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NO COMPROMISE NO COMMISSIONS NO TRIBUNALS

NOW AFTER THREE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT TRIAL OR CHARGES being preferred against them, the men in Long Kesh and women in Armagh Jail have had their status defined. They are to be held as political hostages. For this undoubted boon we acknowledge our debt and gratitude to Messrs. Fitt, Craig, Rees and General King. They have laboured separately and in concert to eradicate the embarrassing stigma of internment from the face of British democracy. Are we to say that they have brought forth a mouse? They have elevated the practice (not always patriotically motivated) of hostage taking, to a seemingly respectable and righteous place in their weaponry.

By DAN TURLEY

POLITICAL HOSTAGE, LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP

Their apologist, Mr. Rees, has put their position and ours in their proper perspective, but as usual is only now admitting the truth of our claims. Claims which we and others have made repeatedly and which successive British Governments have so often denied. Now that we find ourselves in agreement with Mr. Rees on the point of our classification let us examine the possible consequences. We on our side can remember the last time in Ireland when the British Army used this cowardly weapon. The atrocities committed by the Tans and Auxies will not soon be forgotten, nor will General Sir Percival of Singapore fame. We also call to mind the memoranda of Winston Churchill in which he pressed that indiscriminate reprisals should be standard practice of the Security Forces. His only criticism of the Tans was that they were not "sufficiently" ruthless. His criticism would scarcely apply now.

Why is Rees so confident that

he can ride so rough shod over the Irish people? Simply he has placated the extreme loyalists and at the time slapped down the timid men of the SDLP. He has welched on the bargain by which Gerry Fitt and his Ministers got a nice round salary in return for their co-operation; not at all bad even by English standards. How far did our pseudo patriots and social reformers go in their quest for power?

We answer that question as far back to when the Assembly and its Executive were first mooted. Our answer was the correct one then, it still is as you have seen. Not one man or woman interned was released unconditionally by Rees since Fitt and company assumed power. This, in spite of the fact that mass releases had already got under way during the previous Tory Administration in which the SDLP had no place.

The most dramatic action taken by any Minister under the control of the SDLP was the calling off, off the Rent and Rates Strike which has been the most successful anti-internment weapon in the hands of the people.

What memories of the Crowbar Brigades of the last century must have been evoked by the vision of Currie's battalions, in full cry? Lackey Hum speaking in support of Currie's betrayal explained that

there was no need for these measures as we now had new institutions. He then went on a tour of America not to solicit help for the Irish people, but, to help marshal all the forces of the British propaganda machine which was then desperate in its efforts to block the flow of help given so generously by the American people for the alleviation of distress in the North. Distress, occasioned

by the punitive measures taken by his and his Party's security forces.

Gerry Fitt goes over to Strasbourg to plead the case of the hooded men and the internees in general. Hasn't he been an Accessory after the fact? The man who set in motion Kitson's whole apparatus of inquisition, Mr. Faulkner, is now at least according to Gerry an honourable man, a humane man, and a

man who abhors internment and discrimination.

As you can see we have not been fooled, nor will we be. They can dress or disguise their proposals in any way they wish. We will not settle for less than our original demands: "Unconditional release," "Unconditional Withdrawal of foreign troops. No more compromises, no courts, no Commissions, no Tribunals.

MILITARY OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE

"IT MUST BE OBVIOUS to all that the activities of the Irish Republican Army in the Belfast area are geared in but one direction, and that direction is the achievement of the aims and objects of the Republican Movement. While Merlyn Rees withholds his "releases" because of the strategic bombing of down-town Belfast, the hypocrisy of the British Government is once again demonstrated.

"During the past week security in the air was breached effectively, security at sea was breached effectively and the rush-hour traffic in Belfast was brought to a standstill. This was all done while Rees ponders the fate of the men behind the wire. This was all done as was the continuation of the war since August 9th.

1971 while the cages in Long Kesh were full. It is foolish of Rees to assume that the pitiful number of men he has released would influence the direction of a Nation fighting for her Freedom and full emancipation, the internees are there because they believe that this island of ours, the Irish People who dwell there, must be freed from the yoke of the invader. Must be freed from the oppression that has been their lot for eight hundred years, and will be freed.

"The Forces of Oglagh na hEireann have proved conclusively that no matter what is attempted by the so-called security forces it can be breached and breached at will. The supposed statement purporting to emanate from the Brigade Staff about the Europa Hotel was completely false, the object of the exercise was to bring Belfast to a halt and this was accomplished. Rees and his Government can take note here and now that the campaign will continue until the terms of the Leadership of the Republican Movement are met, a declaration of intention to withdraw completely from Ireland, the assertion of the right of the Irish people to negotiate their own destiny and a general amnesty for all political prisoners. The latest White Paper calls for Discussion, there will be no discussion until the last internee is home and Long Kesh is but a memory.

(The above statement was issued by the Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na h-Eireann, and signed by Sean Dunne, P.R.O.J.)

CALLING ALL GLENSMEN AND WOMEN!

Support the Anti-Internment Rally at Cushendall, AUGUST 9th, at 7.30 p.m.

Let "the men behind the Wire" know that the Desire for Freedom is still strong in the Antrim Glens.

the vanishing Irish

ONE of the most curious events in the history of any country occurred in Ireland in the 19th century. This was the virtual disappearance in about two generations of a language which had been spoken throughout the length and breadth of the land for at least fifteen hundred years. Suddenly, it was as though it had no more vitality than a flower without a root.

In the year 1800, more people spoke Irish than spoke Dutch, Portuguese, Swedish, Danish, Finnish and Norwegian. Then it slumped. Four million people still spoke Irish in 1840; but it was down to less than a million by 1870. Yet this phenomenon has been virtually ignored by historians.

Some time ago we asked three historians to name the most notable events in Irish history in the last century. Their lists included the Great Famine, Catholic Emancipation, the Fenians, the Land League. Not one of them mentioned the decline of the language. Yet how can this "death" of a language have happened without causing profound social and psychological effects?

There are people still living who remember the language disappearing from areas we might never have thought were so recently Gaeltachts. Patrick Corrigan talks about such an area near Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan:

"The people who spoke it died off. Their families emigrated to England and America, they had to learn English, they wrote home in English. That was an influence. Then the merchants of Carrickmacross were English-speaking people, they had to know English to deal with them.

The priests were enthusiastic about the language, yet they did not preach a sermon in Irish in Listoole in the parish of Dunmoyney, that I know of. Though I know a priest that loved the language and talked it privately."

