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THE STARRY PLOUGH

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An Camchéachta

BEALTAINE '77

COUP D'ETAT OR BLUFF?



INSIDE

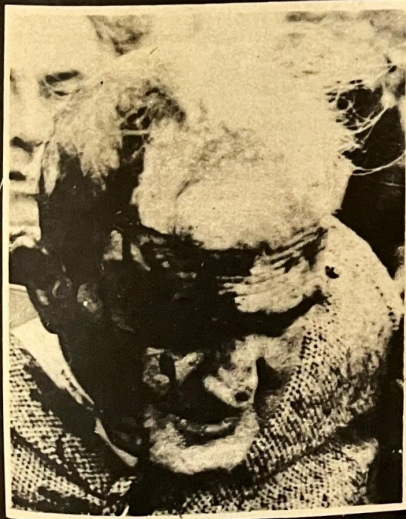
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As we go to press the workers of Ballylumford power station are being wooed in turn by both the United Unionist Action Council (UUAC) and Roy Mason. These workers can decide whether or not the North will grind to a halt. If they do strike (and it's hard to predict whether they will or not due to the cat-and-mouse nature of the situation) the UUAC will have brought about a general strike not by a mass downing of tools but by massive intimidation and sabotage.

British Secretary Roy Mason has claimed that the UDA intimidators are being dealt with "firmly" by the RUC. This claim is being treated with the derision it deserves by the people of the nationalist areas of the North. The "firmness" of the RUC seen on television during their clash with the UDA on the Newtownards Road resembled a lively jostling of rival fans at a Cup final. The firmness shown by 'security' forces towards the nationalist population in general consists of riot gas, plastic bullets fired at close range, water cannons, baton charges and in many cases live

ammunition. The strike, and the different political forces in motion mirror the complexity of the Northern situation and the effects of British Imperialism. On the one hand Paisley and his fascist cohorts claim that the aim of a general strike is to force Britain to adopt a tough security policy in relation to the nationalist ghettos. On the other hand Mason, during the first few days of the strike, acceded to this demand by way of promising the following: a massive build up of the UDR and RUC, an injection of more modern weaponry, and, most sinister of all, the use of these sectarian forces in SAS type operations.

The above has grave implications for the nationalist population. The murder triangle will now encompass the entire 6 county area with a large degree of overlap into the Irish Free State. Despite all this the fascist UUAC still insists on the strike. This clearly demonstrates the contradiction of Loyalism and shows to the world that it is not so much 'loyalty' and union with Britain that is the driving force of their ideology, but the bigotry and sectarianism instilled in the Protestant working class hence their oppression of Catholics who, because they are nationalist-republicans are their political enemies. **to P.3**

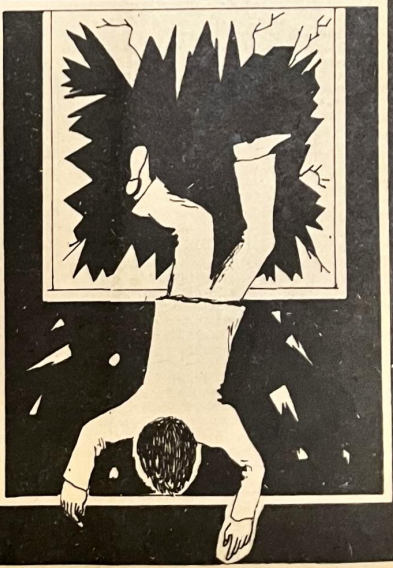


An elderly man, blood dripping from his head, is led away for medical attention after being batoned by gardai outside Portlaoise. Women and children were also attacked.

TORTURE

PAGES 4 & 5

Despite IRSP allegations of gardai tortures over a year ago, and the case of a prisoner attempting suicide by jumping through a window, the government refuses to hold an inquiry, and denies point blank that gardai are involved in tortures.



Censorship

The Irish Post has refused an advertisement by the Prisoners' Aid Committee, which was designed to highlight the brutal treatment of Irish Political Prisoners in Britain. This full page advert has been sponsored by various individuals and organisations ranging from Catholic priests to sections of the British Labour movement. The Irish Post, which claims to be "the voice of the Irish in Britain", has decided not to reveal the truth about what is happening to Irish Prisoners but has sided with the British Government. A picket, attended by Irish groups and BRITISH progressive groups, took place at the offices of the Irish Post in Southall on Saturday 12th February. People are asked to write to the Irish Post, which is now available in Ireland, protesting about the above censorship.

Beidh an dara seimineár i gcúmhne ar Éirí Amach 1916 ar stíl in Halla na Saíre i mBaile Átha Cliath ón 13ú go dtí an 15ú bealtaine. Sé staid chultúrtha na hÉireann ábhar an tseimineáir i mblana agus beidh saith léachta ar stíl ina ndéanfar go leor de ghnéithe an ábhair a phlé.

Beidh trí cinn des na léachtaanna i nGaeilge agus na cinn eile i Béarla. Beidh Pádrát Ó'modaigh, Uachtarán Chonradh na Gaeilge ag ábhairt faoi Ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus an ghluaiseacht Náisiúnta. Tabharfaidh Maol-sheachlainn Ó' Coalláit cairt ar chúrsaí crochtáin in Éirinn agus beidh Nollaig Ó Gadhra ag cur síos ar an nGaeilge agus an Stát. Tabharfaidh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh cairt ar an nGaeilch tinn. Labharfaidh Míriam Daly faoi ghluaiseacht an lucht oibre agus an Náisiúnachas len ar lin féin. Beidh cainteanna ann freisin ar chúrsaí iriseoireachta in Éirinn, ar an drámaíocht, ar na mír sa ghluaiseacht Náisiúnta agus ar ábhair eile nach iad. Oíche Dé Sathairn beidh seisiún cheoil ann le tébhacht chultúrtha agus pholaitiúil an cheoil a léiriú.

STAD NA HÉIREANN CHULTÚRTHA



Beidh réimse an-leathan de chainisteoirí cumasacha i láthair agus gach cosúlacht ar an scéal gur deireadh seachtaine fíntacht beidh ann. Is féidir bileoga eolais faoin seimineár agus ticéid a fháil ón Siopa Leabhar Conradh na Gaeilge, 6 Sráid Fhearchair, Baile Átha Cliath 2 nó ón Project Arts Centre, IL, 50 atá ar na ticéid. £1 i gceis mícléim agus daoine d'fhosaithe nó is féidir ticéid a fháil ag an doras dos na seimineáir ar leith gur mian leat freastal orthu, 30p

agus 20p an ceann. B'fhíú do dhúine ar bith a bheid saor an deireadh seachtaine sin dul ann. B'fhíú freisin cuairt a thabhairt ar an dtaspacant leabhar a bheid ar stíl i Siopa Leabhar an Chonartha i dtaca le h-ábhair an tseimineáir.

Ní fada ó chailleadar an file ab thearr sa Nua Ghaeilge, Sean Ó Ríordáin as Corcaigh. Rinne sé níos mó ná dúine ar bith eile na filíocht na Gaeilge a fhorbairt ó thobh foirme agus ábhair de. Léirigh sé a fhorbairt féidir filíocht nua aimeartha den scoth a chruinniú sa Ghaeilge, filíocht a bhain aitheantas i ndáiríreán amach. Tá cuid dá dhánta is fearr aistriúthar go Seapáinis. Trí mhór shoithar liteartha a chuir sé ar fáil, Brosna, Eireball Spidoge agus Linte Liombo. Spreag sé fíll eile na cur i mbun scríbhneoireachta agus d'fhág sé oidhreacht liteartha againn i mbeadh dúine ar bith bródúil as. Cailleadar mhór don Náisiún Ghaeilge a bhás.

uniting the workers irrespective of religion or old political battle cries will be shattered, and through North and South the issue of Home Rule will be used to cover the iniquities of the capitalist and Landlord class".

