

CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

PAY
NO
RENT
PAY
NO
RATES

No. 108

Saturday, 13th October (De Sathairn, 13 Deireadh Fómhair), 1973

McManus before the American Congress



Frank McManus, M.P.

MR. FRANK McMANUS presented evidence on torture and the ill-treatment of internees and detainees to the United States Congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs last Wednesday.

The Congressional Hearing, headed by Congressman Donald M. Frazer, invited Mr. McManus to present the case for the minority in N. Ireland. The Congressional Hearing is concerned with the world wide protection of human rights and the ways and means for strengthening the United Nations Charter of Human Rights.

Mr. McManus hopes to achieve two things during his testimony:

- 1 To present to the world, through the agency of this important Congressional Committee, the total lack of human rights in N. Ireland today and thus focus world attention, once again, on the problem of internment, particularly the internment of women and children.
- 2 To contribute to the protection of human rights elsewhere in the world. When it becomes evident that Britain, despite all her claims to democracy, is continuing to act in a totally undemocratic and dictatorial manner in N. Ireland, then the argument that democracy, understood in the sense of majority opinion, is sufficient to protect human rights will no longer be accepted.

Frank McManus is now serving well not only the minority in N. Ireland, for whom he is the recognised spokesman at the Washington Hearings, but also minorities all over the world.

Mr. McManus can speak with authority on the denial of human rights because at no time in his political career has he refused to put human rights before all other considerations. Those who are now desperately trying to become an executive finger on

the British hand which is holding so many Irishmen, women and children in concentration camps have joined the "majority" and can therefore no longer speak with authority about internment and other issues. By accepting the Constitution Act, and now by trying to form an executive to implement and operate the Act, they have ceased to be spokesmen for the minority. More than ever before we need the independent voice of men like Frank McManus to focus world attention on the minority plight in N. Ireland.

Mr. Ruairi O Bradaigh is also in Washington to give testimony against the Free State Government's special powers and the way in which those powers are used. It is not only the British Government which is violating human rights, but the Dublin Government too. Mr. O Bradaigh, who has himself experienced the abuse of government, is well placed to tell the world what justice means in Dublin: the opinion of a superintendent is sufficient to deprive a man of his freedom and no further proof is called for!

Mr. McManus, who is still recovering from his leg wound, will make a number of important TV and radio programmes during his visit. He will also have the opportunity of presenting the minority point of view at the Senate reception dinner which is arranged for him.

THE SPEECH

The following is the text of Mr. McManus's speech before the Congressional Hearings:
"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I am grateful for the opportunity of speaking before this committee. I have submitted a statement which I know will be included in the record.

I am speaking here for 550,000 Irishmen of the republican or nationalist tradition who were severed from their fellow Irishmen in 1922 and forced to live in subjection to 1,000,000 Unionists in the Six Counties of N. Ireland. The built-in majority of Unionists was deliberately created to give them power. This power they have held by unjust means. There have been gross violations of human rights in the matter of housing allocations, job allocations in both the public and private sectors of employment and in an unfair and unequal application of the law against the minority community.

A policy of economic apartheid has been operated in N. Ireland. Economic development takes place in Unionist areas while Republican areas are left underdeveloped. In my own county, in South Fermanagh, a predominantly Republican area, not one factory has been established in the whole history of the State of N. Ireland. Consider the unemployment figures. In Ballymurphy 46% of the adult population are unemployed; 31% of the Bogside are unemployed; 26% in Dungannon are unemployed. For further documentation I submit the booklet, Fermanagh Facts.

It will astonish the committee to learn that we are now suffering the 21st year of internment in Northern Ireland, which has only been in existence for 51 years. The average pensioner in N. Ireland remembers 21 years of cruel detention without trial and complete denial of human and civil rights. This imprisonment without trial has been solely used against the members of the minority community, the



Ruairi O Bradaigh

Catholic population, until the recent token internment of 30 Loyalists or Protestant militants as a gesture to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg to indicate the 'impartiality' of the British Administration in N. Ireland.

