Times to confirm Dr. Rastgeldi's findings, and who therefore constituted a serious threat to the success of the operation on your part directed at covering up both the dreadful acts perpetrated by your craven minions in Aden, as well as the identity of the interrogators themselves and the units which employed them.

## A BUNCH OF HYPOCRITES

I have dwelt at some length upon the foregoing because it is my wish to leave you in no doubt as to why I have come to regard you over the years as, at worst, a pack of murderous political wolves masquerading in sheep's clothing, and as, at the least, a bunch of hypocrites who are now once more playing the part of whiter than white saviour of the British working man and woman, whom you have so misled in the past.

My main reason for writing this letter to you can be stated with equal bluntness. It is to demand in direct and categorical terms that you immediately set in motion the machinery for withdrawing your garrison from Ireland.

By the time these words of mine are printed I hope that you will at the very least have returned to Ireland those four gallant and heroic Irish people who since the closing weeks of last year have endured the humiliations and tortures of force-feeding in your jails. Such an act would be a small gesture of goodwill on your part. But it would only be such.

## WANT MORE THAN GESTURES

Right now the Irish people want more than gestures. For we can no longer be fooled by nominal acts of "goodwill" on the part of Willy British politicians aiming at nothing more than softening the righteous anger of the risen Irish before eventually circumventing their just demand. Indeed those four Irish patriots, whose hunger strike and forcible feeding has attracted the attention of the world, would not now be rotting in your jails had you when you last held office not tried to solve the "Irish problem" by means of the despicable and well-tried device of procrastinating and prevaricating and damping down by diverse means the general eruption of the people's anger while at the same time creating yet another status quo in favour of British Capitalism and English Imperialism.

But this time the eruption of the risen Irish did not subside as you had anticipated. This time the flaming Irish anger which you fear so much or did not bequeath so readily. This time you found yourselves dealing with a "rebel people" who could not fool by your traditional knavery and guile.

For long both you and your ilk among other sections of the British body politic have spoken of "solutions" to the "Irish problem". But yet you continue to fail to take the simplest solution of all — which is to withdraw your garrison from Ireland. This is not only the simplest; but it is also the only solution. The "Irish problem" originated in the first place only when your armies, seeking booty and spoils of war like the Viking pirates before them, landed on our shores and began ravaging our then fair land. And the "Irish problem" has persisted ever since precisely be-

cause of your military occupation of Ireland and your economic control over its means of wealth and other resources. What is more the "Irish problem" will continue to persist so long as your alien garrison remains on our soil.

## YOUR HANDS STAINED

You as a government have had your hands stained often by rich red human blood. And through your policies and Machiavellian ways you have much to answer for. How you can live with your consciences I do not know. Sometimes I believe that you do not actually possess such a faculty and that if you did it would soon become atrophied and withered by the atmosphere you breathe, which is so fouled by corruption and moral nihilism that the very timbers of your palace of power reek of it and are rotting away. But whatever ill-doings you have been responsible for are as nothing compared with the guilt incurred by the British Establishment as a whole over the centuries when the swaggering Beast of British Imperialism, with its indispensable cudgel in hand, strode over the world, feasting upon the many peoples who had subjected and clubbing down mercilessly all those who sought to end their exploited and oppressed state.

Of this mass global exploitation and oppression Ireland has had more than her fair share. For far more than any other people in the world the Irish have known the full weight and naked savagery of the British Bulldog. Because of this the history of our little land since the last part of the twelfth century can be readily summed up in just a few words: it has been Ireland's Dark Age.

## FOOTLICKING APOLOGISTS

I am well aware that there are among you hack historians and other footlicking apologists who from the comfort of their armchairs and academic sinecures would rush to decry such a pronouncement and call it distorted. But the verdict of real flesh and blood history speaks otherwise. For eight hundred long and terrible years you imposed a reign of terror upon Ireland while you continued to destroy our culture and our sense of nationhood. You sought desperately to break the proud spirit of our people and turn us into subservient slaves. And whenever our braver sons and daughters rose against your domination you called them rebels and bandits and terrorists and you smote them down without a trace of mercy or remorse with the sword or the bullet, or you hung them or imprisoned them, or you transported them to a faraway place of exile which was often a fate worse than death to those who so dearly loved their native land.