At the Watershed of Irish History

FORGIVE ME if I quote James Connolly at length, because I think the misrepresentation of Connolly has been so great that Connolly's real message is virtually unknown. And forgive me if I spend an undue time on this aspect of Connolly's message, the nature and the evil of partition. If it is because I believe that we were Connolly here now he would see partition as the critical problem to have to face today. We are at the watershed of Irish history comparable with the one Connolly lived through in 1916. The British government is contemplating withdrawal from Ireland. If Britain withdraws its army, does that mean that the dream of Wolfe Tone has been achieved? Are we now the real goal of generation of Republicans? Who is to "break the connection with England the never failing source of all our political evils?" How about the memory of past dissension, and to abolish the common name of Irishman in place of the designations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter." How about the respectable class, the men of no property, trying to bring about the unity of the Irish people in independence — that is to take possession of Irish wealth for Irish people and to develop a prosperous independent economy?

Totally Breaking the Connection

The mere removal of the British Army now would do none of these. Britain, the economic bankrupt of Europe, is only in our country in a police role, at the request of the International Monetary Fund and the EEC, keeping order in conjunction with the Southern government, in the interests of multi-national companies and international banks. The British Army and police can be replaced by others. And the British government is already planning how to replace them by reinforcing the horrors of partition. All Britain's energies in Ireland at this moment are devoted to creating two states on this island — an independent Six County Ulster, and the present 26 County state strengthened in reaction by no longer having the Northern problem and its discontent. Britain and her masters (America, Germany and Japan) want two police states to control the working class in the years of crisis ahead, both loyal to the EEC and both utterly dependent on the IMF. The sectarian Orangemen who destroyed Connolly's hopes of liberating the Northern working class, Catholic and Protestant, will rule in the North with the support of whatever Catholics will follow the SDLP in enforcing draconian repressive legislation, and whatever Catholics will accept a role as police in the Balkanised Catholic ghettos. And in the Southern state, the descendants of William Martin Murphy, the Castle Catholics and Law and Order men, the Blueshirts and the pro-British labour politicians will complete the job they have so well begun of establishing a regime of terror and censorship. The business class of both parts of the island have abandoned the idea of economic independence and the southern business class have abandoned any pretence of wanting national unity. All of them are content to make a fat living in comfortable surroundings by becoming managers for the multinational companies or civil servants for the EEC.

They are busy selling our natural resources. North and south of the Border they have imposed upon us, and carrying out repression of those who resist this new plunder. They are content to follow the dictates of the IMF in wanting only creating unemployment in order to bring down wages to the level set for each area by our international bankers.

They are perpetuating a criminal revision of Irish education particularly in history to show Britain, the landlords and the Churches and the businessmen and their political parties, as the heroes of Irish history while depicting sincere nationalists, tenant farmers and revolutionary working class as barbarians, deluded fanatics and psychopaths. Above all they are brainwashing us into believing that there are two nations in Ireland, each with a legitimate claim to national territory and to repressive legislation against those who are subversive of their state.

SUCH A SCHEME, AS CONNOLLY SAID, "would mean a carnival of reaction both North and South, would set back the wheels of progress, would destroy the oncoming unity of the Irish Labour movement and paralyse all advanced movements while it endured. To labour should give the bitterest opposition, against it labour in Ulster should fight even to the death, if necessary as our fathers fought before us. . . let it be heard and understood that labour in Ireland stands for the unity of Ireland — an Ireland united in the name of progress and who shall separate us".

We can acknowledge the greatness and the heroism of themen of 1916, who so slandered by our rulers today. But unlike them we can share their sense of failure, and yet hope that in our time we will succeed where Connolly gallantly failed: that "Ireland may yet set the torch to a European conflagration that will not burn until the last throne and the last capitalist lord and debenture will be shivered on the funeral pyre of the last warlord".

Easter oration delivered by James Daly, Belfast, a member of the Ard Comhairle Irish Republican Socialist Party at a commemoration held in Bray on Easter Sunday last.

Fellow Irishmen and comrades. The Establishment of the Southern State in Ireland used to commemorate, officially, at Easter time, thememory of those who in 1916 began the modern struggle for independence by occupying the GPO in Dublin. In 1966 on the fiftieth anniversary, they did so with a pomp and pageantry which belied the unease which soon caused them to cancel such commemorations forever. The well-heeled establishment of 1966 wanted to celebrate a triumph and congratulate itself on its success. But the story of 1916 is one of failure. "Ireland one and Ireland free" is not this the definition of Ireland — a nation?" So said Patrick Pearse. And the state which called itself Ireland — and even the Republic of Ireland — and which claimed to embody the nation could not allow itself to be questioned by themen it called its founders. The fifty year pretence had ended that the Proclamation was a foundation document of the State; it was seen for what it is — a subversive challenge as subversive now as it was when first written.

NATIONAL STRUGGLE A CLASS STRUGGLE

The national struggle in Ireland was, and is, a class struggle. As the Unionist biographer of Lord Carson put it: "Irish Nationalism is in reality a class war, directed by the lower against the upper elements of society". The upper elements of society meant the British overlords and the unionist aristocracy. The republicans of 1916 saw their life's work as undoing the conquest of Ireland by the British empire, to make Ireland one and free. It was an anti-imperialist struggle which implied a consciousness of Irish political and economic slavery and a determination to resist imperialism and liberate the Irish people.

SOME of the anti-imperialist consciousness of the men of 1916 survived and outlets were found for it for a while by the southern state. But only as long as one of the signatures of the Proclamation of the Republic was not mentioned. James Connolly was a democrat, and so demanded the right of the Irish people to govern themselves. He was an anti-imperialist and so demanded, as Pearse did, the right of the Irish people to own and control the wealth of their own country, produced by their own work. But unlike Pearse, he saw that the racketing landlords and the exploiting businessmen would betray and compromise even on the national question, turning to the imperialists and the former colonialists for support against the Irish working class. William Martin Murphy, exploiter of the Transport workers paid eloquent testimony to Connolly's accuracy when his paper, the Irish Independent, called on the British in 1916 to show Connolly the agitator no mercy.

SELLING OUT

Connolly ruthlessly exposed the readiness of the patriots of the Home Rule Party, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United Irish League, not only to show loyalty to the empire by recruiting young Irishmen to fight the Germans, but also to accept "the damnable crime of the partition of Ireland". He appealed to the workers to prevent this crime, which was being planned as he said "by the political parties which for a generation have taught you to believe that they hoped for and worked for Ireland a Nation". They were also the parties who tried to break the 1913 strike against William Martin Murphy by recruiting workers into a sham union approved of by Murphy's directors. And they cheered on the British government in Ireland when it sent its police to beat up the Dublin workers.

ALTHOUGH he was prepared to join them in arms and sign the Proclamation, Connolly saw that even the advanced nationalists, the I.R.B., members of the Gaelic League and Sinn Féin, who were prepared to boycott British institutions, refuse to serve in the British Army and even to organise and challenge the British Empire in arms, were all likely to end up committing the same crimes as the pro-imperialist Home Rulers. This is because they represented the same class interests and in the interest of

profits would need allies to oppress the Irish working class if they got to power. These were the people who later said complacently "Labour must wait." These were the people who later accepted Free State status, allegiance to the empire and partition. They were also these people who even though they fought the Free Staters, were in document number two prepared to partition the country at the behest of the reactionary Orange Order, the Order against which the United Irishmen organised but which defeated the United Irish rebellion of 198 with the barbaric cruelty which has been the fate of the oppressed Irish.

