

# REPUBLICAN NEWS

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## ENGLISH GARRISON OUT!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENGLISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IRELAND WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN FOUR CENTRES LAST SUNDAY, 27th JANUARY, WHEN SPEAKERS NOMINATED BY THE C.E.W.I., COUNCIL, CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ENGLISH GARRISON AT MASS RALLIES IN DERRY, TRALEE, BIRMINGHAM AND LONDON.

Over 500 attended the outdoor rally in Tralee on Sunday evening after a march, in very bad weather conditions from the Sports Field. Mrs. M. Daly (Belfast), and Charlie McGlade (Dublin), were among the speakers. Two bus loads of supporters travelled from Cork and one bus load from Limerick for the demonstration. The plight of the young hunger strikers who are being tortured in English jails was uppermost in people's minds and anger at the collaboration policy of the Dublin Government. Calls were made at the meeting for civil resistance to collaboration. Suggestions were made that people should not pay for T.V. licences in the South as a form of protest.

15,000 attended the "Bloody Sunday" commemoration rally in Derry. The speakers included Joe Clarke, 1916 veteran, Maire Drumm, Vice-President Sinn Fein, Neil Fagan, Sean Keenan and Brendan Magill, National Sinn Fein Organiser in England.

Mr. Magill represented the C.E.W.I., Council at the launching of the English Withdrawal Campaign. He called for civil resistance throughout Ireland against collaboration with British policy towards Ireland.

Claire Price, younger sister of the two Price girls sentenced to life imprisonment at the Winchester bomb trial and to the daily torture of forced feeding by the British Home Secretary, received a standing ovation at a meeting in Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, organised by the local Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair.

Twice she started to speak but was stopped by deafening applause. The hall was packed and large numbers who had marched from Small Heath Park, led by the Seamus Steele Children's Band, from Belfast, were unable to gain admittance. It is estimated that over 3,000 marched and less than 1,000 were able to get into the meeting.

"On the 74th day of my sisters' hunger strike in Brixton jail, it is ironic that we are commemorating the deaths of 13 innocent people in Derry two years ago," Claire Price told the audience. She said: "The British Government is sanctioning the torture of my sisters. Every day they are held down by warders and force-fed. I don't think I need to ask for your support. After all they are suffering for you and for Ireland."

"One of the main aims of Irish Republicans has always been the withdrawal of the English garrison from Ireland," declared Seamus MacOscar, a member of the C.E.W.I. Council. "But recently this particular demand has gathered momentum and a Council has been formed in Belfast to organise a campaign throughout Ireland and in other countries in support of the demand. After all as James Wellbeloved, an English M.P. said: 'England has tried every method of solving the Irish problem except just leaving the Irish to it.'

Mr. MacOscar said that the financial strain on Britain of keeping a garrison in Ireland must be enormous. He asked: "Can the English taxpayer really afford the vast sums needed to prop up the puppet statelet in the Six Counties?"

"Leave out the financial aspect and consider the human angle. Does any Englishwoman want her son or husband coming back from Ireland to her in a box? 'We want our sons home,' is a sort of catch phrase in the Six Counties at present. It means that we want all Irish political prisoners released and I just don't mean internees only. But this same phrase could apply equally to the women in England who want their soldiers sons or husbands home alive from Ireland.

"We have been brainwashed on T.V. about the 'success' of Sunningdale," said Mr. MacOscar. "Well, I am from Belfast and I can tell you that we have had four lousy years of horror. We don't want a repeat of the makeshift '21' solution which wasn't a solution at all. We look at our children and pledge ourselves not to let them suffer the agony that we have gone through."

"It is no fun to be on the run. It's no fun for a young Englishman to be shot dead but while callous English politicians force a massive Occupation armed forces presence on Irish soil, men on both sides will die."

"Why do the English refuse to withdraw their troops," asked Mr. MacOscar. "It is the old, old story; the threat of civil war. Many of us will agree with the complaint made by Dr. Paisley that the British army prevented him exercising his constitutional rights or again with Mr. Desmond Boal, a former Unionist M.P. for Shankill, who wants the British troops to leave Ireland."

*"As regards the possibility of a bloodbath in the Six Counties when the British withdraw, I don't think this is on. Ulster people are hard-headed. If we are left alone to sink or swim, we will swim. Do not be under any illusions about that."*

Sean MacEochaidh, Director of the Campaign for the English Withdrawal from Ireland, was the main speaker at the Bloody Sunday Rally organised by Sinn Fein in London. He said that Ireland's agony was England's disgrace.

Over 3,000 marched from Hyde Park, along a route taking in Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Square, Trafalgar Square, Downing Street and the Thames Embankment.

The parade was headed by the National Flag followed by a smart party of men wearing berets who responded to military commands.

A strong force of police, many of whom were on horseback, guarded the entrance to Downing Street. Special Branch men mingled with the spectators; some were even observed among the marchers.

Comments were made that the British Government did not try to stop the march and meeting because too many newsmen and people from other countries were in London and that the authorities tried to maintain a pretence of free speech. It was pointed out that this did not apply in Belfast, where nationally-minded citizens were prevented by British troops and the R.U.C. from parading in a peaceful manner through their own city.

Sean MacEochaidh said that the matter uppermost in most people's minds at present was the plight of the four young Irish idealists who were being tortured daily in English prisons. "Their transfer to Ireland must be our short-term No. 1 priority," he said.

"After that, our demands must be for the English garrison to get out of Ireland, lock, stock and barrel as well as a general unconditional release of all Irish political prisoners, not forgetting those held by the Dublin Government."

He commended the efforts of the Troops Out Movement in London and called for support for their efforts. "We

CAMPAIGN  
OFFICIALLY

LAUNCHED  
IN DERRY

TRALEE

BIRMINGHAM

and LONDON

in Ireland realise that we can not expect people in Britain to demand an English withdrawal if the Irish people at home are not mounting a massive campaign for the same aim," he declared.

"Our speakers at the demonstrations in Tralee, Derry and Birmingham today are making the same demand as I am making . . . Brits out, North and South! Before this year is over, it is my earnest hope that this clear-cut demand will be made in every village and town in Ireland. It is a demand that must be heard. It is a demand that will be heard. It is a demand that will be granted."