I have been a member of the Westminster Parliament for three years, representing Fermanagh and South Tyrone. This has given me the opportunity to view in perspective and at close quarter, the working of the London Parliament and of the subordinate Parliament at Stormont in Belfast. I must report that my conclusion is, as a member of a minority community, that governments cast aside all morality and legality when it suits their interest to do so. Then the law of the jungle is their law and they answer only to power, either the power of violence or the pressure of world wide publicity. It is the latter I wish to harness here. I shall describe to you how the Stormont and British Parliaments vied with each other in breaking their own laws and disregarding the laws of international morality, corrupting their own courts and police force, to impose the will of a majority on a suffering minority. The Stormont Government passed a Special Powers Act in 1922. It has always been in force since then until three months ago. The provisions of this Act was, therefore, the common law of N. Ireland, especially for the minority or Catholic population who felt its full rigour and whose members have been subjected to a period of 21 years of internment without trial.

In April, 1963, the South African Minister of Justice, now Prime Minister Vorster, introduced a new Coercion Bill by saying that he 'would be willing to exchange all the legislation of that sort for

(Continued on page four)

Letters to the Editor

MORE DISCRIMINATION

Dear Sir,

The last infamous act of the corrupt, jaundiced Fermanagh Co. Council was the Lisnaskea plan. No such discrimination for the Irvinestown SDLP/Unionists. They are still taking the soup, attending Unionist services and lackeying as ever. When will the nationally minded members of the GAA kick this "clique" into oblivion? The father of the Council has got his medal. What the hell is Wee Napoleon looking for—another medal made from Hammond's steel: surely too weighty for a man with a bad back.

In Lisnaskea all Unionist property is commercial—all Nationalist is for car parks for the owners of the Unionist property. Starting at Connolly's, Mac's Bar, Maguire's Boat Works, Devine's Forge, Miss Cleary's to Gannon's (which will not be allowed to expand), all is to be demolished, including McMahon House and the former parochial house. Going in the opposite direction, in the same block only one building exists business-wise, the "Commercial Hotel", a place which has kept the people of the town from sleeping, causing damage by drunken hooligans leaving it at all hours of the morning—the cause of strife and dissension—which employs one Catholic. So what are we left with—a so-called amusement centre on one side to be allowed to exist, a meeting place for we know who, and in the other corner the lives of 58 Nationalists and their homes. The dye is cast, the fight is on. Justice for all, not the Commercialists only.

A man's home is his castle. In this unequal struggle against bureaucracy be prepared to die for your castle.

Vigilante

Lisnaskea.

Sale of ConcERNEd

DUE to increased production costs we are forced to request you, our readers, to increase your contribution to 5p per copy. This is the first increase we have sought in two years, though the cost of production has risen by more than 50%.

As we are well aware that many of our readers contribute 5p and 10p, we make this request to those who have been donating 2p. We regret having to make this appeal, but circumstances outside our control dictate it. We have no doubt, however, that it will be met by a generous response. May we take this opportunity of thanking you for your support in the past and hoping we can rely on it in the future.

NEWS FLASH EXTRA

LAST week we carried a report that T. J. Fitzpatrick, T.D., Minister for Lands, was wearing a Blue-shirt when he attended the annual meeting of Swanlinbar Fine Gael branch.

We have been told during the week, by a member, that we did not mention the fact that Fitz was wearing a bright red tie.

Glad, dear member, to publish this additional information and hope it will keep your Swad trig or leaf (sorry, branch) of the Labour Party happy.

Wearing of red ties on important occasions was one of the concessions gained by the Labour Party during coalition discussions.

NATIONAL ANTHEM BANNED

Dear Sir,

The playing of the National Anthem is not allowed in one of Swanlinbar's singing pubs.

Some time ago a number of Co. Tyrone GAA fans entered the pub on their way back from a football match in Carrick-on-Shannon. A singing session was on at the time. Some of the Tyrone men took part.

One of their members satrted to sing the "Merry Ploughboy". The publican rushed up, pulled the mike from him and said: "We want no trouble here."

The final blow came a week ago when it was made clear to a group that the National Anthem was not to be played.

Patrons of such places who have a love of our native music and songs and respect for our National Anthem will, I am sure, avoid this pub like the plague. They will have no trouble in discovering which one it is.

Swad Resident

HERE IS THE NEWS...

BBC Northern Ireland. It's eleven forty-five and here is the news.

Several shots were fired in Andersonstown this evening. One shot struck a telephone pole, and another struck a glancing blow to a Saracen armoured vehicle, but caused no damage. The shooting lasted three hours and two soldiers were slightly killed in the incident.