The Sinn Feiners who were apologists for Southern businessmen among the extreme national movement were prepared to pay any price to woo

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the Northern Orange businessmen to their side to proclaim Irish Independence from England. But Connolly was clearheaded about the nature of Orangism and the evils of partition and he reserved for this some of his fiercest language. When McNeill and Pearse were praising the Ulster Volunteers for arming themselves against Britain's plan of Home Rule, Connolly wrote "of late the advanced Nationalist Press have lent themselves to a desperate effort to misrepresent the position of the Carsonsites, and to claim for them the admiration of Irish Nationalists on the grounds that these Carsonites were fearless Irishmen who had refused to take dictation from England. A more devilish mischievous and lying doctrine was never preached in Ireland. The Carsonite position is indeed plain. . . . We are loyal British subjects. We hold this country for England. England cannot desert us." What light or leading then can Ireland get from the hysterical patriots who so egregiously misrepresent this fierce contempt for Ireland as something that ought to win the esteem of Irishmen?" Connolly continued "The Carsonites remain as condurate and anti-Irish as ever. It is noticable that all talk about a 'union of the North and South in defence of Ireland' about 'blinding the Orange and the Green' about 'marching united as Irishmen against the common foe' and all the other clap-trap has been strictly confined to the Nationalist side. No response has come from the Ulster Volunteers no Carsonite official has made the smallest overture towards peace; there has not been the slightest melting of the sour bigotry of the Orangemen."

CONNOLLY hated the prospect of partition with a fierce hatred because he foresaw with blinding clarity that that the hopes of the Irish working class would be destroyed by partition. "All hopes" he wrote, "of

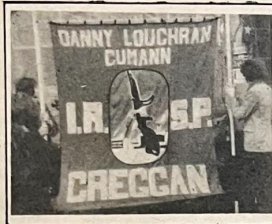
the Irish front

IRSP banners. Darry's IRSP members are actively engaged in the work of the Irish Front.

During December and January the Irish Front began to set up area committees throughout the city and to formalise its Central Committee which consists of two representatives of each affiliated organisation, and one area representative. The main debate during this period was around the nature of the Irish Front, and the question posed was, it is to be a 'popular' or 'Broad' front organisation. There existed some confusion in the minds of its activists, but as the debate continued, many began to realise that any 'popular front' such as the mass civil rights movement of the late 1960's would be wide open to opportunistic infiltration. One prominent civil rights activist of that period, together with members of the I.R.S.P. and Provisional Sinn Fein, argued strongly for the movement to adopt a 'broad front' approach, which in effect meant that at all times the Irish Front would be dominated by those five organisations which were foremost in the anti-imperialist struggle. The passing of a resolution on electoral policy, marked an end to the debate. This resolution read "THAT NO MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OR AREA COMMITTEES WILL PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS. THAT WE VIEW THIS MEASURE NECESSARY SO AS TO MAINTAIN OUR UNITY, AND SO AS NOT TO IMPEDE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF OUR FOUR DEMANDS." Opportunism had been thus struck a deadly blow. The lessons of this past ten years in Derry have been well learnt.

Towards the end of January the organisation produced its first IRISH FRONT BULLETIN and appeared on the streets to coincide with the Bloody Sunday commemorations. On the 23rd of the month the organisation held its first city-

wide conference, with over fifty area committee delegates and members of the Central Committee in attendance. The main business was the plight of the prisoners, and the daily harassment on the streets. A central telephone was established whereby arrested persons or their relatives could seek immediate assistance. The movement adopted a charter, which outlined the demands of the organisation and called for anti-imperialist unity.



FEBRUARY witnessed the Irish Front adopting an agitational offensive on the streets, after four months of daily political work to establish a firm foundation upon which it is hoped to build a mass movement. On Sunday February 6th the Irish Front held its first march and rally which was attended by more than 600 people in spite of a heavy downpour of rain. The march began at the Creggan shops and proceeded to the Bloody Sunday Monument in Rossville Street, which has been re-named Martyrs Way, by the local people. The Chairperson was Mr. B. Barret, (Sinn Fein) and the guest speakers included, Mr. Frank Mc Manus (Former M.P.), Mr. Seamus Costello (I.R.S.P.), Mr. Anthony O'Malley Daly, (Sinn Fein, Donegal), and Mr. Fionbarra O'Dochartaigh (Troops Out Activist). The movement's newly-adopted Charter was read by Mr. M. English, its author.

Since then a number of pickets have been held, roads blocked, a silent march to the Bishop's residence calling on him to speak out against tortures, and a sixty word telegram was sent off to Declan Costello in Strasbourg during the hearing of charges against Britain for tortures during the internment period.

Anti-imperialists in the Derry area have reached a large measure of agreement, and greater understanding and trust is being established with each successive agitational endeavour. This has led to a new found political involvement by many who have in the past fallen by the wayside, and larger numbers

are being recorded at each public protest. The creation of the Irish Front has been welcomed by the vast majority of the people in the ghettos, many of whom say such should have happened "years ago". No doubt others in Ireland will follow the lead. The republican forces in Derry certainly have no regrets.



A section of the 10,000 strong crowd listen to speeches in Derry on St. Patrick's Day.

MASSIVE DISPLAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRISONERS & ANTI-IMPERIALIST UNITY.

Few will ever forget St. Patrick's Day 1976 and those who will remember it most were not even with us as we marched into Guildhall Square, namely the prisoners themselves for whom we marked that date as PRISONERS' DAY. The mass media once again endeavoured to play down this massive display of anti-imperialist unity, and the change of editor in the Derry Journal has not been occasioned by an improvement in the mathematical capabilities of its journalistic staff. Estimates vary but the man in the street puts such above or around 10,000 on the march, not to mention the hundreds of on-lookers who stood clapping and cheering along the route.

This was Derry's first St. Patrick's Day march for twenty-five years. Almost 1,000 balloons bearing the names of prisoners and the jails in which they are held were released of prisoners and the jails in which they are held were released prior to the march moving from the Creggan shops. Headed by two floats, one of which carried a youth dressed only in underwear and seated in a mock cage depicting the conditions under which many prisoners were forced to live, the parade under which many prisoners were forced to live, the parade was indeed a colourful display. The second float, decked in posters and the Starry Plough flags was that of the I.R.S.P., while the former was from the Prisoners, Dependents Fund, both affiliated organisations of the Irish Front. Several Provisional Sinn Fein and I.R.S.P. cumann banners were carried, as was the Irish Civil Rights Association banner, one of the bearers being the brother of the late Frank Stagg who died on Hunger Strike in England. A number of bands participated, with the local Pearse Brothers Pipe Band turning out in very smart fashion after its recent re-organisation.

The rally on Prisoners' Day ended with a rendering of "The Soldiers' Song", which has not been heard in Guildhall Square for many a long, long year.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST REPRESSION

The Irish Front has also been very vocal in its opposition to harassment of the nationalist population in Derry City and to the torture of young men in Derry and Belfast. Since February three members of the Central Committee of the Irish Front have been picked up by the Brits for 'questioning'. Over 60 people picketed Strand Road RUC Station in protest at tortures there and in Castlereagh RUC station in Belfast where about 60 Special Branchmen had taken it in relays to torture young Derrymen. Part of the torture tech-

niques consisted of stripping them naked and suspending them by a hook with their hands while they were tortured. The picket was rammed by an RUC car and a young girl assaulted and arrested. After an hour the picket moved off to block nearby roads with other demonstrators.

