

THE STARRY PLOUGH

8p.

VOL. 1. No. 17 SEPT. '76

An Camchéachta

M. FOMHAR '76

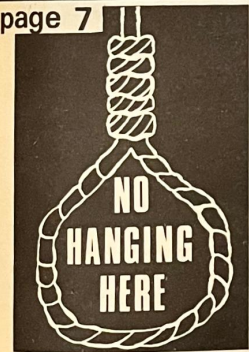
page 3



NORTH'S AGONY

ARKLOW WORKERS FEAR LAY-OFFS page 6

page 7



NO TO WAGE DEAL

page 6



no police state here



Turn to page 5

Page 5
I.R.S.P.: TO BE BANNED

SOCIALISTS' MUST GET STUCK IN

TO THE EDITOR

THE EDITOR
STARRY PL
34 URB

SUPPORT FROM VIENNA

Revolutionary Marxist Group
Lustlandl 4 1090
Vienna, Austria

Comrades,

The arrest of 38 members of the IRSP and members of Provisional Sinn Féin and the RMG (Movement for a Socialist Republic) was a clear confession of the Irish bourgeoisie which proved its complicity with the British imperialists. The frame up charges of participation in the Kildare train robbery was only the pretext to launch a campaign against the Irish left.

The raids on the IRSP head office and the flats of so called "suspects", the threats against the detainees are all proof of the axiom, that the ruling class has to break its own legality to maintain its rule.

This attack, launched 60 years after the heroic Easter insurrection proves that the struggle for liberty is not over, that this struggle is now more necessary than ever. The struggle in Ireland, both Éire and 'Ulster' is part of the international class struggle. This is obvious not only for the progressive forces but for the ruling class too. This expresses their fear.

Comrades! This terrorist campaign against the Irish Left will not discourage you. We ensure you our solidarity. We will inform in our monthly about this squalid attack against you. Our solidarity is no lip service. We will do all we can to spread solidarity with your struggle against this new wave of repression.

Immediate release of all political prisoners!
Abolition of the frame up charges!
Long live international solidarity!

Yours etc,
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RMG
AUSTRIAN SECTION OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

A Chara,

EVERY SO OFTEN some person or party decides to take a trip back into history to discover the roots of Republicanism, philosophically, usually to 'prove' just how wrong we all are and that the fact that it has survived is due to a curious mixture of luck, the Irish way of life and a few small miracles thrown in for good measure. The latest people to indulge in a bit of historical nit-picking were the Socialist Workers Movement who descended on Limerick with Éamonn McCann to tell us what it was all about.

TO GIVE THEM THEIR DUE they did try to do it in a constructive way but their arguments were so flimsy that they were easily refuted by IRSP members present. McCann dealt at length with Wolfe Tone and said that his demands were basically reformist, that from then on Republicanism was just a military conspiracy with no clear political direction and outside the working class demands of the day. We pointed out, and he accepted, that reformist demands are often a prelude to revolutionary demands not just in Ireland but all over the world. For instance to call for the restoration of democracy in Chile would mean the smashing of the military dictatorship there, to call for full civil rights in South Africa would mean the end of apartheid etc. In Ireland the Civil Rights demands of the sixties could not be granted by a state which was set up on a sectarian and undemocratic base and so the people's demands changed to the revolutionary one of smashing that state. People, of course, like the Official Republican Movement are still stuck with the original demands and are becoming less and less relevant every day.

TO 'PROVE THE POINT' of military elitism of Republicans McCann spoke of the murderous attacks on the IRSP by the Official IRA when we were formed. However this is not true of all republicans. When Bernadette McAliskey and her little band took off for the political wilderness the IRSP did not send anyone after them.

THE SECOND SPEAKER issued the usual clarion call for unity without defining what kind of unity and said that the struggle North and South must be broadened to take in the whole country. Now this I would agree with except that he did not grasp the fact that the two states developed on different lines, so different strategies must be used. It is vital that the English army is defeated and whereas the fight can be carried to them in the North it is a long time since the English Army terrorised the people of Limerick (that's now the job of the Irish Special Branch).

IN A CONTRIBUTION from the floor Jim Kemmy, the noted Limerick chancer, said that all that was very well but he believed that there were two nations in Ireland so that Republicanism to him was irrelevant anyway. We then pointed out that the logic of his argument would mean a Protestant imperialist army acting as referee, supplying extra fire power when necessary. Mr. Kemmy naturally denied this but refused to say what he was looking for, which is not strange when you consider that the only demand he has made for the working class is that they vote for him in the next election. WHEN THE MEETING ENDED I was left with a sneaking suspicion that groups like the S.W.M. use republicans' past history as an excuse not to get involved to-day. The IRSP would certainly not defend all the policies of all republicans for the past 200 years but we do draw from the best of them and are proud to be numbered amongst them. The policies of the IRSP are firmly rooted in the working class of today not in the dim distant past as some people would like to believe.

The fight for national liberation and socialism takes in all aspects of the working class struggle. It also invites all the forces of repression North and South to try and smash it but while people are willing to fight back against any odds it will never be defeated. So it is time all 'socialists' got off the fence and got stuck in.

Yours etc.

JOHN GILLIGAN, Limerick

HARASSMENT OF I.R.S.P.

3 Hazelwood Crescent,
Kilcoole,
Co. Wicklow

A Chara,

While reading May's issue of the STARRY PLOUGH concerning the tortures of IRSP members, from a readers point of view, one might ask why are members being treated with such ferocity? They are a registered political party, yet not permitted to carry out normal functions with the same efficiency as the other parties, Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour. Let us examine the reasons behind this force of state endorsed sadism that results in the degradation not only of those tortured, but also the zombie-like minions of the Special Branch - whose "Special"-isation is only too clear, sub-human savagery akin to animal bestiality.

Since the formation of the IRSP on December 8th 1974, members have been subjected to the above described treatment. The courage and fortitude of IRSP members advances the struggle of the Irish nation the right for to control and own its own wealth and resources.

The governments of past and present played with the people's primitive emotions quite successfully. Fianna Fáil begot the state under the banner of republicanism and continued it under the self same banner. Since their origin they used the working people to fight the British with a promise of Ireland for the Irish. With their emotional desire to be free, the Irish workers sacrificed their lives for what they put blind faith in the Devs of the day. They, who incidently, were power hungry back stabbers driven by their own personal greed, nepotism and the capitalists they represented. Their government soon turned its back on compatriots whom they either short or left to rot in jail.

I see nothing wrong with patriotism, it is a very heart felt thing - dangerous only if cloaked in nostalgia and blindly covering the injustices of today.

Down through the years successive governments have with open palms sold out to the speculators that which was so dearly regained by the blood and lives of our people. Time and resources are running out. We live in an age where our human feelings have been motivated to be our failings, to divide us at a time when unity is essential.

It is important that we become politically aware and not just emotionally conscious. The heart must be tempered by the head. Lack of thought and reason makes us vulnerable and it is our total lack of vision that has us in our present depressed state.

The IRSP is a non sectarian party trying to build a politically morally and socially aware country. They see the need for unity and also the pitfalls of the past.

The working class must and shall have their right to self determination in a thirty-two county socialist republic.

So, help to build this class by joining the IRSP, thus protecting not only your own rights but those of your children.

SEAN DOYLE

P.R.O. Michael Dwyer Cumann L.R.S.P.
Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

Ar an 29ú lá de Mhí Meitheamh bhí ceathrar ós comhair na Chúrte Dúiche i mBaile Átha Cliath toisc gur dhúiltigh siad ceadúnais teilifíse a fháil. Ar an 2ra lá de Mhí Iúil bhí an cáigiú duine ós comhair na cúrte i nDún Droma, Scaoileadh beirt, Fiachra Ó Dubhthaigh agus Maolsheachlainn Ó Caollá, suar ar phointí teicniúla. Cúisíodh an tríú eile, Gearradh fíneáil £10 nó seacht lá i bpríosún ar Chúit Bean, Uí Chadhain, £25 nó seacht lá i bpríosún ar Fhlann Ó Riain agus £25 nó seacht lá i bpríosún ar Íte Ní Chionnaith, ball d'Árd Chomhairle Pháirtí Poblachtach Sóisialach na hÉireann. Tá atchomharó a dhéanamh ag Cúit Bean Uí Chadhain agus dhúiltigh Fhlann Ó Riain agus Íte Ní Chionnaith an fíneáil a íoc. An 27ú Iúil an dáta deiridh a bhí acu leis an bhfíneáil a íoc. D'fheadfadh an rialtas iad a ghabháil anois, lá ar bith a thogróidís féin é. Ní leor dul to príosún mar aithm ann féin ach is céim thábhachtach í ar an mbóthair chun cearta do Chaeilgeoirí a bhaint amach - Céim go mbeadh fairsíos ar Chaeilgeoirí measúla a thógáil. B'fhíú an cás seo a throid ar gach leibhéal gur féidir - dul go Strasbourg leis fíú. Tá sé thar am ag Chaeilgeoirí míscailt agus a gearra a

éileamh. Ró shada atáid ina dtost. Caitheadís uatha gutha na measúlachta. Ní bhainfidh siad amach rud ar bith, gur fíú trécht air, an bealach sin.