Another such area was in Co. Sligo where Joseph Neelan recalled Gaeltacht areas which have since died:

"There was Slieve Rua. All the old people there spoke Irish up until about seventy years ago. I remember the Macaire Rua being a Gaeltacht area, the whole townland of Macaire Rua was like Comemara. In my own time, I remember, every house in Macaire Rua you went into, Irish was the language, though they had English as well. There wasn't much Irish in Sligo itself. It was a garrison town, there were a lot of old shoneens in it. I remember my grandfather hitting one. He put him across the counter for jibing at him for talking Irish. He gave him an awful belt."

The next area we hear about was near Clonmel. Michael Cettim talks about it as it was fifty years ago:

"Oh, it was an Irish-speaking area. Around Newcastle, ten miles out, all the old people spoke Irish. They were grand Irish speakers, as good as you had in Kinn, even better. What happened? They didn't speak it at home. They didn't speak it to their children. The children knew no Irish

from them. Their families didn't even know 'Dia's Muire dhuit'. They couldn't even reply to that. I think they got that in the schools. I would say it was driven into them in the schools to kill the language. It's very difficult to answer why they did it, but they did. They beat them. You see, that was driven into them. They thought it was much beneath them. In the court, in the schools, in the church, in every other place, they heard

nothing but English. So Irish was beneath them. It wasn't class enough, do you see. Of course, if you knew English, you were away with it. In Clonmel if the policemen, the RIC, heard two fellows speaking Irish they'd tell them shut up. So what is the situation in Clonmel now? Not good, not good at all. It was fairly good one time, very good. But I'm afraid it's very blue-looking now, very blue as far as the language is concerned."

And now to County Tyrone in the Six Counties, where Michael McAleer remembers Irish being spoken in the Sperrin Mountains district:

"I would say fifty years ago, 50% of the people of this district were quite fluent in Irish, in fact they were native speakers. Now I am very sorry to say that the numbers of Irish speakers hardly make up 5%. But, actually, those 5% have not got an opportunity to speak it because there is nobody to speak to.

I wouldn't say I spoke Irish growing up, I learnt most of my Irish at school. But I do remember distinctly after Mass on Sunday, it was a very common thing for the older people at the church gates to speak in groups in Irish. They were mostly older people and I found there was a spirit of mockery among the younger people for them, they thought it wasn't the thing to speak Irish. It was a feeling of ashamedness, maybe because their parents were speaking Irish. I'm afraid this self-conscious attitude spread to young people. I'm afraid that self-consciousness or that inferiority complex was instilled into the younger generation."

Why did the language die over the greater part of Ireland? The popular explanations are: the influence of Daniel O'Connell, the Catholic clergy and the National Schools; the effects of the Great Famine; the inability of the language to cope with the requirements of the age. These explanations cannot be accepted uncritically. It is rather as though we explained the Great Famine by saying that it was caused by a shortage of food. Why, for instance, should Daniel O'Connell have turned his face against his native language? And why did the Irish people accept his advice?

Similarly, it is not enough to say that the Catholic clergy turned against Irish without knowing why. And, if we acknowledge that the National Schools killed Irish we ought to remember that these schools were taught and managed by Irishmen, many of them native speakers of Irish themselves. Why were the National Schools accepted in their anti-national form? There was no law obliging people to accept them.

The first serious attempt to have Irish introduced into the national schools was made in 1878, as an extra subject in senior classes, some fifty years after these schools were first established. By then it was too late. If the National Schools were given as the reason for the decline of the language, we ought to ask why they were allowed to achieve this without any objection from the people.

The Great Famine, and the fall in population which followed, are also given as a reason for the drop in the numbers speaking Irish. But again, a comparison with Scots Gaelic shows how superficial this explanation is. The Great Famine struck just as hard at parts of the Gaelic-speaking Highlands as in Ireland. And the population there has fallen just as drastically since then. But, while the Gaelic language has suffered in consequence, the loss has been nothing like the losses suffered by the Irish language. So neither is the Famine the only reason for the decline of Irish.

Finally, there is the notion that somehow Irish was a language which was incapable of being developed for business, trade and the affairs of modern life. This is an unscientific view. Many of the national languages of modern Europe, such as Finnish, Bulgarian, Slovene, Lithuanian, suffered even more than Irish

from neglect as written tongues in the early years of the last century. But they did not decay as a result. On the contrary, all of them developed into modern, national, cultivated languages and there never has been a suggestion of hindrance to trade or commerce.

So, in order to understand what happened to the Irish language, it must be considered from two different aspects: first, from the point of view of aggression by the English authorities and the Ascendancy class; and second, from the point of view of suppression by the Irish people themselves. This second point, and what it involved, are most important for an understanding of what happened.

But first—the aggression. This consisted basically of a certain attitude towards other cultures, which is a recognised characteristic of the colonial Englishman. He refuses to recognise or to tolerate other cultures

readily. This "traditional Anglo-Saxon intolerance", as it has been described by a prominent American scientist, has regularly rejected the cultures which it found in its path. Thus, the English, possibly more than any other colonial power, sought to wipe out the native languages in any country they dominated. They tried to justify this on the grounds that English was a superior language and that it conferred an inestimable boon on those who spoke it. This attitude is revealed by a crude jingle which survived in our National Schools until 1852:

"I thank the fortune and the grace
Which on my birth has smiled,
And made me in these Christian days
A happy English child."

The English were no fools. They long realised the value of language as an implement of political expansion. Thus, the policy of uprooting Irish was aimed at destroying Irishness, Irish being the bulwark of a separate nation. This was expressed thus by the poet Spenser: "The speech being Irish, the heart must needs be Irish". This view was re-echoed by one of the victorious British generals in South Africa after the defeat of the Boers:

"English must be the language in South Africa. It may seem hard to kill, so to speak, a nation by making another language compulsory, but it is a sure way and the best way. Nothing but English should be taught, and then the children would think in English and act as English children."

This attitude dominated English rule in Ireland almost from the start. Just as the Penal Laws refused to recognise the existence of the Irish Papist, so did all civil law virtually outlaw the Irish Papist's language. So much so, that the Reformation repudiated one of its fundamental principles in Ireland. This principle laid it down that in all church services the native language should be used instead of Latin. But, in Ireland, it was decreed that, where the people did not understand English, Latin was to be used in preference to Irish.

So, in Ireland, from the 16th to the 19th centuries, the instruments of Government, the Law Courts, the professions, trade, business, the newspapers, and formal education were all conducted through the medium of English—a language then unknown to the majority of the people. There developed an all-pervading intolerance towards Irish and this produced its own myths or pishogues. It was widely believed that to speak Irish would destroy one's chance of learning to speak English with the fashionable London accent. It was even thought that to write Irish would injure one's handwriting in English.

