

VOLUNTEER

North West Republican

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TRY LOOKING AT IT IN THIS WAY

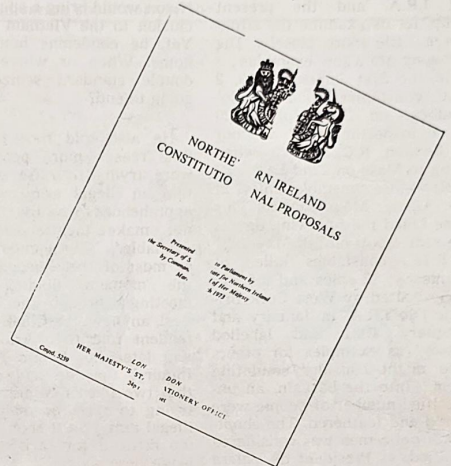
Early 1972, The British Government admitted to itself military defeat in the 6 occupied Counties of Ireland. The only course open to her to save herself heavy financial cost was to get out. She also had to save her "Face" and her "Honour." Whitelaw held round table talks at Darlington "In an effort to get a census of Political opinions and suggestions for a settlement."

None of the proposals put forward by the various parties at that meeting have been included in his "White Paper". The simple reason being that Westminster had already decided its format.

They have produced a document that the Loyalists could not accept and those with Nationalist aspirations would not accept. This leaves the "Middle of the Road" moderates in the centre.

Westminster can now hope that the Loyalist and Republicans get together and sort it out among themselves. If she can get them to agree she knows that the 'Holier than Thou' Political Groups like the S.D.L.P. and Alliance will be only too glad to give it their blessing and join with them.

Meanwhile these moderates will attempt to persuade the people into accepting certain points of the White Paper. They will not however commit themselves and as we read the Press they had "Guarded Welcomes", There are those who will use the "finer" points of this document to press the Irish Republican Army for a cease fire. We have already made our position clear regarding this. No cease fire while Britain stays. No cease fire while homes continue to be raided while men and boys continue to be arrested and detained. No cease fire while the Prisons of Ireland and England hold Irish Freedom Fighters. A person has stated that if we profess to be the army of the people then we ought to do what the people want.



We are the army of the people. We are the army of the Irish Republic as proclaimed in 1916. Our duty is to the people and the Republic. We expect our people to demand from us not a cease fire but a guarantee that we will not desist from our principles while England maintains her presence on Irish soil. We expect our people to demand that we break the economic stranglehold that England holds our country in. We expect our people to demand from us the Peace and Justice and prosperity that is guaranteed, not in England's White Paper, But in a country free from England.

These are the demands to make of the Irish Republican army.

The paragraphs that would ensure all these things peaceably are deliberately omitted from their White Paper.

Republicans and Loyalists will get together. We will solve our differences. We have no other choice left open now.

When that day comes, and it is in the very near future, we will march forward together to our New Ireland, the guns will be finally put away.

This time we will not mark the spot.

1919 - 1921 AND NOW

During the debate on the Offences Against the State (Amendments) Bill, the Taoiseach told the Dail "this his Party were the successors of the Old I.R.A., who were gallant men, unlike those parading as the I.R.A. at the present time." We have politicians appearing on platforms as speakers commemorating I.R.A. men of 50 years ago, men who were at that time also labelled "murderers and subversives" and people who were resorting to violence to gain political objectives. But as to the difference between the Old I.R.A. and the present group, let us examine the situation a little more closely. The following are a few examples:

On the 21st January 1919, 2 R.I.C. constables killed at Soloheadbeg, on 25th July 1920 police inspector killed at door of Bandon R.C. church when going to Mass on 22nd February 1921; R.I.C. constable killed at the Glen, Mountcharles; his mate killed the following day at the same spot; on 9th May 1921 2 R.I.C. constables killed at Clonmany; 12 spies and informers executed by West Cork Brigade Old I.R.A. in January and February 1921 and labelled "spies" as examples for others who might consider emulating them. Into the bargain, an unspecified number of people were tarred and feathered. The shooting of policemen was considered justified, as President de Valera told the Dail in 1921 "that they were the eyes and ears of the enemy". Plans were being prepared in 1921 by Cathal Brugha, then Minister for Defence, to send volunteers to London to assassinate British Cabinet Ministers. He asked Major General Joe Sweeney to lead this guerrilla unit. But on 7th July 1921 a general order was issued to all units in the following terms: "In view of the conversations now being entered into by our Government and the Government of Great Britain and in pursuance of mutual understandings to suspend hostilities during these conversations, active operations will be suspended by our troops as from noon Monday, July 11th."

So where is the great difference the Taoiseach talks about. What, I wonder, would be the reaction of "Heath's Henchmen" today if they discovered that plans were being hatched to assassinate Cabinet Ministers. If any reader thinks there is a difference, he or she should ask General Tom Barry, or General Peadar O'Donnell. The only difference, in my opinion, is that whereas British propaganda supported by Castle hacks 50 years ago, condemned the Old I.R.A. It is now using as mouthpieces well heeled Party hacks who use a continual stream of denunciations, some of them vehement and vitriolic to try and discredit the present I.R.A.

One thing is certain, if the I.R.A. are guilty of any crimes, the guilt does not lie at their feet alone. It is shared by the bulk of the people of the

Twenty-six Counties, who to their shame, let it be said, by acquiescence allowed too many for too long to fatten and wallow in a spacious edifice of self-seeking, which the continued existence of Partition permitted them to erect, people who now want us to forget that we are citizens of a sundered country. The winds of affluence are blowing in their favour and that is all that matters.