# THE WINCHESTER HUNGER STRIKERS

The British Home Office has broken its official silence on the hunger strikers. Lord Colville, Minister of State, Home Office, denied that Dolores Price was dying and said that the hunger strikers are receiving adequate medical attention and that "their health is being maintained by force-feeding."

The Irish Civil Rights Association have rejected Lord Colville's statement and said:-

"The Irish Civil Rights Association rejects absolutely claims by Lord Colville that the Price sisters and the other two hunger strikers "are receiving adequate medical attention" and that "their health is being maintained by force-feeding."

"A clear picture of the brutality of the method used to force-feed the hunger strikers has emerged from several letters written by them and also from accounts given by relatives of the Price sisters who have visited them:-

"The Prisoners are strapped down arms and legs while the operation is being carried out. A greased rubber tube is put into their mouth and pushed down into the stomach; a wooden clamp is placed over the mouth to prevent removal of the tube; a funnel is placed at the end of the tube through which liquid food is then poured."

Relatives are adamant that drugs were administered to the hunger strikers before the first force-feeds were carried out at least.

A doctor consulted by I.C.R.A. has this to say:-

"Forcibly feeding the prisoners in this way is liable to cause perforation of the aoesophagus (gullet) when inserting the tube, which in turn could prove fatal. At best the method being used can only result in physical and psychological damage."

The doctor added:-

"The method at present recommended in hospitals if artificial feeding of the patient is required is naso-gastric tube or intravenous infusion. Force-feeding through the mouth is too hazardous and would not be permitted in any reputable medical centre. It is the method used to dose horses."

Clearly then, the treatment of the hunger strikers is not consistent with Lord Colville's view that adequate medical attention is available and that the health of the prisoners is being maintained.

The hunger strikers are at the mercy of the British Government and the Irish Civil Rights Association will pursue relentlessly its campaign to have the barbarities inflicted upon them exposed and to have their demand for transfer to the North for the duration of the sentences met.

Of Hugh Feeney, I.C.R.A. said:-

Hugh Feeney is now naked in his cell in Gartree Prison, Leicestershire. For some time following his sentence to life imprisonment he had been clothed in a blanket. In a letter written to his widowed mother he has stated that even his towel has been removed, that his gums are bleeding and his weight has

dropped from 10st. 6lbs. to 8st. He did not state whether he is being treated for his heart condition. (He had suffered a heart attack before his arrest).

I.C.R.A.'s investigation in the treatment of the "Winchester Prisoners" has revealed that of all the prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment on November 15th last, Hugh Feeney has been singled out for the greatest degree of abuse by the British Government. He has repeatedly been moved from one prison to another and had spent time in Brixton, Winchester, Liverpool and Wakefield Prisons before being moved to Gartree. His relations are not kept informed of these moves

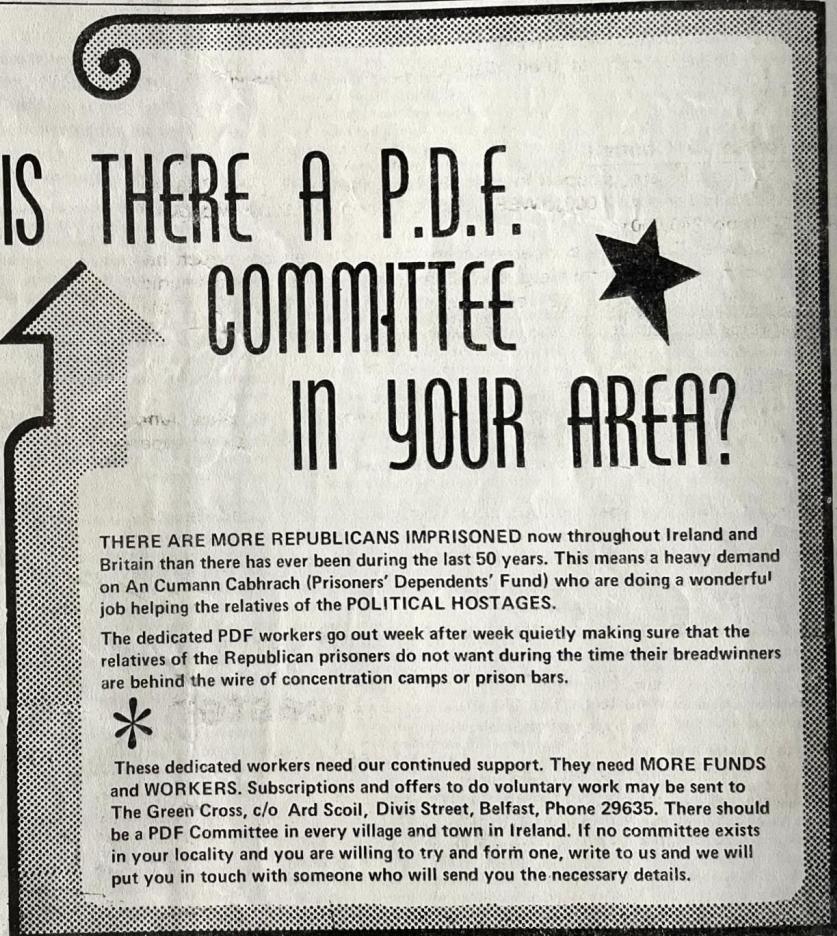
and at times the place of his imprisonment was not known to them.

For a month he was refused permission to write letters for allegedly refusing to conform to prison regulations. Contrary to some press reports neither he nor Gerald Kelly have been allowed any visits and have not been seen by anyone outside the various prisons in which they have been held since they were sentenced. Even the customary visit allowed to relatives immediately after prisoners have been sentenced was withheld and appeals by relatives for even short visits at Xmas have been unavailing.

Hugh Feeney is on hunger and thirst strike and is being forcibly fed.

Earlier in the week the Irish Civil Rights Association sent the following telegram to eleven leaders of Church and State in Ireland and England:-

"Dolores and Marion Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly nearing death. We demand you use the influence of your office to have forcible-feeding stopped and to have the demands of the "Winchester Prisoners" met, thus saving their lives and avoiding widespread violence in Ireland and England which the death of any one of the hunger strikers would bring."



