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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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NO
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PAY
NO
RATES

No. 82

Saturday, 14th April (De Sathairn, 14 Aibreán), 1973

IRISH INTERIORS

THE interiors of most things are of such importance that we may rightly say that it is what is written that really matters. This is true even of the humble spud. Then, ever bite into an apple only to find that its interior did not come up to the exterior promise? Or a watch. It may look fine on the outside, but the works may be inferior and then you could find yourself late, in more senses than one, to do anything about it.

I guess that what may correctly be said of THINGS may equally validly be said of persons. With persons, too, exteriors can be deceptive and fail to give any indications of their interiors. This can be said to be true especially where the "patriotic" person is concerned. The person asking in song, "Who fears to speak of '88 . . . ?" may be the very person who fears to speak of '73, and so gives encouragement to the enemies of the Resistance. He would be an exterior man and, while exteriors are fine provided the interiors are finer still, my man's exterior is dangerously valueless. Indeed Irish exteriors alone are inimical.

COMMITMENT

Commitment is a terrible word in one sense, but it is also a noble pledge in another. I have the noble pledge sense in mind when I say that without commitment there is always a hollow ring off utterances, however high-sounding and rousing. Indeed, unless the Irish interior is "affected", the Irish exterior can be merely an emotional accident and given to quick "healing". On the other hand, the Irish interior "affection" is incurable.

BETTER SAY "NO"

Yes, I have no doubt but that it would be better say NO to involvement in the Resistance if such involvement means nothing more than something arising from an emotional accident. That is more true today and more necessary to emphasise than at any other time since the birth of the Resistance. Just think and you will see the truth of what I am saying. The infamous "Treaty", the cause of our years of misery, may be rightly attributed to a recovery from an emotional accident, a recovery damning in its consequences. That must not be allowed to happen again and that is why I say better say NO to involvement without commitment. The Irish interior "affection" must be incurable or there cannot be the commitment of which I speak.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED

All that has happened to date is very, very important and will never be forgotten, but what yet remains to be done must be the immediate concern of all with the Irish interior "affection": and is it necessary to say that a lot remains still to be done, and that what remains to be done can be done only by those with an Irish interior.

Black propaganda, ever mounting in output, will crush an Irish exterior; nobody knows this better than the black propagandists, foreign and quising. This would make an Irish exterior appear more a hindrance than a help to the Resistance. So, unless one believes intensely in what one says, it were better left unsaid. Slogans, for example, must be inspired by an Irish interior. Otherwise they remain

no more than slogans and do we not all know how empty and meaningless MERE slogans can be?

AFTER THE BOMB WAS OVER

You remember Mary Holland's pen-picture of a Dail Deputy lying on his back shouting "Up the Republic!" a few moments after the famous bomb incident had converted himself and others to push through an out and out anti-Irish Republican Amendment Bill? Well, there you have an example of a predigested slogan, as empty as the Deputy was "full". It does serve to illustrate what I mean by saying how meaningless and empty slogans can be when they do not proceed from an Irish interior. The person with only an Irish exterior can be rich in such slogans.

KEEP THE BEST SIDE IN

An Irish interior is what is of value. It is worth more now, at this juncture in our history, than ever. Gold has always been valuable, but today it is more valuable than in the past. Do not flag in your efforts to help the Resistance. With an Irish interior, every giving of yourself matters more than yesterday or yesterday. The Irish interior is like a certain brand of washing powder—it shows!

COALISLAND

POST OFFICE

COALISLAND Post Office was closed last Friday, Saturday and Monday. The post office has become a very important part of everyday life, consequently the closure caused very great inconvenience to the local people. If a stamp or a postal order was required a journey to Dungannon was necessary. As usual, the hardest hit were the old age pensioners and the widows, whose pay day was Monday. There is not much point in saying to an old age pensioner: Wait till next Monday or go to Dungannon. He or she needs the money on that day and cannot afford to hire a car in the absence of a reasonable bus service.

The Post Office explained that the two old ladies who own the office were badly shaken after the fifth armed raid in fairly quick succession. That may be understandable. What is difficult to understand is the attitude of the local East Tyrone M.P. He blamed the "cowboys" who carried out the raids as being responsible for the closure. That is a curious sort of logic which can only be understood if one accepts that this man was using the inconveniencing of the old to score some sort of political point. This peculiar brand of logic is further explained when one hears that one of the employees of the post office is married to a brother of the MP.