A terrorist gunman was shot dead in the Short Strand area tonight. His name has not yet been released, but it is known he is a 74-year-old blind Roman Catholic who has been high on the Army's wanted list for some time. A white stick was later recovered at the scene of the incident.

A spokesman for the 25th Royal Engineers said: "We believe we got the top IRA marksman in Belfast. He was seen tapping his way along Thompson Street to take up an ambush position and was carrying two mortars, one rocket launcher, three sub-machine guns, an M1 carbine, six nail-bombs and 14 petrol bombs when our chaps shot him."

In South Armagh this afternoon, the army foiled a terrorist ambush attempt. Two armoured vehicles were slightly damaged when three 800 lb. land mines were detonated directly underneath them. There were no military casualties, although several soldiers suffered minor cuts. Six of them were later flown to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast by helicopter to undergo brain surgery. Two others were taken to the morgue at Musgrave Park Military Hospital by road to be treated for mild shock and bruising.

A soldier suffered minor injuries, from which he has since died, in the Creggan area of Londonderry this afternoon. Details of the incident are being withheld for security reasons, but it is known that a two year old baby terrorist fired a Thompson sub-machine gun at a foot patrol and then made its escape in a pram which was pushed by a four year old girl.

And now, tomorrow's weather . . .

WHAT JOE SAW

The night after Ted Heath's and Bill Cosgrave's political docking exercise, Joe X, who is a visionary, spent a few unforgettable hours. Joe claims that he saw what follows posted on a portice of the General Post Office, Dublin.

THE PROFANATION OF THE REPUBLIC (TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND)

Irishmen and Irishwomen: In the name of the most high British interest from which she receives her fantasy right to exist, Ireland through us, summon you, her simple-minded children, to renounce the independence joke.

Having intrigued and emasculated Irish manhood through our collaborationist policy, the Littlejohn brotherhood and the leadership docking session, we, the Shoneens, have patiently perfected our schemes, having resolutely waited for the opportune moment to show our hand, now seize that moment, and, supported by our own Quislings, but relying in the first upon British and native force, we now strike at your ideals in full confidence of success. We declare the right of the British imperialists to the ownership of Ireland and to the unhindered control of Irish destinies. The long usurpation by claim to British rights, by successive generations of hideous ideologists, has not extinguished Britain's right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the breaking of our cherished connection with the mainland.

In every generation Irish politicians have asserted their right to national betrayal and their acceptance of British sovereignty. Standing on that fundamental right, and again asserting it through inhumanity, prisons, concentration camps and brutalities IN THE FACE OF THE CIVILISED WORLD, we hereby proclaim Ireland a British dependency and we pledge OUR POLITICAL CAREERS to the demythologisation of the nation idea.

England is entitled to the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. She guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all her subjects, and declares her resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the United Kingdom, cherishing all her children equally, oblivious of past differences carefully fostered by Irish Republican terrorists, which have threatened to divide the Irish minority from the mainland majority for so long.

Until our own shamelessness has finally brought about the opportune climate for the establishment of permanent integration and Westminster responsible government, well-paid native lackeys will continue to administer this integral part of the United Kingdom both South and North of the sop border.

We place the future of Ireland under the protection of the Most High Lama, Ted Heath, whose blessing we beg, crawling upon our knees, and we pray that none will lose their cowardice through perception of human dignity. In this supreme hour, the Irish people must sacrifice all their ideals for the Commonwealth and prove themselves knavish enough to fit into the disgusting destiny to which they are called.

Now Joe X has had visions before, but this was the worst to date. Many of his visions later became realities. His vision of the SDLP, for instance. One comforts him by reminding him that not all his visions have become realities, but the comforter cannot help feeling like the little boy whistling as he passes the local cemetery. He is unable to remember the signatories. All he recalls is that the number was more than seven. He thinks he recalls this because of the total absence of likeness to THE SEVEN.

JAMES CAREY

Select Grocers and General Hardware
Merchants
Crown Paint and Wallpaper Specialist
PHONE: LISNASKEA 337

When in Lisnaskea, call at . . .

FRANK'S BAR

Home of Traditional Song and Music

MAIN STREET

LISNASKEA

Big British Army inquiry follows IRA "bugging"

A BIG internal security check-up has been ordered in the British Army following a sensational disclosure that the Army headquarters in Derry have been "bugged" by the Provisional IRA since January, 1972.