What else has the history of our country been for the last eight hundred years but a Dark Age, the very darkest of dark ages, in fact. The ruins of the many castles and other strongholds of the English Garrison are more than clues to the oppressions of the past. The sites of many battles between native Irish and foreign English armies and the numerous hallowed places of execution where Irish patriots were brutally put to death, together with the numerous remains of the Irish homes left vacant by the black angel of mass famine during the 1840's when Britain took more than enough food from Ireland to feed all the hundreds of thousands of those who perished, tell us a lot of the dreadful sufferings of our forefathers. The bones of our countless martyred dead show what the true history of the last eight hundred years has been like. And if they could cry out from their ultimately graves they would certainly echo each and every word that is being written here.

## IRELAND'S DARK AGE

Ireland's Dark Age began when the Anglo-Norman invaders landed on its south-eastern shores during the course of the latter part of the twelfth century and then proceeded to butcher every Irishman, woman and child who stood in their path. Before the invasion of these barbarians Ireland's Gaelic

civilization had been renowned throughout Europe. We had been the first nation north of the Alps to produce a whole literature in our own tongue. Our schools had become known as centres of learning of which the sons of foreign princes flocked. And Ireland, alone in our part of Europe, provided a light in a world of darkness which had followed the demise of the Roman Empire. It was not without reason that we were called "The Island of Saints and Scholars."

Then from across the Irish Sea came the ships of war of England; and the burning light of our Gaelic civilization at once began to grow dimmer and dimmer. Soon a dark night had descended upon our land — lit only by the flames of burning homes and crops. And the best energies of the Irish people had now to be fully utilised in desperate rebellions and struggles for survival and freedom.

Try as they might the alien invaders could not subdue us, could not break our will to resist, could not reduce us to their level of common barbarians. By the time Elizabeth the First ascended the English throne in the sixteenth century Ireland inspired the huge odds against her still remained unconquered. To the howls of delight of England's statesmen and poets Elizabeth set out to bring the Irish rebel, in Edmund Spenser's words, "so low that he shall have no heart, nor ability to endure his wretchedness". However, Elizabeth's criminal aim was only partly successful — even after the slaughter of huge numbers of our people and the utter devastation of large tracts of our countryside, not to speak of the vilest treachery on the part of her statesmen and generals.

From then on throughout the long dark course of the following centuries this horrendous process of butchery, devastation, and treachery was used over and over again to crush our many struggles for freedom. One particular order to your generals in Ireland in 1642, which has been reflected in your policies towards us even since, commanded them: "To wound, kill, maim and destroy by all the ways and means you may, all the rebels and adherents and relievers; and burn, spoil, waste, consume and demolish all places, towns and houses, where the said rebels are, or have been relieved and harboured, and all hay and corn there, and kill and destroy all the men inhabiting, able to bear arms." Almost exactly three hundred and thirty years later to the day much the same kind of order was given to British Paratroopers in Derry, and but for the very good sense of the Irish Republican Army Brigade there a far greater shedding of good Irish blood would have taken place.

The hard facts of our history speak loudly for themselves. England, you alone are the cause of the "Irish problem." Ever since you first set foot on our land we have had problems — problems which arose only because of your presence here. And we will continue to have such problems so long as your garrison remains in Ireland.

So leave us, England! Withdraw your accursed army and your administrators and your S.A.S. and other "sectarian-killing" squads from our shores!

So leave us, England! Your brutal soldiers daily inflict injury or death on a hapless people upon whom you have heaped suffering upon suffering. Your torturers are still at work in their chambers of hell. Your policies of divide and rule provoke intercommunal tensions and fratricidal strife. You mere presence here is an affront to our dignity and pride and continually foul our lives.

So leave us, England! We do not want you and we do not need you. We will solve the problems which you have created only when your garrison has departed from our land.

Only then can we have a real and permanent peace. Only then will we be able to rise off our knees. Only then will we be able to resume our forward march as a nation — for the first time in eight hundred years.