Thus, as the Penal times drew to a close towards the end of the 18th century, the Irish-speaking majority was confronted not merely with an English-speaking Ascendancy class who held all the power, but with a culture which was positively antagonistic to their own culture and language. This Irish-speaking majority was a small remnant of Catholic leaders and landlords who somehow had managed to hold on to some of their former possessions; the Catholic merchants in the towns; the clergy; and then the ordinary masses of Irish people.

The Catholic leaders and landlords survived because of their ability to act discreetly and to avoid doing anything which might cause offence to the authorities; they used English in all their business and other dealings.

Some of the second group—the Catholic merchants—had become surprisingly wealthy. Like the old Catholic landlords, they too owed their prosperity to their ability to avoid giving offence. They grew rapidly in power and importance from 1760 onwards.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK

Are you not ashamed Mr. Rees?

Our pictures show Mrs. Evelyn Gilroy, (Belfast) and her two children. Collette is 4 years and Denise is 1½ years.

Mrs. Gilroy is interned in Armagh Jail by order of Merlyn Rees, the Welshman who could be working for the freedom and prosperity of Wales, but prefers to work for his English paymasters in oppressing fellow-celts. What does Mrs. Rees think of all this Has she the children of her own?

The Gilroy and the Kennedy children can thank Mr. Rees for taking their mothers from them. The R.U.C. Special Branch men who engineered their internment should not sleep too happy at nights.



STICK IT—YOU ARE WINNING

By Thomas Nelis
our man in Glasgow

The B.B.C. news — I almost said Nausea — service reported that the Brigade H.Q. of the Provisional I.R.A. had been discovered in Belfast. In an attempt to smear the I.R.A., making it appear they were living the sweet life on funds collected from misguided folk, which emphasis was laid on the fact that the purported Brigade H.Q. was in a £30,000 house in a quiet Belfast suburb.

Irish Republicans — and all fair minded people — should note that no mention was made of Ted Heath's £40,000 yacht, or of the £860,000 odds that Sir Alec Douglas-Home got for the sale of (just) one of his estates in the South of Scotland recently. Nobody on British TV attempted to make any comparisons between the value of — what purports to be — the Provo Brigade H.Q. in Belfast and Dennis Healey, the Labour Party cabinet minister's £100,000 house in Hampstead, London. Not one word was uttered about the £400,000 the English Prime Minister Harold Wilson is reputed to have received for the publication of his "Memoirs." All the emphasis was on the Provos — imagine — having a £30,000 house tucked away in the suburbs out of all the strife and danger.

This is what Dr. Josef Goebbels

would have called propaganda. It was only later (in very small print) that the people in Britain were told that the house had been rented at a price so low, you would have been fortunate to rent a bed-sitter in a London slum for an equivalent sum.

It is important that you grasp this principle of propaganda, Irish Republican. It is not in down right lying, that the art of propaganda lies. It is interpretations and emphases placed upon facts in such a way that people are led to believe a lie.

The British media say the security forces found certain plans in the purported I.R.A. Brigade H.Q. these plans, we are called upon to believe,

are so damning that Harold Wilson in horror read them out (a couple of days later, just long enough to concoct them) to an assembled British Parliament and caused them to be published and — it would appear — distributed to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Irish Republicans can be sure that copies have been sent post haste to a certain European country, where the European court of human rights is at present sitting examining the evidence of British brutality against, and repression of, the Irish people in Ireland's northern province of Ulster. The copies of the plans are obviously intended to be used against the representations made by the Irish

people. No doubt it is hoped that the court will be influenced into thinking the Provos are brutal terrorists and merciless killers, like those Japanese who gunned down innocent civilians not so long ago in the middle East.

The European Convention of Human Rights was signed by 15 nations on 4th November, 1950, at the very height of the cold war between the East and West. It was a propaganda weapon at the time, intended to sway public opinion against the Russians who had no intention of allowing any foreign court to dictate what she should do with her subjects. None of those nations who signed the articles intended to be bound by them in any way, except, perhaps, on very minor cases.

To substantiate my statement it would be necessary for me to explain the various articles. It should suffice for Republicans to know that between the years 1953 and 1969, 3,797 applications were made before the court. Out of that, only 52 cases were declared admissible.

Even these figures do not show the ineffectiveness of the judgements made by the European Convention of human rights, for, as Anna Coots and Lawrence Grant point out in their book "Civil Liberty" the courts judgements "can only be enforced by the goodwill of the contrasting nations." When has England and its despotic rulers ever shown any good will on the Irish question?

Why then is the British Government so anxious to get a favourable judgement of their actions? Obviously because they do not like to be placed in the position of the big bad bully boy interfering with the rights of a small weak nation to determine its own affairs. In plain simple language, the English ruling class hate to have the world know that they, as well as south Africa, practise apartheid; they, as well as Chile, imprison political opponents without trial, they, like fascist Spain, slaughter, by vastly superior fire power, all who attempt to resist their rule.

Let us consider the plans themselves. They are purported to be evidence that the Provos intended launching a campaign of scorched earth policies. Is this at all likely? Shall the Provos, who have been fighting to gain Ireland for so long. Turn and destroy

it when victory is in their grasp, when the cracks of indecision are appearing among the ranks of the British ruling class?

Who are the Provos? Are they barbarians from a far off country with no stake in Ireland? Of course not, they are Irishmen and women, with sons and daughters living there. Probably most of them have fathers and mothers, and other near kin living in Belfast, is it likely they would unleash such a savage and senseless campaign? Will the British Government try and tell us that Irishmen feel no family ties, feel no sorrow when a relative or friend suffers in the guerrilla actions taking place in Ulster? These very questions should show the falsity of the charges.

Consider also: Is it likely that the O.C. of an I.R.A. Brigade would leave such important documents, containing such damning evidence, to be picked up by the enemy? Would he not attempt to destroy them, rather than have them fall into British hands?

The British security forces are simply adopting the tactics advocated by Major General Frank Kilsion in his book on guerrilla warfare: "Low Intensity Operations." Kilsion realises that the way to defeat the guerrilla fighter is to alienate him from the people by slanderous charges. Without their support the guerrilla fighter is helpless. He becomes a common gangster, with every person anxious to point him out to the forces of Law and order. With no food or shelter, he falls to a determined and superior enemy.

Irish Republicans; if you believe the so called plans are authentic, you are doing just what the British security officers who concocted them want you to do.