The disclosure came when Sinn Fein produced a tape of conversations between British Army personnel on the night of Bloody Sunday, and between British officers and newspaper men.

A British Army spokesman would not comment on the revelation other than to say that it was being investigated and that a statement would be issued after the inquiries were completed.

The tape came into the possession of Sinn Fein recently, according to its President, Mr. Ruairi O Bradaigh, but it is understood to have been in the hands of the IRA for the past 21 months.

TAPPING ENDED

Mr. Barney McFadden, chairman of the Derry Comhairle Ceannair of Sinn Fein, explained that the tapes could not be released while the tapping of the headquarters was going on. The tapping has now ceased because the British Army changed their telephone circuits.

Journalists who heard the tape played at the SF conference said they recognised some of the voices of the British personnel recorded.

The announcement of the existence of the tape and the playing of it to newspapermen took place before the Butcher of Derry, the man who authorised the whole thing, Ted Heath, met Liam Cosgrave for the Dublin talks.

Here is the text of the taped conversations:

We're going to go right down there tonight.

I appreciate that.

What we are trying to do is to withdraw and cool the whole situation . . . just as we did in the Bog-side.

Well, O.K.

Bombardier Philips there, what does he want? . . . Look, it looks as if there has been a hell of a sort out. Give me details.

The whole thing's in chaos.

Obviously.

I think it's gone badly wrong in the Rossville. The doctors have been at the hospital and they're pulling stiffs out there as fast as they can get them out.

There's nothing wrong with that, eh?

Well, there is, because they're the wrong people. There are about nine, between nine and fifteen, killed by the Paratroopers in the Rossville area; there are old women, children, God knows what, and they're still going up there. I mean the pigs are just full of bodies . . . stiffs all over the place.

And Malc?

Malc is involved with it. Malc was down there, yes.

The padre has been upset and he's going up to see the Commander about all the ill-treatment.

General Ford?

Yes. But he was lapping it up.

Who was?

Ford.

Was he?

Yes. Said it was the best thing he'd seen for a long time.

Interesting, isn't it?

Well, he said: "You can have 24 and no less."

Good, excellent.

And he says this is what should happen. We have been far too passive. I'll see you later.

Bye, bye.

Cheers.

Daily Telegraph, just a moment.

Hello.

Yes. . . Daily Telegraph. I haven't spoken to you very much as I haven't been in Derry very much. Can you tell me anything about the numbers killed? There have been conflicting reports.

No. I can't say exactly how many were killed. The figures, you know, as you say, at the moment are slightly confused. The 8th Brigade will be able to advise you, certainly better than I will. All press

enquiries are being referred to them.

How do I get on to this?

Phone Londonderry 3211.

NOTHING WE DID NOT KNOW

Mr. McFadden said the Republican Movement in Derry had been tapping the Victoria Street Barracks prior to Operation Motorman and said that letters were also being intercepted. There was nothing the British Army did in Derry that the Republican Movement did not know about, he said.

"FEARFUL DAGGER" IN SOLDIER'S CAR

RESIDENTS of Tempo had their sleep disturbed recently by a loud crash on the Main Street in the small hours of a particular morning.

On arriving at the scene they found a passing car had crashed headlong into a stationary one parked outside its owner's house. They also discovered that the driver of this car was a British soldier in civilian clothes. He was very apologetic for the damage he had caused. The owner of the parked car would be compensated, etc. He had a few drinks and must have dozed. After some time he was removed from the scene, but his car lay in Tempo for most of the day until the Army took it away.

It was during this time that some people examining the car made a more sinister discovery. In the rear seat of the soldier's car was seen what has been described as "the most horrible looking knife, a fearful dagger with a huge, long, pointed blade", they had ever seen.

Is it any wonder locals are asking what this knife was for? What sort of "soldier" was this? Could there be many more like him at large? People do not forget how Michael Naan and Andrew Murray died. A number of Catholics in the county have also received letters threatening them with assassination by knifing, supposedly from the UFF ???

The British Army buys a dozen copies of CONCERNED each week. If they wish to explain the existence, purpose and reason why such a knife was in this car we are willing to publish it.