Seo a leanas ráiteas a rinne Íte Ní Chionnaith ós comhair na cúrte nuair a bhí sí a cáisiú.

"Dhúiltigh mise ceadúnais teilifíse a íoc toisc méid mo mhéadúcháta leis an sína bhfuil R.T.E. ag caitheamh leis an nGaeilge. Níl ach timpeall 2.2% des na clárachá atá ag gearradh agus Teilifíse Éireann i nGaeilge. Tá an fígiúir seo sanallach ar fad, go h-áirithe nuair a chuimnímid gurb í an Gaeilge cead theanga an stáit seo. Níl freastal a dhéanamh

ag Teilifíse Éireann orm sa mar Ghaeilgeoir, ar mhuintir na Gaeilachta, ar Ghaeilgeoir na tíre ná ar na daoine a chuirann suim sa Ghaeilge agus atá ag iarraidh í a fhoghlaim.

Táim-se ag éil eamh go gcuirfead spectream iomláin de chláraí Gaeilge ar fáil láithreach do phobal uile na tíre seo. Bheadh na clárachá seo ag freastal ar gach aicme den pobal - clárachá do dhaoine atá ag iarraidh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus do dhaoine ar bheagan Gaeilge, clárachá do pháistí ina n-aois éirpail eagsúla, clárachá do dháilte scoile ar gach gné de churricúil na scoile agus ar gach leibhéal, clárachá d'fheirmeoirí agus d'carnamóichá, d'ospóirachá, polaitíochta, eacnamaíochta, d'ospóirachá, tráth na geest, spóirt, clárachá nuachta, dramaí, scanáin agus araile.

Tá sé de cheart ag pobal na Gaeilge bheith ag súil go gcuirfeadh an stáit na seirbhísí ar fad atá ag dul do Chaeilgeoirí mar phobal ar fáil dóibh. Níl sé a dhéanamh. Tá Beiría a bhí ar dhaoine i ngach gné den stol, teilifíse san áireamh agus tá bair chearta íoc seánadh ar Chaeilgeoirí dá bharr. San stol ina bhfuilimid ag maireachtáil, tá síor thábhacht leis an teilifíse mar mheán cumarsáide agus téann sé i bhfeidhm go mór ar mhéad agus ar dhearadh pobail. Sé an teilifíse an gclás is láidre atá in úsáid faoi láthair le Beiría agus cultúr Anla Mhoricea a bhí ar phobal na hÉireann. Goileann sé seo ar gach aicme den pobal, ach go h-áirithe ar dhaoine atá ag iarraidh clann a thógáil le Gaeilge.

Is stáit nua-chóilínach é an stáit ó dhéas agus is

dar bharr san atá údarás an stáit in aghaidh na Gaeilge agus in aghaidh gach rud Gaeilge agus Naísúnach sa tír seo. Táid de shíor agus sodar i ndiaidh na Sasannach. I gcásair teilifíse tá sé seo le feiceáil ní h-amháin ins an laghad clárachá i nGaeilge a chroaltar ach ins an gcinéal clárachá Beiría a bhíonn ar R.T.E. As Sasana nó as Mérica a ghlharaítear a bhfuirmhór mór. Tuigean an réimeas atá i gcmharcú go spreagadh cultúr láidir Gaeilge mian mhuintir na hÉireann chun neamhspleachais agus chun fuascailt náisiúna. Chuirfeadh sé seo deirleadh leis an stáit nua eChóilínach atá againn i láthair na h-uair agus lena gcmharcú féin.



Íte Ní Chionnaith . . . ag dílúití fineal a íoc
Is cuid fíor thábhachtach d'athbheochan na Gaeilge í an teilifíse. D'fhéadfadh an teilifíse bús nó beagha a fhogairt don teanga. Is toisc go raibh me chomh corraithe faoin geest seo agus faoin seanadh cearta ar Chaeilgeoirí a dhúiltigh me ceadúnais teilifíse a íoc.

The British government wants peace. The Loyalists want peace and the Republicans want peace. But the word 'peace' means something different to each of the three and is in this context that the new Peace Movement must be viewed. Which of these groups do they support or are they, as they claim, totally unbiased? Have they any policy for peace, because if they haven't they can shout "Peace" forever and never get it. Peace will not drop from the skies.

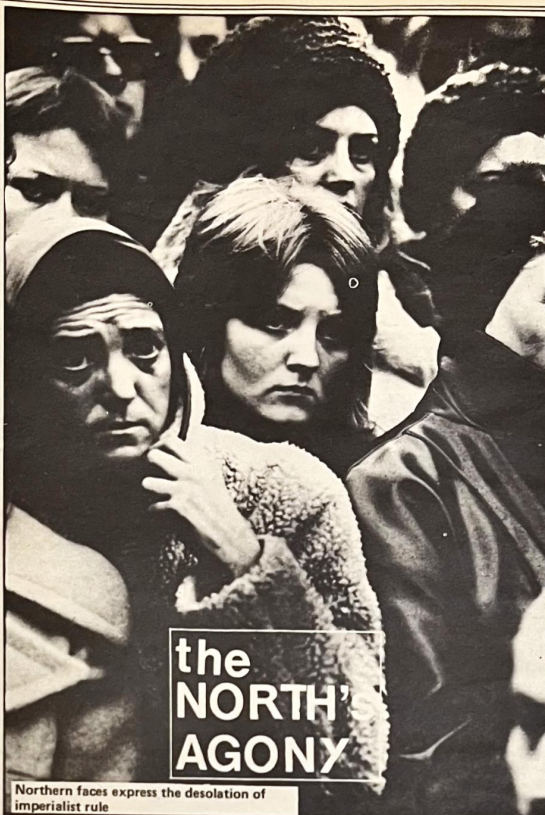
In the following article we examine the Peace Movement to see if they offer any hope to the Irish people to solve the bloody Northern problem.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT which emerged in Belfast following the death of the Maguire children claimed that it was totally against all violence and that they support neither the Loyalist nor Republican paramilitary groups, nor the British Army. And it is in this very statement that the first contradictions appear.

WHILE MANY of the peace marchers claimed that they also opposed the brutality of the British Army that is not the impression that was given publicly. The mass media acclaimed the peace marchers. One newspaper said 10,000 took part in peace marches, the radio said 11,000 while other papers claimed 55,000! Banner headlines claimed "55,000 answer Provos". Little or no attempt was made by the peace movement to disclaim that headline and to point out that the same headline could have easily read "55,000 answer British Army". The fact that it didn't and that the Peace Movement appears to be content to allow itself to be used as a movement against Republican groups disproves its claim that it is unbiased.

BRITS KILL MAN AND CHILD

ADD TO THAT the fact that the death of the Maguire children was attributed to the Provos despite the fact that the shooting dead of a car driver which subsequently crashes into a wall, killing innocent bystanders, would normally be blamed on whoever killed the car driver. But in this case the British Army who killed the driver got off scot free. And the



Northern faces express the desolation of imperialist rule

BEHIND THE PEACE DEMOS

peace movement allowed this and whatsmore publicly denounced the Provos, because the unfortunate driver was a Provo.

THE NEXT DAY a young girl was murdered by British Troops in South Armagh. She died in her fathers arms as the same British Troops refused to allow a nurse near the child. The Troops tried to blame the Provos for the killing until local put the blame fairly and squarely on the British Army. Again the Peace Movement was nowhere to be seen.