These concoctions should show you how desperate the British Government is to find a solution to the problem of Ireland. As the struggle nears its conclusion militarily, the political struggle becomes more intense. Was it not so after Easter 1916? Did not the British then raise a campaign of lies and slanders against Irish Republicans?

What better way from them to win, than by divide and rule tactics? Ireland is the vanguard in the fight for autonomy among all celts. If she is defeated, the national struggles will become despondent, and be set back another ten or fifteen years. If the fight is won now, our children will not have to take up the struggle we failed in. Irish Republic — and, as a fellow Republican let me urge you — no surrender — stick it — and you shall win.



LUTON BUS
FOR BELFAST
PRESENTED
TO GREEN
CROSS 73
BY LUTON
SINN FEIN
(BEDS.)

Left to Right:
Paddy Sinnott
and Jimmy
Reilly, Chairman
of Sinn Fein,
Luton.

Merlyn Rees and the Political Hostages

ARDOYNE RUMOURS

A STATEMENT has been received from the 3rd Battalion. It reads as follows:-

"During the past fortnight there have been many rumours circulating in Ardoyne in connection with the Irish Republican Army's decision to order certain people to leave. We hope that this statement will clear things up.

"Five people have been ordered out, no more. The reasons for this happened are as follows:

(1) Making statements incriminating other men.

(2) Stealing from the working class people.

This is the true situation. The rumour mongering will have to stop. Anyone found guilty of spreading false rumours in future will be severely dealt with.

The statement was signed by the PRO, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army.

Mr. Malachy Foots, P.R.O. Sinn Fein Ulster Executive commenting on Mr. Rees's announcement that seven internees would not be released due to the IRA bombings, said:-

"Mr. Rees was once again showing his and the British Government's political shortcomings with regards their uses of repressive legislation that Thursday's bombings stopped internees being released is nothing short of a deliberate lie, in his catalogue of feeble attempts to justify the continuation of internment without trial.

"If Mr. Rees really believes the bombings halted releases from Long Kesh, the question must be askedWhy are the UDR and RUC still used when they have been shown as a completely partisan force? Mr. Rees uses the bombings to halt releases, why then does he not use the injustices and brutalities of the UDR, RUC and British Army to halt the British forces of violence?"

"On August 9th '74 we will

have the 3rd Anniversary of Internment, and on this 4th year of internment Mr. Rees must be more aware than anyone that internment has failed to break the will of the nationally minded people or to subdue the activities of the IRA. Mr. Rees in using the maxim of "Violence," should ponder on the bombing attributable to his own SAS before he points the finger of blame solely on the IRA;

"In any case seven releases is not the way to end internment and well Mr. Rees knows it. Sinn Fein demand the complete ending of internment and a general amnesty for all the political hostages now. Mr. Rees using the internees as political pawns in his game of "blackmail," shows clearly to us the complete innocence of the internees. The ending of internment is imminent The ending of British rule is dirtiest when on its last legs"

DUNVILLE PARK RALLY

"On the 9th August 1971 when the armoured cars, the tanks, the guns and the thugs of England came into the streets of Belfast, they came into your homes, wrecked them and broke your hearts. They took away your sons or your husbands. They have also taken away some of your daughters and have even taken away the mothers of young children," said Mrs. Maire Drumm, Vice-President Sinn Fein, who was the principal speaker at the Anti-Internment Rally, organised by Belfast Comhairle Ceantair, held in Dunville Park, last Sunday.

"This has been the history of England in every country they put their dirty, cursed feet on. On that 9th August, many of you women were left lonely in your homes when your menfolk were taken away to Girdwood, Ballykinler or the torture chamber in Palace Barracks, Holywood. The English and their collaborators did not think that three years later large numbers of people would turn out to show their support for the political hostages.

"The English thought with their superior military resources that they could break us in body and in spirit. They will never learn because they will never conquer the Irish. We are stronger today than ever.

"When Harry Taylor & Co., were torturing our men in Palace Barracks making them stand for hours facing walls or subjecting them to noise machine and every fiendist type of torture devised by Kitson, in an effort to extract information from them, our men stood firm and told them nothing.

"Isay to you, stick by the principles of the men of August, and don't be like the traitorous few who are sneaking into British Army posts to give information on our boys and girls.

"We had a spectacle a few years ago when the British Army support by a few mistaken well-meaning people, were instrumental in forming a group called "Women Together For Peace". These were the great women we saw on the Glen Road on Easter Monday a few years ago. You know what happened to them. Now some of have been observed sneaking into British Army posts. Perhaps some of them are the women who have been hiding behind curtains in secret courts swearing away the lives of our boys and girls.

"The English thought on the 9th August the same about the men and women who went out and fought during Easter Week, 1916. How wrong they were! Internment has not crushed us, it has revived us.

"We want our men out of Long Kesh and other jails. We want our girls out of Armagh Jail. We want our boys and girls returned from the English jails. We want our men out of Cosgrave's concentration camps in the Free State but it will not be at the price of honour and freedom. England can hold them as political hostages but I want to make it quite clear that she will not hold the Republican Movement in whatever they decide and they will stay in Long Kesh if necessary.

"We knew in 1969 that internment was inevitable because Brian Faulkner was running back and forward to Downing Street, begging his English paymasters to put our men away. We know that he was the architect of internment. The very name of Brian Faulkner creates a murderous, rotten smell.

"Then we have people like those in the S.D.L.P. People who said: 'we will never talk with the British until the last internee is free'. That was before Gerry Fitt and Paddy Devlin took the big salaries from the English and stabbed the men behind the wire in the back.

"Now with elections on the horizon, the S.D.L.P. politicians are starting to get their names into print talking about the internees. They will try and ride again on the backs of the political hostages to get a place on the Consultative Convention. They used the internees before but we will make sure they do not do it again.

"Whatever action the Republican Leadership decide upon regarding the conference table, I ask you today to pledge your support to them. You can rest assured that their decision will be an honourable one and will not involve a sell-out.

"We will not stand for Oliver Napier and his solutions because his is so different from Gerry Fitt and Paddy Devlin, they are all British agents. They would sell our boys and girls and also our women if they could.

"We are at war with England and we will be at war with England until the last British soldier leaves our shores for ever."

Mr. Malachy Foots and Mrs. Eileen McNeill also spoke

ireland

BY RENE DOOLEY

O Ireland I love thee well,
O Ireland of thee I tell;
Of all thy troubles old and new,
Of grass so green and skies so blue.

Others think of you as ground,
With lives to torture, lives to hound;
To bring you down and interfere
With life! O God — please shed a tear!

O God please help this island be,
A people old and young and free;
Release them from this lasting strife,
Make them united — breathe them of life.