On his recent visit to the United States, the Taoiseach appeared to condone the barbaric bombing of Hanoi and Hiaphong during Christmas week, when he told newsmen that he hoped the actions taken by President Nixon would bring a speedy conclusion to the Vietnam conflict. Yet, he condemns bombing at home. When or where is this double standard schizophrenia going to end?

He also told newsmen that "the reason more people who were trying to raise or maintain an illegal army were not apprehended, was that they did not make themselves readily available." This sounds strange as most of these people are at the moment holding public meetings through the country. And, anyhow, the Chief Superintendent told the "Arms Trial" and later the Public Accounts Inquiry, that he had evidence that two former Ministers were trying to raise or maintain an illegal army. So it should not be too difficult for Jack to apprehend these people.

Immediately after the bombs went off in Dublin, the Government discovered that there was a spy ring operating there. But, as happened in the arms scandal, they tried to cover it up, but they were forced to act as an I.R.A. intelligence unit was shadowing these people, and the Government did not want another "Four Square Laundry" on their hands, as it would be most embarrassing to Ted and his Toadies after all the talk about "evil men in their midst."

On the night of the explosions, we saw on R.T.E. a man being apprehended by the Gardaí. He spoke with a "Cockney" accent and was carried away protesting vigorously that he was not a member of the I.R.A. The reason for his arrest, we were told was that he came out of an English registered car and placed a cardboard box on the footwalk. Nothing has been heard of this man since. Could it be that he was — like some others — sent quietly out of the country, so as to cause the minimum of embarrassment to those who told us when the bombs went off, that "they were putting the country before personal interests."

Join
Sinn Fein

Tony Devine

The British Army recently arrested a leading member of the Derry Republican Movement, Tony Devine, after crossing the Border into Donegal.

By doing this they in fact carried out an act of war against a friendly state. We now demand that the authorities seek his release immediately as he was not arrested in so-called "British" territory.

The facts of the arrest are that, 1. Tony Devine was arrested on the Donegal side of the Border.

2. He was arrested 200 yards away from the border on the Southern side.

3. Several other Derrymen who were with Tony can vouch for the fact that he was in Donegal when he was surprised by a British patrol.

4. The British are lying when they say he was in the North. This claim, like the ones made after Bloody Sunday, is made to cover up their own illegal acts.

On two previous occasions British officers told civilians that Tony could meet with an "accident" after he was arrested. We wish to state that he was in perfect health when he was arrested. We have always stated that the British would, and have crossed, the Border to attack members of the Republican movement. This arrest proves that claim.

This state of affairs will continue until the British are driven out of our country as until then no one is safe from arbitrary arrest.

Only one politician had the courage and honesty to make a statement on Tony's arrest. Mr. Eddie McAteer, the President of the Nationalist party said, "the British Army appear to have abolished the Border in advance of the Border referendum." Our "elected representatives", John Hume and Ivan Cooper stayed strangely silent. The sooner they are replaced with genuine leaders the better for us all. Tony Devine was charged with murder of a British Army Major who died on Bloody Sunday, several months after he was shot in Abbey Street in Free Derry.

DEDICATION

Ireland 1826, when million knew only famine, oppression and degradation.

We are the silent people,
How long must we be still.
To nurse in secret at our breast
An ancient culture.

Let us arise a cry then
Call from the sleeping ashes
Of destiny, a chieftain who
Will be our voice.

He will strike the brass.
And we will erupt
From our hidden caves,
Into the golden light of
A new born day.

INTIMIDATION

Now you are being warned,
If your name is known to us you can expect to be dealt with.

We know for a fact that pensioners in the Creggan area are being intimidated by a group of young people.

We are issuing just one more warning. Intimidation and vandalism better stop now. For your own good. No more warnings.

Alliance Party

We now see the Alliance Party in their true colours a bright Red, White and Blue in their leaflet that they put around the doors they stressed that we should keep the link with Britain. They are asking the Catholic population to keep on supporting the very Government that have been responsible for the deaths of so many of our country men, the internment of our friends and neighbours, the injustices of the courts, and the betrayal of all that we hold dear. How can these so-called Irishmen state that everyone in Northern Ireland depends on the British people for their living, what about all the money that the people here pay in income tax, national insurance, graduated pensions, etc. They say that there is no hope of bringing the two communities here together if the link with Britain is broken how do they know, can they foresee the future, we state that there can and will be before very long a Thirty-Two Republic of Ireland and that there will be no place for the likes of the snivelling cowards that make up the Alliance Party. We ask them how can they ask the people here to vote in this referendum, where is the point, anyone that does vote all they are doing is agreeing that the Irish people are not fit to govern themselves. They are giving support to a corrupt system that has kept the jackboot of oppression on the necks of the Catholic people for the last fifty years. We say to all Irishmen be they Catholic, Protestant or Dissenter, do not give your support to the Alliance Party for they are nothing more than the lackeys of Faulkner, Heath, Whitelaw and the Unionist Party. We say in all sincerity that we will do all in our power to bring about a United Ireland as quickly as possible.

The Snipers Prayer

Lord receive the soul of this man. He dies because he would not listen. His name I do not know.

He and his breed have persecuted and tortured my people. He and his breed have caused many of my people suffering, sorrow and death. Lord I have tried so hard to convince him and his breed that they are wrong. I have searched for ways to explain, that my people and I do not want this cruel war. That my people and I desire only to live in peace as a free and just nation.

Yet he nor his breed will heed my voice and I have been forced

to meet his violence and his oppression with this gun I now hold. Lord I have tried to reason with them but they have spurned my pleas.