SWANLINBAR MEETING

ON Sunday evening, 7th October, there was a large attendance at a public meeting in Swanlinbar, organised by the local Sinn Fein Cumann. The meeting was held to protest against extradition and Free State collaboration with the British forces of occupation. Peter Albert McGovern chaired the meeting and others speakers were Pat Duffy, Swanlinbar; Sean O'Reilly, Irish Civil Rights Association; and the veteran Derry Republican, ex-internee Sean Keenan. The platform party also included Ben McHugh and Benny Maguire.

LITTLEJOHNS WANT TO MOVE IN WITH PROVOS

THE Littlejohn brothers, who claimed they spied on the IRA for Britain, have asked to join the Provisionals "community" in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, it was alleged this week.

Kenneth (32) and Keith (27), serving a sentence for bank robbery, wrote to the "Officer Commanding" the Provo prisoners offering information about British spying in the Republic in return for friendship, a relative of a leading IRA prisoner claimed.

The letter—which was smuggled by a "trustworthy" prisoner from the brothers' basement cell to the Republican "D" Wing—also said they admired the Provos' stand, both inside and outside the jail, the source added.

ULSTER, TORTURE AND THE POLICE

Extract from NEW STATESMAN: 13th July, 1973

"THE Special Branch have a long tradition of violence; not for them the sophisticated noise machines and 'hoodings' of the British Army: rather the punch in the kidneys, the boot in the genitals, techniques exposed as long ago as 1957 in the case of Mallon and Talbot, in which the NEW STATESMAN played a special part. Occasionally their indiscretions have been revealed, as when challenged by the Scarman Tribunal to reveal the source of his information about a particular shooting incident in the Ardoyne, Ian Paisley was forced to admit that his information was none other than the chief Special Branch interrogator in Belfast, Inspector Harry Taylor.

In 1969 Sir Arthur Young was moved to Belfast to clean up the RUC. From the start he was suspicious of the sectarian role played by the Special Branch. He found them a bitter and dispirited group of 40 men, desperately overworked and constantly criticised. He set about raising their numbers to 200 by encouraging young RUC recruits to apply to the Branch. He tried drastic surgery: the burly ex-boxer Harry Taylor was packed off to Hillsborough as personal bodyguard to the Governor of Northern Ireland, and a plan was put to the Police Federation in London to release Metropolitan "bobbies" to help out with the main Belfast force. Scotland Yard men were infiltrated into the Belfast Branch to weed out the rotten wood. Gradually, their numbers were increased from two, to three, to eleven, and finally to thirty-one. Fingerprint experts arrived after Young discovered that the fingerprint records in Belfast had been 'tampered with' (the records were finally unearthed in a disused UVF dump in Co. Derry).

But Young's attempts at reform failed. One of Brian Faulkner's first acts as Prime Minister was to recall Harry Taylor to Belfast, where he was put in charge of planning the interrogation centres to be used after internment at Holywood and Girkwood Park Barracks. In April, 1971, Taylor's men began training—under British Army instruction—in the sophisticated techniques of sensory deprivation, the hooding, wall-standing, noise-machine routine later exposed by the SUNDAY TIMES.

The Branch was not only to be responsible for drawing up the lists of those to be "lifted" on Internment Day, but also for the selection of the 12 men to be given the "hooded" treatment (and, true to form, their selection included three men who were innocent of anything more than marching in a civil rights demonstration). Taylor and his senior colleagues took up permanent residence at Holywood, emerging only with military escort."

As we stated above, this is an extract from a long article published in the "New Statesman": 13th July, 1973. The "New Statesman" is an English newspaper. When an Englishman writing in the British press can paint such a damning picture of the Special Branch, we wonder how any Irishman can talk about reorganising the RUC. It is not possible.

The RUC must be disbanded lock, stock and barrel. A "baddie" does not become a "goodie" by changing the colour of his uniform or by changing the colour of his boss.

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE SOCIETY

WON £5 EACH

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

MR. JOSEPH McCUSKER,
Ballyreagh,
Tempo

MR. OWEN HOWELL,
Bruscaragh,
Roslea

McManus before the American Congress

(Continued from page one)

one clause of the Northern Ireland Special Powers Act'. This Act surely introduced one of the longest periods of the violation of human rights in the Western world.

