

REPUBLICAN NEWS

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REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

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BILL

(THIS ARTICLE is written by a member of Sinn Fein in Dublin. While these are his own personal views and do not commit the Republican Movement, all good Irishmen and women should give them serious thought. — Editor).



Republicans should throw in their weight where they can, to see that the Robinson Contraception Bill does not become law. They should do so for two reasons.

On its merits the Bill should be rejected. As well as that, there are special reasons why Republicans more than others should fight it.

The thesis of Wolfe Tone that the British connection is the principal source of all our ills is as true today as it was two centuries ago and it is as true of our morality as it is of our economy. It is only when the British connection has been finally smashed that we can hope to foster and safeguard our moral and cultural heritage and develop our economy effectively. There will be little point in Irish freedom and unity if we have proved ourselves more British than the British before we win it.

It is essential to the Free State parties if they and their British masters are to defeat the Provisionals that people in the 26 counties, especially the young, are provided with a surfeit of drink, drugs, fags and sex.

The politicians won't put it in these words but instinctively they know the conscience of the nation can only be deadened in our present circumstances if it is perverted and degraded by a diet of bread and circuses, by the excesses of drugs, drink and sexuality.

It will suit British political strategy if the Free Staters succeed in weakening the fibre of the Irish people. It will also suit the British contraceptive industry if they can help to create and supply an Irish market for their easily produced and highly profitable products.

At present, Leinster House, R.T.E., and many commercial Irish newspapers are virtually run by British interests and are completely subservient. This is the ideal time, in their view, to remove all restraints upon high pressure techniques in advertising, advocacy and sales of contraceptives.

The Irish people never asked for contraceptives and have never been consulted about them in an election or referendum. The British contraceptive lobby in Dublin is convinced that given a good send off now by Leinster House it won't matter in a few years whether the people are consulted or not.

It should be noted by all Republicans that in personnel, financing and G.H.Q. the British contraceptive lobby are most intimately related with the Irish Humanist Ass., The Language Freedom Movement, "Women's Choice,"

the teenager's "Nikki," "Sunday World" and indeed with everything "liberal" in Dublin.

If there is anything to be discussed in the way of a Constitution for a 32 County Ireland, the time to do so is not now but after the British have got out and Irishmen are talking exclusively to each other about the matter.

The present British Conservative Government and the previous Labour one, have done much to destroy the virtue of purity in their own people and to undermine the dignity of women and the happiness of married life. *It is outrageous that such a government should attempt to legislate on anything whatever for the Irish people and be assisted by the Leinster House parties in so doing.*



Apart from helping to safeguard today the values of the Irish people, Sinn Fein has something to gain politically from opposing the Bill either as a Movement or through individual members. We in Sinn Fein know it is the only Nationalist party or movement in Ireland today which stands sincerely for those things that are still close to the hearts of the majority of Irishmen (no matter who they may vote for), the unity and freedom of our country and its development, culturally and spiritually, as a place for Irishmen to live in.

We know that the British-oriented parties control the media and that most Irishmen vote for their enemies. The Robinson Bill is an unmistakable issue. The Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour, Official S.F., and S.D.L.P. parties have all publicly and strongly supported the lobby to legalise the advertising, advocacy and sale of every sort of contraceptive. Only the Provisionals have not; only the Provisionals stand where the Irish people do.

The eyes of many Irishmen and Irishwomen can be opened on this issue; many of our people can be shocked into seeing who their friends might really be in economics and politics as a whole. This opportunity should not be lost. Whatever the Republican Movement can do there is no reason why individual Republicans should not be in the vanguard of the still very small campaign to defeat the Bill. We can lose nothing and we (and Ireland consequently) can gain much.

HERE AND THERE

U.D.R. MAN SHOT DEAD IN CO. TYRONE

A member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, Robert Jameson, was shot dead in the village of Trillick, Co. Tyrone on Thursday, January 17th last. In a statement issued from Dublin the I.R.A. acknowledged responsibility stating that all U.D.R. men have been legitimate targets since their establishment and warned men still in the force to resign.

I.R.A. CONDEMN "CALLOUSNESS" OF R.U.C.

In a further statement the I.R.A. referred to the recent bombing of the Belfast Magistrates Court and strongly condemned the callousness of the R.U.C. for leaving some prisoners in the building while the bomb exploded, as a warning had been given and ample time allowed to clear the building.

TROOPS STONED IN CREGGAN

In what could be described as their daily exercise period, over 100 youths stoned British Army Foot Patrols at the Dunmore Gardens, Broadway in the Creggan, Derry. The troops after firing rubber bullets finally withdrew from the area.

BOMB ATTACKS IN BELFAST - MARSHALL STREET:

A car bomb explosion caused widespread damage in Marshall Street near Belfast city centre. It went off 50 minutes after a woman had given two telephone warnings to a local newspaper. Dozens of buildings were badly damaged.

ORMEAU ROAD

British troops attempted to deal with the remains of a partially exploded bomb which went off in a sewerage pump house near Cooke Street in the Ormeau Road area of Belfast. The attempt was in vain and the building was demolished.

CASTLE STREET/KING STREET

A 500lb bomb car bomb exploded causing structural damage to a number of buildings. The area was cleared beforehand of all civilians.

CRUMLIN ROAD

A garage in Crumlin Road, Belfast was damaged by a bomb explosion. The bomb was left at the garage and a warning was given. It exploded a short time later.

COOL BOMBER USED FRUIT LORRY AS COVER

An I.R.A. volunteer with nerves of steel breached security barriers in Belfast, and planted a bomb near the city centre. Driving a hijacked lorry loaded with fruit and vegetables, which hid the bomb, he got through the British Army barriers into North Street.