UNIONISTS OF ALL HUES, mostly Loyalists and the British Government have backed the peace marchers. It is widely accepted that one of the major causes of the Northern conflict is due to sectarian unionist rule, yet these same unionists back the peace marchers. In other words they don't see the peace marchers as a condemnation of unionism. Similarly Merlyn Rees supports the peace marchers claiming they are opposed only to the para military groups, and by inference, not the British Army. The peace marchers claim they are opposed to all violence and armed groups which must therefore include the British Army. But they made no attempt to disprove Merlyn Rees.

UDA SUPPORT MARCHERS

THE MOST BLATANT EXPOSE of the total bias of the Peace Marches was the offer of the UDA to protect the peace marchers as they paraded up the Shankill, ostensibly, denouncing para military groups including the UDA! obviously the UDA weren't worried that the march would effect them. In their mind they clearly saw the march as being anti-Republican.

Not that many of the peace marchers are not genuinely seeking peace, many are. If more than anything else the peace marches show us to what extent the people of the North are weary and clamoring for an end to the conflict. After seven years it is to be expected.

IN THIS RESPECT one must make the observation that the men of violence want an end to the conflict also. After all, every time

they pick up a gun they put their own lives and liberty on the line. The fact is that they seek a political change that they reckon warrants, if need be, sacrificing their lives for.

BRITAINS PLAN TAKES EFFECT

AT THIS POINT we have shown how the Peace Movement is biased against the IRA and allowing itself to be utilised by the media and British Government in a campaign against Republicanism and in favour of the British government policy. Britain must be delighted that at long last its campaign in the North appears to be working. For the past few years they carried out a brutal campaign of intimidation and murder against the nationalist population, through shootings, beatings, jailings, tortures and by encouraging Loyalist assassination campaigns. This campaign was designed to make the nationalist population so sick of conflict that they would grasp at peace at any price. That peace offer would be made by the British government when opportune, but of course any such peace plan would ensure that British interests in the North and Ireland as a whole were thoroughly safeguarded.

EVEN IF the Peace Movement was unbiased in its condemnation of gunmen and included Loyalist, Republican and British Army in that condemnation what is their proposal for peace? Indeed have they any?

MUCH WAS MADE of the emotional scenes when women from catholic and protestant areas met and marched together. But the fact remains that the majority of women marching from the Shankill would have a totally different concept of what peace entailed than their catholic co-marchers would. Their idea of a peace plan would be to return to majority rule, majority rule that is, and maintaining British unionist rule that is, and maintaining British control over the North. Most catholic women would not accept this. And on this question there is no room for compromise. It is on the question of a peace plan that peace marchers fail miserably.

THE RECIPE FOR LASTING PEACE

A TRUE END TO VIOLENCE must include an end to unemployment, evictions, bad housing, low wages, lack of adequate social services, as well as an end to shooting and killings. British rule will continue to cause these because it has no plan to end them and more so because its very system of economics ensures their continuation.

BUT THE PEACE MOVEMENT can be successful if it reflects on the above and gears its programme towards true and lasting peace. Let them march for an end to repression and unemployment, for free political association and at the very least, for a total British withdrawal from the North to allow the Irish people to determine their own future devoid of imperialist threats and pressure. Failure to do so will mean their peace marches will fail to bring peace and will strengthen British Government policy, a policy that has proved disastrous in the past and will continue to be disastrous in the future. Break the connection and pave the way for a just and lasting peace.

The media have shown their usual partiality in reporting on the peace marches which the following facts expose. They were gathered by an independent reporter who was covering the peace marches in Dublin and the Shankill.

An Irish Times reporter well qualified to accurately put a figure on large gatherings put the attendance at the Dublin peace march at seven to eight thousand. The Irish Times staff however, promptly doubled the figure.

As the peace march entered the Shankill Road at that stage all catholics participating in the march would have been in the ranks. It is therefore interesting that a French reporter claims that banners from catholic areas hadn't many people behind them: Turf Lodge 20 people, Markets 20, Andersonstown 130, Fall Road, 150, Twinbrook 30, Ballymurphy 300.



STARRY PLOUGH

legal —
N.I. office

The British Army arrested members of the IRSP in Belfast on the Ormeau Road recently for selling copies of the Starry Plough which they claimed was "an illegal paper". After being held for four hours the members were released when the Brits were grudgingly told by the Northern Ireland office that the Starry Plough was not illegal.

APOLOGY

In the May issue of the STARRY PLOUGH we published a story on the great escape from Long Kesh. No deliberate attempt was made to imply that Charles O'Doherty was responsible for the RUC discovering that the escape had taken place. Doherty was caught about eight miles from the prison and the RUC in no way connected him with Long Kesh. It was only following a morning headcount in Long Kesh that the escape was discovered.

EVEN IF ALL THE GUN MEN, including the British Army, declared a ceasefire the main basic reasons for the conflict would remain unsolved. Republican organisations would not be allowed to organise openly and freely to propagate their point of view. The British Government's repressive laws would not allow it. Even if they did, the Loyalists would not, as such freedom would amount to a serious threat to the very union and loyalism itself.

THE IRSP ARE NOT WAR MONGERS and not only welcome peace but are working hard to achieve it. The Peace the IRSP is striving for is a lasting peace that will ensure that the Northern conflict doesn't erupt again in a few years. They have therefore analysed the reasons behind the whole conflict and evolved a peace plan to eradicate those reasons for ever. The basic cause of the conflict is the continued presence and influence of Britain in all Irish affairs. That British connection must be ended to secure peace.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT have shown time and time again that it will use any means to safeguard its control over the North and through that its economic hold over the 26 counties. They have butchered innocent civilians marching for civil rights, interned men and women without charge, tortured, harassed and intimidated civilians on a massive scale which even their allies in the media have not always been able to cover up. Everyone knows that is fact.

THIS CAMPAIGN has been directed mainly against the nationalist population while the Loyalist population has been aided and abetted to increase the intimidation against the rebelling nationalist population. Now they are using the peace movement to do the same. When the peace movement fails, and it must because it has no solution, the British government will use other tactics, relentlessly trying to break the will and morale of the nationalist population to resist British domination.

● WHY IS POLITICAL STATUS A MAJOR ISSUE?

● WHY ARE PRISONERS WILLING TO DIE TO RETAIN IT?



A Poster produced by the Belfast Comhairle Ceanntar I.R.S.P. calling for the retention of political status.

THE STRUGGLE for the retention of political status is hotting up in the North as the British government increases its attempts to break the morale of political prisoners by victimisation and provocative strip searches. Recently political prisoners in Long Kesh began a food protest while IRSP prisoners and supporters burnt their mattresses and in a commando style operation wrecked all the search lights surrounding their compound. The following is an extract from a letter smuggled out of Long Kesh showing the determination of IRSP political prisoners to oppose the ending of political status:

"WE, THE POLITICAL PRISONERS of War of the IRSP, from the outset of our formation declared that we would live as socialists even though we were behind the wire, walls and guarded armed turrets of Long Kesh. In taking that decision we formed our commune which we now find adequate to support our needs, and with further expansion, the needs of our families. We organised political education classes to enable us to understand the true nature of the struggle we are waging. We set up escape committees which produced many ideas which we tried and which had some successes. We set up propaganda teams who smuggled in cameras and films which now have become part of the history of the overall struggle. We established the IRSP as one of the major factions in Long Kesh and through a long struggle, that ended in a hunger strike for 15 days by 20 of our comrades, gained recognition by the enemy of the people, that is the Northern Ireland Office. We survived constant attacks from the Official IRA who at one time outnumbered us nine to one during our early days. These are but a few of our achievements and it must be remembered that this was done in a concentration camp by a small number of dedicated political prisoners.

THE ISSUE of political status is quite simple to understand if one looks at our record in Long Kesh. Political status was won through long and bitter struggle within the prison system. The first recognition of political status came through the first British war lord here, William Whitelaw, when 40 political prisoners in 1972 went on hunger strike for 37 days. The most famous of these men being Billy McKee. I might add that we have had veterans of that hunger strike with us here in the IRSP compound, such as Tony McShane and Artie Maguire. Tony is now in his eighth year of imprisonment and has been one of the champions on the issue of political status and has been on many of the painstaking hunger strikes which political prisoners have to go through. These are but two of our comrades who have faced death on many occasions rather than lie down to be trampled into the ground by the prison system.