Instead of trying to score points, the South Tyrone Advice Bureau arranged that all those who engaged transport to Dungannon would be compensated by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. A much more honest and practical approach, I am sure you will agree.

AN ARMY AT WORK

WHAT is the work of the British Army here. We have been told it's to keep the peace. The following is a brief account of three "peacekeeping" exercises in Co. Fermanagh.

EXERCISE No. 1

Road construction is in progress on the Belcoo to Enniskillen road. A man is employed regulating traffic. He uses a red flag. An Army Saracen comes along. Stops. Waits a while. A soldier gets out and approaches the man on traffic control. Asks him his religion. Why? Maybe he felt the man was a "Commie" when he saw the red flag.

EXERCISE No. 2

A gentleman is stopped and searched at an Army checkpoint on the Swanlinbar-Enniskillen road. When search ends, the gentleman's car refuses to start. He requests a "push" from the soldiers. They refuse. Traffic piles up. Suddenly the Army drives off in their Land Rovers. The traffic moves away leaving the gentleman still on the road seeking a friendly hand. Army returns in approximately 10

(Continued on page two)

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

PEACE and reconciliation are the "in" words at this present time. Daily we hear them used by churchmen, politicians, and a host of organisations and individuals; indoor prayer meetings for peace; outdoor prayer meetings for peace; fasts for peace; cries to the Provos for peace; we have been bombarded with Peace! Peace! Peace! One wonders then how many unthinking people have been caught up in this propaganda stunt, for this we believe it to be. Started by the upper classes, who NEVER cried JUSTICE when a foul, evil system rode roughshod over the poor and working classes, how many of the "peace cryers" have stood up in the cause of justice? How many have supported the marches and protests against in justice and internment? How many have pointed the finger of accusation at the British Army, the real violators of peace? Would people such as Mr. Austin Curry, M.P., who took time off to picket the Sinn Féin offices in Kevin Street, Dublin, now take time off to picket British Army headquarters and demand from them as gesture towards peace, ask them to call off their bully boys who day and night harass the Catholic communities of the Six Counties? Could they not seek time on TV to tell of the abuses, insults, arrests, beatings, torture and murder committed by that same Army here in Ireland. When the accusing finger is pointed make sure it's in the right direction. When we cry peace, let's not for JUSTICE.

CRUEL AND UNJUST TREATMENT

Sir,

Those who are lauding the White Paper as an honest contribution towards the establishment of peace, democracy and justice would do well to consider the case of Mr. Sean McGuigan.

If the cruel and unjust treatment meted out to Mr. McGuigan can be taken as an earnest of Mr. Whitelaw's intentions towards the minority, then it becomes painfully obvious that the more things change the more they remain the same.

Mr. McGuigan was arrested in 1970 on a riotous behaviour charge and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. He was released on bail pending an appeal, but failed to turn up at court on the day of the appeal because his mother had been arrested on that day.

He was subsequently arrested in late 1971 and charged with 36 offences. After many court appearances he was acquitted on all charges, having spent 12 months in custody altogether.

On the day of his acquittal he was re-arrested in court by the Special Branch and detained under the Special Powers Act in Long Kesh for a further period of months. After appearing before the Special Court he was released and enjoyed a brief period of six weeks' freedom before he was arrested again on 9th March, just one week before his wedding day. He is now serving the six-month prison sentence he received in 1970.

There was absolutely no reason why Mr. McGuigan should not have served this prison sentence during the 12 months he had been in custody, and the whole affair smells strongly of spiteful vindictiveness on the part of the authorities.

Yours etc.,

Concerned

AN ARMY AT WORK

(Continued from page one)

minutes, drives past, cheers and jeers at the car owner still stuck on the road, again refuses to help and drives off in the direction of Kinawley.

EXERCISE No. 3

A meeting is advertised in ConcERNed for the purpose of organising a commemoration to Philip Cassidy (R.I.P.) on Easter Sunday at Arney Church. The meeting was advertised to take place in Arney Hall on 10th April.