IS THERE A P.D.F.  
COMMITTEE  
IN YOUR AREA?

THERE ARE MORE REPUBLICANS IMPRISONED now throughout Ireland and Britain than there has ever been during the last 50 years. This means a heavy demand on An Cumann Cabhrach (Prisoners' Dependents' Fund) who are doing a wonderful job helping the relatives of the POLITICAL HOSTAGES.

The dedicated PDF workers go out week after week quietly making sure that the relatives of the Republican prisoners do not want during the time their breadwinners are behind the wire of concentration camps or prison bars.

These dedicated workers need our continued support. They need MORE FUNDS and WORKERS. Subscriptions and offers to do voluntary work may be sent to The Green Cross, c/o Ard Scoil, Divis Street, Belfast, Phone 29635. There should be a PDF Committee in every village and town in Ireland. If no committee exists in your locality and you are willing to try and form one, write to us and we will put you in touch with someone who will send you the necessary details.

## CLERICAL HARANGUES

Bishop Daly, in an address in St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford, to mark World Peace Day, said that the transfer of the hunger-strikers, or at least the Price sisters, would not be yielding to "violence" but yielding to humanity.

In a wide ranging address about the situation in Ireland Dr. Daly however

could not refrain from the usual clerical harangues, that has been so common throughout Irish history and he referred to the young hunger strikers as "mis-guided," "culpable," and "youthful idealists misled." The Bishop did say however that society cannot absolve itself from responsibility for the state

of affairs that lead young people to take action.

We hope Dr. Daly considers himself part of that same society and does not too easily absolve himself and the Catholic Church from responsibility for the prolongation of that "state of affairs" which has so consistently denied the Irish people their basic aspirations.

# NEW ULSTER

The New Ulster, built by Loyalists and Republicans, Catholics and Protestants, is a self-governing community of communities. There are four tiers of self-government.

## The Community Council

The Community Council is a voluntary representative body speaking and acting on behalf of local communities of 1,500 - 6,000 people in urban and rural areas. A delegate from each Community Council has a seat on the statutory District Council.

## The District Council

The District is the basic unit of statutory government. It contains a community of 10-70,000 people. Most Districts have a population of 25-45,000, the average per District being 33,000.

The District Council has charge of all public services to individuals and families in the spheres of social welfare, education, labour guidance, trading and employment practices, housing, planning permissions, agriculture and fishing, small-industry development, etc. It controls the District Police and joins with the other District Councils of the Region to maintain a Regional Police Service with specialist functions.

District Councils can, at their discretion, delegate functions to Community Councils.

## The Regional Council

The 52 Districts are grouped in four Regions: BELFAST (pop. 696,000); EAST ULSTER (pop. 513,000); WEST ULSTER (pop. 307,000); and SOUTH ULSTER (pop. 240,000).

The Regional Council is concerned with (1) public services which have a high technological content e.g. hospitals, major roads, telecommunications, third-level education; (2) economic, physical and educational planning.

## The Parliament of Ulster

The Parliament of Ulster legislates for the province: allocates funds annually to the Regional Councils; co-ordinates the regional plans; supervises and co-ordinates the Regional Police Services.

**Note:** Apart from their specific functions, Community, District and Regional Councils, and the Parliament of Ulster, can engage in any legal activity which is not reserved by statute to a higher authority. Foreign Affairs, Defence, and national finance are reserved to the Federal Parliament.

THREE PROFESSORS and two lecturers at University College, Cork, have written to Mr. Cosgrave, asking the Dublin Government to press Britain to permit the prisoners to serve the remainder of their sentence in the north.

The appeal has been sent to Mr. Cosgrave by the Cork-based Association for Human Rights in the North, and signed by Mr. B. M. E. McMahon, Lecturer in Law, the Rev. Brendan E. O'Mahony, Professor of Philosophy, Dr. David P. O'Mahony, Professor of Economics, Mr. Sean O Tuama, Associate Professor of Irish Language and Literature, Mr. Sean O'Connor, Lecturer in Law, and Mr. Criostoir de Baroid, secretary of the Association.

The letter said that "the continuing hunger strike of some of those convicted at Winchester of bombings in Britain is of deep concern to the Association. The anguish that prompts a person to hunger strike, the infringement of the right to bodily integrity which force-feeding involves and the impact which the event is making on the Press not only in England but also in Ireland make the gesture deeply poignant."

## Vigil at Lancaster Prison

In Lancaster on Thursday January 17th about sixty people took part in a torch-lit protest against the force feeding and detention in England of the Winchester prisoners. The protest was organised by Lancaster Women's Centre and was supported by the Troops Out Movement.

Local Republicans and socialists also took part. In pouring rain a short vigil was held outside the Lancaster Prison, the home of so many political prisoners in the past.

It was pointed out by speakers that the Home Office has allowed several prisoners to transfer from the Six Counties to England during the present struggle. However they seem determined to make the Republican prisoners suffer agony and even death by keeping them in England deprived of political status.

# Liam mac \*

## IMPERIALIST COMMUNISTS

My recent remarks on the odd-ball theories of the British and Imperialist Communist Organisation has surely got them going, so much so, that in the issue of their newsheet for 17/11/73, they take a whole page of their four pages to answer me, and even then after all that they intend to carry on into the following issue for the 24/11/73.

We will leave them to it ..... I am more concerned with their influence inside the N.I.L.P. especially in Coleraine and the Woodvale Branch where they get support from such as Billy Boyd and the Rev. Stewart who are really unionist in outlook. When the Young Socialists put forward a resolution at the recent N.I.L.P. conference to fight for the end of internment, these characters combined to get the resolution amended.

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"The Orange Order to-day confirmed the resignation of the former Prime Minister Lord O'Neill of the Maine. A spokesman for the Order said his resignation would be accepted. (Belfast Telegraph

The quote of the week.....

"Does the Government expect Paddy Devlin to retain an ounce of credibility with his own community when he plays the debt collector of the Tory Government." (Bernadette at Westminster



"One of the primitive pastimes in Northern Ireland is to watch the politicians perform on television. It is reminiscent of bear-baiting. Politicians are expected not to just appear on television but to perform. They are not expected, particularly in Northern Ireland to tell the truth as often as possible. After a broadcast they often get together for a drink, alcoholic or otherwise. Their views at these private sessions may not appear so opposed. They may not seem such implacable enemies but are constantly looking over their shoulders at the people who voted them into power." (Alf McCreary, Belfast Telegraph 1/12/73).