The Irish Front also travelled to Donegal to protest at the refusal of the Irish Government to accede to the reasonable demands of the hunger strikers in Portlaoise Jail.

United by the pseudo-patriotism of Unionism-Loyalism which in itself has only one role - opposition to the solving of the national question. Loyalism created by Britain to protect its economic interests, does not change its form only its leaders. Yesterdays extremists (Craig and West) are today 'moderates'.

Both Paisley and Mason use the same slogan "Seven Years is enough". Both want a return to pre-1969 conditions. In achieving this they differ in tactics. Britain realises that powersharing is not on. Mason wants to let the Northern conflict 'stew' for a few years more in the

hope that the oppression and war weariness of the nationalist population will bring about submission and thus end the resistance. Paisley on the other hand wants to get stuck in immediately, wipe out the republican-catholic vermin and at the same time capture the leadership of the entire Loyalist block and establish himself as a Six County Mussolini.

The UUAC strike is directed straight against Westminster, unlike the '74 strike which went against Westminster via the Assembly. The monster is turning on its creator. This difference has resulted in the Craigs and Wests not sup-

porting the strike. They will support the slow methodical Mason plan, and will not gamble all on one throw of the dice as Paisley is doing. They fear that the Brits might just pull out. They fully realise the effects that a strike failure will have on

the already divided Loyalist support. An all out direct confrontation would also expose the bluff of the Loyalist backlash i.e. catholic bloodbath, which has been used for 50 years to maintain partition.

to R 7

COUP D'ETAT OR BLUFF? (from page 1)

To understand the reason for the failure of the strike to gain momentum and also the division amongst Loyalists themselves on the question of the strike, one must make a comparison with the UUUC strike of '74. That strike was successful as it brought down the Assembly powersharing executive. It was principally aimed at Faulkner and his brand of Unionism without which the Executive could not have been constituted. The

collapse of the Assembly demonstrated that even powersharing of the representatives of the catholic middleclass (SDLP) could not 'normalise' the Northern situation even though the SDLP will accept a return to a pre-1969 situation.

To rule out powersharing with the paper tigers of the SDLP demonstrates clearly that Loyalists will never give any concessions whatsoever to republicans and socialists of the minority. If powersharing was a viable proposition or ever had been then the Six Co. State would never have been set up by Britain. This is because the entire Protestant population of the Six Counties are

THEY KNEW



Patrick Cooney.



Liam Cosgrave.



Edward Garvey.

When Stenson and the Murrays claimed almost two years ago that they had been tortured by teams of gardai even the most disinterested began to wonder. When about six months later the IRSP exposed a frame up of six of its members which was being held together by 'confessions' extracted through garda tortures people began to get worried. The visible proof was there and legal bodies called for an impartial public inquiry.

Then the claims began to accumulate and culminated in the suicide bid in Cahir garda station of a garda prisoner who couldn't stand up to his tormentors treatment. And then the Irish Times, in a series of articles, again exposed the whole shoddy affair.

The Government's reaction at first was a stonewall claim that it was all "subversive propaganda" despite the fact that most who had been tortured were never in fact charged with any subversive act, never mind proven guilty.

Cooney tongue-in-cheek, admitted that he had not even asked the Garda Commissioner if there was any truth in the heavy gang stories.

The truth of course is that he and the Government knew all along about the tortures and condoned them by their silence if not their active encouragement. They got rid of their political opponents who, in their mind, are all 'subversives'.

These torturers are still walking around free to-day undoubtedly to re-employ their tactics when required. Their innocent victims, on the other hand; are languishing in Portlaoise Jail, Europe's worst political prison.

OR they are free, uncharged with any offence, wondering at the hypocrisy of Ireland taking Britain to Strasbourg.

Cooney has bluffed the media into silence, hiding behind sub-judice laws, hoping time, as ever, will be the healer.

DEMAND

1. An immediate impartial public inquiry.
2. The suspension of all gardai accused of involvement in tortures.
3. The retrial of all those imprisoned on evidence obtained by alleged 'confessions' where the prisoners deny their authenticity.
4. The Expansion of the judges rule to exclude any 'confession' or statement not made in the presence of a solicitor.
5. The provision of Free Legal Aid for all those initiating cases against the gardai for torture or false arrest.
6. The criminal prosecutions of all those accused of torture or complicity in torture.
7. The abolition of all legislation allowing time and opportunity for torture.
8. The formation of an independent complaints bureau to deal with allegations against the gardai.

DEMAND IT NOW. IT COULD BE YOUR TURN TOMORROW.

STON STATE TORTU HEAVY GANGS

Garda technical bureau, St. ...

For over a century the population of Ireland fell steadily from eight million people to under four million. Now the population has again begun to increase bringing either new potential resources of wealth and happiness or, in some people's narrow selfish view, disastrous problems. The wealth and natural resources of Ireland are sufficient to secure employment and satisfaction for the rising population of the country if they were employed and distributed in a fair and equitable manner and developed in a rational systematic way. But such a government is only possible in the context of full political and economic sovereignty; that is when all external interests, be they powerful multi-national companies or international banking institutions, are forced to give way to the primary needs of the Irish people.

uneconomically and unjustly. The system of capitalists which enables individual farmers to dispose of their land according to their whims means that since the great famine the gross output of the land has always been below capacity. Farmers have consistently sought to maximise their profits or to indulge their preference for leisure rather than to produce the maximum. This has been a major factor contributing to unemployment, underdevelopment and rural depopulation. Yet the experiences of the 1939-45 War demonstrated that even in unfavourable circumstances when starved of necessary inputs such as fertilisers and machinery, the Irish agricultural sector could produce sufficient food for the people, plus a surplus for export, supply a large part of

determined by export prices, wages have had to be high if workers were not to starve. This has always been a factor which contributed to the high cost of Irish manufactures.

The organisation of the internal market in livestock robs small producers, who mainly rear young animals, of the proper return for their product. The large ranchers, especially the grazier, can buy in cheaply at their expense. As far as calves are concerned the low profit dairying sector consistently subsidises the high profit grazing sector. Vegetables are bought at low prices from small farmers by travelling wholesalers who retail them with at least 100% profit.

In general, availability of credit is geared to

A SOCIALIST VIEW OF THE ECONOMY Part 1 AGRICULTURE

The discovery and exploitation of Ireland's mineral resources in the past fifteen years has added considerably to the potential wealth of the country. So has the discovery of off-shore oil-deposits and new techniques for generating and economising energy. But these resources like the primeval forests of Ireland can be quickly exhausted without giving any permanent benefit to the people or the country. The main natural wealth continues to be the soil and climate of the country.

As the standard of living of the industrialised advanced countries rises there is a growing demand for a high protein diet, partly because it is more palatable and has high status, partly because it is the most efficient diet. Ireland has great advantages as a producer of protein. But the natural resource of the soil is not exploited scientifically nor have the wastelands been scientifically reclaimed. Because of the accidental history of land purchase in the 19th century the land was distributed

the national transport and fuel requirements and the raw materials for the clothing, shoe-making and construction industries. The fundamental question raised by Bulmer Hobson in his 20th century version of the Jurist must again be raised: "Whether the existence of poor and hungry people, in a country plentifully supplied with food and everything that they need, is evidence of some dangerous malady in the economic system?"