As people arrived for the meeting they found the RUC blocking their path. Excuse? RUC says there was supposed to be a bomb in the hall and they were awaiting the arrival of Army from Kinawley. As this took place beside Gilleece's pub the people retired to the pub. The Army arrived. Sent the RUC men away and took over. They smashed the public lighting with stones and rifle butts. Blocked the road with a Saracen. Entered the pub. Asked were all there loyal to the Queen. The reply was loud and clear—"No!" They then ordered people out at gunpoint and began a "search" of people and cars. All cars were stopped and held up. The keys were taken from some drivers. The soldier in charge became very excited when he discovered he had "captured" Paul Corrigan and Tom Flatley. He immediately phoned Kinawley RUC station. He gave instructions that his O.C. must be contacted and said: "We have Flatley and Corrigan and about 30 others. Phone back instructions, but don't use public phone. Use our own network."

During questioning this soldier made it clear he did not like ConcERNed. Keeps it in his toilet, he said. He would prefer to call Fr. Slowe. Mr. Slowe. This exercise ended at 11.30 p.m. All allowed to go home.

We leave it to our readers to judge whether this type of activity is helpful in the interest of peace or not.

Letters to the Editor

Erne Sense and Republicanism

Dear Sir,

Erne Sense's hatred for the Provos knows no bounds. Could he not join Faulkner and Maudling in some scheme whereby all Provos and Provominded people could be exterminated once and for all at a drop of a hat? Is not an Erne Sense-inspired, Maudling-financed, Faulkner-operated gas chamber, bursting at the seams with thousands of Joe Cahills and Seamus Twoomeys the answer to Erne Sense's problems?

This scheme would have the added advantage of being the most economical one possible. Erne Sense's sense of "justice" to the Provos would, I am sure, endorse cremation in this instance and so save unnecessary burial expenses. If these men and women have no right to justice when alive it is unlikely that Erne Sense will accord them their rights when dead.

His sneering reference (Fermanagh Herald, 31/3/73) to the Provos as "breakaway Republicans" is most contemptible. Allow me to tell Erne Sense a few home truths:

From the start of the present campaign in a house in Caledon five years ago the Provisional Republicans were to the fore, bearing more than their share of the burden. They set up the Caledon squatting incident and squatted with Austin Currie in that operation. They were to the fore in helping to lead, organise and marshal all the great CR marches of the 1968-69 period, including the first ope from Coalisland to Dungannon. Kevin Mallon was chief marshal for the Tyrone, Armagh and Newry marches of this period. Had Erne Sense been in Armagh on 30/11/68 he would have seen that the 10,000 CR demonstrators, bent on going through the barricades, were held back mainly by the men who later led the armed resistance struggle, as the Provos. Had he been at the many squatting incidents up and down the country he would have found that it was usually the men whom he now denounces who arranged and executed the entry to buildings, the transport of furniture, etc., etc. Joe Cahill led a large band of Belfast Republicans on the first CR march from Coalisland to Dungannon; Martin Meehan was arrested twice on 5th October in Derry (even then he had a habit of escaping from custody), while eight members of the present Ard Comhairle (Kevin St.) were on that historic Derry march. The Provos led by Sean Keenan played their full part in the Battle of the Bogside in August '69 when the RUC were hunted from that area.

Let Erne Sense or nobody else ever try to say that the Provos did not try the non-violent method; everyone knows that they were the one group which could be relied on to support a march, a picket or a squat. Their record is there for anyone to examine and I challenge Erne Sense to refute these facts. Everyone in Belfast knows that Billy McKee, almost single-handed, turned away the roving mobs of Unionists, B Specials and RUC, then under Robert Porter, and prevented thousands more homes being burned in August '69. Fr. Padraig Murphy, P.P., personally thanked Billy for his role in saving a church there.

The armed resistance struggle, which became imperative when Faulkner and Clark tightened the screws to ensure that the Callaghan promises would not be fulfilled (see "Ulster" by Sunday Times Insight Team) was organised and carried out by the Provos. I realise that Erne Sense feels embittered when the downfall of Stormont, the destruction of the Unionist system and the division of the Unionist party are all acknowledged by distinguished journalists like Henry Kelly, Tim Pat Coogan, Andrew Boyd, John Whale, Mary Holland and by international figures like Sean McBride to be the result of the Provos' campaign. The White Paper, in spite of serious shortcomings, is vindication of the struggle.