As he sat in the car, British forces searched the street for the bomb following a warning. The man remained in his cab and the street was cleared.

Seconds before the bomb went off he slipped away from his lorry.

CAR BOMB BLAST AT R.U.C. POST

A lorry packed with about 300 lbs. of explosives was packed outside the R.U.C. station in Andersonstown, Belfast. It was spotted and the area was cleared before the blast occurred. No one was hurt.

An explosion damaged a supermarket in Lower North Street, Belfast. There had been two phone calls giving a warning and the police and soldiers were still searching when the bomb exploded.

BRITISH SOLDIER DIES

A British soldier was killed in a land mine explosion on the shore of Lough Neagh near Magherafelt Co. Derry. The action occurred only a few yards

from where soldiers on patrol came under heavy fire the previous night.

The patrol in which the soldier was killed was in fact a follow-up intended to capture the I.R.A. unit that struck the previous night.

CUSTOMS POST DESTROYED FOR SECOND TIME

The British customs post at Middletown, Co. Armagh was destroyed by an explosion for the second time. After the blast a fire raged at the hut which was a temporary structure replacing a previous post that had been destroyed in another attack.

CAR BOMBS IN NEWRY

A car bomb caused widespread damage to Sugar Island, a street in the northern part of Newry after a thirty minute warning. A tremendous blast rocked the town. The bomb, 200 lbs. was packed into a large beer keg on the seat of a car parked outside the sub Post Office. British troops fired shots at the car in an attempt to smash the bomb mechanism. A controlled explosion also failed to have this effect so that the bomb exploded causing widespread damage.

RAILWAY BRIDGE "BIRTHDAY" BOMB

A railway bridge at Whitehouse, Co. Antrim was damaged by a bomb blast. The bridge has been bombed each year since 1972. Rail services were disrupted.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT - EUROPA HOTEL

A policeman and a soldier were injured in an explosion near Belfast's Europa Hotel. A bomb exploded in a post box outside the hotel. It went off 40 minutes after the last of three telephone warnings. Windows were shattered in the nearby Victoria Railway station, which has since been badly damaged by bombs planted in different places in the station.

GUN BATTLE AT SCENE OF EXPLOSION

A British customs post at Tullydonnell on the Armagh-Louth border was destroyed by an explosion and fire by active service units concealed on a nearby hill. A British Army helicopter returned fire and the exchange lasted for nearly half an hour before the 'copter withdrew from the scene. Later at a road block set up by the unit traffic was checked along the main Newtownhamilton-Dundalk road near the border.

The I.R.A. in South Armagh claim responsibility for the destruction of the post and the attack on the helicopter. A statement also said they would continue the operation of road blocks in that area "as a security measure."

BRITISH ARMY SERGEANT DIES IN BOGSIDE BOMB BLAST

A bomb planted in an electricity distribution box at the junction of Stanley's Walk and Lonemore Road in the Bogside was exploded as a British Army foot patrol was passing. The blast killed Sergeant John Haughey and seriously injured his two companions. In a follow-up operation the British Army raided a house in the immediate vicinity and arrested everybody therein. This included a mother, four sons, an old aunt, daughter-in-law, and a seven month's child, also some neighbours who were in the house at the time.

HOUSE USED AS OBSERVATION POST

The Second Battalion of the I.R.A. in North Armagh claimed responsibility for an explosion which wrecked an unoccupied house near the Armagh border at Middletown. The house had been used as a border observation post by British troops.

ARMY "PIGS" ATTACKED

A blast bomb was thrown at Army pigs in Barrack Street, Strabane and four soldiers were injured. Later at Upper Metting House Street shots were fired at an army patrol. Fire was not returned.

RIOTING AT SINN FEIN/PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATION

Rioting flared again in West Belfast as a Sinn Feir People's Democracy demonstration on the issue of the Winchester hunger-strikers drew to a close. People began stoning the large contingents of British troops on duty to prevent them from entering the city centre. There was some sniper fire from the area of the Divis Flats, but no one was hurt and there were no arrests.

At the height of the trouble, the joint Army-R.U.C. barracks at Hastings Street - possibly the most consistently battered in Belfast - was showered with bricks, bottles, and stones and before reinforcements got through the garrison canteen and bar was badly damaged.

The reinforcements marched in Roman legionary fashion, body shields forming a solid phalanx, and in the midst of them two bulldozers equipped with massive metal plates inched forward. Speeches earlier had been made by Mr. Michael Farrell, the P.D. leader and by the co-vice President of Sinn Fein, Mrs. Maire Drumm.

FREESTATERS TRY TO PROTECT THE FOE

Despite a large scale Army and police security operation along the Armagh, Cavan, Monaghan and Fermanagh border areas they were unable to protect British troops under fire while barricading unapproved roads near Kinawley, Co. Fermanagh. An active service unit engaged the army working party erecting barriers on two unapproved roads between the villages of Kinawley, Co. Fermanagh and Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan. Fire was returned, but no hits were reported. During the operation British soldiers uncovered a 150lb land mine in a culvert underneath one of the roads.