The poverty on the land despite the plenty it produces is due to the capitalist exploitation of the best land by large farmers whose ownership of it is largely due to historical accident. Until the present budget they have neither paid taxes nor made any contribution to the national income from the windfall profits they have enjoyed from the runaway increases in the value of their produce and of the land that produces it. Because the price of food in Ireland is

the security of the borrower rather than his needs. Small men cannot get the necessary credit for sound expansion nor is it possible for them to acquire land at reasonable prices.

Another of Hobson's queries is relevant when one considers the structure of farming and land holding in Ireland:

"Whether there is a hypnosis in an existing order by which it gets itself taken for granted, and an inertia which retards even an examination of its defects and whether it comes to be regarded as being in the nature of things?"

Part 2 of A SOCIALIST VIEW OF THE ECONOMY will be continued in our next issue and will deal with INDUSTRY.

...HOW IN INTE

The hunger strike by Protestants has highlighted not merely in Portlaoise prison, and the government to political opposition weakness which resulted in the Movement which resulted in the attract mass support for the

THIS IS NOT the first time been calls for an inquiry into Portlaoise. As far back as 1951 the discovery that Sean Mac after 55 days hunger strike being locked in solitary confinement and a half years, without breathing fresh air, without associations with any other was eventually allowed. This is an emphatic statement by the Justice that "There is no need - a statement just as emphatic Cooney today.

HOWEVER the inquiry some appalling inductive regimes. The entire report, incidentally as Labour Party policy and this day, although commended by the present Labour Party by the present Labour Party WHILE CONDITIONS in Portlaoise not as drastic as they were in not as very close similarities.

Torture is a word that up until recently most people associated with countries far away on the other side of the hemisphere. Then came internment and the grizzly techniques in Hollywood, and Girwood Barracks. Lastly came the confirmation that claims of torture and brutality by the Garda towards prisoners in the 26 Counties were true. The Heavy Gang is with us and it very much depends on the determination of the public to demand a public inquiry whether they remain a feature of the Irish government's repressive campaign.

The use of torture against 'suspects' in custody was first used against those brought to Cork's Saeor fire man Larry White. While their solicitor confirmed he had heard them scream from their cells there was little medical evidence to prove that 'confessions' had been beaten out of them. However the courts subsequently ruled that the alleged confessions had been made while the suspects were in unlawful custody.

Because of the Murrays political isolation the gardai thought there would be little or no opposition to their torture techniques of beating 'confessions' out of them. And again because of the opposition to bail etc., there was no medical evidence to back up the torture claims. The one exception was Ronan Stenson who was subsequently declared unfit to stand trial by medical experts. Rather than have the whole torture story come out into the open the gardai forced a ruling that he had in fact been illegally detained while his alleged 'confession' was made. He was immediately discharged.

STATE CONSPIRACY

The campaign to smash the IRSP in April '76 was a continuation of the new garda tactic of getting rid of political opponents by any means, including frame ups. But the IRSP refused to allow the state conspiracy to be covered up and initiated a campaign to expose the tortures and the frame up. The media in general displayed disquiet while most liberal organisations and many individuals demanded an impartial public inquiry. But the state hid behind the sub judice laws which forbids comment on

cases currently before the courts. The attempts by the state to allow the case to be thrown out of court on a technicality was meant to imply that the IRSP was guilty but had escaped justice through a bureaucratic slip up. But the IRSP continued to expose the conspiracy and the state was forced to try to make its frame up stick and the trial is set for June 8th next.

COONEY'S LIES

When the Irish Times began its expose of the heavy gang the editor tried to block the story by insisting that an affidavit be sworn out by victims in the presence of a garda inspector! But following pressure from journalists within the Irish Times the story went ahead. Other sections of the media began to censor the story and it was only Britain's opportunism in publicising the garda tortures that forced the media to run the story. Then the state began its whitewashing attempts. The sub judice laws were thrown to the wind

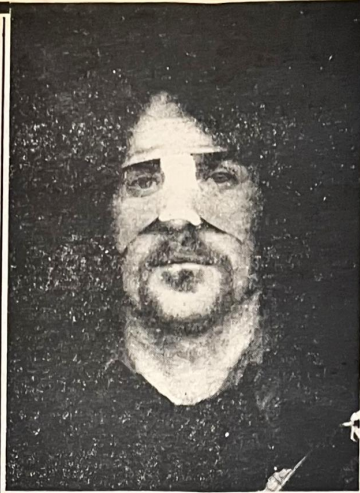
as garda spokesmen leaked sections of garda evidence in the forthcoming Kildare Six trial, falsely claiming that the IRSP had caused their own injuries! Cooney, in a series of statements, confused the issue with such irrelevancies as the claim that no special interrogation squad existed, which was neither here nor there. There followed statistical gobbledygook which exonerated gardai from involvement in torture.

Yet Cooney admitted that following some cases taken against gardai, which had not been proven, the gardai had applied internal discipline. Proof, indeed, that there was some guilt. He then denied that he had ever said that the allegations came only from subversives and were unworthy of investigation although a look through the RTE records of the previous September will prove him a liar. Finally, playing politics, he left his options open for the introduction of what he called an investigatory tribunal.

The truth is that none of the cases of torture in relation to the heavy gang, against the gardai will come before the courts until next year, at least.

The Seven Day detention law was ostensibly introduced as a result of the assassination of the British Ambassador. However IRSP men were told of its impending introduction months before the assassination. The only conceivable reason for seven day detention is to allow seven days of torture to force 'suspects' to incriminate themselves and others, irrespective of their innocence.

There can be no doubt that torturers have taken place, that the gardai and the government are covering up the whole affair and that repressive legislation assisted the whole sordid affair. They will occur again unless steps are taken to hold an impartial public inquiry that will recommend stringent preventative measures. There is no one as low as one who attacks defenceless prisoners or lies about technical evidence such as fingerprints, or frames innocent people. They must be exposed, punished and stopped in their tracks.



VICTIMS

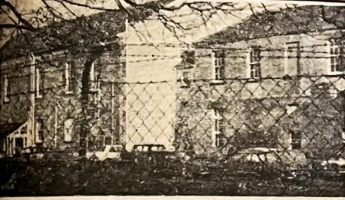


- Top: Thomas O'Connor shortly after attempting suicide by jumping through a window to escape his tormentors.
- Centre: Sean Gallagher (IRSP) tortured to force him to implicate himself and others in a robbery he had nothing to do with. When he successfully resisted he was released without charge.
- Below: A victim of garda brutality outside Portlaoise Jail. Women and children were also battered by gardai wearing no numbers — proof that the attack was pre-meditated.



NAVY H.Q.

Road, Kingsbridge, Dublin.



HOLD AN INQUIRY INTO OUR JAILS

by Prisoners for 47 days... horrific conditions... include of the... but also the... Republican... failure to... campaign.

there have... conditions in... following... they had died... first at... for four... without... or... an inquiry... showed the... Minister for... an inquiry... echoed by

ted the... Portlaoise Jail... adopted... to be forgotten

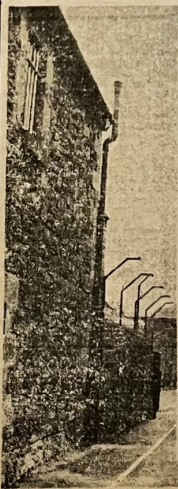
ese jail are... why there... time is in-

dictive in every possible way ensuring its implementations can only have the ultimate result of breaking the spirit of the political prisoners. Indeed this is reflected by the willingness of prisoners to die rather than continue to be physically and psychologically tortured in captivity.