British governments never respond to reasoned

arguments in relation to the fate of the people in her colonies. Instead of dismissing Faulkner and the Unionist government at the beginning of the 'sixties when positive proof was produced to show that he ran a political slum in Northern Ireland, or in October '68 when Derry erupted, or in August '69 when Belfast burned and Derry choked, or on 9th August, '71, when law and order finally broke down and anarchy and outrage swept the Six Counties, the British Government tried to maintain and save Stormont at all costs.

All the gains to date, and they are considerable when one remembers that the Unionist system is irrevocably broken, have had to be fully and dearly paid for by marches, meetings, demonstrations, rent and rates strikes, tortures, internment, imprisonment, hunger strikes, and by death—the supreme sacrifice.

Erne Sense should remember when he is insulting the Provos that he is insulting the 90 young men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice so that the bonds of slavery should be broken and that the people of this and future generations would be free. He is insulting the memory of heroes and heroines like Ann Parker, Belfast, and Colm Murtagh, Newry, who literally died saving the lives of others. He is insulting the thousands who have endured detention, internment, imprisonment and torture so that the system would be broken. Let Erne Sense remember that the men and women in jail today are there on behalf of us all. Consequently, the entire anti-Unionist population is indebted to them; they are paying the price which is being demanded of the anti-Unionist community for promises of fair play and justice. These are hard, incontrovertible facts.

For anyone in the anti-Unionist ranks to sneer at one of these prisoners or their organisation or party, as Erne Sense continually does, is mischievous, treacherous and diabolical in the extreme. How glib and depressing it must be for the political prisoners, especially the Fermanagh men, to read Erne Sense's weekly diatribe. All decent, grateful people must now work until the last political prisoner is released. This is our bounden duty.

Yours etc.,

Aidan Corrigan

4 Orpheus Drive,
Dungannon.

DETENTION BY SPECIAL BRANCH

Sir,

As far as one can ascertain more than 30 Catholics were served with interim custody orders and lodged in Long Kesh during the month of February.

What must be noted with especial concern is that six or more of these men are men who were released by the Tribunal in December or in early January and were re-arrested in February and sent to Long Kesh for detention. Thus, what was not to happen has happened—the executive has taken over and discredited the "judicial" status of the Tribunal.

Whoever the Special Branch want to detain shall be detained. We are back to August, 1971, all sham gone. Government policy seems to be to use the full arsenal of the Special Powers Act (e.g. bailed men detained) until Diplock is put through Parliament and Special Courts can be used to imprison unemployed Catholics for long periods. This costs only four times more than providing them with work.

Yours etc.,

Father Denis Faul

Dungannon.

RELIEF OVER TORTURE CASE ACQUITTAL

While the middle-class doves of the so-called "centre" coo eloquently over the White Paper proposals, the working-classes in the Catholic ghettos continue to bear the brunt of RUC/Army tyranny and callous manipulation of the law.

Three weeks ago, in an attempt to smear the plaintiffs in the infamous torture case concerning three Falls Road men, one of the witnesses, Eddie Duffy, was arrested on a kidnap charge outside the Law Courts. The effect of this, and of the torrent of bombing allegations made against all three at the hearing, ensured the acquittal of the two Special Branch officers charged with brutality.

Other interested parties no doubt heaved sighs of relief at the developments. The British Government are soon to be defendants in the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg in connection with this case. Their Irish counterparts are currently unwilling plaintiffs in the matter anxious, according to rumour, to seek a pretext to withdraw the charges. Both will now be conscience-salved by the recent arrest of a second plaintiff, Gerry Bradley, thereby effectively scuttling the Strasbourg case.

The White Paper might well ensure the prospects of equal rights and opportunity for the middle classes. But the denial of these same fundamentals to the lower orders is convincing proof that Whitelaw's plan is doomed to fail.

LONG KESH CONDITIONS INHUMAN

Sir,

We the prisoners in Long Kesh continue to suffer the most inhuman conditions despite the issue of the White Paper which was supposed to rectify the fault of our society.

Huts contain 30 and sometimes over 40 men who live and sleep in them despite the International Red Cross' warning that over 25 would create a dangerous health hazard.