COURAGE IN IRONS

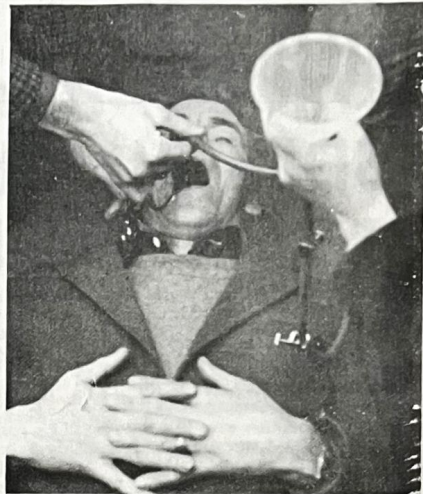
BY TOMMY FERGUSON

*A fleeting thought and worried frown,
The tears of girls in prison gown,
They did the duty in their heart,
And we all know they played their part.
But now I think of lonely cell,
Yes, I know that they're not well,
Now I think of what they need,
Certainly not a forceful feed.*

*Four strong hands to hold them down,
Clamps in mouth and then the sound,
The liquid food it was so free,
Just think it could be you and me
Into the throat and around the heart,
Just about now we get the start,
A gulp, a groan, the terrible sounds,
Their weight goes down by pounds and pou.*

*What will happen in the end,
Will the English knee not bend,
Or will these girls just like they said,
Be sent home when they're dead,
Their courage ranks among the best,
Oh dear God, they need a rest.*

*So come tomorrow when you eat,
Please say a prayer for the Winchester eight,*

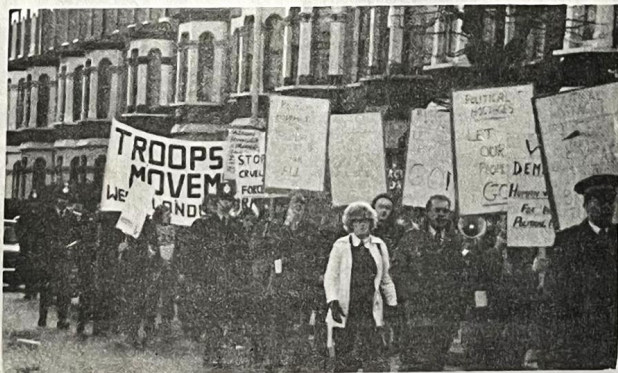


LONDON P.H.R.C. ON THE BALL

About 300 people marched to Wormwood Scrubs Jail on Jan. 19:th where Hugh Feeney is being force-fed. A demonstration of force-feeding was held near the jail gate. One of the volunteers, Mr. Charles O'Sullivan, was violently sick, as were the other two volunteers and an ambulance was called to the scene. As a result of his experience, Mr. O'Sullivan spent the next two days in hospital. The other volunteers were Brendan Magill, (42), and Miss Marie Molloy, 19, the demonstration was carried out under the supervision of Dr. D. Costa, assisted by two SRN's. Another demonstration was held the following day at Hyde Park, London, where several hundred people were addressed by the celebrated actress, Siobhain M'Kenn. A March was held to Kilburn Square, Miss Claire Price, Mrs. Kathleen Feeney and Mr. Kelly, all relatives of the hunger-strikers, were in the March.

(The photographs published on this page were sent to us by courtesy of the Wolfe Tone Sinn Fein Cumann, North London. We invite Cumann in other areas to follow their example. Every Cumann Press Officer should have a camera to cover Republican demonstrations in his local area. There is no point in complaining about lack of publicity for Sinn Fein activities in your area if you do not give us information. While there is heavy pressure on our space, we will always try to give Sinn Fein fair coverage of their events.—Editor).

Pictured above: Forced feeding outside Wormwood Scrubs. Below Passing Para HQ in London with the Tricolour. Top picture left: Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Feeney, at Kilburn Sq., London. Second picture—Demo, marching to Kilburn Sq., London. Third picture: Mr. T. Kearns, Sinn Fein London, addressing crowd outside Wormwood. Bottom picture: March to Wormwood Scrubs.



HUNGER STRIKERS . . .

SDLP BLOCKS RETURN TO IRELAND

Gerry Fitt and the SDLP are a major obstacle to the campaign to get the Irish political prisoners on hunger strike repatriated to the North of Ireland. Supporters of the Irish Political Hostages Campaign and the Connolly Association were told this when they lobbied MPs at the House of Commons last Tuesday (22 January).

The lobby was organised by the Connolly Association and supported by the IPHC. It took up the question of the continuation of internment, and the recent British Army raid on the offices of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, as well as the case of the hunger strikers.

Several Labour MPs, including Jock Stallard and Norman Atkinson, told lobbyists that they supported the return of the prisoners, as did Lords Longford and Castlereagh, but in taking up the question with the Home Office they faced the problem that the Irish group in the House, which is convened by Gerry Fitt, had not acted on the question. Although they promised to take it up again, the position of the SDLP is a major stumbling block.

Last Sunday, Gerry Fitt made a statement about the Price sisters on Southern Irish radio. He said that, 'the terrible plight of these young girls could be brought to an end if the IRA stopped its campaign of violence.' This is a clear shift in the SDLP's position since the setting up of the Executive, and was elaborated by Paddy Duffy on Saturday when he said that there could no longer be any political content in violence since the Sunningdale agreement, and consequently those now convicted of violence could not expect inclusion in any amnesty.

The SDLP took up the case of Michael Farrell and Tony Canavan last summer, and have usually tried to grab the glory for any successes in struggles over political prisoners. But since taking their well-paid offices their line has changed—could it be that this was a condition laid down by Faulkner for the operation of power-sharing?

Claire Price visited her sisters Dolours and Marion last Saturday. She told the *Irish Times* that Dolours 'seemed to be dragging her feet...and like Marion her skin was like wax.' The girls' eyes were black looking and there were sores around their mouths

because of the force-feeding.' They are still suffering severe chest and stomach pains.