Lord my heart tells me that I am right. If this be so in your eyes then guide my aim. If I am wrong then let it be that he shall live.

I have pressed the trigger, the shot is done, the bullet has sped towards the man. Lord, he falls.

I feel no joy. Nay lord I feel only sorrow. Sorrow, that I have been the instrument of wrath. Sorrow that a creature you did create could not use the

gift of his life to assist his fellow man.

No he choose freely to ignore my cry. Tomorrow another of his breed I shall see in my sight. Tomorrow I shall look at a man I do not know and I shall detest all that he represents. I shall see an object of persecution, oppression and tyranny and I shall make a prayer to you. "Lord, receive the soul of this man. His name I do not know. He dies because he would not listen."

If you can imagine a line drawn from Newry to Bundoran; then call the land south of the line Ireland and the land north of the line Ulster; you will have a fair idea of how this island can find its true identity.

Those of us who belong to Ulster realise we have more in common with each other than we have with either our friends from across the Irish sea or our friends in the south. We are all "paddies" to the English, and "northerners" to those in the Republic. So let us discover our own identity and build upon our own ethos.

We may indeed be Northern Irish or Ulstermen but our English and Irish characteristics need not cause constant conflict. Conflict begins when we refuse to see ourselves as we are and so fail to fulfil our roles in society.

In 1966 Paul Rose found in a survey that 30 per cent of Protestants and 5 per cent of Catholics identified themselves as Ulstermen. Why is this so? Perhaps for geographical reasons, Ulster has been cut into pieces or maybe for political reasons Ulster has been thrust upon a nation who never wanted it in the first place. It is certainly true that our state began in a period of bitterness and a minority of the population refused to give it any support whatsoever. Their allegiance was never needed and never sought after and a society which satisfied only the feelings and aspirations of the ruling Unionist population developed.

The present day problem stems from this illegitimate society, in which the political system has become too weak to prevent internal conflict. Unionism has failed to give Catholics and Protestants any sort of leadership towards a peaceful and democratic society. What is the alternative. We must begin by uniting both peoples in by doing so, expose their true common characteristics. Let's do without our previous leaders and power manipulators. Let the ordinary people band together to fight poverty, to end separate education, to end segregated urbanisation. Let's have a government of the people and so create a state in which all will offer their loyalty and allegiance.

This letter was sent to us for publication from someone who claimed to be a neutral. Since we are interested in what people have to say and find this article interesting we have thus sent it to press. We do have some arguments against several points in the article but wish to hold those in case any of our readers wish to make a contribution in either agreement or disagreement.



Essex

It was thought for some time that Essex International had definite plans to expand their plant in Derry by opening an extension of the Bligh's Lane factory either in Maydown or Springtown. A few days ago a rumour reached the factory floor that this was not, in fact, so, and that the existing factory might even be closed down. To avoid panic the managing director called the union officials to his office and told them that the new branch of the factory had indeed been established in Scotland rather than Derry due mostly to the "civil unrest" here, but the Derry plant would not close and further expansion might follow sometime in the future. We were given an "assurance" of this in written form but nothing definite is stated as regards future possible redundancies and the document is certainly not legally binding.

The position seems fairly clear — in May 1974 the five year subsidies from the North-

ern Ireland Government are due to run out. By that time the Scottish plant should be thriving and nothing can be done to stop Essex moving completely from Derry, leaving the present employees high and dry.

Derry cannot afford to lose this factory and should not have to concede the extension to Scotland. Our only weapon is the Trade Union, the AUEW, the Essex branch of which is, unfortunately totally ineffective. It is up to the workers in the factory to make this Union work — to elect shop stewards from among themselves and press for complete union membership. Only as a united front have the workers any power. If we stand together the union officials can be forced to press our cause through the T.U.C. and through any other possible channels which might help Derry to retain this much-needed source of employment.

THE UNITED IRISHMEN — THE REPUBLICAN PRESBYTERIANS

Jack Lynch has signed the 26-counties away in commercial treaty after commercial treaty, Ulster Protestants are demanding U.D.I. or Disunion — "breaking the link with Britain." What must now happen is that extreme sectarian elements must be stopped, the Northern Protestant's horizon of an independent Ulster must be broadened to become a demand for an independent Ireland in the radical free-thinking Presbyterian tradition of his forefathers — their leaders of the first Republican Rising in Ireland. If they can manage to widen their vision and escape bitter sectarianism, we will ultimately find that the North — both Protestant and Catholic — will take over the southern state and break the Union that exists between Lynch and Heath at the moment. Only then will the republican ideal of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter united together in an Ireland separated from England exploitation, be achieved.

Who are the real Terrorists ?

P.D.A.

It pains any true Irishman to hear or read another Irishman call the Provisionals terrorists. They are among the most outstanding Freedom Fighters in history, the true hope of the Irish people, the lineal descendants of Patrick Pearse, Tom Clarke, James Connolly and the other great men of 1916. It is the British and their allied groups who are the only terrorists.

A terrorist seeks to impose his will not by defeating an army or guerilla force opposed to him, but by creating terror among the civilian people who have made it clear by peaceful and public means that they utterly reject his rule. The Bri-

can't defeat the I.R.A., so, in typical British fashion, they resort to a cowardly attack on innocent men, women and children. No matter how many lies are spread by the British news agencies, by R.T.E. and sections of the press in Ireland, the real

successful. Accidents, misjudgements and blunders on their part, by any comparable standards in the world, have been amazingly few.