OF COURSE the events that I have mentioned can easily be remembered but I would ask you to think of the many struggle that never got

any publicity and were therefore never brought to light: the struggles where men were deprived of many of the things that people on the outside take for granted. We have had to go without these things for weeks and sometimes months, things like beds (which means sleeping on a concrete floor), clothes which which means going around naked, cigarettes (a small luxury that some people place a lot of importance in), basics like salt, sugar, milk, butter and even soap to keep ourselves clean. Then it must also be remembered the blood that has been lost or should I say extracted by continual beatings by screws. Through these struggles, briefly outlined, we have won for ourselves the position of political prisoners.

THIS ENABLES us to organise our system within the cage. But our comrades now being held in the infamous C Wing of Crumlin Road Jail have been deprived of political status because they were arrested after 1st March 1976. Rees has decided to call them criminals. Our internal organisation enables us not to come into contact with the prison establishment. It allows us to feel in control of our own lives rather than being just machines with numbers. We know we are men, men with political objectives, but most of all it gives us the opportunity to organise and agitate to a small degree, even on the outside.

OUR COMRADES in C Wing not have any of what we have described, however, if Rees and his con-men have their way. What faces our comrades is not a cage of organised prisoners of war but instead the new H Block system where no more than 25 men can get together at any one time. Thus they can be easily controlled and any serious resistance crushed. They will also be forced to work. This work is long and boring - political prisoners reject this and do not work. In fact what awaits our comrades is sheer torture, brutality and general repression.

THIS AGAIN is but a brief outline of the conditions prisoners have and what they will go through if Rees's plans are allowed to go through. We in Long Kesh have rejected these plans and have adopted a position of total opposition to attempts to remove political status. We cannot stress strongly enough the need for popular protest action on the outside, which must involve the general public. They must be informed that Rees has publicly stated that if anyone goes on hunger strike, for whatever reason, that that person will die, no matter how just his cause. Despite this some of our comrades here have volunteered to make the ultimate protest, that being hunger strike until death... we know and have faith in our comrades on the outside that they will not let us down. United nothing can beat us and with their confidence I will leave this letter with the P.O.W.s motto here in Cage 14, "Tioctfaidh ar la" (Our day will come),

TOWARD

garda
with

Again this month we have to report that the State repression of the IRSP continues and we have more disturbing news in connection with the Kildare Six Frame up, which shows the determined effort being made by the State to intimidate witnesses that can expose the state and prove the innocence of the Kildare Six.

On the 22nd of May 1976 Mick Jones was arrested at his home in Knocknakeeny at 4.45 p.m. After his house was raided he was taken to Cork's Bridewell Station. Here he was photographed and taken to an interrogation room. This interrogation never ceased for the following 40 hrs. He was deprived of both sleep and food. The object of his interrogators was to sustain a statement from Jones in connection with the hi-jacking of a police car on the previous Friday night. During this time Mick Jones was taken to the Mercy Hospital and received treatment to his left hand. He needed three stitches. This injury occurred whilst he was being brutalised at the Bridewell. The following day he was taken to the Special Criminal Court and charged with the alleged offence. At all times Mick Jones expressed his innocence and refused to admit to something he didn't do. After leaving the Special Criminal Court. He was held in Portlaoise Prison for 5 weeks.

After Mick Jones was taken to Portlaoise Prison the harassment intensified. On Saturday 29th Mrs. Jones travelled with her son to Portlaoise to see her husband. Having been subjected to three searches she was told to return after dinner to the prison and she'd be allowed to visit her husband. On returning the visit was refused and only for the kindness of Provisional Sinn Fein members both inside and outside the Prison her husband would never have found out that she even tried to visit him. These Sinn Fein members also helped Mrs. Jones to return home.

The following Sunday June 6th 4 Cork members of the IRSP were arrested in Dublin and questioned about Mick Jones' activities. These people were released the following day.

In Cork on Monday 7th of June 2 men were arrested. Both these people were witnesses for Jones's defence. They were subjected to threats and bribes.

The trial having been adjourned twice finally went ahead on Friday 22nd July. During

this charade the police unbelievable. They identified Mick Jones the other in an L.D. Yet one garda says short regulation and black beard. Gardas long shoulder length with a neatly trimmed identified Mick Jones and admitted in a diagram held by Mick Jones in the blue X above where One Guard started. The other said it was One guard said the jacket while the jacket. In relation to stated "I can't say Your Honour I'm

Even the Certain Some accept this evidence got acquitted - the fact that £1,000 the defence.

The case unfortunately The harassment continued 9th July Mick Jones members of the IRSP and Tom Hayes, went to the Bridewell. He for 24 hours and the interrogation. When Mick Jones was kidnapped into the prison women and children. On this occasion the connect the three Galway bombing and a half hour before arrested. The final Henry Doherty at any time that he or come to Cork in full arrested.



In the face of the rising unemployment figures and government failure to take action, the unemployed are continuing to organise marches and demonstrations for the right to work. The latest of these took place in Bray and although well attended (over 500 took part) little or no coverage was given to the event by the National Press. Only the independent reported the march but

reported it as a flop, which it most certainly was not. The Bray march and public meeting was organised jointly by the Bray Trades Council and the Bray Unemployed Action Movement to highlight the plight of Bray's 1,700 unemployed. This co-operation between the unions and the unemployed is to be welcomed.

ARDS A POLICE STATE

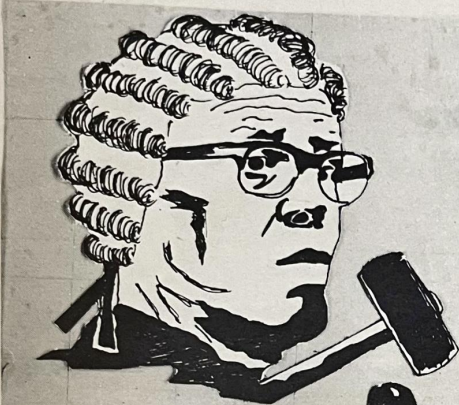
ai intimidate

esses

ies were
al positively
at his home
ade at the Bridewell.
he accused had
black hair and a
2 stated he had
ark brown hair
beard. This garda
an ID parade
that he first looked
inspector Kerrs.
the position of
Parade and had a
ones stood.
was a fine dry night.
fogy and ha zy.
used wore a blue
said it was a green
his Det. Serg. Hogan
from Jones' house
colour it is
ur blind".

Court wouldn't
ad Mick Jones
standing the
e spent for the

id not end here.
nes. On Friday
and two
Henry Doherty
arrested and taken
they were held
through the usual
ing arrested
l, punched and
car, in front of
children in the
street.
one tried to
ple with the
one (though these
00 miles away
owning
or help to be
final trial was to accuse
y a Whern scum and
ear in Hayes would
in they would be



Having failed to produce any solution to the economic social and political crisis in Ireland the Irish government has moved firmly to the Right by introducing a state of emergency in the 26 counties that will give it freedom to smash all radical opposition parties and militant workers groups who are attempting to put an alternative to the Irish people. As part of this erosion of civil liberties the government is planning to suppress the IRSP and the Starry Plough.

Had the government any policy to alleviate the worst economic crisis in Irish history they could have introduced a state of emergency to combat unemployment which has now topped the 200,000 mark and to stop raging inflation and rising prices. But they have chosen to continue giving away our natural resources and ignoring such problems while they launch an attack on workers wages, living conditions and their civil rights.

7 DAYS OF TORTURE

Because their only policy on the national question is total collaboration and subjection to British policy they have intensified repression not only against radical opposition parties and workers but against defenceless political prisoners as well. At a time when the British government has been found guilty before the world of tortures in the North, the Irish government is determined to follow in Britain's footsteps by encouraging the training of torture squads within the gardai to be utilised on the introduction of seven day detention. During such a period a detainee will have no rights to see a solicitor or doctor and will be tortured physically and psychologically and framed with criminal offences. Very few can withstand seven days of torture. This is tantamount to internment. Just as the British Government and the so-called forces of law and order did a cover up job on the tortures in the North, the Irish government, gardai and Free State troops will do the same in the 26 counties. The governments' concern for Civil Rights and civil liberties is shown by their intention to withdraw from sections of the European Convention of Human Rights should their new laws conflict with the Convention.