The struggle to end the torture of Kers Corner were Dr. Dominic Costa, who described the terrible effects of sustained force-feeding, and Siobhan McKenna, the well-known Irish actress.

The day before, the IPHC had staged a dramatic demonstration outside Wormwood Scrubs, challenging the Governor to show his faith in 'Home Office pronouncements about the beneficial effects of force-feeding by submitting to it himself.

Naturally there was no response, so three volunteers were force-fed under medical supervision. All three vomited before the force-feeding tube had even got to the back of their throats, and one of them, an elderly man, had to be taken to hospital where he was kept overnight suffering from shock.

In Ireland there have been demonstrations in Dublin and Belfast—the march in Belfast ended with the stoning of British troops. Rarely has support for any issue been broader: trade unionists, the Gaelic Athletic Association, the Gaelic League, and even the Dublin City Council have called for repatriation.

SECRET POLICE HARASS DUBLIN STUDENTS

Before Christmas, a member of Cumann Choilm Uí Chianáin was arrested in Dublin while handing out leaflets calling for the transfer of the Winchester Nine to Ireland. He was later charged under an 1841 law.

Since then, six other members of the Cumann have been questioned and intimidated. They were led to believe that this was being done under the Offences Against the State Act. One of these was brought to the Store Street Police Station and to the Bridewell, where he was threatened and verbally abused. The 'Special Branch' became particularly foul-mouthed when he answered their queries in Irish.

One Cumann member was also harassed regarding a serious matter—a hit and run accident—with which he could not possibly have had any connection, and which in fact never occurred.

Cumann Choilm Uí Chianáin strongly condemns such harassment and attempts at intimidation of a political organisation by the Coalition Government. We see it as an attempt to beat out of existence what is now the strongest political group-

ing in Ireland's biggest University. The reasons for this are obvious—Cumann Choilm Uí Chianáin has, since its inception, insisted on fair and reasoned public debate of political questions in an atmosphere of free speech. The value put on free speech by the Coalition Government is known to all—political opponents of that Government are denied right of comment or right of reply to libellous attacks on radio and television, while the stating of anti-Government views has landed others in prison under the most extraordinary piece of legislation in Europe.

It therefore comes as no surprise to the Sinn Féin Cumann in U.C.D. that its phenomenal success to date has met with extra-democratic action by a Government which is devoid of all policy except to build a West Britons' Ireland at the dictates of the British Tory Government. Their lack of policy and initiative of their own was shown clearly recently, when Desmond Boal's proposals for a peaceful solution based on a federated Ireland was censored almost out of existence in the 26 Counties. The latest efforts, however, to stifle debate

in the Universities on the future of Ireland might be viewed as even more sinister if they were not of so pathetic a nature.

The Coalition 'politicians' have now, for fear of defeat in fair and open debate, stooped to the level of utilising the 'Special Branch,' a political police force renowned only for its boorishness and intimidatory functions.

Another dimension is added to the question by the fact that those arrested and intimidated have been to the fore in organising a Petition for the return of the hunger-striking prisoners in English jails to Ireland. Thousands of people have signed this Petition in U.C.D.

Jealously on this and other accounts has now spurred the Coalition into action. It is scarcely necessary for us to state publicly that we will not be intimidated by such action. In view of the circumstances, however, we consider it appropriate to clarify the position as to more recent developments in the Coalition's attitude to free speech and to balanced public debate.

LETTERS

90 Cromac Street,
Belfast.

Dear Editor,

Recently a letter appeared in *Republican News* from Jim McCorry. We would like to take this opportunity to answer some of the criticisms contained in his letter. Jim said that the provos never claimed to be infallible. We agree, we are not infallible. However, politics is a serious business. We are fighting a war, and decisions made will have a direct bearing on success or failure for the Irish working class. With this in mind we support other organisations engaged in the revolutionary struggle, but regard it as our duty to criticise politics that we disagree with. In turn we welcome criticism, but even more so of our general ideology. We believe that criticism provides us with an opportunity to show more clearly what our politics are, and how they can be applied to the revolutionary struggle.

Of course, Jim's failure to understand the need for critical dispute between revolutionary groups arises out of his failure to understand the nature of revolution. He talks about commitment to qualitative change in society. Revolution is not a qualitative change in society—it is the overthrow of one class by another. In this case, it is the seizure of power by the Irish working-class at the expense of the Imperialists and the Irish Capitalist class. The revolution will not be brought about by a loose woolly coalition of left groups. It will only come about by the building of a disciplined revolutionary party, which is clear in its understanding of how society operates, and how in turn that society can be destroyed. The capitalists have control of the state. They have at their disposal immense financial and military power. Only clarity of aim and discipline of purpose can destroy them.

Jim also issued a plea for an Irish Republic, whose form and content is not left to the imagination. On this point we agree completely. However, we would stress that the form is much less important to us than the content. It is not of major importance to us at the moment what type of local or national government structure is built in the Worker's Republic. What is of supreme importance is that all power is held by the working class.

Jim defends Eire Nua on the grounds



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our motto will be rent Spend said Currie

FROM JOHN HAUGHEY CUMANN, COALISLAND

When the rents and rates strike started on August 7th 1971, Mr. Austin Currie at a public meeting in the Square Coalisland, told all present in relation to the strike and we quote "Gamble it, Drink it, do what you like with it. Our motto will be RENT SPENT! Of course he was not then a member of Her Majesty's Government, however now that his ambition has been achieved, over the bodies of the dead, the maimed and the incarcerated, and being now in receipt of £7,500 plus per annum, he has a complete change of heart, and wanting to retain his plum job at irrespective of cost he says please start paying rents and rates again as this is now my department responsible and despite the fact that internment has not ended pay up otherwise I may lose my good new job.