"Unity in oil was also reflected in the position taken up at the Arab summit meeting in Algiers. They agreed to accept the Palestinian Liberation Organisation as the only legitimate representative for the Palestinian people." (Irish Times 1/12/73).

I had a good laugh at the ingenuity of the Belfast mother, who when her daughter was arrested by the uniformed thugs, went to Springfield station and claimed that the youngster was a twin and that they should have arrested the other one, as the one arrested was innocent, the stupid thugs weren't getting anywhere with their questioning of the youngster anyway, so they believed the mother's story and the little girl was released to disappear from the clutches of the brainless thugs. To the mother I say, "God love you, for your action in defence of your daughter."

"Do you know that the total Irish Government debt now amounts to well over £1,000 million. This now costs the taxpayer over £100 million every year in interest plus a funding provision which approaches £50 million. These two items together accounts for well over one quarter of the Government's Tax revenue. (City Page Hibernia Magazine 30/11/73).



"The recent meeting of the Unionist Council began with signals of distress. The Union Jacks were all upside down. (Letter in Belfast Telegraph

# the raid

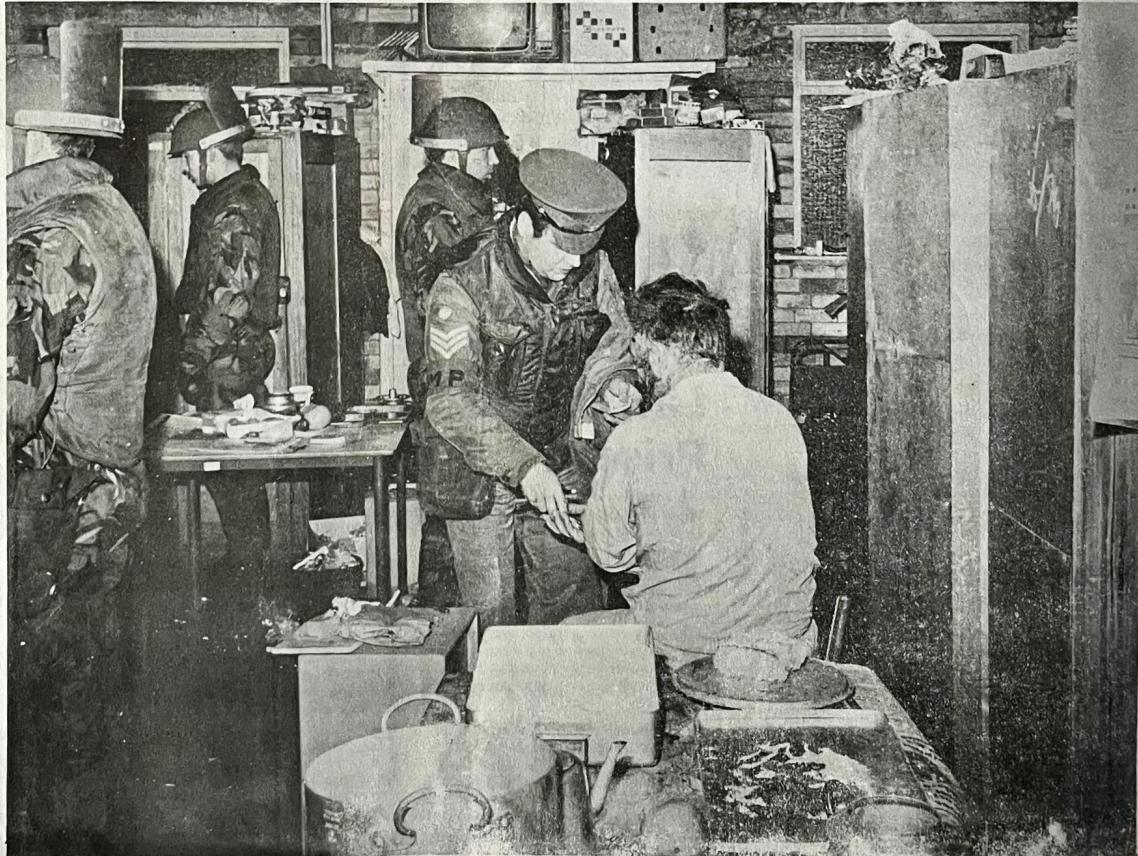
MY WORLD HAD GONE temporarily mad. My friends and I included, were rushing to escape. We were obsessed with the idea of freedom, but all of us were being re-captured immediately. I looked around and saw comrades climb fences; the sweat rolling off them as a savage, uncontrollable urge drove them frantically to attempt any stupid escape. Fortunately, for the sake of my sanity, this murky and frightening world was of my own imagination.

*I was aroused from my troubled sleep when I heard the short, high-pitched shriek of the rusty-hinged Cage gate being opened. I turned over and hugged tight my bed clothes.*

When next I woke it was about 6 a.m., I heard the English voices outside the door, and then it was threw open and in they rushed. Their flak-jackets were unnecessary accoutrements. Their shining batons were like Vienna rolls; their war dogs were snapping Alsations on just too slack leads. The Senior Officer was due to announce any second: "This is a search! Everyone is to stay in their bed. When you are told, you will take with you your knife, fork, spoon and cup and any personal belongins you may wish."

Sure enough, the dictator spoke those very words. How many times had I heard this! What he meant was: "This is a RAID! Don't mess about. Don't smoke. Shut your mouth and don't speak until I tell you. Keep your hands above your blankets. Leave your letters and other personal things where they are. They'll come to no harm."

A lighter clicked. Somebody was smoking. If a pin had fallen it wbuld have deafened us. A young ginger-haired soldier asserted his authority and used his baton . . . .



Childishly he slapped the end of the bed. A feeler. Uncertain of the implications of drawing the Internee's blood. An ugly Military Policeman ordered Billy — who was smoking — out of bed whilst he scrupulously searched his clothing. He picked up Billy's socks and held them pincer-like at arms length — the pig was a chauvinist aspirant — and his English gob excruciated in taste. His probable ghetto blood rolled on. He dropped the socks to the ground in fear of contagion. Exit Billy and entourage of Brits.