O Emerald Isle, my beautiful land,
I love thee with my heart and hand;
To you I'll render body and soul,
If that's what it takes to make you whole!

O Ireland so proud and old,
This is my story of you, now told.

(The author of this lovely poem is a Canadian who is married to an Irishman).

DAWN ARREST

Harrassment of Sinn Fein members, at a peak in the weeks following Rees' decision to "legalise" (sic) the organisation, has reached new heights. During the week the chairman of the Belfast Comhairle Ceantair, Seamus Loughran, was taken from his home in the early hours and held for four hours in Fort Monagh military post. Many members of Sinn Fein believe that rees' Stromont office dictates when the campaign of harassment should be stopped up. Rees' hate for everything Republican makes his regular appeals for Sinn Fein to engage in more political activity ring hollow.

GARAISTE AN PHOBAIL

Upper Springfield Road
Beal Feirste

SEIRBHIS IOMLAN
GLUAISTEAN



1. -Do glac na fíorú go
pionúar leis an gCraobh.
Óiríú a lán daoine ina
measc an-naora. Is beas
páigíú a bí sa tír sa
mbliain 500.



2. -Dunlaob mainistiríochta
agus scoileanna. Cásad
daoine, píú ó tíortha iasáda,
cun foiláma iontu. Cónaíod
na scoláirí i mbeáin a cós-
aibís pón.



3. -Dunais naomh bñio
clócar in aice chann dara-
cill dara anois. Bí clócar
cailidit eile as naomh íde
-Cill íde, anois- a lumraed.



Above: Section of large crowd at Rally in Dunville Park last Sunday, organised by Sinn Fein, Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair. Below: Mrs. Marie Drumm, Vice-President, Sinn Fein, the principal speaker at the Anti-Internment Rally.

THE RALLY IN PICTURES



Above: Mrs. Eileen McNeill, Press Officer, Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair, telling the crowd what she thinks about Mr. Rees. Seven of Eileen's nephews are political hostages.

Below: End of the marchers leaving the Busy Bee, at Andersonstown. Over 1,000 walked along the three mile route to Dunville Park.



PURSuing THE POLICY OF DETENTE

In pursuing the policy of detente with the Protestant working class, we in the Republican Movement must ask the questions, what do we hope to achieve? What do we seek to establish? Since our objective should be the achievement of working class solidarity through the establishment of a mass movement of the ordinary working class people we must then decide who represents the Protestant working class. Is it the paramilitary forces such as the U.V.F., U.D.A.? Or will these organisations insist that we speak to front-men like Paisley, Craig or West who have no interest in the working class people? Who we talk to is our important point. If it is the 'establishment' politicians then we have nothing to gain. Talks with imperialist agents, based on their self-interests will produce negative results. If it is to be the paramilitary organisations, then we must adopt a realistic approach to such talks.

We must understand the psychology behind the 'policy' of these organisations, a psychology carefully nourished by the establishment politicians who depend on these paramilitary forces for their political survival. It is the firm belief of the average working class Protestant that, because he has been born a Protestant, he is automatically guaranteed and entitled to economic security and certain political privileges. He believes, quite genuinely, that the ordinary working class Catholic, is a threat, not only to his economic security (which is non-existent), or to his political privilege (of being a loyal subject of the Queen of England, unaware and unconcerned, about his very existence), but also to his deeply held religious beliefs (the most personal of all possessions). The reality of that situation is that the Protestant working class is prepared to support a middle class, right wing, pro-imperialist political grouping who have vowed to maintain that system of Protestant ascendancy which removes the psychological threat of economic, political and religious eliminations. As long as the British imperialist political system remains intact, the Protestant working class will continue to support the enforcement of right wing reactionary politics. There can have no surprises therefore at the similarity between the document produced following the paramilitary conference in Belfast, and that recently released by the West Unionists. Both sought a return to pre 1969 conditions. Within the imperialist political system such an objective is not unrealistic.

It is the objective of the Republican Movement to seek an alternative political and economic system which would protect, not only the working class Protestant, but also the working class Catholic, who has been exploited, by 'establishment' politicians and also by reactionary clerical forces who seek to impede the progress of revolutionary politics in preference to the financial and political patronage of the imperialist state. Such an alternative is incorporated within the policy of Eire Nua. Although criticised by imperialist politicians and their neo-colonial agents, not to mention local pseudo-revolutionary groups, the Republican Movement remains the only group to produce

a radical alternative to the British imperialist system in Ireland, and to have that alternative fully documented. The Republican Movement has never claimed that Eire Nua is 'the solution', but rather they have done what no other group has succeeded in doing - they have produced a plan which has appealed, to some degree, to the Protestant community. The problem however has been the interpretation of certain points of policy by Protestant representatives and certain paramilitary groupings, as an opportunity to preserve a qualified Protestant ascendancy within the framework of a county Ulster in a Federated Ireland. This distortion of the Eire Nua policy became known as the 'Boal plan', something which never existed except in the minds of journalists who felt that the concept of a Federated Ireland sounded better coming from an establishment politician like Boal, than from the Republican Movement. Boal realised that within the 32 county socialist Republic which is coming Eire Nua presented the best opportunity to preserve some vestige of Protestant ascendancy - power provided the Protestant paramilitary forces could negotiate for a county Ulster. The U.V.F., were to distort Eire Nua still further by using the concept of Federalism to produce a document for discussion on the subject of a Federated United Kingdom. They felt that 'Federalism would not, as some suppose, lead to the break-up of the British nation. On the contrary it would strengthen the unity of the United Kingdom and, if Eire was to join the U.K., it would maintain the essential unity of the British Isles.' (Combat, May 1974). Not the Federal system envisaged by the Republican in Eire Nua, and both these examples illustrate the necessity for the Republican Movement to re-clarify its interpretation of the Eire Nua policy.

Those who claim to represent the interests of the Protestant working class must now decide their attitude to the policy of detente. They may well consider themselves in a precarious position within their own community. But this position is no more difficult than that faced by the Republican Movement during the summer of 1972, when the sectarian assassination campaign against Catholics was at its height.

Then the pressure from grass roots civil support for a policy of military retaliation was intense. This course of action was avoided because the Republican Movement realised that pro-imperialist interests were attempting to tie down Republican soldiers to a sectarian campaign of attrition. The only winners would have been the British imperialists. Unless there is a firm public commitment to the establishment of working class politics by the Protestant paramilitary forces through the policy of detente, they offer little hope of progress towards a working class understanding of common identity and the common struggle against the forces of British imperialism, after promising so much.

(Vindicator)

"Are You A Deserter?"