After all did not John Hume tell you all on T.V. the other night that we will make it easy for you to pay back the arrears.

Perhaps the new masters will accept £1.90 per week instead of the £2 per

week demanded in the past off the arrears or it could well be that the S.D.L.P. assembly members are going to donate a years salary to a special rent arrears fund?

As in the case of the recruiting drive for the U.D.R. Mr. Currie has again fooled some of the people (not all) and in typical Faulkner fashion has made a complete somersault.

It now appears that the plight of the internees no longer concerns the S.D.L.P. and to them are irrelevant. We are confident however, that the people who have stuck to their guns and withheld rent and rates for the past two years will continue to do so and show how at this time politicians are themselves irrelevant?

The people who supported this strike from the beginning will not end it all the behest of the traitorous S.D.L.P. clique but only when the last man held without charge has been unconditionally released as no rent collector, be he a Tory or an Orange Unionist will break the resolve of those who really care.

Dorothy Maguire,
Sinn Fein Cumann,
Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

Sir—After recent appeals on TV for blood donors, a large number of internees once again expressed to their Cage representative their willingness to donate their blood. In the majority of cases most of these men were donors before being incarcerated here. The Governor was approached on this matter, and in his negative reply to the request, he explained that it would involve a GRAVE SECURITY RISK!

GERM WARFARE??
P.R.O. Page 3.

that it attempts to provide a economic and social basis for a new society. (A full analysis of Eire Nua has already been made in the Unfree Citizen). Simply, our criticism is that Eire Nua describes a reformed society, but not a new society. It is a attempted compromise between capitalism and socialism which ignores the question of workers power.

Objecting to a general critique Jim calls for constructive criticism of Eire Nua. This is a symptom of his failure to understand revolutionary socialism. We can not hope to build the structure of a revolutionary society without having laid the foundations of working class power.

The letter was presented as a plea rather than an attack. We regard it as a criticism and we have replied to it as such.

P.R.O.,
CENTRAL COMMITTEE PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRACY.

England was never in greater difficulty

A chara,

It is part of the inherited wisdom of those fighting for Irish independence that England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity.

England was never in greater difficulty. Every week we hear that the English pound has slumped to a new low. England is the sick man of Europe. She is in debt everywhere, but particularly to the International Monetary Fund, and her future is completely mortgaged just paying back the interest on her borrowings.

The Tory Government has tried to divert attention away from the bankruptcy which has been staring Britain in the face for many years by creating an artificial short-term panic situation. Heath has unleashed economic war on the unions by a government close-down of factories and shops, and a right-wing austerity programme which is totally unnecessary.

England's economic crisis is incurable. It has been getting steadily worse and there is no way in which the present

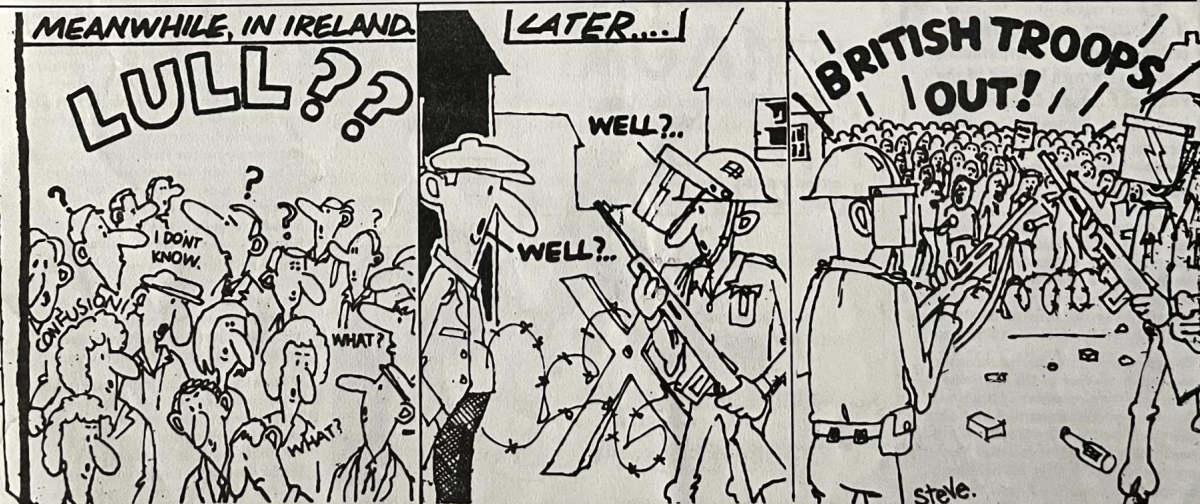
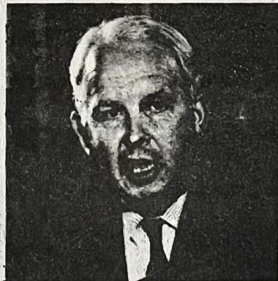
English economy can be saved. But what is tragic is that we in Ireland, North and South, are going down with England. Rising prices, especially in food, and constant devaluations of our currency, which is tied to Britain's. England has in the past driven Ireland to the poor-house to help build her own prosperity: remember the famine, when Irish grain and meat was sent to England while the Irish ate grass. Now England is dragging us to the poor-house with her, at a time when Ireland's economy is potentially one of the strongest in the world. We have exceptional agricultural prospects, and untold mineral wealth. If we floated an independent Irish pound it would be much stronger than the English pound.