The M.P. approached my bed.

"Where's your clothes?" I indicated my locker. "Well fakin' get them. Who do you think I am . . ." (there was very little chance of me telling him, but he answered himself almost immediately) "... bloody Buttons?" His allusion wasn't lost.

Within a few minutes I was taken out, identified by photograph and locked up with the rest of the men in the bare, windowless hut — in the Press, to Mr. Pym's pleasure, euphemistically referred to as "the Canteen."

Some of the eighty men were sitting on the floor; others walked up and down the hut in good spirits and I recognised two, Paddy and Tucker, who were both, not so long ago, engaged in a panic escape in my nightmare world. Now they were laughing at something a million miles removed.

Smoke curdled against the arc roof of the nissen hut. The noise of voices had risen so that if one closed one's eyes and imagined, the gibberish quite readily became the Saturday night local, long since visited.

Shortly after half past six the malcontents ordered us out of the hut in single file. We were spread-eagled against the cages fences. The line of Six Counties men and a Kerry man stretched right round the inside perimeter of the cage. Some of the older men were having difficulty. Those men who were just in a few weeks were apprehensive of the batons that do so much damage. Scores of British soldiers in riot gear relaxed behind us. They patted the batons on the itching palms of their hands.

There is nothing so horrible to an interned Irishman as to have to listen to arrogant English voices laughing behind his back, whilst he inclines — spread-eagled against a wire fence — in an inferior physical position, on a cold and dark January morning. Joy, however, came within the hour.

In this position I watched the fat, yellow, majestic sun, rising through the barbed wire fences of Long Kesh and displaying itself unscathed in contrast to the cowering darkness being ripped apart in the west. When would such an every morning attain, and sustain, day-light in Ireland?

"Hey! Van Winkle!:" A swarthy faced, half-toothed Brit batoned my arms of the fence. They fell en bloc by my side having been stretched for about seventy minutes; my hands were blue with the cold. I realised what had happened. They had started moving us into the hut again. My mind arose from its armchair and ordered my stiff legs to carry me to our vacated hut. I made haste when one of the handlers seized his large-toothed aslant in my direction. He made up for the teeth the Brit hadn't got. I heard the relative safety of the hut door slam bang behind me. Immediately I doubted if I had entered the right hut. But, yes, that was our radio, now in two parts. Clothes were strewn about the floor, beds were upturned, lockers turned inside out, letters and photographs missing. "In Memoriam" cards defaced or



# 65 FREED BUT WHAT OF 600 OTHERS?

A 36 year old Belfast father of seven, one of the 65 internees released in time to rejoin their families for Christmas, appealed for the gates of Long Kesh Internment Camp be thrown open. "In the name of humanity, throw open the gates of Long Kesh. Don't worry about me — I'm out — but look to the more than 600 men and boys still rotting in the British Government's Concentration Camp."

And Mr. Dominic O'Neill of Belfast added: "I owe not a shred of gratitude to anyone for my freedom. I should never have been in Long Kesh, any more than any of the others, at any time."

The happiness of the O'Neill family was overshadowed by the sorrow expressed by Mr. O'Neill, an internee for more than two years, at the plight of hundreds of other families throughout the North who now know that their men-folk — and in several cases women folk held under the Emergency Provisions Act in Armagh Jail — will not be out for Christmas. Mr. O'Neill said: "At the moment, I am thinking particularly of

torn up, and foods were mixed — salt in cakes, sugar over meats. The water in the tea-boiler had a distinct taste of petrol about it. Those harps which had survived a smashing had had their strings sliced in two. But there would be no International Red Cross visit today to see the 'filth and dilapidation' of 'the Internees' Compounds.' In these soldiers animal behaviour predominated.

The remaining food would have to be eaten carefully and slowly. Last year after a 'search' a razor blade had been inserted vertically into a Christmas cake. How merry if one of us had munched it between our gums.

a young mother who is sitting in despair in her home not far from here facing the realisation that her husband is not being set free."

## "For Holding Strong Views"

Mr. O'Neill said: "I was arrested and interned for holding strong Republican opinions. I did not take part in any violence. What the British Government fail to understand is that people who hold strong political views need not necessarily be encouraged to engage in the military campaign. There are many others still in Long Kesh and Armagh Jail who are held because of their beliefs. "It's good to be out — but it isn't so good at the same time because of the others left inside. But I have always been true to my beliefs and will always remain a Republican."

Well, that was another raid over for four of five weeks. The soldiers were pulling out. Where had those seven hours gone, from six this morning till one o'clock this afternoon? I have mislaid minutes or hours in the account of this raid. This disjointed account is typical of the disjointed experience which is imprisonment. Time in prison creeps up and over one. One has no decisions to make. Our will is weakened because there are very few things which we can control. All events occur to the side of us and we are swept way to the bottom of an existence whose control over affairs is negligible. We only experience anxiety and impotence.

Mr. O'Neill visited the Reid family in Leeson Street, just around the corner from his Cullingtree Road home. Mrs. Patricia Reid (29) whose husband was interned in August 1971, released for a short period and then re-arrested said: "We were praying that he would be out for Christmas but now we have to realise that it is not to be."

"the children's hopes were built up. Now they have been dashed. It's hard to live without a husband and father. Mrs. Reid whose children are 11 years; 10 years; 7 years, 5 years and 3 years old added: "We are only one of hundreds of families in the same plight, but that doesn't make it any easier to bear."

## Criticism from Both Sides

The release of only 65 internees — two of them Protestants — under the agreement reached in the Sunningdale talks resulting in the setting up of a power-sharing Assembly Executive, was met with immediate criticism from all sides of the community.

Through the opaque, barred window the sun cast a weak splinter of light which made a buttered glow on the wall next to me.

I hugged my blankets close and heard the final — a short, high-pitched shriek of the rusty-hinged Cage gate being closed. My eyes closed, and I soon slipped into a dream world, where, this time, men escape.