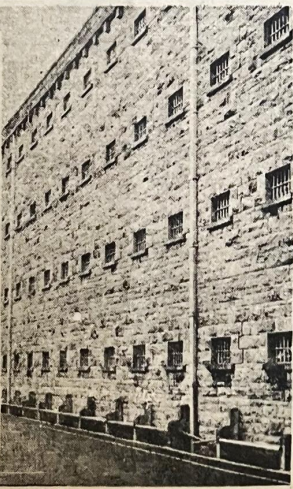
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT that the hunger strikers' demands were perfectly reasonable: an end to strip searches, more visits, more food parcels, educational, craft and recreational facilities, and an end to vindictive sentences in solitary confinement. While these are meticulously enforced in Portlaoise they are also generally applied in other Irish prisons — a fact perhaps not generally known and which has correctly led to the call for an inquiry into conditions in all Irish prisons.

However this is not surprising in the least as all repression is inevitably used against the working class, although, as is the case of Portlaoise Jail, its initial victims are usually vocal political opponents of the state.

THE MEDIA, forced from any semblance of Liberalism by government censorship over the past few years, stood solidly against the call for an inquiry forcing many conscientious journalists to draw attention to the media's bias.



THE PROVISIONALS, humanitarians in general and in particular the prisoners in Portlaoise may be glad that no loss of life occurred and that, despite government propaganda to the contrary there has been a wide spectrum of public opinion which has come out in favour of an inquiry into conditions in Portlaoise. But the Provisionals must be worried at their failure to actively involve the mass of the people in the campaign. It must be becoming increasingly clear to them that without the participation of the mass of the people in their struggle that they cannot be successful in their overall struggle against British imperialism, and its native hacks which in the long run is the only guarantee of decent conditions in Irish jails and the release of anti-imperialist prisoners. To bring about such mass participation they will have to take another look at many of their tactics and, indeed, one or two of their aims.



Cell Block E - Portlaoise Jail

national liberation army on offensive

The Irish National Liberation Army have been increasing their activities recently and have been responsible for the deaths of two British soldiers and six attacks on individuals and property associated with the Northern Ireland prison service.

There is little known about the National Liberation Army (NLA) who have remained relatively quiet since December '75 when they claimed numerous attacks on RUC barracks and British Army patrols, stating they had killed one and injured nine British soldiers and killed two RUC men and injured another three.

At the end of July '76 they were responsible for a spectacular attack on a British Army patrol in Dungiven, Co. Derry which resulted in the death of a British soldier.

Following the murder of 10-year-old Brian Stewart by British soldiers in Turf Lodge the local people insisted that British troops be withdrawn and have maintained that demand to the present day. A meeting was

arranged with the Provisional IRA and the NLA to seek their protection. Following a British incursion into the area an NLA sniper killed Corporal Andrew Crocker of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Provos claimed the killing but it soon became clear that the NLA were responsible.

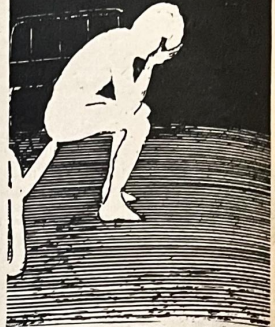
Indeed this laxity on the part of the NLA to claim their attacks makes it difficult to access their activities but they have undoubtedly carried out more operations than is known.

Between Sept. and December '76 they carried out six separate attacks on individuals and property associated with the Northern Ireland Prison Service. The attacks were carried out by the NLA Commands of Derry, Belfast and Armagh. They then halted their campaign awaiting the outcome of a British government reassessment of their policy of phasing out political status.

The NLA were incensed by the outcome

as they received word from NLA volunteers in Crumlin Road Jail and from the NLA O/C in Long Kesh. They heard how prisoners were kept in blankets in the H-blocks of Long Kesh, were only given short durations of recreation, how they were refused dry blankets when it rained, how they were kept on a reduced diet and how leading members of the Long Kesh administration were torturing prisoners, particularly NLA volunteer Connelly Brady from Derry. Reports from Crumlin Road were as bad with prisoners being dragged, pushed and beaten coming to and from the Courts.

A Northern Starry Plough correspondent reports that NLA operations against property and people connected with the Northern Ireland Prison Service will be intensified in the coming months as part of the NLA's support for the retention of political status.



'KESH DOC WANTS INQUIRY

therefore, refuse to go. That means they cannot leave their cells to eat or go to wash because the prison authorities have refused them a second towel to cover themselves with or even to go to the toilet, and they have to use a plastic container which in this day and age is very degrading."

Proceeding, Dr. Deeny said these prisoners are not allowed to sit or lie on their beds during the day. An uncomfortable plastic chair is available to them. They are, he says, frequently watched to make sure that they do not break any of these rules. He emphasised that the men are already being punished for their breach of prison rules in not wearing prison clothes by the following penalties: loss of visits; loss of parcels; loss of letter writing; loss of association with their fellow colleagues; loss of hobbies and occupation; loss of educational facilities and loss of industrial training.

"Most of all they are suffering loss of remissions, all of which are severe penalties for what is a minor political face-saving gesture", he claimed. According to Dr. Deeny, "these men have not been guilty of serious breaches, such as attempting to escape or assaulting officers".

IRSP ON EURO TOUR



● IRSP Ard Comhairle member Seamus O'Kane who has gone on a European Tour taking in meetings in Germany, Holland and Belgium.

The IRSP has accepted an invitation by the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee (W.I.S.C.) to participate in a European tour to promote the struggle for national liberation, and socialism in Ireland. The tour is being organised in conjunction with other Ireland Support groups throughout Europe. Also accompanying the tour is a representative of Provisional Sinn Fein a spokeswoman from Turf, residents committee.

International understanding of the struggle in Ireland is essential to build international pressure against the British economic, political and cultural influences on Ireland and its people. It is expected that the tour will result in an increased interest in Ireland and will swell the ranks of the Irish solidarity groups throughout Europe.

GET THE STARRY PLOUGH EVERY MONTH

Foreign support grows

There are numerous groups abroad working for the Irish people yet they get little publicity here at home from the media. This is natural enough when you consider that the censored media does not wish to propagate the amount of support there is abroad for the struggle for national liberation and socialism here in Ireland.

Ireland support groups exist in practically all European countries and the Scandinavian countries, as well as in Britain and the USA. There is the relatively thankless task of pointing out the true facts of Ireland's occupation by Britain, detailing her atrocities and gathering support for the call for self determination for the Irish people. They also help to expose the quisling policies of the successive 26 County governments, their give-away offers to the multinationals, the disastrous state of our economy and the ever growing repression.

To a large extent they are responsible for the world condemnation of Infirmment and torture in the North and undoubtedly the raprieve of Marie and Noel Murray. They produce regular information bulletins and posters and hold numerous

demonstrations, film shows lecture tours and petition campaigns. Financially, they also make contributions to prisoners' dependents. We are constantly brainwashed that the peace at any price brigade have tremendous support abroad,

ostensibly from the ordinary people, which is not true. For instance Norway's Oslo based Ireland Committee writes: "... The Norwegian Student Society (DNS), at our sitting on 29th January 1977, want to take this opportunity to express our sympathy with the liberation struggle of the Irish People, and at the

same time want to dissociate ourselves strongly from the grand-style bourgeois propaganda campaign against the Irish Liberation movement in connection with the allotment of the "people's peace prize" to the so-called "Peace People" last autumn. The "peace movement" in Northern

Ireland was a last, desperate attempt by the British Authorities to crack the Irish liberation movement at a moment when it is making progress. We are glad that this attempt now appears to have failed, because the Irish working class now are backing the liberation struggle against the Brits more strongly than ever.