The plain truth is that, as ever, the British work by lies, treachery and terrorism; the Provisionals work by courage, self-sacrifice and military ingenuity. There is no danger that the Nationalist people will desert the I.R.A. The terrorism of the British shows an Irish success is near; it may take even a few years but it is certain. With that victory will come freedom and genuine peace.



tish campaign in the Six Counties is clearly and quite openly terrorist. Its aim is to cause so much suffering and fear among non-combatants that they will appeal to the I.R.A. to surrender for the sake of "peace" at least for a short time. That would mean prolonged suffering later for the Irish people, but it would mean victory for British tyranny. The British have publicly stated again and again that peaceful demonstrators run the risk of being shot down, and on Bloody Sunday and innumerable other occasions they have actually murdered civilians at random. They have seized, brutalized and tortured men of any politics or no politics provided they were Catholic. They have incarcerated vast numbers in concentration camps and gaols and there attempted systematically to break them physically, mentally and morally — and they have failed. They have raped, and molested women, burned out or, during their so-called searches, devastated thousands of homes. They have abolished even the appearance of impartial justice or any redress in the courts. They have driven out thousands of civilian refugees. The British

terrorists are the British, facing their final failure to destroy the Irish nation.

So much for the British.

When impartial historians study recent events in Ireland they will be lost in admiration not merely at the inventiveness, the self-sacrifice and the determination shown by the Provisionals but at the remarkable fairness and decency, morally speaking, of their reaction to British terrorist tactics. While British bombs are invariably placed without warning, and with intent to kill civilians, I.R.A. bombs are aimed at economic or military targets, and where civilians might be endangered very adequate warnings are given, even at great risk to I.R.A. soldiers. Several I.R.A. men have lost their lives due to their concern for civilians. In response to the British attack on people at random and their sectarian murder campaign the I.R.A. have never attacked the wives and children of British soldiers. The I.R.A. have not engaged in torture or attacks upon the homes of those opposed to them. Their precautions in all military exploits to safeguard civilian life have been conspicuous and indeed very

Now the Officials are trying to gain favour with the people of the Shantallow area. They called a meeting in the Community Centre to form a Peoples Defence Association, this was attended by about eighty men and boys from the two estates. The chairman then started to outline the plans that they had made for this area, this speaker had no agenda for the meeting and failed completely in getting the points over to those that were there. He said that they were in contact with people from Belfast and when he was asked who these people were he said that he could not disclose their names. What have they to hide? If this is to be a Peoples Association then the people that are going on the streets have a right to know who is behind this organisation. The speaker avoided all the questions that were put to him in fact he was lost for words. The meeting developed into a free for all argument and the chairman could not even call the meeting to order, he let the arguments carry on. When he finally did gain control of the meeting he started to outline the plans that they had made, they were as follows: The men that went out to patrol were not to stop cars only observe them, if the Army came in they were to make themselves scarce. Where is the point of men going out to patrol the streets if they do not check cars, because that's were the biggest danger lies. If they are a recognised body what have they to hide from the Army, are these men that are going out on patrol going to be armed, or dressed in combat jackets or are they a Paramilitary Organisation? All we ask is that they answer these questions truthfully. What can these men do if a car comes speeding in from the Steeles-town Road and drives on down the estate, stops outside some house and then get out and into their getaway car, it is too late then to give the alarm when something happens. Their answer to this was that men to the door and ask who owns the car and what is their business on the estate. It is a laughable situation. We ask all those that were foolish enough to put their names down to think again before they put their lives at stake for that is what they are gambling with. We ask you to think what this organisation done in the Creggan, Bogside, and the rest of the Free Derry area they let the people down there and their policy has not changed since. We say to you once again, withdraw your name now before it is too late.

P.D.F.

The Committee and members of An Cumann Cabrach wish to take this opportunity to thank the people of Derry for their financial support to this worthy cause.

An Cumann Cabrach provides aid for the dependents of sentenced political prisoners and where need be to those prisoners themselves who may require help in any manner. The total number of prisoners now held in various prisons throughout Ireland has risen. This has increased the burden on the committee. The only way that the wives and families and the prisoners themselves can feel any sense of security, is by your donations. Various functions are held regularly to assist the committee in raising funds for this cause.

We have been supported well

in the past and we trust that this support will continue.

We would appeal to you to remember the prisoners each week and give as generously as you can afford

Again we repeat our warmest thanks on behalf of the hundreds you assist.

"I was in prison, and you visited me."

GANG SMASHED

In our previous edition of *Volunteer* we listed a number of names of persons suspected of dealing in stolen goods. Prior to this a section of the Irish Republican Army had been investigating reports of a gang of petty thieves. Their inquiries uncovered a group of young people who had been operating on an organised buglary and larceny basis. This group had been responsible for breaking and entering premises in the Bogside and Creggan. The amount of goods taken in this crime wave totalled hundreds of pounds. Old peoples homes had been entered and cleaned out.

This gang was rounded up and were questioned. During the course of their interrogation they disclosed names of people who had been buying these goods from them. Our unit checked this out and found this information to be true. In one case however that of the person named as "Melaughs" of Waterloo Street were later found out that the owner of these premises was completely innocent.

In this case it was later found out that a former employee of Mr. Melaugh had been deliberately using his name as a cover for himself. We had a discussion with Mr. Melaugh and agreed to make further inquiries. The result was that the gang responsible admitted that at no time whatsoever did Mr. Melaugh ever meet them or receive any goods from them personally. We trust that all customers and friends of Mr. Melaugh will accept this retraction of our previous allegation. The net result of our investigation did prove that a gang had been operating on a big scale. They have now since been smashed. It was at the request of the people that this was first looked into. Now that this particular "crew" have been dealt with we ask that you, the people do not hesitate in bringing offenders such as these to our attention.