This government's step towards a police state is the greatest threat to the right of free political association and our basic civil liberties for the past 40 years. There is no doubt that Ireland is becoming more fascist by the day. It is a time where the liberty of all those attempting to put political and economic alternatives before the Irish people are endangered — a fact not lost on legal bodies, civil rights groups and many other organisations as well as the Dublin Regional Council of the Labour Party who called on Labour T.D.s and Senators to oppose the bills.

It is perhaps typical of middle-class politics

in Ireland that many Labour and Fine Gael T.D.s are on record for denouncing some of our present repressive legislation as a threat to civil liberties. Yet as they came into government they took the legislation to their bosoms and applied as rigorously as their predecessors. And now they welcome the State of Emergency where all constitutional rights will, for all intents and purposes, end.

Indeed the Labour Party proved its total subservience to the Fine Gael party when they went on record, publicly, as supporting the latest legislation, before it had even been drafted!

REPRESSION USED AGAINST WORKERS

It is not just propaganda when we warn that this repressive legislation will be used against all sections of the community as they begin to register their opposition to our present economic and political system. The Offences Against the State Act was introduced to combat the IRA but has been used against striking ESB and P & T workers. It has even been used against workers who organised against unemployment. The Forcible Entry Act was introduced against the 'subversives' behind the squatting 'campaign', yet ended with families being arrested under the act as well as workers on a sit in in Cork factory and tenants on rent strike.

As long as repressive legislation remains on the Statute books who can say who it will not be used against. Indeed this State of Emergency is more ominous than most repressive legislation in that the few safeguards in the constitution will no longer apply. The path is also open for the introduction of more repressive laws such as military courts, internment and even firing squads as the situation deteriorates.

The most obvious lesson of history is that repression does not solve the problems in society but has the opposite effect. The latest repressive measures by removing all the normal channels of opposition may very well result in escalating violence in the 26 counties, the very point that the legislation is supposed to combat. It is imperative, in view of all this, that all radical and progressive organisations and individuals unite in opposition to repression.

..... as secret police harass i.r.s.p. members

In a letter to the Starry Plough which was published in the July issue, Tom Hayes, a Limerick IRSP member, explained how his wife, sister-in-law and young brother and himself were arrested in April, verbally abused, threatened, beaten and attempts made to bribe them. All this because they are witnesses in the forthcoming Kildare Six trial and can clear two of the defendants.

Tom Hayes also reports that a garda so, had car drives past his house every two hours and that the Special Branch have been spotted in fields at the rear of his house.

In the first week of July Tom Hayes was again arrested and attempts were made to implicate him with the Galway bombings which if successful would have discredited him as a defence witness. He was again offered bribes to perjure himself in court.

Similarly IRSP members in Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Bray, Ballybrack and Wicklow had their houses raided by the secret police who wanted to question them about the same Galway bombings (within half an hour of the actual bombings!) In some cases those whom they were searching for were at work, yet no further attempt was made by the raids were nothing less than clear cut cases of harassment. One of those raided was told it would be "unhealthy" to be in the IRSP following the Kildare Six trial a veiled threat to his future freedom.

The Kildare Six appeared in court on July 8th last and again the State said it did not have the book of evidence prepared and even hinted that they might not have it prepared on October 10th

when the Kildare Six are to appear again. This means that over six months will have gone by without any sign of the books of evidence. When solicitors asked the court to demand that the books be ready in October, the State said that there might be new charges which would necessitate new bail applications. The solicitors then dropped their insistence in regard to the books of evidence as the Kildare Six had enough trouble securing the £60,000 bail without having to look for more bailies.

Have the State now decided to dream up extra charges to further incriminate the Kildare Six in the hope that the more charges preferred the more likelihood of a conviction? It would certainly seem like it. Meanwhile the Kildare Six continue to be severely restricted in their movements since their passports have been removed and they have to sign on at their local garda station twice weekly.

One of the KILDARE SIX Michael Barret was recently driving through Carrickmacross when he was stopped at a joint Garda Free State Army road block. He was brought to Carrickmacross Garda station at gunpoint and put in a filthy cell with a heap of dirty blankets and a torn filthy mattress while his car was stripped and thoroughly searched. He was never questioned once and released the following morning. Nothing, of course, was found in his car. Barret on the other hand discovered he had contacted a rash all over his body from the filthy cell.

**KILDARE SIX
DEFENCE FUND
£ 30,000 NEEDED**

The Middlesex Polytechnic Union in Britain representing over 5,000 students, passed a resolution condemning the Kildare Six frame-up and the garda tortures and donated £25 to the Kildare Six Defence Fund. We also wish to thank Domhnall O Daluigh of Bantry, Co. Cork for the donation of £1. Over £30,000 is needed to provide adequate defence for the Kildare Six. Donations should be sent by registered mail.

NO WAGE DEAL!

Wage Agreement, Free Collective Bargaining or a Wage Freeze were the choices faced by Irish Workers. It is sad to see that having initially rejected the national wage agreement that they have accepted a revised agreement. It should be remembered that the employers initially couldn't offer anything else but when faced with the prospect of no wage agreement could suddenly offer a miserable £3 to £5 rise, on the condition that joint negotiations are initiated regarding the economy by the unions, government and employers. However, Catch 22 remains: employers can plead inability to pay!

Here is the most glaring example of the wage employers put on a wage agreement. At one stage they roar they cannot make more concessions but when the Agreement is threatened they suddenly can. Carrots are dangled before workers' eyes to fool them into another wage agreement that will ensure high profits for the bosses while both undermining the independence and militancy of the unions and hitting their standard of living hard.

John Durne of the Federated Union of Employers, recently admitted that 30,000 bosses pleaded inability to pay. The Unions' figures are of course much higher, closer to 100,000. The bosses want to keep this clause in the agreement as it has proved a bonanza for them in the past.

But that clause is not the only reason why all Wage Agreements should be opposed. Wage agreements are in fact wage cuts. They tie workers to a particular wage, irrespective of the fact that its value diminishes with rising prices and inflation — and despite the fact that the wages are too low in the first place.

The calls for joint talks between the unions,

government and employers must be seen in realistic terms. The unions will be opposed by the bosses and the government. Their only reason for being present is to fool them into thinking that they will have a realistic say in the planning of the economy, similar to workers participation at factory level. But the unions need ask one question: who is it that produces all and have they ever had a realistic determining say in production and distribution? Never. So why would the government give workers at national level what they have denied them at local level.

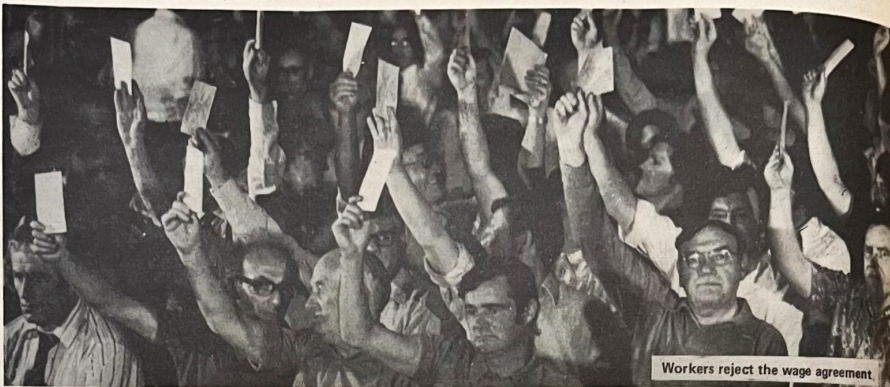
The government are pretending to play the role of unbiased, uninvolved referee. Nothing could be further from the truth as they are the

representatives of private enterprise and the bosses. They encourage unemployment and oppose state control, nationalisation and some of the steps necessary to alleviate the suffering and repression of the working class.

On top of that they threaten a statutory wage freeze if workers fail to agree with the bosses' demands.