These huts are completely without any form of ventilation and even have the windows nailed up on the instruction of the camp authorities to prevent them from being opened. Being without ventilation, the air becomes foul and poisonous during the night, and the prisoners must continue to breathe this poison until their doors open in the morning.

Yet the camp authorities continue to criminally insist on adding to the number of men already in these huts regardless of the existing health hazard.

While there is an Inspector of Prisons employed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, he has never been known to inspect the Long Kesh conditions we long-term prisoners are forced to endure. Neither have the camp authorities sent their doctor to examine the conditions which are destroying men, mentally and physically.

Yours etc.,

PÉTER O'Monachain
(P.R.O.)

Long Kesh.

COONIAN and BROOKBORO APPRECIATION

The Committee of above acknowledges the generous donations from Coonian and Brookboro in aid of Internees' Fund.

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New Bill more draconian than Special Powers Act

At a meeting held in the Connolly Hall, Cork, M. Ni Bhaoill, a member of the Executive of the Irish Civil Rights Association, said:

"At the inaugural meeting of the Irish Civil Rights Association, which was held in Dublin on Sunday, 17th December, a resolution was passed condemning the Offences Against the State Act, the Prohibition of Forcible Entry and Occupation Act, the operation of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, 1960, here in the South, and the operation of the Special Powers Act and ancillary legislation in the North of Ireland. The resolution also called for the repeal of all legislation in Ireland, North and South, which conflicts with the norms of natural justice and called for the adherence to the principles contained in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Recently, we have been hearing much about the repeal of one of these offending Acts, i.e. the Special Powers Act. The recommendations of the Diplock Commission are now being implemented in the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, which got its second reading at Westminster on Wednesday of this week. This Bill, which supposedly repeals the Special Powers Act which has been in operation for half a century, is even more draconian than that which it is designed to replace. In reality, therefore, it nullifies the repeal by keeping intact the apparatus of repression. Under the new Bill:

- 1 Powers of arbitrary arrest continue.
- 2 Blanket powers of search are, if anything, increased.
- 3 More intensive powers of interrogation are now permitted.
- 4 The detention, without trial, of hundreds of men and women will continue. The whole world knows that internment now goes on beneath the legal facade of the Special Courts and those detained will not see the new regulations as anything less than internment, if they are not brought before courts and tried before impartial juries.
- 5 Six organisations will be proscribed. Apparently Mr. Whitelaw will only allow handpicked parties to take part in the local and assembly elections, and thus many are disenfranchised. The retention of a list of proscribed organisations is not only unjust, but illogical.
- 6 Highly dubious evidence is acceptable provided some policeman swears that it was signed in his presence by persons who would not appear in court.
- 7 A person brought before the Special Courts can be detained on charges which he cannot refute, since they were not proposed in his presence.
- 8 Although supposed to run for one year only, one cannot help being dismayed by the power conferred by the Bill to extend it without limit, thus leaving the possibility of permanent emergency legislation opened.
- 9 Persons can no longer object on principle to the attitude of the British Army. Under the new act, persons can be imprisoned simply for being non-co-operative.
- 10 There are no guarantees that accused or suspected persons would no longer be abused, ill-treated and tortured, as many of them have been in the past.
- 11 For firearms charges, the onus of proof will be on the accused to prove innocence. This violates the Human Rights Charter which the Irish Civil Rights Association seeks to have fully implemented in Ireland, North and South.
- 12 The power of the Courts to sentence young people aged 14-18 will be extended.

Clearly Mr. Whitelaw and his advisors, including the Diplock Commission, are unwilling to discard many of the provisions of the Special Powers Act. They have merely clothed them in different language. There is no point in fooling ourselves, therefore, that the Special Powers Act is being removed. Many provisions of the new Bill offend against natural justice and it has few positive features. All who believe in civil rights have no option but to oppose it. We cannot but criticise the fact that the British Government regards this Bill as necessary. We are informed that its purpose is to bring an end to violence. We believe that violence springs from injustice and under-privilege and that it can never be cured until these are eradicated from society. Not alone will this Bill not eradicate these conditions from Northern society—it will have the effect of increasing them.

The political history of Ireland is largely the history of the suppression of civil rights and the efforts of the Irish people to regain them.

