

PRESS RELEASE

from

SINN FÉIN

April 19, 1971

SINN FÉIN MEN PROSECUTED

Seven men most of whom are members of Sinn Féin, including the organisation's President, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, have been summoned to appear at Roscommon District Court on Tuesday April 20 charged with collecting funds without a police permit.

The men are all locals and include Thomas Geraghty, Athleague; Frank O'Grady, Lecarrow; Frank Beattie, Rahara; Michael J. Hanly, The Square, Roscommon; Michael Diffley, Abbeytown; Lochlann Ó h-Earchú, ^{Ballymurry,} Frank O'Grady is a veteran Republican and was interned without trial for four years at the Curragh during the 1940s.

The charges arise out of a 24-hour token hunger-strike staged by Sinn Féin members on the Square, Roscommon in January last protesting against the threat of internment North and South; the Special Powers Act and the Offences Against the State Act and demanding the release of Irish Political Prisoners in British jails.

During the hunger-strike a collection in aid of the Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund was taken up outside the Sacred Heart Church at all Masses on the Sunday morning. Gardai seized small amounts of money on several occasions during the morning.