MICHAEL TOBIN,  
P.O. Box 10638,  
Amsterdam, Holland.

# English Garrison in Confusion . . .

"THINGS HAVE MOVED TOO FAST," SAYS LORD MOYOLA

The British intelligence and counter-insurgency net-work in Ireland folded before a major assault by the Republican Army. On the night of 19/20th March the R.U.C. were tipped off on the confidential telephone that there were 'suspected armed men in cars' in the vicinity of Markethill in South Armagh. The trigger-happy police did not wait to ask questions and so they ambushed and killed two S.A.S. agents and wounded two others attached to the 14/26 King's Hussars and two potential assassins were added to the 25 soldiers killed in open combat in the area.

Major Don Farrell, an army recruiting officer based at Omagh and acting as a spy was ambushed and killed by the East Tyrone Command, at Mountfield on 23 March. That same night a 'tip-off' from Amsterdam involved the cracked 26 county Minister of Defence, Donegan, in his wildest goose chase yet. He personally supervised the gardai and army in searching four vessels at Greenero and Cork only to find a small consignment of arms for his own army. Perhaps like the Brits he will soon learn to pay less attention to anonymous telephone calls even if they come from Amsterdam.

Meantime Robert Fisk's story in The Times forced the English Ministry of Defence to admit that the S.A.S. (50 men) were active in Northern Ireland and had been posted there since January 1974. Republican sources have revealed their involvement in Northern Ireland since 1971 and the accuracy of their intelligence has once again been vindicated. It must never be forgotten that the Special Air Services Regiment was formed in 1941 to infiltrate behind enemy lines, that it has been active in Malaya, Borneo, Oman and Aden in all forms of counter-insurgency, bombings, murders, mutilations, blackmail, witchcraft, coups, c-un-er-gangs etc. In Northern Ireland, its major role is to discredit Republicans.

Disorder in Long Kesh has shown that, the enemy have not the means to humanely keep the men whose liberty is so lightly taken away. The responsible call by the Scottish Prison Officers Association to their members to return to Scotland and leave the English Army to do its dirty work was just another milestone in the inexorable collapse of the penal system here. This has extended to England where the Price sisters are still held in an all male prison, where they and two other volunteers are still forcibly fed in defiance of all law, human, natural and divine. The failure of the Long Kesh governor to keep the agreement on the rights of sentenced political prisoners won in 1972 by the heroic hunger strike of Billy McKee and his comrades has forced the Republic's prisoners to resort to that dread weapon again.

Their spirit was expressed by Kathleen MacGuigan when she was sentenced to 12 years in Belfast for travelling with a bomb: "These sentences mean nothing. We will fight on from behind bars."

On 20 March, a police sergeant explosives expert was killed by a booby trap at Greenisland, another policeman was shot at Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, whilst there was another attack on a policeman at Castlewellan, Co. Down and a police station at Waringstown. The same evening the police were stoned out of the St. James's area by the people and there were also attacks on police patrols in the Antrim Road area. That night a two vehicle army patrol was ambushed at Atlantic Avenue, and one soldier was critically wounded. Two major bombs were planted on the Belfast-Derry railway line at Dunloy and Ballymena and the line closed for over 30 hours. Some days later the Dublin-Belfast line was again cut at Meigh and there was an ambush on the line at Lurgan, and the Belfast-Bangor line was closed. There was a large gunbattle with British soldiers at Enniscorthy on the Tyrone/Monaghan border in which tracer bullets were used. The British army, responded by a mass photographic session of the inhabitants of Ballygawley, near Danganon and mass arrests in the area.

In Derry the enemy used rubber bullets and C.S. gas on young people showing their resentment at British Army harassment. One soldier was severely wounded on over 30 shooting incidents at soldiers in the city last week end. The effectiveness of such shooting may be judged by the admission of the Brigadier of the 8 Infantry Brigade that 394 casualties from that Brigade alone were treated in Atnaighvin Hospital and 30 lives had been saved.