ON RETURNING from holiday last week, I came across your edition of the REPUBLICAN NEWS dated, Saturday, 13th July, regarding the above.

I would like to congratulate you on bringing to the front something which I am sure has been on every sincere and right-thinking Republican's mind for quite a while. It is a sobering thought, when one frequents the Social Clubs, Pubs, etc., to see so-called staunch Republicans demonstrating their professed loyalty to the Republican Movement.

One wonders, whilst there is so much constructive work to be done in all branches of the Republican Movement, where all these people vanish to, and where their allegiance really lies.

Yours sincerely,

BALLYMACARRETT SUPPORTER

STATEMENT FROM NEWRY ANTI-INTERMENT COMMITTEE

On the 9th of August 1974, internment will have been with us three years. No one can pretend to be unaware of the suffering that this denial of human rights has entailed for the internees themselves and also for their families. This August 9th, Newry Anti-Internment Committee has made a special effort to highlight the crime of internment. All political organisations in the town with a record of genuine opposition to internment have been invited to participate in a march and meeting on the night of August 9th.

All G.A.A. Clubs, Sporting Bodies, Trade Unions and Cultural Organisations have been invited to participate in the protest march so that as wide an opportunity as possible be given to everyone in the town to show their rejection of internment and the type of society that internment stems from.

The Anti-Internment Committee feels that it must acknowledge the wholehearted and unstinting support which Sinn Féin has given. As a consequence the march will be jointly organised by the Anti-Internment Committee and Sinn Féin. Plans are well advanced to have the petition against internment circulated. The petition states that we are totally opposed to internment, that we will work for the ending of internment and that we declare that the ending of internment is not negotiable and is separate from independent of any political manoeuvres that may take place in the future. As stated this petition will be mounted on wooden stands and displayed in Hill St. When mounted the displayed petition should stretch one hundred yards along Hill St. An opportunity will be given to everyone to sign the petition next week.

During the year Newry Anti-Internment Committee has been without doubt the most active Anti-Internment Committee in the country. Since August 9th last year when we organised a massive march in the town the Committee has organised four marches against internment, demanding the repatriation of the Hunger Strikers in English Prisons, calling for the withdrawal of the British Army and demanding the release of all Political Prisoners. We also sponsored two delegate conferences on the theme of internment and at a time when unity among anti-Unionists is as illusive as ever it is well to recall that these conferences were addressed by distinguished speakers from Ireland and abroad saw representatives from Sinn Féin, Six Co. Republican Clubs, S.D.L.P., Revolutionary Marxists, C.P. of Ireland (M.L.) Nationalist Party as well as representatives from many local resistance committees throughout the Six Counties. Within the last two months the Committee's main work has been to combat the Executive's repressive measures to break the Rent & Rates Stride. Our main efforts were geared to building up a rent and rates strike fighting fund and to this end we organised a concert, a cello and a sponsored walk. (Perhaps the first sponsored walk for a political purpose in Ireland)

With this record of consistent work against internment and in support of the Rent & Rates strike behind us, Newry Anti-Internment Committee has no hesitancy in taking on the organising of this years united protests and calls on all citizens of Newry to support our Demonstrations.

Cyril Toman (Chairman)
22 Glen Hill Park,
Newry.
Tel. Newry 3735.

NO PEACE WITHOUT COMPLETE FREEDOM

Patrick Pearse

We owe to our country all fealty, and she asks always for our service; and there are times when she asks of us not ordinary but some supreme sacrifice. There are in every generation those who shrink from the ultimate sacrifice but there are in every generation those who make it with joy and laughter, and these are the salt of our generations; heroes who stand midway between God and Men.

Partisanship is in large part a memory of heroic dead men and a striving to accomplish some task left unfinished by them. Had they not gone before, made their attempts, suffered the sorrow of their failures, we should long ago have lost the tradition of faith and service, having no memory in the heart, nor any unaccomplished dream.

The generation that is now growing old in Ireland had almost forgotten our heroes. We had learned the great art of parlaying with our enemy and of achieving nationhood by even negotiation. The heroes had trodden hard and bloody ways we should tread soft and flowery ways. The heroes had given up all things, we had learned a way of gaining all things - and a good living and the friendship of our foe. But the soil of Ireland, yes the very stones of our cities have cried out against our infidelity that would barter an old tradition of nationhood even for a thing so precious as PEACE.

This the heroes have done for us? for their spirits dwell in the places where they lived and the hills of Ireland must be rent and the cities levelled to the ground, and all her children driven out upon the seas of the world, and his before those voices are silenced that bid us be faithful still and make no PEACE with England until IRELAND IS OURS.

TO THE IRISH DEAD

By Harry Cunningham

The dead of Ireland sleep beneath the sod;
Their resting place a temple in the ground.
Will Ireland smirk and think! 'such zeal was odd'?
Such love for country now is seldom found.

Let clouds above them drop their rain like tears.
The winds in moanlike Celtic dirges wail;
For Irelands knights are lying in their biers.
Remembrance of them on your minds should sail.

They gave their lives to help make Ireland Free,
And did not shun the task they were assigned
Lift starry plough and tri-colour in the lee
Their sacrifice was made for their own kind.

Their task - their strife" for Ireland now is stilled;
No more shall fears disturb, or zeal condemn.
And When the end they sought for is fulfilled
Upon that day - Ireland remember them.

Return these Schoolboys to their Families

The following letter was sent recently to the Governor of Belfast Jail by the Internees Release Association, Germany:

"We are alarmed by the news that two 15 year old schoolboys are interned in your jail.

Their arrest on the strength on the Detention of Terrorists Act 1972 is a scandalous offence against the second article of the Declaration of Human Rights, which was signed on behalf of the United Kingdom.

These two schoolboys are locked in their cells for 23 hours a day only in their underwear, to demonstrate their political status.

It is unintelligible to arrest such school boys and it is scandalous considering the knowledge of modern science. It is well known that these inhuman conditions must damage their health.

We call upon the English Authorities to release these young boys immediately. Pending their release, we will do our utmost to inform the public about their plight in the press and on radio.

It is our sincere hope that these school-boys will be returned soon to their families.

Signed: Wolfram Schindelhutte, Claudia Benkhoff, Sebastian Schiefer.

REMEMBER THE POLITICAL HOSTAGES

Support the Rent and Rates Strike!

Acknowledgement



VOL. MICHAEL GAUGHAN

THE parents, brothers and sisters of the late Vol. Michael Gaughan wish to thank most sincerely all who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement.