Workers must insist on free collective bargaining which is not 'a free for all'. It is the only method, in the short term, that can allow the unions to defend its members rights and win some kind of a living wage for them. But there is a long term solution, a solution that will allow a true worker-government relationship

which will be for the good of the working class; a solution where the government will carry out the wishes of the working class and take its instruction on the economy from the working class; a solution where workers will be ensured of the necessities of life and given wages according to their needs and where workers will be freed of inflation. That solution is the establishment of a socialist republic. In the meantime workers must defend their right to work and their right to a living wage. No! to Wage Agreements. No! to Wages Freeze. Yes! to a Free Collective Bargaining and strengthen the independence and militancy of the trade union movement.



Workers reject the wage agreement.

FIGHT LAY-OFFS

Arklow workers organise to save jobs

Workers in Shanks, the sanitary hardware manufacturers in South Key, Arklow, have formed an action group to pressurise the management into resuming full production and to stop them importing containers from Britain.

A STARRY PLOUGH reporter who visited the factory recently saw five large 15 foot containers clearly marked "Bristol Seaways". The workers claimed that management were importing the same produce the factory produced from the parent company, Shanks Armitage Ltd, in Britain. They are bitter that six men were laid-off last month and that all 35 workers are on a four day week.

"Most of our time is spent unloading containers" said one worker. The Action Group are looking for Union backing but so far have failed to get it. The management have refused to meet the workers except through official union channels and only then if they disband the Action Group. Workers have been picketing the plant on alternative days to prevent the containers getting in. Local T.D.s have given them no assistance.

The management seem to have a Jeckyll and Hyde attitude towards the whole affair. The above is a cutting from the Wicklow people. The same Mr. Egan has refused to meet members of the Action Group. Mr. Tom Reynolds of the Construction Industry Federation called for import tariffs although this would be against the Anglo Irish Free Trade Agreement. He said the British broke it six years ago when it suited them and that we should now do it because of the "serious situation facing factories like Shanks".

The Anglo Irish Free Trade Agreement is part of agreements made by Ireland with Britain which allow the complete flooding of our markets with cheap foreign goods causing closures, redundancies and short time.

Shanks workers now fear that their plant will soon become a mere warehouse and that

many jobs will be lost. The capitalist system, it should be pointed out, cannot guarantee the right to work for the Shanks workers. Even with import controls there is no guarantee that they will remain in employment and Irish capitalism has shown its economic policy does not envisage such controls. Only a socialist society guarantees basic civil rights, such as the right to work. It also ensures that workers control the total means of production, distribution and exchange.

There is no reason why the Arklow plant cannot continue in full production. Members of the Action Group during their spare time visited various builders providers and hardware stores in Dublin recently and in all cases satisfaction was expressed with the Arklow made ware which in many cases was felt to be superior to the imported product. While we would welcome full production and more employment we are not too ecstatic about the prospect of the Shanks bosses increasing their profits at the expense of the workers in the factory. The profits rightly belong to them as they produce the product. The Action Group have received no backing from the ITGWU and have been completely ignored by the local media.

Victimisation in Dun Laoghaire

Dun Laoghaire Corporation is facing its third strike in three months over victimisation of workers by the management. This victimisation seems to be a softening up process to subdue the workers' reaction when the inevitable lay-offs occur in local government.

The victimisation began last May when a number of workers were left at the roadside rather than picked up as usual by lorries. Lorrymen were also switched to sweeping roads without explanation. When strike notice was served the Corporation backed down and promised to discontinue their practice.

The Corporation then threatened to lay off some 18 men and two men were given notice to that effect. But when strike notice was served the Corporation again backed down.

Now however a third strike is looming following the victimisation of a republican socialist sympathiser and trade union militant. Indeed the object of the victimisation up to this, would seem to have been an attempt to camouflage the sacking of trade union militants to lessen any resistance in the event of the forthcoming lay-offs. However, the solidarity of the workers in the Corporation has made this no easy task for the Corporation.

ANDY LACY of Sallynoggin, describes himself as a trade union militant and a republican-socialist sympathiser "and it's because of that I'm being victimised". Corporation officials have told him he is taking too much sick leave and that in future no sick pay will be given on any doctor's certificates except those signed by a specific doctor. This applies only to Lacy despite the fact that many of the 500 other workers employed by the Corporation have worse records than he has. Lacy claims that the reason he is singled out for this treatment is because of his outspoken criticism of the Corporation as a whole. He claims the reason he and so many others take so much sick leave is that they are not supplied with proper protective clothing during the winter.



Andy Lacy

He is also highly critical of the employment policy of the Corporation and the services they are providing the community. "There is a need for a public inquiry into where all the money is going" he says. Despite the fact that the population and therefore estates have increased considerably

over the last ten to twenty years the actual workforce employed by Dun Laoghaire Corporation has decreased. Blackrock has eight sweepers now when ten years ago it had 16. Dalkey has only six although it had its own yard and 19 men employed nine years ago. Indeed this pattern is repeated through all departments in the Corporation.

Workmen are also complaining about the policy of the Corporation in by-passing existing staff for various jobs within the Corporation in favour of outsiders despite local men having applied for them with the necessary qualifications.

There are cases of tenants waiting up to seven and eight years to have repairs carried out. This is due to the backlog of jobs in the maintenance department and their lack of staff. But they still refuse to enlarge the workforce and have even laid off men from the department.

One example clarifies the whole situation in this respect: there are only two tiers employed by Dun Laoghaire Corporation, the biggest borough in Ireland.

The workers employed by Dun Laoghaire Corporation, to a large extent, have shown their sympathy for the community in the past. They refused to have anything to do with evicting homeless families who parked their few possessions outside the Corporation's Town Hall a few years ago. Many also took part in a march to the British Embassy following the Bloody Sunday massacre. They have also continually called for the workforce to be increased through the local labour exchange to provide jobs for some of Dun Laoghaire's 2,500 unemployed and also to provide a better service for the community to which they belong.

Now that they are wise to the tactics of the Corporation they must prepare to defend their right to work. With government cut backs in public spending there will come a time (if it hasn't come already) when workers will have to be laid off in the Corporation. The workers must prepare for that day. Furthermore they must fight for the right of all to work within the borough and join other workers in defending their right to work. It is only with such unity of purpose and action that the Corporation can be forced to provide the employment and the necessary service to the community and that bosses will find redundancies and lay offs a hard task in the borough.

In the Curragh Military Detention Centre and Mountjoy Jail, two prisoners are living on borrowed time as they wait to be hung and buried within the precincts of the jail. They are Noel and Marie Murray who having made the headlines for a while are now almost forgotten. Some believe they are guilty and should hang, others believe their guilt was never proven while most would be opposed to their hanging whether they are guilty or not.

Will they hang? Does anyone care? In the following article we tell of a group's attempts to highlight the conditions under which the Murrays are incarcerated, their call for a retrial and for the abolition of capital punishment and we show why there is no certainty that the Murray's death sentence will be repealed.

The Murrays were sentenced to death on June 9th 1976 for the capital murder of Garda Michael Reynolds at St. Anne's Park, Raheny, in Dublin. Before the Murrays were apprehended Conor Cruise O'Brien made the point that the offenders should be treated as political offenders despite the fact that there was no proof that the culprits were part of any political conspiracy. When apprehended the Murrays were brought before the Special Criminal Court which sits without a jury and which was established for the expressed purpose of trying those who the state claimed were involved in a political group that would intimidate witnesses, again without any such proof in the Murray's case. When the Murrays heard Special Branch Officers lie in court they discharged their counsel as they claimed there was no sense in pursuing in a case where gardai tortured them and then lied in court and denied the existence of documents. They called for a new trial as one of the three judges had tried the Murrays in another case. They claimed that Noel Murray was severely beaten and had his head pushed down a toilet to make him talk. His wife was allowed to hear all the beatings until she feared so much for her husband's life that she "confessed" to accidentally killing Garda Reynolds, so that her husband would be left alone. One of the other defendants, Ronan Stenson, was taken away from court when medical evidence was produced stating that he was not fit to appear due to his treatment while in custody. Many months later psychologically he is still not fit, which will give our readers a fairly accurate idea of what he went through while in garda custody. Having withdrawn from the case the Murrays were found guilty.