The bombing behind the 'security' barriers in Belfast continued. A bomb was placed in the Bodegas bar which a 3 hour warning was given, devices were planted in Eason's bookshop and a major fire started in North Street Arcade whilst the rubble was being painfully carted

out of the Grand Central Hotel all week. A 200 lb. bomb was defused outside the Co-op, another placed at a garage on Lisburn Road, whilst a 250 lb. bomb exploded at Ballylumryd power station. The Harmony Hill shopping centre near Army Headquarters at Lisburn was devastated.

On Sunday night an army patrol was ambushed in Andersonstown which was followed by the usual mass arrests, this time in Turf Lodge. Two police men were severely wounded in a booby trap at Toome, whilst earlier in the week three large bombs caused substantial damage inside Mackies factory. The courthouse at Clogher was destroyed on 25 March.

In Newry there were major explosions in a hardware shop in Monaghan Street in which a R.U.C. man was injured and to a garage on Merchant's Quay. There was a bomb outside a garage in Rostrevor and an attack of an army checkpoint at Aughnaghy.

As the sustained strength of the Republican campaign became apparent the English were thrown into confusion by the inefficiency of royal cavalry in combating a kidnapping attempt on Princess Anne outside Buckingham Palace. The Army called for a 'free' hand in Ireland despite the granting of bail to Corporal Foxford who was sentenced for shooting dead 12 year old Kevin Heatley in Newry, and the giving of suspended sentences to two soldiers convicted of giving arms to the U.D.A. As the Sunday

Times pointed out despite the murder of 13 civilians in Derry, the number of charges — 24 — brought against British soldiers for all offences in Northern Ireland has been desisory. 'British Justice' was given its proper face when Volunteers John Devine and Patrick Carlin were sentenced to 15 and 12 years for 'attempting to kill a British soldier in Derry.'

John Hume made himself ridiculous by protesting about the T.V. film 'Children in Conflict'. The obvious health of the Republican youth which broke through all attempts to moralise about violence upset his judgement whilst the rest of the S.D.L.P. were panicking everywhere in the face of the British and Dublin governments withdrawal from their 'commitment' to a Council of Ireland. Lord Moyola gave the face-saving phrase: "Things have moved too fast." Meantime the pro-Assembly Unionists and the Belfast city council searched their brains for further devices in repression.

In Dublin and Belfast a new assault was made on freedom of speech. As had happened in Tyrone, "Republican News" sellers were arrested and assaulted. In the 26 men were fined for having copies of "Freedom Struggle" and the pamphlet — in the '70s, the I.R.A. Speaks."

Judge Michael Ryan summed up Free State policy towards freedom of speech in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin, when he stated the possession of the book "Freedom Struggle" would be taken as sufficient evidence of membership of the I.R.A. for the purpose of being sentenced.

No wonder that Irish people everywhere are mobilising in the Fight for Freedom.

# Complaints against the R.U.C.

— Please permit me to add a few points to the BBC programme (28/3/74) on the work of the Police Authority. These points would have helped to give a more accurate picture.

(1) In Westminster on December 12, 1973, Mr. Van Straubenzee, in reply to Mr. Peter Archer, gave the statistics for complaints against the RUC since the coming into operation of the Police Act of May, 1970—2,617 complaints were made; 471 were referred to the DPP. In 14 cases criminal proceedings were taken; 3 convictions were secured.

Both MPs stated these figures were unsatisfactory.

(2) No policeman has been convicted of assaulting a prisoner since 1968.

(3) No complaint has ever been heard by a tribunal of inquiry as envisaged by Section 13, sub-section 3, of the Police Act 1970. And this although some complaints were of a very serious nature concerning the "hooded" men and other tortures.

(4) In only one case, the Drury inquiry into Sam Devanney's injuries, was a police officer brought from another force, as is the custom in Britain, to investigate a complaint. To deny that was with a "wall of silence" from the RUC. It is absurd to expect that police officers from the same force will investigate complaints by Catholics seriously, taking into account the history of the RUC and the experience of Drury.

(5) Some Catholic members of the Police Authority resigned in autumn, 1971. Was it in connection with the torture in Holywood Barracks, or because the police were re-armed?

(6) Over 130 torture cases against the RUC are progressing in the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg. These are representative of a much larger number that could have been taken.