Many basic civil rights have been denied in order to enforce British rule in Ireland. The denial of a number of civil rights in Ireland today and the threat to others still arises from the same source, the continuing interference of Britain in Irish affairs. British rule in the North of Ireland has been buttressed for over half a century by a succession of penal laws, such as the Special Powers Act; and the implementation of the Diplock Report in new legislation now being enacted at Westminster is for the same purpose.

The Irish Civil Rights Association rejects these policies and proclaims the right of the Irish people to decide these policies by the electoral will of the entire Irish people acting as one community.

The oppressive legislation in the 26 Counties, which I have already mentioned is all directed towards one objective only, i.e. to protect British administration in the north-eastern part of Ireland from legitimate efforts to end British interference in Irish affairs and to restore the independence of our country.

Accordingly, ICRA proclaims it to be a basic fundamental right of the citizens of Ireland to refuse to recognise the partition settlement and to overthrow that settlement, and to establish for the benefit of all our people a system free from proscription of legitimate political activity, from inhuman punishment, from the denial of civil liberty, from unjust judicial systems, from abuse by the police, with family rights, religious freedom, the right to freedom of expression and indeed all basic civil rights guaranteed."

CONRADH NA GAEILGE

RETURNS for the recent collection taken up by Conradh na Gaeilge in Co. Fermanagh will be published in next week's issue.

Branches which have not yet remitted should do so immediately to: Seamus de Faoite, Highfield, Road, Cavan.

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LISNASKEA

The sad but glorious history of Ireland since 1916

by P. J. GRIFFIN
(an Irish exile in London)

THE history of Ireland for centuries has indeed been a sad and complex one. One thing stands out—that is the duplicity of successive British Governments in their policy of divide and conquer. The period from 1916 to the present day is relevant to what is taking place today in the Six Counties and equally to what is happening in the Twenty-six Counties (erroneously styled "the Republic of Ireland").

The Proclamation of 1916 states clearly that we shall defend the Republic against all enemies, foreign and domestic. To that sacred oath of allegiance the men of 1916 subscribed, as did all the successive freedom-fighters who joined the ranks of the IRA with the avowed object of ridding Ireland of British rule—"the never ending source of all our evils", as Tone described it.

The Treaty of 1921 was an imposed Treaty—a take it or leave it affair. Churchill and Lloyd George had backed themselves up with the threat of immediate and terrible war. The terms of the Treaty were by no means consistent with the demands of the Irish people, who in the 1918 General Election overwhelmingly recorded a clear mandate for Sinn Féin, out of which was born the first Dail, the aim and aspiration of which was the establishment of the Republic proclaimed in 1916. This was solemnly cemented by the blood of those who subsequently died fighting the Black and Tans, as well as those who resisted the disestablishment of the Republic in 1922. The bloodshed in 1916, together with the brutal executions, kindled an eternal flame that has fired the souls of young Irishmen to this very day. These young Irishmen have followed in the noble footsteps of the gallant men who pledged their lives to the Republic and resisted the imposed Free State foisted on the Irish people by threat of immediate and terrible war. The oath of allegiance to the Crown, the partitioning of our country and the occupation of our ports completely cut across all that was envisaged as freedom in the 1916 Proclamation. Those who deviated from their original principles and cast aside their solemn oath of allegiance justified themselves in claiming that "accepting the Free State is freedom to achieve freedom"; and they backed up this assertion by the meanest propaganda devices they were capable of. "The will of the people must prevail. What is good enough for Mr. Collins should be good enough for the people," they declared.

PEOPLE TOLD BORDER NOT PERMANENT

The people in the first instance were duly conditioned into believing that the Treaty was far in advance of all other concessions achieved in the past and that the border was not going to be permanent. But the IRA, true to the principles en-

shrined in the 1916 Proclamation, remained faithful to the people of Ireland and fought the sell-out to Britain.

The fact now that the Orangemen of the North are saying that there can be no constitutional change in the Six Counties unless the majority desire it is hypocrisy as the border was carved out so meticulously as to ensure a permanent Unionist majority. If, as was then asserted, the Protestants of the North (who in any case are a national minority) had a right to cede from the majority, then it follows that the Catholics in the Six Counties, in those areas where they predominate, should have the same rights at the Protestants and cede from the area called "Northern Ireland".