We wish to extend a special word of thanks to Rev. Michael Connolly, who was to us a tower of strength, helping us to carry our cross with patience and forbearance; to the piper, Larry O'Dowd, who accompanied the funeral, playing laments, from the beginning of its journey in Newport, Isle of Wight, to Michael's final resting place in Ballina; to the members of Sinn Féin in England who also accompanied the remains on the entire journey and who provided a Guard of Honour in Newport and London; to the nuns, members of the Irish community in Newport and the unknown priest who paid tribute as the funeral passed through the town; to Father Hackett, who received the remains in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Kilburn, and officiated at Requiem Mass; to the many thousands who attended the funeral and Mass in London; to the Jamaicans and members of the R.M.G. who marched in the cortege.

We also thank especially Sean Fitzpatrick and the National Graves Association, who made the funeral arrangements; Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Máire Uí Dhroma and all who met the remains at Dublin Airport; the young men who provided a Guard of Honour in Dublin and Ballina; to the members of the Franciscan Community, who received the remains in the Church of Adam and Eve, Dublin; to the large numbers who paid their respects in Dublin, along the route from Dublin to Ballina and in Ballina itself; to all who demonstrated their sympathy by displaying black flags and tricolours; to Father Keane, who received the remains in Ballina and offered Mass; to an 14th. Platoon of Dúill, who led the prayers at the graveside; to Dáithí Ó Connell, who spoke so touchingly for Michael's ideals and sacrifice; to the Fianna Éireann buglers who played the Last Post and Reveille.

Finally, we wish to thank the G.H.Q. and members of Óglaigh na hÉireann, the Command Staff of Óglaigh na hÉireann in England; Sinn Féin, Cumann na mBan; Cumann na gCailíní; Fianna Éireann; the Clann na nGael Republican Scouts; the Republican Movement in Australia; Irish Northern Aid in the U.S.A.; the building workers in Kent, who took up a collection and sent us the proceeds; and the prisoners in Parkhurst Prison, who collected and sent us £46 from their prison earnings.

As it would not be possible to send individual replies to the thousands who sent Mass cards, letters, telegrams of sympathy, wreaths and flowers, we trust that this acknowledgement will be accepted by all in grateful appreciation.

SINN FEIN

BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR

ANTI INTERNMENT FORTNIGHT

SUNDAY, 4th AUGUST: Sponsored walk from Divis Flats at 2.30 p.m. to Upper Andersonstown. Refreshments at end of walk

TUESDAY, 6th AUGUST: Rally at Flax Street Fields, Ardoyne, at 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 9th AUGUST:

Third Anniversary March from Busy Bee, Andersonstown to rally in Dunville Park at 8 p.m. March leaves Busy Bee at 7.15 p.m. with other assembly points at Whiterock and Beechmount.

In conjunction with above, all Cumainn will organise the now traditional Bin-lid banging and whistle blowing at 4 pm on 9th August. This will be preceded in most areas with bonfires and vigils. Anti-Internment posters now available from Sinn Féin members 10p.

THERE IS NO MISTAKING THIS WOMAN'S SUPPORT FOR THE 'MEN BEHIND THE WIRE.' SHE IS CARRYING A HANDBAG MADE IN ONE OF THE PRISONS OR CONCENTRATION CAMPS.



NORTH ARMAGH COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR SINN FEIN

Anti- Internment March
& Rally In Lurgan

ON AUGUST 9th, FROM KILWILKE TO FRANCIS STREET
(All organisations invited to attend)

ASSEMBLE LEVIN ROAD 7.30 p.m.
(Further details later)

MAKE IT PAY
ADVERTISE IN THE REPUBLICAN NEWS!!!

SINN FEIN RAFFLE

Cumann Feargal O Hannluain, Monaghan, wish to thank all those who contributed to Our Raffle and we now announce the winners:

1. Ticket Number 2010 from Monaghan
2. Ticket number, 722 from Monaghan
3. Ticket number 18882 from Donegal
4. Ticket number 1370 from New York, USA

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are now available from Green Cross, C/o Ard Scoil, Divis Street, Belfast. PRICE : £1.25

The 26" Colour TV receiver recently balloted by the Green Cross, was won by Mr. Gaylor, Stratheden Street.

New anti-internment
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PEN PALS
WANTED

CHARLES LIBBY, 2302 Frankfort Street, Richland, Washington, 99352 USA, would like pen pals in Ireland who are interested in Irish Freedom Cause.

He would like to hear especially from the brave girls in Armagh Jail.

ANNIVERSARY

LIEUT. JACKIE McILHONE

Lieut. Jackie McIlhone, 3rd Batt., Óglaigh na h-Eireann, died as the result of an explosion on 28th May, 1972. If he had lived, he would have been celebrating his 20th birthday on 8th Aug.

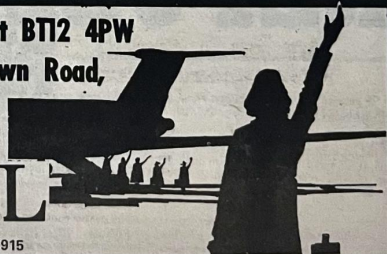
This little notice is inserted at the request of some of his comrades.

Ar dheas De go rabh a anam.

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78 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 4PW
and 117 Andersonstown Road,
Belfast 11



Threatened To Blow His Head Off

Statement by Mrs. Donnelly, 57 Plevna Street, Belfast, concerning the arrest and harassment of her son, Paul, AGED 13 YEARS, who is a pupil of St. Peter's Secondary School, Whiterock Road, Belfast.

At 12.45 a.m. on New Year's morning I heard the front door being thumped. We were in bed at the time. I called "who is there." The reply was "Army." I opened the door, the soldier asked me to get him up. Paul had already wakened and came down stairs with me. The soldier had already seen him standing beside me, but still asked me to get up, he seemed to be under the impression that Paul was still in bed. When I told him that this was Paul standing beside me he looked surprised. I said "Yes this is Paul" if you are going to take him I'm going with him."

We got dressed, the soldier waited outside, then we walked down the street towards the Saracen. When we got into the Saracen there was another young boy, Patrick McAreavey with his sister. We were driven through the Technical College grounds into King Street towards Millfield around Brown Square down Townsend Street into Coates Street to the Army Post. We got out of the Saracen into a hallway, a plain-clothes man with an English accent asked who I was. I said I was Paul's mother. He said Paul was going to be questioned for about 1 hour and I would not be allowed to stay there. He said he would try to arrange for us to wait at Hastings Street R.U.C. He went down to Hastings Street R.U.C. We were kept waiting outside for ten minutes. A policeman came to the door and said as there were no lady policemen on duty they could not let us wait there. I asked why not and the Englishman said "Oh we could be accused of rape." I said "you must be joking, a woman of my age." He did not answer but assured me they would only be one hour.