(7) A working party has been appointed to look at the complaints procedure. Again it consists of the "accused" parties themselves, therefore no discriminating person will give evidence to it or pay any heed to its recommendations.

I hope these points will show why the police force continues to remain unacceptable to many Catholics. They believe it contains a considerable number of law-breakers who have not been dealt with. I think the only solution is a general amnesty—Yours, etc.

FR. DENIS FAUL.

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

THIRD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

in KILLESHER HALL

TODAY, SUNDAY, 7th APRIL, '73

at 3 p.m.

All members of the public welcome  
Come and hear of the important social work

# My Son in an English Jail

My husband and I are just home from our first visit to our son, Fr. Patrick Fell in Wakefield Prison, and would be very grateful if you could publish the following in your letters column.

Father Fell and Mr. Roy Walsh wish to thank all who have supported them in their demands for repatriation to the North, for which I personally would beg you to go on pressing. I am an arthritic with Parkinson's Disease and always in great pain, so much so that the journey to Wakefield has to be taken in stages with a day's rest between each. After the flight from Dublin and journey to friends who are kind enough to meet us, I have two days in bed before proceeding to Wakefield, another one hundred and ten miles journey. This entails another hotel stay before I can be brought back to the home of our friends for another two days complete rest before the flight back to Dublin, and another hotel stay before the long trek back to Donegal.

All in all, we do a round trip of over one thousand miles. Whilst murderers, rapists, and the worst depraved offenders are allowed free unrestricted visits with their relatives and children, we were met by guards, conducted up two flights of stairs which are agony for me to negotiate, thoroughly searched, brought down again and taken to a small room with two tables placed together with a sheet of hardboard between, extending from floor to roughly eighteen inches above the table level so that we only see the head and shoulders of our son.

Two guards sit at the end of the table and we are not even allowed to pass him a cup of tea—this has to be handed via the guards. All conversation is noted throughout the two-hour visit by the guards, in their note books.

Even with the help of our good friends, the journey cannot be accomplished in under 150 and in my condition. We are both pensioners, my husband is over seventy and I myself an nearly sixty-six.

One would expect some consideration on compassionate grounds for the prisoners to be brought to the North, especially in view of the fact that British soldiers convicted of murder are taken to England to serve comparatively light sentences and to enable their relatives to visit them freely. There was no evidence against Father Fell or the other Coventry men to sup-

port the charge of conspiracy to bomb, so the authorities changed the wording to 'conspiracy to cause arson in unknown buildings'. Again no evidence, yet twelve years is the vicious sentence. What is this so-called British justice? It would seem to me that the charge was brought for political reasons to discredit the Catholic Church in English eyes, as Father Patrick's only 'sin' is being a priest and caring for the victims intimidated out of their homes in the Six Counties.

The political reason for this charge is proved by the Home Office ban on his celebrating daily Mass in his cell, a ban which no-one has the right to impose other than his own Archbishop, and you will have seen by the Archbishop's letters in papers that he wishes Father Patrick to continue celebrating Mass.

The English news media made great news of the ban, but have never mentioned the Archbishop's letters in papers that he wishes Father Patrick to continue celebrating Mass.

Mr. Roy Walsh and Father Fell also wish to thank the members of Ogliaigh na h-Eireann,umann na Ban and Sinn Fein who kept up the demands on their behalf. They are grateful to them as comrades, and send greetings to all prisoners like themselves.

He asks also that your readers pray and make their protests heard for the two prisoners in the punishment cells at The Albany, Isle of Wight—Yours, etc.

JOAN FELL (Mrs.)  
Donegal Town,  
Co. Donegal.

# Rumours about Sunningdale

A Chara,—Plans are being hatched in both parts of Ireland at present to bolster up the Sunningdale Agreement.

The Irish people should demand that these plans be made public at once so that their contents be thoroughly discussed and not foisted on them later as an accomplished fact.

It is rumoured that people now expect to live in 26 Counties, through fear of having to face the torture chambers in the Six Counties will be charged down here and possibly sentenced to terms of imprisonment on the evidence of the RUC, UDR, British Army, SAS, etc. It is also forecast that the utmost co-operation will take place between the British Crown Forces and the Security Forces of the 26 Counties.