We will not permit this type of activity to continue.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I am not a supporter of your campaign but deem this letter very necessary in view of happenings in Derry in recent times.

Two things have alarmed me tremendously and I now believe only your people are capable of doing something about them. In recent weeks the schools of our city have become targets for vandals and would-be buglars. I am not convinced civilians were the culprits in all cases, but in the majority. Can you please do something about this.

The second thing is the very recent vandalism in the Creggan Estate. This week alone has seen cars and vans hi-jacked and burned. We have heard our young people hurl abuse at older people. I do not believe that

your organisation is behind this nor can I see how it would benefit you.

The hatred of British soldiers is widespread and understandably so but these small bands of individuals direct their energies towards their own people.

I firmly believe that you can do something about these things and can assure you that there are people who will be genuinely grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Concerned Citizen.

SINN FEIN

The Sinn Fein organisation in Derry is expanding fast. Why don't you become a member. There is a Sinn Fein Cumann in your area. Ask your Cumann member the procedures in joining.

DID HE DIE ?



The British Army are quick to highlight every incident they can to discredit the Irish Republican Army. To even throw a stone is regarded as a "callous act." Whitelaw uses every trick in the book to attack Republicans.

Well Mr. Whitelaw how do

you explain this "callous act" committed by "your boys" on Bloody Sunday.

The pictures portray a helpless Bogsider on the ground. Standing over him a Para with his rifle aimed at him. Seconds later the young lad is lying still. Take note also Whitelaw this was no "gunman, petrol bomber,

nail-bomber, etc." He is as was the rest of the Bloody Sunday victims, unarmed and defenceless.

The next time the British talk of callous deeds think of this young lad and ask did he die. Was he one of the 13. A callous act indeed Mr. William Whitelaw.



Walker's Pillar

One of the chief monuments within the walls of our city is Walker's Pillar. The column, with Governor Walker's statue on the top is of Portland stone. It is eighty-one feet in height and has a diameter of six feet nine inches. The inside spiral staircase has 110 steps.

On 18th December, 1825, a meeting of the Apprentice Boys began a subscription towards its erection and declared that on the anniversary of the closing of the gates and of the relief of Derry flags were to be hoisted upon it.

The first stone was laid on December 7th, 1826 by Major R. Young and in 1828 the work, which cost £4,200, was completed. The governor's likeness was taken from an existing painting. He holds a bible in his right hand while his left points to the spot where the boom was laid.

Seamus Bradley Cumann

On Tuesday, 20th February, at approximately 11.30 p.m., a joint army and police patrol apprehended three armed men, in a stolen car, out side Malins factory in Maydown, after they were seen acting suspiciously at a gate which is never used. The following day the three protestant extremists were charged at a special court in Coleraine of having in their possession two weapons and a stolen car, when they were picked up at "Drumahoe"?

The question the cumann would like answered is, why was it not stated that the gunmen were picked up at Maydown? We in the cumann think that this was an assassination squad waiting outside a predominately catholic factory and that the security forces rather than admit that these workers are in a very hostile area and are not getting adequate protection would try to pull the wool over people's eyes. Let us not be fooled, but only for the vigilance of the factory security guard we would have had the first assassination of catholics going to or from their place of work, in the Derry area.

Within the past week we have been hearing cries of "how can we help defeat the assassins" from Gerry Fitt, M.P.

Will someone please tell him, firstly, that he is wasting his time talking to the B.A. who not only condone these assassinations but are committing the majority of them. Does he not remember the six innocent men who were gunned down by these so-called protectors, a few weeks ago, around the corner from where he lives, in the New Lodge area. Secondly does he not remember the thirteen people gunned down in Derry on January 30th, 1972 or maybe that is just history now. There are many more "incidents" which have happened in between involving the S.A.S. and their allies which can never be forgiven by an Irish-

Points of Interest

We have noted that harassment of the civilian population by the British Army continues despite reassurances. The motorist now finds that these soldiers are so pleasant and so polite — if they are driving through check-points before 1 or 2 a.m.

The following incidents were reported to our press staff, and should make interesting reading and give food for thought.

1. One night, quite early, two young girls were making their way home from their club. In bags they were carrying P.E. gear. They were stopped by an army foot patrol who decided they should be searched. However the soldiers ignored the bags and ordered the young girls to open their coats . . .

2. Several gentlemen were making their way home to Creggan in a vehicle were stopped at an army check-point. The licence was produced and everyone ordered out of the vehicle. All were ordered in again and then ordered out again. This fiasco continued for half an hour or more. Why?

3. Two young men were stopped at an army check-point one evening. They left that check-point half-an-hour later, and it only took a soldier two minutes to search the car. But the interesting point is that they were asked to give the following information to an officer who wrote it all down — 1) Name; 2) Age; 3) Address; 4) No. of Licence; 5) No of Log Book; 6) No. of Insurance Cert; 7) Their height; 8) The colour of their hair; 9) The colour of their eyes.

Now why was this necessary? 4. On his way home from school a young boy had to pass an army check-point and sand-bag post. As he passed sand was thrown into his face by someone within the post.

These are only a few of many incidents and we welcome all those who wish to inform us of any other incidents which they feel the public should be made aware of.

*Wear an
EASTER
LILY*

man, so Mr. Fitt ask yourself who are you representing at these talks.

The only way to combat the sectarian killings is to keep the B.A. out of nationalist areas, from street committees, governed by an area council, to patrol their own areas, and ensure that all street lighting is functioning and where it is not get it corrected.