# Long Kesh 74

# EIRE NUA



## a new Ireland

### "AMALGAMATED IRELAND"

The Loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force has revealed that it supports the proposals for an "amalgamated Ireland" made by Mr. Desmond Boal. The outlawed loyalist militants said they were giving the proposals serious consideration and greatly appreciated Mr. Boal's honesty and courage in putting forward the proposals. They give it their support provided that the identity of the Unionist population is preserved and their Protestant liberties are comprehensively guaranteed. This announcement coincides with a declaration of support for the Boal Plan from a spokesman for the Ulster Defence Association. Between them, the U.V.F. and the U.D.A. represent the militant section of the loyalist community in Northern Ireland. In an interview Mr. Desmond Boal, former Unionist M.P. for Shankill, suggested the immediate withdrawal of British troops from the North and the establishment of an Irish Federal Parliament with the same powers as those outlined for it under the Government of Ireland Act 1920.

This realistic and honest proposal for a federal Irish parliament is very close to the political programme of Sinn Fein. It is the most hopeful sign of a real break-through since the struggle in Ireland gained prominence in recent years.

During the apparently indifferent years since Britain by the sheer power of physical and moral violence divided the Irish nation, many politicians on both sides of the Irish channel have faded into oblivion without producing even the bones of a blueprint that could lead towards permanent justice and peace in Ireland.

It seems to be quite obvious that the Sunningdale agreement, whatever it may contain for the personal interests of the respective politicians concerned, is going to have very little impact on the current situation. It will serve only to waste valuable time before eventually either coming to a standstill or contributing towards extending the struggle that has gone on for 800 years.

### PROVISIONAL'S PLAN

For a number of years now Sinn Fein have offered a vision of a social structure in Ireland based on the federal system. It is certain that if the same idea was offered by sources other than the Republican Movement it would have been snatched up by certain elements in the North and South. However, one thing is certain, the federal proposal is so inherently destructive of power-hungry bureaucrats and speculators that the 26 County politicians will fight very shy of the community in whatever part of the country they might be.

The political and economic programme of Sinn Fein which up to now was ignored by the political speculators has far seeing aims. The kernel of the idea is to devolve power into the people. This New Ireland (Eire Nua) would be based on self-governing communities in which the people control their own affairs whatever corner of the country they may be in.

The plan is explained in detail in many booklets and pamphlets issued by Sinn Fein down the years. Wisely Sinn Fein have always said that their proposals for a federal governmental structure were put forward as a realistic basis for discussion and therefore were not to be deemed definite or exclusive of alternative proposals.

### COMMUNITY BASED

Sinn Fein stresses that it is from community level we must build a federal Ireland. Only this will guard and guarantee the essential element of democracy. Community government would be at the base of the hierarchy of government. A local people's assembly or community council would purpose to foster social, economic and cultural development of a specific area. Involvement of people in the decision making process at this level of government would be the key-stone and strength of the new governmental system. A systematic local administration is, in Sinn Fein's view, one of the essential elements of democracy. It would comprehensively guarantee the identity and the interests of all

of the community in whatever part of the country they might be.

### FEDERAL SYSTEM

But the important thing at the present moment of time is the guarantee that is inherent in the Federal plan that all shades of true political ambitions would be realistic and the principles of both Unionist and Nationalist would be safeguarded in the North. Very significantly too, it is a suggestion that comes from Irishmen. Too long have the English been trying to impose their artificial solutions as conceived in the mechanical minds of Westminster.

### SUPPORT FOR TRANSFER OF PRISONERS

Among those who have indicated their support for the repatriation of the prisoners are: well-known anti-apartheid worker Kadar Asmal of Dublin; the Dublin City Commissioners; the County Cork Agricultural Committee; the Dublin and London branches of the Revolutionary Marxist Group and the League for the Reunification of Ireland. Dr. Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise has called for their transfer. Lord Longford has stated that he intends to examine the matter of having the hunger strikers transferred.

The Irish Civil Rights Association picketed the home of the British Ambassador at Sandyford, Co. Dublin last Sunday in support of demands to have Irish prisoners returned to Ireland.

## Silence of Southern Government

The politicians of the Southern Free State, the men who claim to be so interested in peace and the saving of lives showed how meaningless their hypocritical utterances really are by the contemptible silence of the present widespread interest in federalism as a proposal for a just and lasting peace in Ireland. It was deliberately played down all over the place.

For Sunningdale is 'Holy Writ.' To question it is heresy. Those who whisper, are looked on as prime candidates for Portlaoise or Long Kesh. The phoney politicians, North and South, could not allow this radical scheme to be fully discussed by the people.

It is also suggested that Mr. Brian Faulkner's resignation was brought forward in order to manipulate the media and to ensure the minimum of coverage to Mr. Boal's federal suggestion. The establishment in Ireland cannot and will not allow serious matters to be discussed seriously. The men most afraid of Desmond Boal were the Southern Unionists, Conor Cruise O'Brien and Garrett Fitzgerald, and the Northern twins,

Gerry Fitt and Brian Faulkner.

The Southern Prime Minister, Mr. Liam Cosgrave also well understood what Desmond Boal said. But Liam Cosgrave does not want the English to go. He is afraid of the unknown.

However, no Irishman, interested in peace, friendship, tolerance and real unity on this island can reject Desmond Boal's draft proposal. Ruairi O'Briain, the Sinn Fein President spoke for Ireland last week. But others were simply embarrassed into silence. For their bluff was called by an Ulster Protestant militant whose cold eye and unerring logic saw through them long ago. Irish unity of a real nature, where no man loses face and where reality wins over slogans, has been offered by an Ulster Unionist leader. It is a national policy in the best sense of this mis-used word. It is a policy guaranteed to end war in the North and save Irish lives. Sunningdale is on the other hand, as Republican leader, Daithi O'Conaill points out, "a dead letter" which "did not guarantee peace but a continuation of the war."



# READERS WRITE...

145 Hetley Road,  
London, W.12.

Dear Sir,

I would like to point out to you and your readers that the Prisoners Ard Committee, with an address at Lillie Road, Fulham, London, is a front organisation for the so-called Official Republican Movement in England.