Is this to be the end of our struggle for freedom? Must the people who have fought the modern Black and Tans be stabbed in the back when they are on the threshold of freedom? And all because of Sunningdale and its vague promises of a Council of Ireland on which the Unionists will have a veto.

The latest British-inspired action is this hysterical call for peace—peace at any price.

A body of people long more for peace than Republicans, but it must be a just and lasting peace and not a patched up agreement like Sunningdale which will never be no one and which will never bring the peace that we all long for—Is mise le meas,

CHARLIE McGLADE,  
60 Mourne Road,  
Dunmurry,  
Dublin 12.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

# Southern Diary

LADIES and gentlemen. As a Unionist member of the Executive, pro-Faulkner, of course, I am making this speech specifically to our friends and fellow countrymen in the South and, particularly, to our allies in Dublin, the Dail.

In the past year we have made various demands to our Southern friends and, I am happy to say, both Mr. Jack Lynch and Mr. Liam Cosgrave—very really must make him change that Christian name to Bill—have met us reasonably fairly.

But the time has come to make our final demand. This is the only one that will satisfy our people. We now demand that the Southern parliament disbands itself and opts to become part of the United Kingdom, swearing allegiance to the Queen and her heirs and successors.

This, and only this, will allay our fears. Will dispel the threat of "Home rule being Rome rule"—for, naturally, the Protestant religion will be recognised as the official religion. Not that I, nor my friends, are in any way sectarian. We would allow the Catholics to practice their religion, providing, obviously, they did so quietly and unobtrusively.

I don't want to blackmail the Southern Government, but I must point out to them that the Sunningdale agreement cannot be implemented unless they meet this basic demand. In return we will allow free elections in the South, on the same basis as those up here, so that they will have representation at Stormont. Obviously we shall have to change their electoral boundaries somewhat, but they will soon find that this was for the best.

Meeting this last demand, I might add, will also end the terrorism that has plagued our country for the past four or five years. By opting to join the United Kingdom, the Southern politicians will, at one fell swoop, have swept away the border.

Our gallant British troops, supported by our U.D.R. and Police Reserve and the reconstituted "B" Specials, will have free access to all parts of the national territory and will soon put the Croppies where they should be—in the prone position, tongues extended to lick our boots gratefully as we pass by.

We must expect that one or two of the Teagubs will still object to our benevolent rule and cause a bit of bother, but a couple of internment camps and a bit of summary justice will soon put paid to that. The lessons we have learned up here will not go to waste then, I can assure you.

This then is our last demand of the Dublin Government and I warn them not to ignore it. The major politicians there have been getting good dividends from their shares in British industry, but this bonanza could come to a sharp end. And don't worry about our power-sharing friends, the S.D.L.P.—those of them that don't co-operate will find Long Kesh a less comfortable billet. I've seen enough of them lately to indicate they are sensible men well able to see on which side their bread is buttered.

That, my friends, is my message to Dublin and the Southern people. An offer we will make just once. They want Sunningdale so they must be prepared to make some small sacrifice to make it work. I know some, like Garret Fitzgerald and Conor Cruise O'Brien, are already for this final solution and it is now up to them to persuade their colleagues it is the only one the Unionist population will accept. Westminster and ourselves will not be slow to show our appreciation.

★

Far fetched—it couldn't happen! Stranger things have happened, my friends, and the way the Unionists, of all shades, have been making demands, this one is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

★

We are constantly hearing on radio and television and reading in the newspapers figures relating to the activities of "terrorists" in the six-counties. I have just learned of some figures that make interesting reading, though they are no good reflection on British terrorists and their lackeys North and South. It is a list of Republican prisoners from just one city—Belfast.

There are 321 sentenced Republican prisoners; 87 on remand; 395 interned; nine Belfast people im-

prisoned in England; four imprisoned in Portlaoise and two in St. Patrick's Institution. A total of 818—and just from one city!