This Act was replaced by the Emergency Provisions Act, 1973, passed by the Mother of Parliaments, Westminster. This is an even more draconian Act, allowing the detention of children aged 10. This new Act includes such indefensible measures as putting the onus of proof on the accused person, denial of bail, suspension of trial by jury, the admission of evidence against the accused in writing only without the accuser having to present either himself or even his name for the purpose of cross-examination. This means that if a constable of the police claims that a written statement, no matter how damaging to the accused, was signed in his presence, this statement is admitted as evidence and the accused has to prove that the statement is false. That a man is innocent until he is proved guilty is no longer accepted by the British Parliament. The British Parliament, in this new Act, has accepted as a norm for N. Ireland that a man is guilty until he proves his innocence. This total subversion of legal justice leads to situations of incredible justice. For instance, under the new Act, if weapons or explosives are found on a premises then all those who own the premises or who happen to be present on the premises at the time are arrested, bail is refused and can only be granted by a high court judge, and each person must prove that he is innocent. If, for instance, a weapon was discovered in this room each one of us would be arrested and each one of us would be held until we could prove our innocence.

For six months, from August, 1971, to February, 1972, the British Army used the Special Powers Act of Northern Ireland to arrest and detain people, to wreck hundreds of humble homes in Belfast and Derry. Then as was proved in the courts that an agency subject only to Westminster could not be ordered to administer a law of the Stormont Parliament by the Stormont legislators who had no powers in matters of defence.

Instead of recognising the illegality of their Government's action the Westminster Parliament immediately, in one day, changed the law to suit the campaign of tyranny they were waging against the N.I. minority and they did so retrospectively. That is, they declared that the illegal conduct of the army during six months of unlawful arrest and harassment of the minority population was legal. At the time, Antony Howard, writing in the New York Times, reminded Americans how grateful they should be to have a written constitution to appeal to. All our liberties depend, not on a written constitution which binds all, but on the whims of the British Parliament. Whatever the British Parliament decides for N. Ireland constitutes not only the law but also establishes the rights accorded to the people.

Watching the tyranny of might over right by the two governments I have had dealings with, I am more convinced than ever that it is essential to strengthen the power and authority of charters and conventions of International Law and International Tribunals and Courts.

Since the British Parliament which claims sovereignty over N. Ireland has attacked and violated the fundamental rights of the citizens of N. Ireland have to appeal to the conscience of mankind, to the court of world opinion and there bring their charge of brutality against British oppression.

Not only has Britain violated our fundamental human rights through the enactment of anti-civil rights laws, but in the administration of her own draconian laws she has shown disgraceful partiality and selectivity. Consider the record of law enforcement:

The British Army violated even the Special Powers Act during the first six months of internment.

The security forces subjected internees to torture and barbarous interrogation. Men were kept hooded, with their hands handcuffed, and subjected to noise machines and deprivation of normal sleep. Speaking of this in his Minority Report Lord Gardiner, Lord Chancellor, says: 'Forcibly to hood a man's head and keep him hooded against his will and handcuff him if he tries to remove it, is an assault and both a torture and a crime.' Yet, despite

this torture and this crime not one member of the security forces has been prosecuted. Not a single policeman has been prosecuted for assault since 1968 despite documentation of over 500 cases of clear assault.

Security forces have killed 100 innocent people. In a civil law situation it is the task of the police to charge those who take life. Only one such charge has recently been brought against the army and not one charge has been brought against the paratroopers who shot 13 innocent, peaceful protesters in Derry.

Over 200 Catholics have been assassinated. The police have only secured four convictions. In some cases the police have not even bothered to take statements from the family and relatives of the victims of assassination.

The police have never appointed an independent tribunal to hear complaints against the police as they are bound to do under Section 13, subsection 3 of the Police Act, 1970.

In N. Ireland today we have a situation in which basic human rights are violated, where the violators of those rights receive the protection of the Westminster Government—the army, the police—and the militant on the Unionist or Government side are above the law and free to act beyond and against the law.

Since Operation Motorman began on 31st July, 1972, wholesale arrests for screening have taken place, almost daily, in Catholic areas even when there are no disturbances. On one night alone some weeks ago ninety-four men were arrested in pubs in the Lower Falls area. Many of these people have been arrested several times. It is claimed that well over 100 prosecutions have been brought as a result of these swoops.

Contrast this determination to arrest and charge lawbreakers with the attitude taken towards the disturbances in Protestant areas. Since direct rule was announced on 24th March, 1972, there have been several outbreaks of serious rioting by Protestant extremists. I list below the more notorious instances.

4th April: Police baton charge a crowd of 500. Six policemen injured. No arrests reported.