We went over to Divis Flats and waited at Patrick McAreavey's sister's flat. By 2.30 a.m. there was no sign of them so we walked back over.

The soldier at the corrugated iron at Hastings Street advised me to go home again as they would probably be another couple of hours. He also said there was nothing to worry about as they were sitting reading comics. I decided to go home again as my daughter was out for the evening and would be returning home late.

By four a.m. he hadn't arrived home so I looked for warm clothes for him and at 4.30 a.m. we left again for Hastings Street. About 4.55 a.m. just as I was going out Patrick McAreavey's brother arrived with the two boys Paul and Patrick.

They were both exhausted. After the others left I asked Paul what had happened.

ed. He said he had been questioned, was thumped around the stomach, then a gun was put to his head and a threat was made to blow his head off. They told him other boys had made statements concerning bullets which were thrown away. They told him he would be lifted every day between now and three weeks, then he would go to St. Patrick's training school. On releasing him they threatened to put him into a mini car and take him over to Sandy Row. They said they had changed their mind and released him. They had to walk home but met Patrick's brother outside. He took them home.

On 1st January at 11.15 p.m. I was coming home and found the army outside, a Saracen and jeep. A soldier was banging at my door. I asked what they wanted. He said they had come for Paul. I told him he was not at home. I had already decided that Paul was not going to sleep at home as a result of the threats that he would be arrested every day. He asked me if I knew where he was and I said I did but he was not going to know. He asked me again, I still said "No." I said "you can arrest me, my son is in bed where he should be." By this time I got upset. The soldier told me to calm down. I was very tired after being up all night. I told them if they wanted to talk to Paul to come at a decent time. The soldier did not answer.

At 1 p.m. January, 2nd 1974, the soldiers arrived back in the street. I had to go to work. My sister ran down the street. She explained as I was at work, if Paul was to be arrested she would go with him. They were taken to Hastings Street again. She asked them what was happening as he was just a young boy and his mother had been through all this before with her other son who is interned. (Francis aged 21 years, arrested 9th November, 1973).

They assured my sister he would just be one hour. At 3 p.m. he hadn't arrived home and I went over to Hastings Street. Paul was coming out. I told the soldiers they would never take Paul to Hastings Street again. I do not intend sending Paul to school and I want the strongest representations to have this behaviour by the army stopped.

SUPPORT FOR BIG LURGAN RALLY

North Armagh Cornhairle Ceann-tair, Sinn Fein, at a recent meeting issued the following statement: "We call on the people of Lurgan and districts to support the Anti-Internment March and Rally in Lurgan, on August 9th, the Third Anniversary of Internment. The march will leave Levine Road (Kilwillek) at 7.30 p.m. and will terminate at Francis Street with a Rally which will be addressed by prominent speakers."

WHAT NOW BRITAIN?

August the 8th will complete the third year of internment. And the British must know by now that they have failed in their aim's to defeat the I.R.A. By this method.

The men and boys in Long Kesh concentration camp Have been put here without charge or trial. We have lost our Freedom at the whim of the British Army and Special Branch.

The British Government have also tried by the foulst means to break the will of the minority population in this province. They have used the murder gangs of the S.A.'s. and more recently the U.F.F. to bomb and shoot innocent people.

It was their hope that by putting fear into the ordinary people they would reduce support for the men and women who are actively involved in our struggle for freedom.

How wrong they are! The Irish are strong and will not be intimidated.

It is worth noting that in Kenya and other places throughout the world the British were at their dirtiest just before they pulled out.

Now that the U.F.F. has been exposed by I.R.A. intelligence They will have to invent something else.

WHAT NOW BRITAIN?

13. Mise-Le. Meas P.R.O. Cage 3. Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

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Na Fianna Eireann

FIANNA EIREANN ARD FHEIS

The Fianna Eireann Ard Fheis will take place on the 14th and 15th September. All sluaigh's should have received notification of this as well as the resolution and nomination forms.

If however, there are any sluaigh's which have not been notified of the Ard Fheis they should make immediate contact with GHQ at 64, Blarney Street, Cork. Sluagh, Battalion and Brigade

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING?

"We strongly condemn the arrest and internment within the last few days of three Lurgan men, two of them brothers."

This brings the number of Lurgan men interned to eight. One has been interned since December 1971 and seven within the last two months, one of whom has been interned the second time since 1971.

All we can say to Mr. Rees about his policy of phasing out internment is "Who do you think you are kidding Mr. Hitler." Signed by the PRO, Thomas Harte Cumann, Lurgan.

CREDIT UNION

What Rate Of Dividend Is Paid By Credit Unions To The Shareholders?

There is no guaranteed rate of dividend. If members borrowed freely, and expenses were not exceptionally high, then there should be money left to pay a dividend. The average experience in other countries, where credit unions have been operating successfully for many years, is that dividends vary from about 2 1/2% to 5%.

Do Credit Union Members Pay Income Tax On Dividends?

Yes. Dividends received from credit unions should be reported as income earned from interest.

Do Credit Unions Require Outside Financial Support?

No. There is no necessary expense or financial burden on any employer whose employees organise a credit union. Many employers find them so beneficial in maintaining employee morale and efficiency that they are glad to provide adequate space on the premises to serve as a credit union office. As an effective means of stimulating regular savings, more and more employers are authorising the use of payroll savings deductions. Experience has shown that this helps greatly to streamline operations, and results in a greater number of employee-members becoming savers. Employers have frequently testified that active credit union members are more reliable, co-operative and efficient employees.

What Happens If There Is No Loan Demand?

This rarely happens; but if a credit union has more money than it needs for loans, it should primarily think of the needs of other credit unions who may be in temporary need of funds. Interlending between credit unions can be facilitated by contacting the League Managing Director who knows which credit unions are short of lending capital.

MANAGEMENT

Where Should The Office Of A Credit Union Be Located?

At some central place convenient to the community.

Who Runs The Credit Union?

The members, who exercise their control through the annual meeting. At the annual meeting they choose the members who are to do the work. Names of some members are nominated—and you are free to vote for anyone who is nominated. If you don't like the persons nominated by other members, you can nominate someone you think would do a good job. So the voting takes place (each member having one vote), and the persons with the most votes are elected.

How Many People Are Elected?

- a) A Board of Directors (not fewer than five).
- b) A Credit Committee (not fewer than three).
- c) A Supervisory Committee (three members).

What Else Takes Place At The Annual Meeting?

Reports are read, dividends declared, and any other business as may arise transacted.

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