Another front group called Clann na hEireann who publish a newspaper called "Ros Cata" operate from the same address at 318 Lillie Road. If any one in London wants to support the Prisoners they can do so by contributing to the collections held by Sinn Fein and An Cumann Cabhrach in that City.

Yours sincerely,

PAT MALONE.

A Chars,

Just to thank you for your co-operation something which I have found to be sadly lacking from most of our colleagues outside.

As you may well imagine, I find it difficult to understand such apparent indifference to such an essential part of Republican activity and I am left with a feeling of frustration at times.

The puzzling feature of it all, is that there is an unending clamour for camp news and views on current affairs, coming in most cases from our own papers. I would not attempt to put a figure on the number of statements which I have known to have left the camp and were never heard of again. This is only to be expected from the naturally hostile national press, who operate their own censorship singly or collectively, with one aim in view.

This is one thing, if you have the time, I would like you to highlight in REPUBLICAN NEWS, I mention the Irish News specifically, because of the number of our people who read it and because its policy is claimed to be broadly representative of the anti-loyalists in the Six Counties.

I would like to give you a run-down on what is going on in here to counter all means of propaganda (for lack of a better word) and to furnish all our Republican media with the material required and how they know best which way to use.

Most important in my view is that, broadly speaking, all statements and letters coming from here should reflect and accentuate the basic principles of Republican socialist doctrine, Sinn Fein Eire Nua, etc., and that there should be no erosion or deviation from the standards and no advocacy of any other policy but the official policy of the Republican Movement.

With this in mind, each of the seven internee's cages has an appointed P.R.O., who will encourage all within his cage to use their talents in this sphere. They will submit all such material to me and my assistants so that we can avoid unnecessary repetition thus saving you a lot of sub-editing.

This will also cut out most, if not all, the embarrassment of seeing unfounded statements in the papers, and most important, that we are not unwittingly being used by organisations such as the extreme left, for the promotion of

their particular creeds. I know that the latter has and is being encouraged.

I am accused of exercising my own censorship, but in reply I can only say that, letters and statements coming out of Long Kesh are rightly or wrongly being taken as representative of Republican views and objectives and this does not accord with the facts.

I can assure you that these regulations will be enforced as long as I am in the position to do so. If at any time you may have doubts about the desirability or authenticity of such articles, I know that you will use the utmost care in publication.

This is only a brief of the general outline of our programme. I would welcome any suggestion your experience and knowledge can offer. In closing, may I say that the response within the camp to this campaign has been most encouraging. The fruits should not take long to reach you. Thanking you again.

DAN TURLEY, P.R.O.,  
Internee's Camp Council,  
Long Kesh Concentration Camp,

## HE HELPED TO WIND THE CLOCK

27 Hillside Road,  
Northampton, Mass. 01060

Dear Sir,

I am very much interested in subscribing to your paper. I was visiting in the Twenty Six Counties this past fall and read the October 20th issue (Vol. 3, No. 7). Since my return to this Country, I have been unable to find a single news story written from the Republican perspective. In fact, most American newspapers have simply stopped reporting the news from the Six Counties.

I have no idea what the price of a year's subscription is, but I am enclosing a check for \$30.00 American money which should get me started on two yearly subscriptions. I would like the first sent to myself:-

William M. Ryan,  
27 Hillside Road,  
Northampton, Mass. 01060  
U.S.A.

and the second to:-

Jeremiah Murphy,  
c/o Boston Globe,  
135 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston, Mass. 02107  
U.S.A.

Mr. Murphy is a South Bostonian who writes a down to earth column for the above paper. He might, I hope, devote some space to occupation of the Six Counties by a foreign army and the pillage that army is wreaking on the people of Ireland.

Incidentally, in the 20th October 1973 issue, The O'Rahilly was described as "a professional soldier who had fought with the Boers against the British in South Africa." I have just finished a biography of The O'Rahilly written by Marcus Bourke and published Anvil Books, Tralee, County Kerry. He was a man of independent wealth who spent the greater part of his life promoting Irish Nationalism and Irish Patriotism. He was active in the Galice League, Sinn Fein and the Irish Volunteers. He was a prolific writer of articles in both Eng-

lish and Irish, an organiser and leader of exceptional ability, and a true martyr. Of all the 1916 leaders, he had the most to lose by taking part in that impossible rebellion. He was rich, happily married, the father of five children, accustomed to life's sophisticated pleasures. He spent Easter Sunday trying to stop the rebellion and went to bed that night convinced that he had been successful. When informed by Desmond Fitzgerald that Pearse and Connolly were prepared to fight regardless of the outcome, O'Rahilly rushed to join them.

As W. B. Yeats said for The O'Rahilly:  
Because I helped to wind the clock  
I come to hear it strike.

When O'Rahilly was shot by British soldiers he lay dying in the street for over twenty three hours. A woman noticed him crying for water and tried to bring him a drink but she was forced back by British guns. His last words were: "Oh, God help you, poor Ireland. He was not however a professional soldier and did not fight in the Boer War.

If it is possible to obtain back issues of the "Republican News," please send me the particulars. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. RYAN.

To The Medical Profession in Ireland.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

A Chars,

Because of the widely-held belief in the integrity and honesty of the medical profession, I feel that no apology should be necessary, for my writing to you, in an effort to draw your attention to the poor and deteriorating health of the Price sisters and their comrades.

Are you aware that a "peculiar" type of torture, i.e. force-feeding, is being used on them, and, much worse still, and perhaps you are not aware of this, that this "treatment" is being administered and supervised, by those who would deem to be your professional colleagues. Thus, one may feel that such activity is capable of undermining the centuries-old tradition, built up by your profession, of a care for humanity, and fearless opposition to such type of activity.

My purpose therefore, in writing, is to call upon you, to voice your condemnation of such activity being carried on, by members of your profession. I feel that you can do this by writing to the B.M.A. and letting your abhorrence of "torture" be known to the authorities.

My humble opinion would be that benefit would accrue to you personally on two fronts. Firstly, you would be upholding the integrity of your profession, and secondly, you would be helping in no small way, to alleviate unnecessary suffering and distress.

Neither of these benefits should be allowed to pass, without acceptance of the opportunity to grasp them.

We remain,  
Yours faithfully,

THE INTERNEES,  
Cage Seven, Long Kesh.