20th April to 3rd May: A week of rioting in East Belfast by Tartan gangs and UDA elements. Eight arrests reported. Negotiations with Tartans, UDA and Vanguard carried out by officials of the Community Relations Commission at the request of Mr. Whitelaw.

3rd June: Riotous situation at Craigavon Bridge during a Vanguard rally. No arrests reported.

11th June: Protestant extremists attacked forty Catholic homes in Annalee Street. The army evacuated Catholics to Girdwood Barracks. No arrests reported.

23rd June: Protestant gunmen out in Horn Drive, Suffolk. No arrests reported.

4th Sept. to 7th Sept.: Riots in East Belfast and gun battles in Shankill Road. Four arrested in East Belfast. Twenty-six arrested in Shankill Road.

14th Sept.: Riots in Carrickfergus following the appearance of sixteen Protestants from Monkstown on arms and explosives charges. No arrests reported.

16th-17th Sept.: Riots in Larne when Protestant extremists attacked Catholic homes in St. John's Place. One member of the UVF shot dead by the police. No arrests reported.

11th-12th Oct.: Trouble in Shankill Road and East Belfast. Tommy Herron, Vice-Chairman of UDA, refuses to discipline Tartan gangs. Soldier shot in East Belfast. A policeman and two soldiers alleged to have been held captive for a time in Shankill area. Twenty-five arrests reported from Shankill area, but all later released. During these riots St. Anthony's RC Church, East Belfast, was desecrated by Protestant mobs. No arrests reported from East Belfast.

16th-17th Oct.: Riots and periods of intensive shooting at British troops in Shankill Road and Shafesbury Square, Belfast. The UDA declared: "To hell with the British Army, they are now our enemies." In the lore of Northern Ireland this has come to be known as the "two day war".

Arms found in a club in Ceylon Street, Shankill Road area. Two policemen and ten soldiers injured. Only nine people were reported to have been held by the security forces. No massive follow up of searches and arrests by the security forces such as usually follows gun battles in Catholic areas, was reported. Instead Army/UDA talks arranged by Mr. Bradford resolved a local difficulty.

In his "shoot to kill" speech Mr. Craig referred to one or other of these latter two serious confrontations between the army and the UDA. He said: "Civil war could have existed in Ulster last weekend if it had not been for the perception of Ulster Vanguard. It was only two hours away, but a police officer told me of 'certain circumstances' and from that conversation it was averted."

This appearance of a special relationship between Mr. Craig and the police does not increase the confidence of Catholics in the impartiality of the law enforcement agencies.

7th Nov.: Thirty Catholic homes petrol bombed by Protestant extremists, some carrying arms, in the Lower Lenadon area of Belfast. The refusal to prosecute and bring charges against named persons in this case is one of the most glaring examples of selectivity to date. No arrests in connection with this incident have so far been reported.

Will the British Government allow regular and impartial enquiry into the way in which internment policy is being implemented and the conditions in which the internees are being held. I submit a letter smuggled out from Long Kesh last week. I ask this committee to call for regular and impartial investigation into the serious charges which the internees are making against the army, the Long Kesh authorities and the British Government.

The way in which the British Parliament and Government have tramped on human rights in N. Ireland is a clear proof that no Parliament or no Government should be entrusted exclusively with the granting and the guarding of civil and human rights. If the rights of minorities throughout the world are not to be denied, as they have been denied and are still being denied in N. Ireland, we must strengthen international law and insist that the international community of mankind assume its responsibility for the safeguarding of human rights in each country. And Governments which refuse to grant and defend full civil liberties should be considered unfriendly and hostile by all freedom loving peoples.

Only when the international community of mankind unites in defence of human and civil rights will there be an end to that type of British injustice, brutality and oppression which the Irish people still have to endure."

PEACE

There's times I often wonder
Will peace ever more abide;
Will we ever see our neighbours
Living peacefully side by side?

Will all the shops be blown up
And tossed unto the ground?
Will there be no industry left at all
When peace will reign around?

If the English would stay in England
And leave us our Irish lands,
Instead of invading Ireland
In their Anglo-Saxon bands.

If the English soldiers would get out
Things would just be grand,
They're causing this awful trouble
That's wrecking our lovely land.

If the British Army would leave the North
The bombings and deaths would cease.
And at last we'd know the meaning
Of that wonderful word called peace.

Margaret Fitzpatrick