★

Newspaper paragraph of the future?—A British soldier who shot dead a four-year-old gunman in the Creggan Estate, Derry, was yesterday awarded the MBE, given the freedom of the City of Bristol and £1,000 from public funds. Another was awarded the VC for extreme bravery in tackling the four-year-old's three-year-old girl friend. An attempt by well-meaning "liberals" to have the two men charged in a Northern Ireland Court was dropped in face of British public opinion.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### le FEAR O'N LAR

The election is over, but the shouting goes on. Was it a vote for Sunningdale or was it a vote against? Thousands of words are being churned out trying to persuade the people that a massive rejection of the Sunningdale agreement by the people of the six counties is, in effect, a mandate for its implementation.

If the result had been the other way around there would have been wild screeching that it was an utter rejection of the men of violence by the electorate. All and sundry would have jumped on the band wagon to tell us the people of the North want peace at any price, etc., ad nauseum. Justice would be a word relegated to the limbo of subversives.

However, that didn't happen and now the pro-Sunningdale crowd are busily persuading us that what happened didn't happen, if you get my meaning. I was sorry to see my old friend Frank McManus go down, but I feel sure he will be back again when the majority of the minority see clearly just how far down the river they have been sold by the SDLP.

Gerry Fitt and his motley crew have a lot to answer for and history will call them to task. Long, long ago they sold out their principles to Dublin money men and they are finding the slippery slope steeper than they realised at the time. They have also found there are high barriers on the slope sides to see they don't skate off the path mapped out for them.

Have you noticed, by the way, that some Southern political observers are now wondering aloud that the SDLP might be financed by Dublin big business! Readers of ConCERNEd could have told them that moons ago.

Keep reading this column, folks, we have oodles of revelations to come.

★

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The Chairman of Sunningdale Urban District Council is incensed by the "gross interference in local affairs" by Dublin and Belfast politicians. He says he is fed up to the back teeth with constant exhortations from someone called Cosgrave, a fellow named Faulkner and some twerp named Fitt to "make Sunningdale work".

The Chairman, in a statement this week, said that Sunningdale has as good a record as any place in the British Isles for work. "Men, and women, here work every day," he said. "We resent this implication that we are lazy. I'd even go so far as to say that some of us here work a damn sight harder than those who are telling us to work."

He added that the Urban Council was seriously considering taking legal action against those who are constantly shouting: "Make Sunningdale work" and commented: "Why don't they ask Brighton to work, or Preston, or Manchester, or Ballymacworkshy in their own country. There are too many foreigners interfering in British affairs today and it's about time we gave them the Harvey Smith sign."

The Chairman's outburst was condemned within hours by Cardinal Conway, Mr. John Hume, Bishop Philbin, the Aga Khan and Mr. Thomas Brown, of 75 Grange Road, Ipswich.

★

The strongest representations were made to Mr. Paddy Cooney, TD, Minister for Justice, by the Mountjoy Warders' Association about the escape of the self-confessed British spy, Kenneth Littlejohn. The warders say they are concerned about their image, both at home and abroad.

In a prepared statement, a spokesman for the warders said: "Ireland did not get the name 'Island of the Welcomes' for nothing and we are concerned that our good name for traditional hospitality is becoming tarnished. We, the warders of Mountjoy, do our utmost to see that our visitors are comfortable and want for nothing, and we are becoming alarmed that our efforts are not being appreciated.

"Not so long ago three of our most cared-for visitors just upped and flew away. We let the matter go on the basis that you will always get some dissatisfied customers, even in the best run establishments.

"But now one of our friends from across the water has also left without so much as a 'good-bye' or leaving a forwarding address. It is the last straw because, as you know, we did our level best to make this man feel at home. We made sure he had his elevenses on time and never a night passed but we tucked him in bed.

"We are now concerned about the reaction of Bord Fáilte and plead for your intercession to see that our establishment is not struck off the list of recommended places to stay. We would point out that Mr. Littlejohn was recommended to us by you and we feel you must take some measure of blame for the fact that he did not stay for the full term booked.

"In passing, may we thank you for recommending the noted Belfast celebrity, Mrs. Maire Drumm, to us. We hope she will enjoy her stay and make up, in some small way, for the defection of your friend, Mr. Littlejohn."