The Truth will make us Free

Listening to the people of Peace (both laity and clergy) talk about the old I.R.A. and the great men they were, and how they all admire them has prompted me to write this.

When the 1916 men surrendered, people came on to the streets to watch the prisoners being marched through the streets of Dublin to the ships waiting to take them to prisons in England or Wales, and they spat on them. Irish? Newspapers of the day screamed for the execution of the leaders!

In Derry, they had no opportunity to spit on Irish prisoners, but when German prisoners of War were marched up the Strand Road, they were able to show their loyalty to King and Country by spitting on them.

During the 1914-18 War, some priests were on the British recruiting platforms, whilst others were openly backing 'the Boys'. Two Priests in a Religious Order who done so, were exiled for life, and only recently was their last wish granted i.e., that they would be buried in Ireland.

50 years ago, our Irish Bishops had them denounced off the altars, and many were refused the Sacraments; only a small number of young Priests supported these men on the run. In the 1950's we had the absurd position where I.R.A. men in Irish Jails could not have the sacraments from our Secular Priests, but were able to have their religious needs attended to by members of Religious Orders; these not being subject to the ruling of our Bishops.

Today, young Priests still wet behind the ears, seem to be setting themselves up as Theologians, personally, I think they are helping to drive our young people out of the Church.

Fr. Faul has persistently exposed the terrible tortures the interned and detained have suffered at the hands of the Security Authorities. Mostly he has been a voice in the wilderness, and I would suspect an embarrassment at times to his superiors.

Cardinal Conway has now spoken out about the sufferings of our people; but I'm afraid this is too little and too late. As long as we have internment or whatever new name the English like to give it, so long shall we have support for 'the Boys'.

Jack Lynch was An Taoiseach only because he belonged to a Party that used the gun before they came to power. Brian Faulkner was Prime Minister only because he belongs to a Party that led a Mutiny in the British Army and armed themselves to fight against the King and the Constitution.

I believe the present situation gives our Clergy an opportunity to lead the people. In the 1914-18 War they lead the people in the fight against Conscription, let them now show the same courage and mount an all-out campaign against the new Whitelaw Law which is trying to give an air of respectability to Internment under another name. Time is running out they must

lead them or lose them. To me, the Catholic Church in Ireland stands at the Crossroads.

JOHN HUME

Our "elected representative" John Hume is at it again. Mincing words like it was nobodys business.

After a Bogsider was fired at by a member of the British Army, Hume mutters about the "disturbing implications" of it all. Disturbing implications be damned, Mr. Hume. It was attempted murder. Of course had a member of the British Army been killed by a member of the I.R.A. Hume and his cronies would have been forthright in their condemnation.

People of Derry your elected M.P. has two standards of justice, one for the British Army and the other for the Irish Republican Army.

Like the rest of his party he is a genius of holding his finger to the wind, finding which way it is blowing, and then following it. Every day the people of Creggan and Bogsider are being harassed and tortured by the British yet Hume manages to stay silent.

Hume and Cooper rode into power on the backs of the civil rights campaign. Now they are determined to stay there. Volunteer has one word of advice for the people or else forget about the next election.

While Hume roams the television studios in London, the people of Derry are being harassed by the countrymen of his television friends. Stand up and be counted, Mr. Hume, are you Irish or British?

Extradition Sought

Twelve Derry men were arrested by Buncrana Gardaí following an incident at Bridgend in which a member of the U.D.R. was wounded. After being held for two days for questioning eleven of the men were released with no charges being preferred. One of the men Seamus O'Neill from the Limavady area was taken to Dungloe court at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning and an Extradition Order was issued against him. He was then taken to Mountjoy. It is a fact that the U.D.R. man involved in the Bridgend incident had been armed with a revolver. In his case no order was made against him. Or are we not being told the full facts. Are members of the so-called Six County "security forces" permitted to "cross the border" into the 26-Counties armed.

The people of the border towns in the 26 Counties would do well to ask this question.

BORDER POLL

The Border Poll was one of the most stupid acts of the British Government. It was an insult to all Irish people that a foreign government should usurp the inalienable right of the people of this country to determine their own future. Despite the assertion of that right by every generation, England has once more failed to realise the strength of determination of the Irish people to be masters of their own destiny.

Relentless struggle against British rule is the only honourable course open to our people. Republican resistance over the last three weeks has been intensified and the casualties inflicted on the British forces demonstrates how Operation Motorman has failed so dismally. It must be brought home to the British government that they cannot flout the fundamental right of the Irish nation with impunity. A responsible government in Britain would recognise that a clear cut declaration of disengagement from Ireland is the only sensible policy to pursue and thus put Anglo-Irish relations on a positive course of mutual respect. The people of both islands desire such a state and the obligation lies squarely with the British Government to bring it about.

Messrs. Cosgrave and Corish may have their talks with Mr. Heath but these talks will be as irrelevant as Lynch's tete-a-tete. Cosgrave has no mandate to speak for the Northern people. Republicans and Loyalists alike repudiate his partitionist beliefs and no matter how much of a sugar coating he may secure for the White Paper, he should be under no illusions as to the reception it will receive. He has the opportunity to tell Mr. Heath that there can be but one army and one government in Ireland and the sooner England withdraws her forces, the sooner peace will come to our country.

Perhaps it is futile to believe that any Free State politician would make such a demand to a British government. The Republican Movement has and will continue to do so. We will secure Britain's disengagement and reconstruct our country along the positive lines of creating a New Ireland.