BRITAIN NEVER CONQUERED

Britain's imperial involvement in Ireland dates back to "the conquest" or what is CALLED "the conquest". Ireland was never really conquered by Britain. Irishmen in every generation have resisted Britain and asserted their right to freedom before the eyes of the world. Here it might be pertinent to note that those who did challenge the mighty empire did not seek an electoral mandate as such from the people, yet the people backed them. Tone, Emmett, Pearse and Connolly, or Cathal Brugha, did not seek such a mandate. A mandate to rid the oppressor's stranglehold is not necessary and this has been recognised by the Irish people and is recorded in history, in poetry and song, songs that are as much alive in the hearts of the people today as when they were composed.

The spineless Free State politicians in the South in 1973 are, to their utter disgrace, content to take orders from their political masters in London, as their pro-Treaty fathers did in 1922.

FREE STATERS OBEYED LONDON

In 1922 the British Government was subserviently obeyed by the pro-Treaty Free Staters. An army was raised at Beggar's Bush, the 16-pounders from the British military in the Phoenix Park were handed over to the Free State troops to shell the IRA in the Four Courts—to blast soldiers of freedom to pieces. British money was gleefully accepted to fight the Republicans and, the worst tragedy of all, the Six Counties were handed over on a plate to the Unionists and the 35% Republican/Catholic minority left at the mercy of an unscrupulous and evil Unionist Government at Stormont. For fifty years that minority suffered blatant discrimination, repression and, today, internment, Army oppression and pogroms as well. The Lynch and now the Cosgrave Government are doing England's dirty work. The Offences Against the State Act is even more iniquitous than the Six County Special Powers Act!!!

The suppression of Sinn Féin in the South is an attempt to strike a blow at the heart of Republicanism. Mr. Lynch was given orders by Ted Heath to

go to America to stop Americans supplying money to the Provos. Thank God he got his answer from the Irish Americans, who are free from the corruption of Southern Ireland's political intrigues.

RESURGENCE OF REPUBLICANISM

Can we expect a change, a resurgence of Irish Republicanism, now that the Coalition Government has been elected? Well, it would be one of the miracles of the age if Liam Cosgrave, whose father executed 77 Republicans, could possibly be imbued with anything other than Free Statism. It is indeed inconceivable and sad that the Labour Party, traditionally anti-British and anti-capitalist, could join forces with Fine Gael for pure political expediency.

POSTERITY WILL JUDGE

History will record this period as the most tragic period of Ireland's history; a period when the Catholic minority in the North were shamefully thrown to the pack of British imperialist wolves to be torn and mutilated at will, with nobody to protect them save the gallant men of the Provos. May God protect and strengthen their patriotic hearts and hands against the horde of despotic oppressors who are endeavouring to hang on desperately to the last bastion of a discredited though once mighty Empire.

Politicians of all shades in the Six Counties seem lost for a solution of a meaningful dimension, while the honest broker, Willie Whitelaw, tries desperately to present himself as a Saviour, an angel of mercy, the Good Samaritan, in pleading with us to accept a "more magnanimous solution". He has failed hopelessly to learn a lesson from history that no man can arrest the onward march of a nation—be that nation Ireland or any other nation fighting to overthrow foreign domination.

BRITISH PERSONALITY

The British people as a whole are a tolerant and reasonable race and are misled by the false propaganda of the mass media. I wonder do many of them know the truth about Northern Ireland? Do they know that Northern Ireland is maintained by a massive £300m. (minimum) subsidy that comes from the British taxpayer each year? Do they know that their hard-earned money has been continually used to bolster up a discredited junta that shamelessly abused its authority for fifty years?

In the Unionist party are the people who are loathe to lose their cherished and sheltered position of power and who have successfully used sectarianism to delude their unfortunate supporters into believing that a United Ireland would be disastrous for the Protestant working class. The Unionist elite at all times in their utterances inculcate hate and fear in their dastardly scheming to retain domination. The various other parties seem to be inflicted with the diseased notion that British statesmen can find a satisfactory solution. No, in a situation that is manifestly one which only the Irish people themselves can and must solve they must be allowed to do that without British or any other interference.

PLAYING ENGLAND'S TUNE IN THE E.E.C.

