

To

Kevin Lynch, who died yesterday after 71 days on hunger strike, receives the trophy from the then GAA president, Pat Fanning when he captained the County Derry side to win the 1972 All-Ireland under-16 hurling final at Croke Park.

Galway

and

Limerick

Hurling Fans



As you read this you will need no reminding that Kevin Lynch is dead, and Kieran Doherty is on his deathbed. Two more brave Irishmen are to serve as an offering on the altar of Thatcher's and the British Government's murderous intransigence.

So it is all the more shocking, at a time when all shades of nationalist opinion should be solidly untied behind the hunger strikers, to hear that the G.A.A. Central Council has issued a directive to all its affiliated bodies stating that no support should be given by any section of the G.A.A. to the H-Block campaign which it says is 'party political' and banned under Rule 7.

As everyone knows, up to the issuing of the directive the G.A.A. had supported the 5 demands of the prisoners and had stated as much on a number of occasions. So why the change? Because of the contesting of seats in the recent general election by H-Block (prisoner) candidates, which made the campaign 'party political', according to Padraig MacFloinn, G.A.A. President.

With all due respect to Mr. MacFloinn and his colleagues, this just won't wash. Firstly, as he and they well know, the National H-Block campaign and its committees are not party political, but work as a broad front of all individuals, groups, organisations, etc. around common support for the prisoners' 5 demands. This has not changed in recent weeks. Secondly, if taking part in the 26-County elections made the campaign 'party political' why did the officers of the G.A.A. not issue the directive after Bobby Sands won the bye-election in Fermanagh-South Tyrone? After all the G.A.A. prides itself on being a 32-County body. Is the officer board of the G.A.A. now lining up with Dr. Fitzgerald's government in trying to shift the responsibility for a settlement away from the British and onto the prisoners' backs? Is the pressure from rank-and-file G.A.A. clubs on the issue now becoming too hot and thereby embarrassing too many prominent politicians and public figures?

We call on all County Boards, clubs and players in the Association to follow the example of the South Antrim G.A.A. by ignoring this directive and re-pledging their support to the campaign for the prisoners' demands. Don't play Britain's 'divide and rule' game. Keep the Association true to the ideals of its founders.

support the hunger strikers