For the last three years, Republicans have offered a vision of a new Ireland embodying a recognition of the positive aspects of the diverse elements which make up our nation. The New Ireland will be one of self-governing communities in which the people control their own affairs; their own employment, their own natural resources, their own wages and prices, their own housing and environment. For Ulster, it means a new parliament of Ulster united in the common and immense task of

creating a way of life which will be meaningful, rewarding and satisfying for all the inhabitants of that historic province.

British plebiscites retard the emergence of the New Ireland. It will come through the will and determination of the whole Irish people and from a willingness on Britain's part to recognise that she no longer deny Ireland her God given right to be a free and independent nation.

Area Cumann

Bogside — Patrick Pearse.
Brandywell — John Starrs.
Creggan — Eamonn Lafferty.
Creggan — Carr and Brady.
Carnhill — Seamus Bradley.
Shantallow — Keenan & McGillan.

Graveside Salute

SHANTALLOW NEWS

According to the Tenants' Association in Shantallow everyone in these two estates are sick. But what are they sick of? According to them the people in Shantallow were responsible for the burning of a car belonging to the Chairman of the Tenant's Association. They stated in their leaflet that this man used his car solely for the Association's business, but was this man not reimbursed from the funds for any expenses he incurred in that work? What does the Tenant's Association expect the people here to do, sit up all night and watch that nothing happens, what about all the other people that had their cars damaged, what about the people that had their windows broken? When one sits down to study the situation let us recall that when the Chairman of the Civil Rights Association had his car burned how many of the Tenants Association went up to him and asked him how he would manage, or offered any help to restore his car to him. This man also worked for the good of the community, and still does, but let us be fair this was a very terrible thing to happen. No man wants to see anybody's car burned but at the same time no Community can be held responsible for the actions of one or more individuals.

They also say that this action will make people wonder what other people will think, and does this action reflect the true feelings of the people, have they tried to find out just what the true feelings of the people are? They say that the people

of these two estates are responsible, we say they are wrong and that it is not up to the people to replace that car, or to the Tenants Association to finance him with the means to purchase one. After all this money belongs to the people and for the use of the community not for purchasing a car for anyone no matter who they are. The Shantallow Tenant's Association Committee, and the Community Centre Sub-Committee who signed the letter have a downright cheek expecting the people to help restore this man's car, there is only one thing we would ask, had this man no insurance on the car? There is one more thing these people keep knocking the teenagers of the estate for throwing stones and bottles at the Army when they come in, but let them not forget that some of these teenagers have been in the hands of the R.U.C. and the Army and they are still been harrassed by them. So let them alone, get off their backs, they have enough to stand.

FRATERNISERS INFORMERS

"Dot Robb" of Shantallow your misconduct and slanderous attacks regarding the Irish Republican Army better cease now!

"Miss McCay" who works in the Post Office in Shantallow you are being warned. Keep your nose out of our affairs and your comments to yourself. No more warnings. One wrong move and you will be dealt with.



DIVORCE IN IRELAND

Divorce and Contraception present two of the most controversial and difficult issues ever to confront any Irish Political Party, south of the border. Usually these two issues are avoided and tend to be swept under the carpet.

Why this "ostrich like" attitude by all and sundry in Leinster House, and indeed amongst those citizens of the twenty-six counties to whom this repressive legislation applies. The Repressive Laws which ban the sale and use of contraceptives, and which prohibit divorce.

The answer is fairly simple. Fianna Fail, Fianna Gael, Labour, and other parties in Leinster House are subjected to pressure from the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, which is deeply involved in Southern Politics and which with the power it wields in that field, could ruin any political party it so wishes. Therefore the Southern Irish Parties face a dilemma, conform or disintegrate.

Unfortunately, pushing problems like Divorce and Contraception, cannot be ignored. To leave these problems unsolved, only aggravates the already desperate position of those in the community who are suffering physical and mental anguish as a result of the unwillingness of those in Leinster House to resolve the issues, once and for all.

The two main arguments put up against contraception are that only a small percentage of the population (i.e. the Protestants) want to practice them and as such, they don't affect the rest of us who observe the doctrines of Roman Catholicism. In the following paragraphs I will try to show how these two subjects involve us as humanitarians, Christians, socialists and Irishmen.

As Irishmen, we realize that the abolition of the border, and the unity of the South to the North, would be beneficial to the communities both North and South, and consequently to the whole country of Ireland, both Socially and Economically. The fact remains, that any political party or for that matter any individual who envisages or advocates a thirty-two county Ireland, must in all honesty face up to and resolve the issues of contraception and divorce. Many people will say, 'what has Irish unity to do with contraception and divorce?' It is well known that these two very issues stand between many Northern Protestants and their acceptance of a thirty-two county Ireland. The facts are plain and simple, unless these issues are resolved and our Protestant friends reconciled, any hopes of a United Ireland we might hold, will certainly be dashed upon the rocks of intolerance, bigotry and sectarianism.

Let it be stated quite bluntly that the present repressive laws enforced in the twenty-six counties, banning the sale of con-

traceptives, and prohibiting divorce, are denying the fairly large Protestant section of the Irish nation, their fundamental rights both as human beings, and Irishmen. Bearing in mind the fact that the Protestant Church recognises both divorce and contraception as two valid institutions, the ban on both contraception and divorce, constitutes a breach of the Civil, and Religious liberty of the Protestant population. How can we, as Catholics, Christians, and Irishmen, who have suffered hundreds of years of repression and intolerance under Britain, and who, in the North are still suffering, condone this state of total 'intolerance' in the so-called "democracy" of Eire?