At the same time we want to express our solidarity with the thousands who are now languishing in British and Irish prisons and concentration camps, where they are refused status as political prisoners, and treated worse than criminals. We demand that their claim for political status must be met at once!

England out of Ireland! No peace without freedom!

The meeting was attended by several thousand students and workers.

As a comparison it should be mentioned that the Conservative Students Alliance proposed a motion

IRELAND bulletin



"VREDE IS ALLEEN MOGELIJK IN EEN MAATSCHAPPIJ VAN VRIJE MENSEN"

(Noel Jenkinson)

Pamphlet produced by the Dutch Ireland Committee.

IRELAND



Info 11 Pamphlet produced by the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee.

2,000 IRISH DETAINED

Dear Comrades,

In March this year, Parliament had before it for the fifth time the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, first introduced in November 1974.

The British public were led to believe that the act was an unpleasant but a necessary temporary measure, required to end the activities of mad bombers. It was hailed as the forerunner of peace in Ireland.

Since its introduction, over 2,000 people have been detained without charge or trial for up to seven days, or up to 12 days if they were picked up at embarkation points. Relations and friends have been left in complete ignorance of detainees' whereabouts for the duration of their being held, 80 or so have been deported to Ireland, without having any right to know why.

RACIST

Those held have included a pregnant girl, a 13 year old child, the committed pacifist Pat Arrowsmith, who was awarded £200 for wrongful arrest by the Hampshire police, and many others quite beyond suspicion as far as violence is concerned.

Meanwhile the killing in Ireland has continued. All along the British Government's policy has been to crack down violently on those Irish men and women who ardently wish for peace in a united Ireland free from British interference.

By definition, no British strategy can pacify the Irish situation. As long as Britain clings to its first and last colony, the violence will go on.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act represents a complete denial of basic civil liberties. It bodes ill for

trade unionists, student militants and political activists in Britain, who have already witnessed with the Shrewsbury Pickets' conspiracy trial, how viciously the state is prepared to act against people involved even in normal trade union activities.

The Act is a shameless attempt to intimidate and harass the Irish in Britain, to the extent that none will dare express legitimate republican opinions. This applies to conversations in private, not just to overt political activities, because the act openly encourages Irish people to inform on one and other and denies them the right to be silent when questioned.

The Trade Union Committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act was set up primarily to fight for the release of people detained and to defend the Irish community against harassment. It is now involved in a national campaign to have the Act repealed.

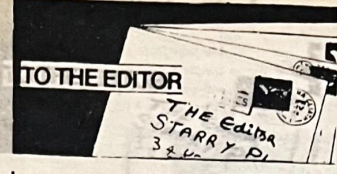
Money is desperately needed to finance the production of literature and the organisation of activities to expose this legislation.

Cheques should be made payable to the Trade Union Defence Committee.

Yours,

Susan O'Halloran,
Administrative Secretary.

Trade Union Committee
Against the Prevention of
Terrorism Act,
46 Prince George Road,
London N16 8BY



Limerick done out of £75,000

A CHARA

TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR THE PEOPLE OF LIMERICK, AS PRICES ALMOST DAILY SET NEW RECORDS WORKERS HAVE TO WATCH EVERY PENNY IN ORDER TO EXIST ON WAGES WHICH BEAR NO RELATION TO THE COST OF LIVING, SO HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE TOLD THAT YOU HAVE JUST BEEN DONE OUT OF OVER £75,000?

ST. ENDA'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL, SOUTHILL, WAS BUILT JUST TWO YEARS AGO AND THE CITY COUNCIL, AS OWNERS OF THE GAS BOARD, DECIDED TO PROVIDE GAS MAINS FOR HEATING AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. THIS SET US BACK A COOL £75,000. BEING THE GENEROUS LOT THEY ARE THEY ALSO THREW IN THE GAS AT A GIVE AWAY PRICE — AND WHY NOT? IT'S NOT THEIR MONEY. TO PROTECT THEIR INVESTMENT THEY APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL — COUNCILLOR LEDDIN.

A short time ago a Corporation official on a visit to the school rounded a corner and there it was, a dirty great oil tank, right in the middle of gas country.

Off he dashed back to base and wrote to the Minister for Education pointing out that there must be a mistake in converting to oil as they had not been consulted about it and nobody had applied for planning permission or even consulted the Fire Department as regards the safety of siting the

oil storage tank so close to the school. The Department of Education did not even bother to reply to his letter and our money went up in a cloud of oily smoke, in a manner of speaking.

When the matter came up for debate at the Council meeting the chairman of the school board thundered that when he heard from the Corporation official what was happening he "protested to the department of Education in the

THANKS

Our thanks to the workers of the Inter-stretch firm in Ennis, Co. Clare, for their donation of £15 for political prisoners' dependents.

traditional Labour Party way". The fact that this achieved absolutely nothing didn't seem to worry him in the least, as, of course, getting no place seems to be another Labour Party tradition.

Someone else said that the Department broke the law by not getting planning permission and should be prosecuted like anybody else to which the City Solicitor, Mr. Wolfe, laughed and replied that it was one thing to prosecute an individual but he did not think it worth while trying to prosecute the government.

So there you are! Not only did we lose the cost of the installation and the gas we gave for half nothing but it now seems that some official in Dublin can completely ignore the school board and the Corporation and break the law into the bargain. But what worries me is, how long before some other idiot decides to spend more of our money by converting perhaps to coal?

John Gilligin, Limerick City.

Ryan is Lyin'

Richie Ryan now claims that the economic crisis is over. The recovery, he states is durable rather than transitory. You may remember that he always claimed that our economic crisis was due to external factors beyond our control. Of course its not logical nor especially so when you hear that the O.E.C.D. has just predicted an energy crisis to be felt next year.



"pardon Murrays" call

The Murray Defence Committee have called for the pardon of the Murrays following the acquittal of Ronan Stenson, a co-defendant in the case.

"This verdict is only the latest in a series which have uncovered scandals caused by the gardaís abuse of its powers of arrest and detention to obtain confessions," continues their statement. The statement also demanded the repeal of the legislation that had allowed the abuses to occur.

In calling for an investigation into the gardaís actions in the case and in calling for the pardon of the Murrays, the statement points out that the evidence used to convict the Murrays had been obtained by the same methods rightly criticised in the judgement of Ronan Stenson.

Inspector Ned "Buffalo" Ryan, infamous for his torture of the Murrays, Stenson, and his direction of the torture and frame up of the IRSP men has again made the news and again in connection with tortures and frame ups.

Ernest James Davidson of Kilbarrack, Co. Dublin who appeared in the Special Court recently, was found not guilty of any involvement in robberies in Westport. Davidson told the court that he had not been in Westport at the time of the robberies; that he knew nothing about them and that he had not made any statement.

The statement (before the court) had been put to him by Inspector Ryan and had been written down by the Inspector.

PARISIANS EXPOSE 'PEACE' PEOPLE



During the evening of Tuesday 26th April, militants of the Comité Irlande held a protest picket inside and outside the Church St. Germain-des-Prés in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the centre of Paris, where leaders of the Peace Movement, were holding a fund-raising meeting. Leaflets explaining the real situation in Northern Ireland were first of all distributed outside the church to those about to attend the meeting and

passers-by and during the duration of the meeting inside the church the Comité Irlande maintained a constant circulation of political signboards and questioning of the platform speakers. French television was present as well as various journalists, and all in all, the intervention was a success, given that a sizable proportion of the meeting ended up supporting the struggle for national liberation and socialism in Ireland.

wolfe tone

Sallings 2 pm

June 26 commemoration

LOYALISTS

from p. 3

In the near future an unprecedented wave of repression against the minority is on the cards, be this administered by 'Brit soldiers or the RuC — UDR is irrelevant, oppression is oppression.