But above all now is the time to carry out the economic programme of EIRE NUA; to nationalise banks and insurance companies, control capital in Irish interest, develop economically viable co-operatives in agriculture which would use our enormous resources intelligently and for the Irish people.

Talk of British subsidies to Ireland is a sick joke. We contribute to England's wealth, not the other way round. Our economy is subsidising the near-bankrupt English one. Republicans have always seen this important truth. To break the connection with England, as Tone knew and demonstrated, means not only driving out the British Army and politicians, but getting to the root of the problem and ending the British economic exploitation which is the reason for her political and military interest in Ireland.

Is mise le meas,

P.R.O., Gerard McAuley Cumann
Sinn Fein.



STER UP ACTION THREAT FROM I.R.A.

Statements from I.R.A. units have warned of increased attacks on British Army patrols, and the bombing of houses which are used by troops as observation posts.

A statement from South Armagh Provisionals called on farmers and contractors in the area to avoid using unmarked vans and jeeps after dark because of the danger of these vehicles being mistaken for British Army transport on border areas.

The British Army, it claimed, was using private cars on patrols.

In a second statement, which was issued by North Armagh 2nd Battalion of Provisionals, it was claimed that British Army observation posts in disused houses near the border would also be "future targets."

The North Armagh Provisionals have claimed responsibility for blowing up one disused mansion near the border at Middletown, Co. Armagh early in the week with a 100 lb. bomb in a milk churn. It also claimed responsibility for the blowing up of a British Customs Post in the same area.

MANCHESTER RALLY

On Saturday, January 27th, Manchester held its Bloody Sunday Commemoration organised by the local Seamus Steele Cumann Sinn Fein.

The commemoration was supported by the Troops Out Movement and I.M.G. About 500 people took part. The parade was led by a colour party drawn from the Tony Adhern Cumann and na Fianna, Birmingham.

Pride of place must go to the Seamus Steele Band, Belfast, which came all the way over to take part in that event.

As the parade moved through the City centre thousands of people watched from the pavements. After the parade a public meeting was addressed by J. Moran, Sinn Fein, Manchester.

In the course of his address he called for an end to Internment and the return to Ireland of the Political Hostages from English jails. Mr. M. Timothy Sinn Fein also spoke.

DUBLIN EMBARRASSED

New moves to try to counter the current step up of I.R.A. attacks on enemy forces are being presently discussed by an embarrassed government Cabinet in Dublin. The meeting came after extensive hits and an air-raid attempt on the Royal Ulster Constabulary Post in Strabane.

The government's embarrassment was obvious in the face of the inevitable criticisms from members of the New Stormont puppet Executive. But more than that the Southern Government had been under the impression that "security" precautions taken after the helicopter escape from Mountjoy Prison was sufficient to curb any similar action by the I.R.A.

COUNCILLOR, DOCTOR, LAWYER JOIN PROTEST AGAINST FORCE-FEEDING

Charlton Athletic mid-field player Eamonn Dunphy was among the speakers at a public meeting called by the Irish Political Hostages Campaign to protest against the force-feeding of Dolours and Marion Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerard Kelly.

The meeting was held on Thursday 7th February at 8.00 p.m. in the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn.

Other speakers included Councillor Paddy O'Connor, Labour's Deputy Chief Whip on the G.L.C., Brian Rose-Smith of the Haldene Society, Dr. Dominic Costa of the Professorial Unit of Psychiatry at St. Barts Hospital and Paul Foot, last year's Journalist of the Year.

The I.P.H.C. also organised a Motorcade, from the Lord Palmerston, Kilburn High Road at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 2nd February; a picket of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, starting from White City Tube Station at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 3rd February; and a march to Brixton Prison, which will be held tomorrow, starting at 2.30 p.m. from Clapham Common.

Treatment of G Kelly

Gerald Kelly (aged 19) is confined to his cell in Wormwood Scrubs prison, unable to walk. He is paralysed from the hips down. He is naked, as he has refused to wear prison clothing and is demanding the right to wear his own clothes as political prisoners in the North are allowed to do. At first he had the use of a blanket; the blanket was refused removed and he was left with a sheet; now the sheet has also been removed and he is left totally naked and is suffering from intense cold.

His handwriting has deteriorated and is now almost illegible. He appears to be losing power in his arms as well as in his legs.

He suffers from violent headaches and is feeling very sick but is not vomiting. He has lost over two stone weight. He feels raw from the tip of his tongue down into his stomach. The tube scratches and scrapes as it is pushed down. The force feeding becomes more painful as each day passes.

He has been allowed no visits since he was sentenced. The reason given by the prison authorities is his refusal to wear prison clothing. The prison authorities

give no information to relatives on his condition. They are left to rely on his letters.

He is constantly being sneered and jeered at by the prison staff.

Letters to him are now being curtailed. At first he was allowed five letters per week; then the number was reduced to two, but the two letters being written to him weekly by members of his family in Belfast are not all being received by him.

TREATMENT OF HUGH FEENEY:

Hugh Feeney is also naked in his cell in Gartree Prison, having refused to wear prison clothing.

REPLY RECEIVED:

Capt. James Kelly, Chairman I.C.R.A., who sent a telegram to Mr. Edward Heath requesting that the Prime Minister receive a delegation from I.C.R.A. to discuss the transfer of Dolours Price and other Irish political prisoners to Ireland has received a reply to say that the matter "is receiving attention."

IRISH IN SOUTH HAVE SLEPT TOO LONG

Mrs. Miriam Daly inaugurated the Campaign for English Withdrawal from Ireland in Munster at The Bloody Sunday Commemoration in Tralee. The meeting which was attended by representatives from all the counties of Munster was preceded by a procession in which black flags were carried by each county for the thirteen victims.