What attitude does Sinn Fein as a political party have in regard to the issues of Contraception and Divorce? Unfortunately, despite the most comprehensive, detailed and widely acclaimed social and economic programme contained in Sinn Fein's political manifesto called Eire Nua, it does not have any official policies in relation to these very important subjects. Sinn Fein, I must admit, as a Christian and Socialist Party is falling down badly in its duty to the Irish nation on these issues. But in condemning Sinn Fein let us not forget our friends in the Nationalist Party and S.D.L.P. who also, in advocating a United Ireland must be condemned for their lack of action. Let it be spelt out clearly and plainly for those who do not appreciate what this lack of action means. It means that the establishment of a new Ireland with thirty-two counties is endangered and worse still it means that the very concept of a democracy in that thirty-two county Republic, is in jeopardy. As said before, one million oppressed and discriminated against Protestants are not going to accept a United Ireland.

Why does the Roman Catholic refuse to recognise that Divorce and Contraception must be legalized as two institutions to which the non-Catholic sections of the community have a right to? Again the answer is relatively simple — she is afraid that should contraception be legalized and divorce established in the Judicial System, many of her members "will avail themselves of the new facilities and will consequently go against the Law of the Church. One can indeed understand the Churches fears but nevertheless her objections cannot be justified. After all how can selfishness in any form, be justified? Let us look at the ban on contraceptives and what it means in realistic terms. It means large, often unwanted families, living in poverty, in overcrowded, rat infested slums. It means that young women through successive child birth after child birth are both physical and mental wrecks. Let those of us who self-righteously condemn contraception think

again! To our learned and pious theologians and scholars I ask, is that what God wants. Young couples condemned to a life with large families which they cannot support, ill health, and the oft too common "side-effect" of alcoholism?

What is the answer?

Legislate immediately that Divorce and Contraception be legalised. Let Contraceptives be made available to anyone who wants them. Let Divorce be instituted as an integral part of the Judicial System. Remember, because those institutions are legalized, it does not mean that the Roman Catholics position changes. He still may abide by the Doctrinal Laws as specified by Rome.

One last word to the Church:

Let your laws pertaining to contraceptives and divorce remain binding all your members but for the sake of justice, equality, liberty, charity and Peace!! To give our non-Catholic fellow countrymen a chance.

To those politicians in Ireland we say: Wake up! Get off your fat backsides and do so work!!

To all fair-minded people in this country we say: YOU are responsible for the election of politicians. If they do not do their job, get rid of them.

Sinn Fein at present is the go-ahead political party with the radical, go-ahead policies needed to change your lot. Support Sinn Fein and look to a prosperous future in an Eire Nua.

By a member of the Colm Keenan/Eugene McGillan Sinn Fein Cumann Shantallow.

Conditions in the Curragh

VISITS: These are restricted to one visit per week. Officially, 30 minutes are allowed, but this is sometimes cut to 15 minutes, despite the fact that some visitors come from as far away as Derry and Belfast. Visitor and prisoner are separated by a table 5'4" wide with a glass partition 18" high in the centre. A military policeman is present. To kiss and embrace is forbidden and may only be allowed as a "special concession" on application to the governor. Two visitors are at present taking legal action for assault against the military.

RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: Space is inadequate for such a large number of men. Cell doors are opened at 07.30 each morning, but the yard door is opened for only four hours each day, officially; generally it is less than this due to late opening, cell searches and security checks. Facilities for holding Irish classes are denied until recently; they are now allowed but at the expense of open six exercise, which is less than four hours. Prisoners are allowed to take correspondence courses but

must pay for them themselves; they are not allowed to engage in hobbies, like leatherwork, by which they could earn enough to cover the expenses themselves. Leatherwork is allowed in all other prisons, including Long Kesh. There is one table for table tennis. The volley ball court is all there is for football. The governor has admitted that he has not the facilities for any more than 35 prisoners, yet there are 45 there at present. A request for lectures from Kildare Vocational Education Committee was not acceded to. All watches have been confiscated.

PAROLE: After a 30 day hunger strike last July, the authorities agreed to allow parole for four reasons — marriage, birth, death or serious illness of an immediate relative. All of these have now been reneged on.

FOOD: Soup which was served during the summer was discontinued at the onset of winter. Dining facilities are unhygienic in that the tables are situated beside the toilets, at distances varying from 4' to 15'. Dirt and dust fall on the tables from the catwalks overhead.

BEDS: Apart from the recreation period, the rest of the time is spent in cells. The hair mattresses provided are reject army issues stained with urine and the pillows are very hard. The Visiting Committee recommended the provision of proper pillows and mattresses and this was guaranteed by Mr. R. Crowe, Superintendent of Prisons, in July 1972. They have not yet been provided. On one occasion the mattresses were taken from the cells and the prisoners slept on the floor or springs for four nights. On at least four occasions the cells were searched last thing at night and prisoners turned out of their beds. Chairs for cells and dining are in short supply. A bath towel is supplied for one week only out of every three. A smaller, nappy-sized towel which is supplied is completely inadequate.

CHRISTMAS 1972: An offer by the Wolfe Tones Ballad Group to provide a free concert was turned down. The only way that Christmas was marked was the serving of a small portion of chicken and a minute portion of plum pudding. The door to the yard was closed on that day and outdoor recreation forbidden.

LAUNDRY, LIBRARY, MEDICAL: In general, these services are reasonably satisfactory.

What emerges from these facts and from the details which Mr. Behal can give is that mental and psychological cruelty is being inflicted on the prisoners as a deliberate policy. Newcomers to their ranks have remarked on the dulled condition of the men and on their inability to hold an intelligent conversation for more than two minutes.

We challenge the 26-County Government to hold an immediate and impartial inquiry into this system and we ask all who believe in justice to demand it.