P.S. This letter has been sent by each Internee in Cage Seven to their own doctor.



Dear Sir,

I have written this poem for the soldier of the mid-Ulster and I would be grateful if you would print it. I want these soldiers to remember that not all Free-Staters are 'collaborating quislings' and I ask them to remember Dermot Crowley and Tony Aherne.

*Somewhere in mid-Ulster there's  
a soldier*

*He's lying in a ditch by the road  
He's been there now for five long  
years*

*'Mid rain, 'mid much and cold.*

*Somewhere in the 'Free State'  
there's a quisling*

*He's living in the fat of our land  
He doesn't care about our brave  
young soldier*

*For he's part of the collaborating  
band.*

*Somewhere in our island there's a  
person*

*That person . . . that Irishman is ye  
Do YOU care about our brave  
young hero?*

*Or are you a collaborating quisling  
too?*

'Somewhere in Mid-Ulster' by M.H.

## LETTERS

Should be addressed to the  
Editor, 182 Brompton Park,  
Belfast, let's hear your news,  
views, criticisms . . . or poems!

SEVERAL commentators in the South have misinterpreted Desmond Boal's proposal for a federal Ireland. They have said that it is what Mr. de Valera proposed many years ago. This is not so.

Mr. de Valera proposed the transfer to the Dublin Parliament of Westminster's powers vis-a-vis Northern Ireland. Thus, the Belfast Parliament would have been subordinate to the Dublin Parliament—not a federal arrangement at all.

Mr. Boal is proposing that

Belfast and Dublin parliaments share the sovereignty of Ireland with a federal Irish parliament which would be situated elsewhere than in Dublin or Belfast. Under this federal arrangement, the two state or regional parliaments would have certain powers, and the federal parliament other powers. The regional parliaments would not be subordinate to the federal parliament.

It is worth noting that, under this arrangement, Dublin's constitutional claim to jurisdiction over Northern Ireland would lapse. Jurisdiction over Northern Ireland would be shared by the new Northern parliament and the federal parliament, jointly.

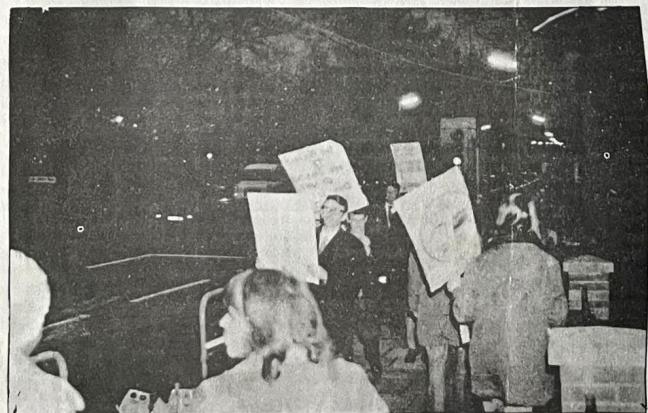
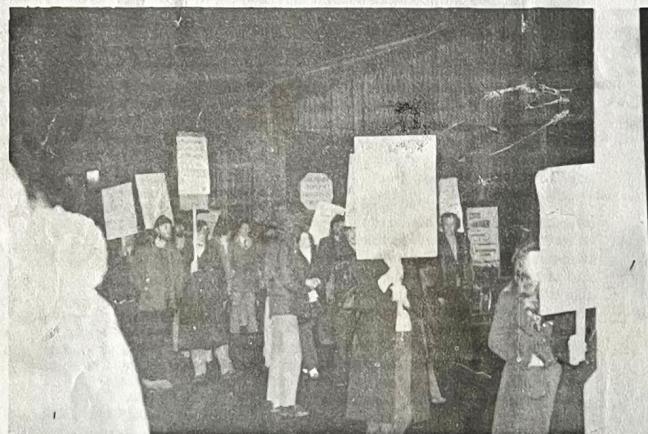
Incidentally, I wonder what, in Mr. Boal's scheme—which I support in principle, not in detail—the 26-County state or region would be called?

DESMOND FENNELL,  
Maoinis,  
Carna,  
Iarchonnacht.

# TORTURE VICTIMS NOT ALONE

These photographs were taken at a recent picket outside Brixton Men's Jail, London, where the Price sisters are held.

The picket was organised by the Political Hostages Release Campaign. At the time, the girls were on their 57th day of hunger strike. (Pics courtesy of Wolfe Tone Sinn Fein Cumann, North London).



## Coming events

### DEMONSTRATION

P.H.R.C. DEMONSTRATION  
NEW LODGE ROAD, BELFAST  
ON SATURDAY, 2nd February, 1974  
at 3.00 p.m.

Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann

### PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY

NEW LODGE, SUNDAY, 3rd February  
at 3.00 p.m.

CAMPAIN FOR ENGLISH WITHDRAWAL  
FROM IRELAND

### March

LURGAN, Sunday, 24th February, 3.00 p.m.

MASS DEMONSTRATION AND MARCH  
at Newry (2.30 p.m.)  
ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Buses from Belfast and other centres.  
Tickets and details: EIRE NUA  
BOOKSHOP, 170 Falls Road, Belfast.  
Tel: Belfast 46841

STATEMENT FROM THE IRISH REPUBLICAN  
MOVEMENT (AUSTRALIA)

"According to newspaper reports the Defence Minister Mr. Barnard has stated 'that he was anxious to have Australian military forces in Britain.'"

"We would like to remind Mr. Barnard that a state of war exists between the British Crown forces and The Irish Republican Army, that all military establishments in the United Kingdom are targets for the liberation forces. Mr. Barnard is risking the lives of Australian soldiers if he agrees to co-operate with the British Crown Forces who are at present engaged in a terror campaign in occupied Ireland."

"We appeal to the Australian people not to allow themselves to be involved in another Vietnam."

"We appeal to the Australian Government to request the British Government to withdraw from occupied Ireland to release all political prisoners and allow the Irish people to determine their own destiny."

Issued by the Irish Republican Movement Australia  
P.O. Box 168 Elsternwick Vic.

With a readership of 60,000, the Republican News is printed weekly by the Belfast Republican Press Centre, 182 Brompton Park, Belfast, Ireland.