Mrs. Daly said: "There is no need to remind a Kerry or a Munster meeting that the English presence in Ireland caused murder, division, impoverishment of the Irish people, emigration and suffering on a tragic scale. Their presence was just as unwanted now as it was fifty four years ago when they martyred Terence MacSwiney, the heroic Lord Mayor of Cork who dared to protest against their brutal oppression. In our day brave young Belfast boys and girls dared to take the fight to the centre of British oppression where all the horrors inflicted on the Irish people are dreamed up and all the booty looted from Ireland is divided and spent. They were tried in a court that in its proceedings was like a bad caricature of the Inquisition and sentenced after condemnation by the newspapers and television by a raving judge who had so far lost control of himself that in his vindictive frenzy he exceeded the maximum sentence allowed by his own law. The Irish people suffer with the Winchester B who are denied political status, refused repatriation to Ireland for their sentence, and when they have persisted to the end in their resistance and assertion of their pride and rights as Irish nationals are condemned to the outlawed torture of forcible feeding.

"The Dublin government has tolerated this English barbarity and we know this is because of English pressure on them and because they are prepared to tolerate an English garrison in the North of Ireland and English paramilitary North and South. Munster is a long way from Belfast and further from London. People rely on the Radio and Television to tell them of their political environment but under the present Minister Conor Cruise O'Brien, Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act is so manipulated that Radio Moscow is free in comparison with Radio Eireann. A letter from the Price sisters could not be read on R.T.E. yet the B.B.C.'s Tory World at One programme gave an account of the horrors suffered by the Price sisters, force-fed in the male Brixton Gaol.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance, the Irish people have slept too long. They have tolerated censorship, internment, the Offences against the State Act the trading of Irish sovereignty at Sunningdale, all of which are necessary to keep the British feeling safe in Ireland. Let rid of the English and peace, justice and prosperity will come."



LIZ McKEE

An anniversary passed over quietly and without fuss at the beginning of the New Year. It was the anniversary of the first woman interned, viz. Liz McKee.

Liz has now spent a full year in jail. She is also serving a nine month sentence for attempting to escape from "lawful custody."

Her so-called "lawful custody" is a convenient way to try an legalise her internment.

Liz is not on her own, unfortunately. The plight of our girls in Armagh should not be forgotten. When we protest against internment, we should always include these brave girls.

None of us expected internment to last as long as it has. None of us thought that internment for women and girls would be still with us one year later.

Keep your chins up girls! We are still with you!

P.R.O., Sean McCartney S.F. Cumann,
77b Andersonstown Road,
Belfast 11.



Thanks

The Fr. Murphy Sinn Fein Cumann, Derrybeg Park, Newry, wish to thank the people of Derrybeg and surrounding area for their outstanding support during 1973.

The Cumann wish their supporters and all the Irish people freedom, peace and justice before the end of 1974.

(We regret that these statements were not published earlier due to heavy pressure on space — Editor).

We regret that owing to extreme pressure on space, that many items have to be left over for future issues.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

The O'Reilly Bros Sinn Fein Cumann, Upper Killeavy, say they would like our readers to know that a British army helicopter landed at Edentubber, a half mile south of the border at 11 a.m. recently.

British soldiers were dropped off and they proceeded to search houses on the southern side. The patrol were picked up 35 minutes later by the helicopter.

The Cumann have received many complaints from local residents about the conduct of British troops along the border. The Cumann condemn "Edward Heath's puppet Paddy Donegan" for allowing these incidents to happen on Irish soil.

PLAQUE UNVEILED BY JOHN O'HAGAN

John O'Hagan, father of Danny O'Hagan, the first person in the New Lodge Road area to be killed by the British Army, unveiled a black marble plaque engraved in gold lettering, last Sunday, in the presence of over 1,000 people.

The plaque, erected by the Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann, reads: "This plaque is dedicated to the memory of Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann and all civilians from the area who have given their lives for Ireland."

The ceremony took place at the junction of Duncairn Parade and New Lodge Road. The plaque is embedded in the side wall of a multi-story block of flats.

A decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish in memory of those who died. Mrs. Maire Drumm, Vice-President, Sinn Fein, said in a short oration, if the British got out of Ireland both Republicans and Loyalists could get together and solve their own problems in their own time.

Some members of the Liam Reid Band played an Irish lament and a colour party lowered the National Flag during a two minute silence.

Later that afternoon, several shots were fired at British troops at the junction of Hillman Street and Edlingham Street in the New Lodge area.

The same night a heavy burst of machine-gun fire was heard just off Antrim Road near the New Lodge. There were no reports of casualties.

ROCKET ATTACK ON BRITISH ARMY H.Q.

An RPG7 rocket hit a British Army Brigade H.Q. in Lurgan. The billet is headquarters of the 3rd Infantry Brigade and is located at Kitchen Hill. The rocket wrecked a section of the building. The active Service Unit launched the rocket from a commandeered car at Mark St., which was later abandoned. The Unit returned to base safely.

FIRST THE GOOD news. Mr Francis Pym, Secretary for Northern Ireland, has appointed a working party to investigate the complaints procedure against members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Now the bad news. The members of the working party are:

Sir Harold Black, of the Northern Ireland Office; Mr J. B. Flanagan, Chief Constable of the RUC; Assistant Chief Constable W. M. Williams of the Association of Chief Police Officers; Chief Superintendent W. J. Liggett of the Superintendents Association; Mr B. Stanage and Mr R. E. Wright, respectively chairman and secretary of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland; Mr H. A. Canavan and Mr J. V. Morrison of the Police Authority; Mr C. H. Cossham of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr S. S. Bampton and Mr T. A. Cromeey of the Northern Ireland Office.