SCANDALOUS CONDITIONS

Reaction to the death sentence that followed was muted. Not many believed that it would be carried out. The papers were full of talk of reprieve. Readers were told the Murrays were enjoying all the comforts of a condemned couple which helped soothe the liberals' conscience. The fact of the matter is that there have been two postponements of the hanging, the first until last July when the Court of Criminal Appeal rejected their appeal against the death sentence and the second to November 1st next when the Supreme Court will hear a case on the interpretation of what defines capital murder. Meanwhile the Murrays are not enjoying all the comforts of a condemned couple as they are segregated from each other and all other prisoners. Noel Murray is only allowed visits from his parents who are both in their seventies and suffer from bad health. He is only allowed letters, when uncensored, from his mother. Noel is only allowed watch television at the warden's discretion and is locked up 20 hours of each day. Marie is only allowed watch two hours of television per fortnight and is locked up for 23 hours a day. This treatment is in breach of Minimum Rules laid down by the United Nations for the treatment of prisoners under sentence of death. Although man and wife the Murrays are not allowed to visit each other except for legal consultations. Since their appeal they have only been allowed one such consultation. Marie Murray is only allowed visits from her in-laws and has been refused fresh laundry and clothes. Noel Murray has already gone on a week's hunger strike to highlight his plight. The Irish government have stated that they will not even consider a reprieve until the Murray appeal has been heard and refused by the Supreme Court. If they intended to reprieve the death sentence surely they would immediately end the psychological torture being suffered by the Murrays. Indeed the latest introduction of a State of Emergency and the current state of siege mentality being fostered by the Irish government would make one believe that the Irish Government intend to hang the Murrays.

AMNESTY MEMBERS SUPPORT HANGING?

Many political groups have shied away from any position of the hanging issue as it would associate them with garda-killing and in taking so unprincipled a position have decided to allow the Murrays to be hanged. Politicians have shown their usual lack of concern even those who are members of Amnesty International, which is totally against capital punishment, have kept silent. They include Richie Ryan, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Garret FitzGerald, Justin Keating and Declan Costello.

Shortly after the death sentence was announced a group of people got together and formed the Murray Defence Committee whose aims are to have capital punishment repealed and a retrial ordered for the Murrays. Since their first activity to highlight their demands they have met with harassment and intimidation by the Gardai while the national press have blacked reporting their activities. This follows a contempt of court case against two national papers who printed statements relating to the Murrays. In one case a person who wrote a letter to the papers was charged. Members who have been putting up posters announcing public meetings have been hounded by the gardai who have charged many of them with obscure laws.

Support groups have sprung up all over Europe and even as far away as Japan. Protest letters and petitions have been pouring into Irish embassies. Irish tourist offices continue to be picketed. Liberals continue to call for a reprieve for the Murrays. In one case a 22 page telegram was sent 395 prominent citizens in Genoa, Italy, to the Defence Committee backing their demands.

The IRSP fully support the Murray Defence Committee and have been actively engaged in propagating its demands and have urged its support groups abroad to do likewise. Besides the question of hanging there is also the need to expose the increasing repressive nature of the present government whose latest laws allow it to drop all constitutional rights and to introduce yet more repressive laws whenever it likes. The threat is not only to the fundamental rights of republicans and socialists but to any and all who, in the years to come, will increasingly see the necessity to oppose the government on economic, political and cultural grounds.

CENSORED BY MEDIA

The Murray Defence Committee has been busy. They have produced over eight different posters. They held a successful picket at the Curragh barracks in the middle of August

Available from the IRSP at Murray Defence Committee 155 Church Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. PRICE 20p

Funds are urgently needed for the Defence of the Murrays and for legal costs following Garda harassment of members of the Murray Defence Committee.



NO HANGING HERE



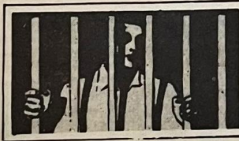
The case of Marie and Noel Murray

"We collected hundreds of signatures against the death penalties at our Frankfurt meeting last week" write the West German Ireland Solidarity Committee.

attended by over 100 people. The national press ignored the protest. Even more attended a public meeting where Father Denis Faul, amongst other speakers, said there was no worse punishment than to be held in jail under sentence of death. Again the media ignored the meeting. At the end of August members of the committee held a poster picket at the top of Grafton Street where the peace marchers were to assemble. The 50 or so picketers were immediately hemmed in by a large force of gardai who repeatedly tried to intimidate the picketers and later arrested two. They refused the picketers permission to walk after the peace marchers whether carrying pickets or not. The Murray Defence Committee was simply trying to highlight the question of capital

punishment (which is a violent act undoubtedly) and collecting a petition calling for its appeal. Many of the peace marchers showed their real concern for peace not as the press said by "ignoring the picketers" (which would have been bad enough) but by calling out remarks such as "hanging's not good enough for them" and "an eye for an eye" and tearing up leaflets calling for the abolition of capital punishment. This, if nothing else, showed how much the march was politically motivated, and how little real concern for many there was for peace and an end to violence.

The Defence Committee has also held successful public meetings in Dublin.



Portlaoise

GERMAN TOUR

During July a group of IRSP members travelled to Germany to participate in a youth camp run by a German anti-imperialist youth movement (B.D.P.).

Much of the camp was given over to discussion of the political situation in Ireland. Among the topics discussed were the education systems in Ireland and Germany, the position of women in both countries and the role of youth movements in the struggle against imperialism.

The main priority of left wing youth in West Germany is to resist the growing police state. In recent years under the guise of fighting "terrorism" the West German government has brought in new laws abolishing democratic rights and making it virtually impossible for anyone with left wing views to hold any jobs.

Nonetheless there is a lot of interest in international struggles among the German left. The B.D.P. youth camp has helped to improve an understanding of the political situation in both countries amongst those who participated in it. Despite the different forms it must take different countries the struggle for socialism is world wide.

Members of Na Fianna (Provisional) also attended the camp, while Na Fianna (Official Sinn Fein) refused to participate.

In a recent Press Release the IRSP protested in the strongest possible manner at the vindictive and cruel treatment being meted out to all political prisoners in Portlaoise.

"In the course of the last 3 weeks, Mr. Cooney, the Minister for Justice has instituted a prison life similar to that which existed in British jails in the last century.

The present situation is one where prisoners must sleep and eat on the floor of their cells as all cell furniture such as beds, tables, chairs etc. has been removed.

The libraries which were stocked by the prisoners themselves have been closed, and this along with the closure of the various handicraft workshops means that political prisoners are deprived of the meagre recreation facilities that did exist.

Radios, newspapers, personal clothes and even razors are denied to the prisoners.

The introduction of a system whereby prisoners are locked in their cells for a major portion of the day is a disguised form of solitary confinement.

The situation in the prison is now at boiling point. We have received information to the effect that 6 political prisoners have been on a hunger strike since Friday night last. They are demanding humane treatment from the Dept. of Justice and on this point the IRSP fully supports them.

When the Portlaoise situation is taken in conjunction with the recent happenings in Long Kesh and Magilligan camps in the North it is clear that British Imperialism and her native allies have declared war on all Irish political prisoners. Their immediate aim is to demoralize the prisoners by re-classifying the political prisoners from an individual into one who will blindly respond to so-called authority.

We call on all Socialist and anti-imperialist organisations to pledge full support for all political prisoners who have become the victims of a protracted form of repression within the prisons.

london irsp 'attend' festival

The IRSP's London support group attended the Second Annual London Irish Festival at Stamford Bridge in Chelsea where over 20,000 people attended. They were distributing leaflets explaining the policies of the IRSP and pointing out that the Ireland from which many of those attending had been forced to leave had in fact deteriorated, with rising unemployment and inflation. The carnage in the North was due to British imperialism, the leaflet continued, and no British imposed "solution" could solve it. Only the total defeat of British imperialism in Ireland would end the present conflict.

Having distributed over 4,000 leaflets and sold over 50 copies of the Starry Plough they were evicted by the police. When they asked about the grounds the leaflets outside the grounds a police inspector pushed one of the IRSP supporters and replied "do and you will all be arrested". Another example of the famous British democracy.

The I.R.S.P. London Support Group can be contacted at

I.R.S.P.

BOX 6,
142, DRUMMOND ST.,
LONDON, N.W.1.

KILDARE SIX

FRAME UP



IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY

Press Statement from General Headquarters Dept. 4th August 1976.

THE ARMY COUNCIL of the I.N.L.A. wish to confirm the report in to-day's "Irish News" that one of our active service units was responsible for the killing of the British soldier in Dungiven, Co. Derry on Tuesday last.