What is needed now is a mass movement, North and South, campaigning politically on the issue of

partition and the right of the Irish people to self-determination. The past year has seen campaigns of different issues all related to the national question e.g. political status, capital punishment, police torture, hunger strike. All these issues should be part of a broad and centralised campaign. The unity of all anti-imperialist forces around an agreed programme in a broad front is the first necessity for a mass

campaign. In calling for this for the past two and a half years the IRSP has ploughed a lonely furrow. The second condition for the success of such a mass movement lies in the area of armed struggle. If anti-imperialist unity can be obtained then the IRA and to a lesser extent the emerging INLA must ensure that their actions are linked to mass struggle. This is the only recipe for the creation of a united Socialist Ireland.

THE FACTS BEHIND THE TORTURES

a state
CONSPIRACYI.R.S.P. and
The 'Great'
Train Robbery
FRAME-UP

Available from the Kildare Six Defence Committee
c/o 34 Upper Gardiner St., Dublin 20p.

The four IRSP men framed with the Kildare train robbery appeared in the Special Criminal Jurisdiction Court on Jan 21st last. The books of evidence were not ready but were to be served on January 25th. The Director of Public Prosecutions stated the trial would last a week to 10 days.

When the four appeared again on April 18th last the trial was fixed for June 8th.

The Special Court remanded the defendants Osgur Breatnach, Mick Plunkett, Nicky Kelly and Brian McNally until April 18th and set a provisional date of May 2nd for the trial.

The books of evidence were eventually served on January 25th and contain a mass of fabrications.

The trial is expected to take much longer than the week to ten days forecast by the prosecution.

After 12 months, following beatings, tortures, threats, attempted by IRSP men were offered thousands of pounds to fabricate statements implicating the Kildare Six, defamation of character, numerous releases and re-arrests (one defendant was

arrested six times and detained twice in connection with the same offence), the frame up organised by the state is complete. It is an attempt to destroy the IRSP politically and if successful will herald an escalation in such tactics against all other radical political opponents of the government.

The Kildare Six are innocent. If the frame up succeeds they face up to 20 years in jail. The trial is to be held by a juryless court whose three judges are politically appointed. It will hear lies from the Special Branch such as their latest claim - that the IRSP planned their own substantial injuries which were self-inflicted.

STRASBOURG BARRISTER ADMITS
IRSP MAN WAS TORTURED

• Aidan Brown

Aidan Browne, one of the barristers presently conducting the Strasbourg Torture case against Britain admitted that a man whom he was prosecuting in Dublin was in the same bad condition as a man he saw in Belfast following internment and who had been tortured. The Dublin man he was referring to was Osgur Breatnach, Editor, Starry Plough, and one of the Kildare Six.

The Irish News is contemplating following the practice of the 26 Co. press in refusing to print political death notices and messages. This has been a good source of revenue for the Irish News in the past seven years. However they are prepared to forego what has proved to be a lucrative source of revenue in the past on obtaining orders from the British government.

ative journalists, has serious implications, for it negates fundamental human and democratic rights.

The aim of the CAMPAIGN FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND is to draw attention to this situation.

Various pickets and demonstrations have been held in recent months - which naturally got little or no publicity.

LONDON

TORCHLIGHT
PROTEST

A Torchlight Protest March took place along London's Kilburn High Rd., on the night of February 4th as part of the continuing protest against the harassment (physical and mental torture) of Irish Political Prisoners in Britain.

The marchers, which included members and supporters of the I.R.S.P. along with T.O.M. members, persevered to the end of the route despite unkindly weather.

THE DOUBLE STANDARDS of the British Government are adequately illustrated by the fact that they have rejected 60 petitions to transfer Irish prisoners to N.Ireland while they have sanctioned the transference to British Jails of 26 soldiers who were convicted in Ireland.

ENNIS
GARDAÍ
HARASS IRSP

Although the IRSP is a registered political party it has consistently been refused collection permits in every part of the 26 Counties for which it has sought such permits.

Nowhere was this petty harassment better exposed than in Co. Clare where IRSP members asked for a permit to make an Easter collection.

They were refused, although at a court appearance in February, for an illegal Christmas Collection, a Garda Inspector told the Court that had they applied for a licence they would have got one!

of any real understanding of the situation among the general public, thus undermining the possibility of rational debate and precluding a critical assessment of the British government's policy in Ireland.

Recently individuals working in, and studying, the media have drawn attention to this situation. They include Jonathan Dimbleby, who said, "There has not been a serious detailed account of the history of Northern Ireland because it is a delicate political issue The reason is because the political institutions, BBC, IFA and the British Government, don't wish us to know about Northern Ireland." (What do you think of it so far?, BBC2V, August 1976. Philip Elliott, Research Fellow, Centre for Mass Communication Research, University of Leicester, has written, "Evidence has accumulated of journalists being deliberately and repeatedly misled (by the British army's public relations service - ed), mainly to implicate the IRA in violence carried out by loyalist extremists." (New Society, 'Mis-reporting Ulster', 25.11.76)

The manipulation of public opinion for political ends, including recent attempts to silence investig-

LONDON IRSP
SUPPORT
FREE SPEECH

The IRSP's London Support Group have been actively engaged in the Campaign for Free Speech in Ireland. Strong evidence indicates the existence of a conspiracy between the political establishment and a controlling section of the media. This conspiracy seeks to deny the public its right to be objectively and adequately informed about the situation in Ireland and how it has developed.

News about Ireland is presented as a propaganda exercise. Its components are: the uncritical use of official - especially Army - information, slanted reporting, comment often of a racist nature, the dissemination of false and misleading information and the suppression of programmes which portray a viewpoint which challenges that of the government.

The object of this exercise is to prevent the development

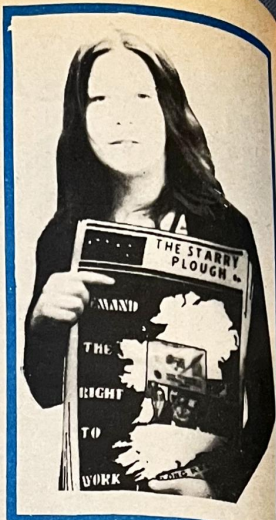
POUR LA
LIBERATION
NATIONALE
&
UNE REPUBLIQUE
SOCIALISTE!

TEXTES & DOCUMENTS
DU PARTI REPUBLICAIN
SOCIALISTE IRLANDAIS
IRSP

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We would like to join the Ard Comhairle IRSP in offering our commiserations to the family, relatives and friends of Jack Burke of Glenealy, Co. Wicklow who died last April. Jack was a lifelong republican and socialist and was active in promoting IRSP policy right up to his death. He was a member of the Wicklow Comhairle Ceantair IRSP.



The STARRY PLOUGH, published monthly, covers Irish economic, political and cultural affairs while also giving some foreign coverage. It represents the views of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. It has outlets in Europe and America as well as in Ireland. An annual subscription is available for only £2.20 (Ireland); £2.70 (Europe); and \$6 (United States).

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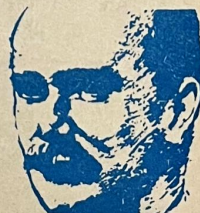
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