The Government White Paper on the Northern Ireland Constitution announced that arrangements would be made for a review of the complaints procedure against the RUC, and that such reviews would include an "independent element." Would the "independent element" in the above list kindly make himself known. (I use the word "himself" — against my principles — in the remarkable absence of any Miss, Mrs or Ms on the above panel).

Martin Walker

With acknowledgements to "The Guardian" (23/1/74)



DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE WORMWOOD SCRUBS

STATEMENT
FROM THE
O'CARROLL/
TIERNEY SINN
FEIN CUMANN,
ANDERSONSTOWN

There has been a deafening silence from the local S.D.L.P. representatives regarding the plight of the Price sisters and their comrades who are suffering the torment and degradation of force-feeding.

What is the attitude of Paddy Devlin, Des O'Donnell, Des Gillespie and Vincent McCluskey, to the statement of their leader Gerry Fitt on Radio Eireann — who was obviously relaying the attitude of his boss Ted Heath — when he said that only by sending the struggle for liberty could the Price sisters be sent home?

He had nothing to say about the brutality of the forced feeding carried out daily. We demand an answer from Andersonstown S.D.L.P. representatives, and we call on the people of Andersonstown to support all protests carried out for the repatriation of the Winchester Eight.

From Michael our Man Tobin in Amsterdam

"The raids go on and on — even on Xmas Day they were roaring like mad bulls all through the place and were raiding the houses at two in the afternoon just as people were sitting down to Xmas dinner."

This is not a quotation from someone who experienced at first hand the grim reality of the German Jackboot in action in Occupied Holland during the Second World War. It could well be. But it is not. It is in fact taken from a letter sent by a stouthearted Irish woman to let me know what it was like in the Creggan estate in Derry last Christmas Day.

It is no accident that the initiative for the Campaign for English Withdrawal from Ireland has come from the occupied northern part of our country. For the Irish people living there really know what it is like to be under the cruel heel of the British Occupation Forces.

These long-suffering Irish people know what it is like to have heavily armoured vehicles bristling with guns come roaring like mad bulls through their streets; and to swallow hard when the Saracens grind to a sudden halt outside; and to feel the blood race through their veins in anger when the banging and kicking on the front door thunders in their ears.

Yes, these fellow Irishmen and women and children of ours — be they old or young, sick or well — know and well know from bitter first hand experience what it is like to have the armed thugs of the British Army come storming into their homes — to ransack them, rip up the floorboards, pull down ceilings, knock big holes in partition walls, break and destroy and steal their most cherished possessions, use the most vile words in the English tongue, insult them, try to intimidate them, assault them, with fists boots, rifle butts, rubber bullets, or CS gas, drag off their loved ones to be tortured in a terrible and horrible way, or savagely beaten, or brutally killed, or put in a soul-destroying concentration camp to rot.

And is it any wonder that our brave fellows in Occupied Ireland have led the struggle against British Imperialism? Is it any wonder that so many of them have been killed and injured in the fight against the British Murder and Terror Machine? Is it any wonder that it is they who have now started the CEWI campaign aimed at getting the English Garrison out of our country and off our backs?

And they have done so because they know that that there is nothing, absolutely nothing, more important to Ireland today than the task of ridding ourselves of the British Army and the British Administration. With the British on their backs day and night they know only too well that we can talk of capitalism and social yokes, of this problem and that problem, of the milking of Ireland by foreign interests, and of what we could do in a New Ireland, but that it counts for nothing and is just so much hot air so long as the British Garrison remains on our soil.

When that foreign garrison is gone; when those hateful thugs in a foreign uniform no longer can drive like mad bulls through our streets and come bursting down the doors of our homes; and when the foreign machine of administration has been dismantled, then and only then can we begin to tackle all the other problems. For only then will the time be ripe to do so.

Only then can we deal effectively with the Cosgraves and the Faulkners, with the Fitts and the Craigs, and with all the other Shawnees and Quislings who disgrace our nation while they betray our interests. Only then can we talk of dealing effectively with the excesses of native capitalism, and of removing the chains of foreign economic imperialism. Only then can we turn our guns and weapons of destruction into ploughshares and tools of construction and as a united people set out along the high road to a New Ireland — to a 32 county Irish Democratic Socialist Republic.

Coming events

Irish Night

SHAMROCKS HALL, NEWRY,
on Sunday, 10th February
at 8.30 p.m. sharp.

ADMISSION : : : 50p

Mass March and Rally

IN NEWRY
ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Prominent Speakers include:

Frank McManus, MP, Aidan Corrigan,
Neill Vallely and James O'Kane

Buses from Eire Nua Bookshop. Get your ticket early. Fare 75p, Dep. 1.00 p.m. approx. Support for this massive demonstration has been promised from all over Ireland.

CAMPAIGN FOR ENGLISH WITHDRAWAL
FROM IRELAND

AT LURGAN

OPEN AIR RALLY

SUNDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, 2.30

at Edward Street/Francis Street junction

SPEAKERS:

Frank McManus, MP, Brendan Magill,
Miriam Daly, Mike Farrell and Michael Morrissey

Bus from Eire Nua Bookshop at 1.30 p.m.
Tickets now on sale. Fare 50p

Variety Concert

OLIVER PLUNKETT HALL,
CLADY

on Sunday, 24th February,

Proceeds in aid of Greenlough Eire Nua Club

ADMISSION : : : : : 40p

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