THIS ACTION was carried out as part of our overall campaign against British Imperialism and in support of Irish political prisoners struggling for the retention of political status. In our view, the ending of political status in the prisons is designed to de-politicise the Northern struggle and portray in the public mind the false image that all those actively opposed to British Imperialism are gangsters and criminals.

IT IS THE INTENTION of the N.L.A. to vigorously oppose this latest British plan.

APART from planned actions against the security forces, it is our intention to take ruthless and decisive retribution against each and every member of the Northern Ireland prison service who participates in the implementation of the plan to end political status.

WE CALL ON the Irish people to give their full support to our efforts to retain political status.

Signed: A. Fitzgerald, Director of Publicity

The above press release from the NLA was received by the STARRY PLOUGH and is printed without comment.

'Irish Bastards'

A Hampshire policeman, who alleged that his sergeant had assaulted three young Irish men who were locked up for being drunk, claimed the sergeant had called them "Irish bastards" and refused them a solicitor. P.C. Jeremy Maynard, the policeman who exposed his sergeant, now finds himself before an enquiry charged with disobeying an order and being asleep on duty!

whitewash

The Special Criminal Court has ordered the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate torture allegations made by a cavan man who received 12 months imprisonment on a charge of IRA membership. Patrick Rehill, the victim, can rest easy knowing that the same state that accepted the word of a garda as evidence and sentenced him to a year's incarceration, which also pays and encourages the men who tortured him is about to see that justice is done! The necessity for a public enquiry into garda brutality through an impartial body becomes more evident with torture allegations growing daily.

I.R.S.P.

JOIN

Irish Republican Socialist Party

The aim of the I.R.S.P. is to establish a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic with the working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

Write or contact: An Rúnas, I.R.S.P.
34 Upr. Gardiner Street, Dublin.

Phone: 721175



Páirtí Poblachtach Sóisialach na h-Éireann

I want to join

I want associate membership

Ann (Name)

Seoladh (Address)

teastaíonn ballraíocht uaim

teastaíonn ballraíocht taca uaim

GARDAI SUED IN TORTURE CASE — 40 cases to follow

Last April over 40 IRSP members, friends and supporters in Limerick, Cork, Carlow, Bray, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire were arrested following the robbery of the Cork-Dublin mail train. At a subsequent press conference the IRSP produced, verbal, photographic and physical proof to back up their allegations of maltreatment and torture.

Legal proceedings have now been instigated against the Attorney General and the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána for assault and damages on behalf of three of those tortured. Another six cases are in the pipeline. Following the tortures six men were charged with robbing the train although all can prove their innocence. The IRSP claims this is a frame up.

Through the Association for Legal Justice, the Susan Langley Trust finances cases against the authorities where ill-treatment is alleged during detention and not only in political cases.

Another 40 cases claiming damages for assault while in custody are to be initiated shortly against the gardai separate from the IRSP cases. Due to court case backlogs it is not likely that they will be heard for 12 months.

PROTEST

Over 200 workers on the construction site in Syntex factory in Clare Castke, Ennis, staged a protest march opposing the latest repressive laws with the active participation of the local James Connolly IRSP Cumann.

A well attended public meeting was also held at Thomas Street corner in Limerick city organised by The Bottom Dog, a radical Limerick news sheet.

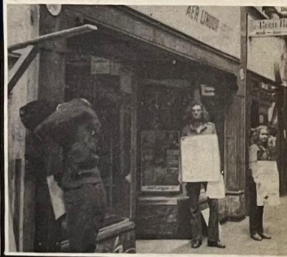
in the dock

If you're ever up in the Special Juryless Court, introduced under the notorious Offences Against the State Act, you might reflect on the following while your sentence is being worked out. Robert Emmet and some Inveinicles were sentenced to death in the dock you'll be standing in. Young Irelanders, Fenians (such as O'Donovan Ross and Thomas Clarke) and even James Connolly (in 1913) were convicted in the very same dock. Nothing much has changed in Ireland since, nor have those who stand in the dock or sit on the benches!

best recruit

"I'm very proud of him... when he was a paratrooper he was awarded a trophy because he was the best recruit in Aldershot" said the father of Costas Georgiou, the mercenary executed in Angola. The same mercenary was supposed to be serving five years in jail for a post office robbery in the six Counties which he carried out while in the British Army. How many more pro-British elements incarcerated for robbery and petty theft had had their sentences commuted because the British government has had 'other use' for their services?

anti-hanging support



The Murray Defence Committee have been receiving a large amount of support for their calls for the abolition of capital punishment and for a new trial for the Murrays. Support groups have been formed in France, Holland, Germany, Sweden and Italy as well as in Scotland and England. Recently they received a 22 page long telegram from Genoa in Italy with 395 signatures of prominent citizens backing their demands. A large number of influential individuals in Ireland have also signed a similar petition.

The Defence Committee reports continuous harassment of its members who have been arrested while putting up posters and even for writing letters to the national press. Following recent contempt of court cases the Irish Times has refused to print anything on the Murrays except straight court reports.

arms build up

More than 8,000 firms in Britain are involved in military contracts and many more would like to join in the lucrative arms export business. Over 80 countries were invited recently to take part in two trade days in Aldershot where all kinds of weaponry were exhibited. Aware of the new military build-up in the 26 Counties of the Free State Army and its increasing role in law enforcement, invitations were sent to the top brass in the Curragh who hastily snapped them up. The government who claim to have no money to spare while they cut public spending, can afford to double and treble the cost of 'security' each year.

UNEMPLOYMENT MEETINGS

The P. adraig Pearse Cumann of the IRSP in Ballyfermot — Inchicore are organising a series of public meetings on unemployment. Speakers will include *Ite Ni Chionnaith*, who recently stood as an IRSP candidate in the Dublin South West bye election, *Seamus Costello*, chairman IRSP, and *Pat O'Reilly*. The meetings will take place as follows:

SUNDAY 26th SEPTEMBER,
ASSUMPTION CHURCH,
BALLYFERMOT after 10, 11 and
12 o'clock masses.

on Ireland

The National Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland which has been elected by over 50 labour bodies has arrived in Ireland. The delegates, representing various shades of opinion, will meet a cross section of Irish opinion to discuss what programme the British Labour Movement should adopt to assist

the Irish people's right to self determination. 65 delegates representing trade union branches, trades councils, Constituency Labour Parties and other labour movement bodies are involved in the delegation which is also sponsored by 14 Labour M.P.s.

jobs for the boys

The Shannon branch of the Organisation for National Ex-Servicemen has created some controversy by placing an ad in the local paper, Shannon Report, calling on unemployed members to contact them for jobs that were available in Cork. Its not a case of ex Slua Mara, F.C.A. and Free State Army men having better qualifications for these jobs than the ordinary public but a case of jobs for the boys.

hotel chit-chat

Two gardai were overheard having a conversation in a hotel recently concerning robberies. One was heard saying, rather despondently, "who can we trust now! We put the (Free State) Army guarding the banks and look what they did in Navan — they robbed it!"

confusion

Gare Co. Council recently passed a resolution calling for British withdrawal from the North and condemning violence from both sides of the border. The motion was not put forward for any political motive' said the proposer who also said things in the North had got worse since the SAS presence. Another councillor said that the British presence was the cause of the strife. The Brits have said they are not leaving, the councillors believe their presence is responsible for all the trouble — yet they expect an end to it all by solely peaceful means! There's muddled thinking for you.

Come 1980

Ireland as a whole, North and South has the worst unemployment situation in the EEC and that's straight from Brussels. But have no fear, the EEC decided recently to end unemployment at a meeting in Brussels. All this is supposed to occur in 1980, just because a group of con-men sit in a room and say they will end it without making the economic and political changes necessary!

hands off

Racism has been hitting the headlines in Britain over the past month, due particularly to police harassment against the Asian community. But such harassment has not been reserved for the Asian community. Recently the Harlesden district of North West London saw, for the first time, the unity of black and Irish who demanded "Hands Off Blacks", "Hands Off Irish".

TERROR

The Prevention of Terrorism Act has received little publicity in Ireland except when some prominent person is deported or arrested. This racist legislation has resulted in over 1,500 known arrests of Irish people since its inception. The figures for those deported or refused entry to Britain are not known. Only 36 have been charged with serious offences.