



REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

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WEEKLY EDITION



CHALLENGE TO LEINSTER HOUSE QUISLINGS . . .

30,000 REPUBLICANS
MARCH IN SHOW
OF STRENGTH
TO BODENSTOWN

MORE PICTURES ON
PAGE EIGHT



"Republican News" Monthly Weekly and now EVENING EDITIONS!

As most of our readers know, "Republican News" was first published in June, 1970 and that the late Seamus Steele, was our Founder Editor. The paper was published as a monthly until about the time internment commenced when it was decided to launch a weekly as it was realised that our readers needed a more frequent publication.

Well-known Republicans like the late Hugh Mc Ateer, the late Leo Martin, Joe Cahill, Billy Mc Kee, and Frank Card, have been associated with Republican News. There are others too whose names cannot be revealed now.

In recent weeks, we have had many letters and requests from readers asking for a better news service. More and more of our readers are now writing letters, articles and sending in photographs. We welcome this, but regret that much copy remains unpublished because of lack of space. We know that this must disappoint readers who spend time and effort in writing for "Republican News."

As we now enter our 4th year, with a circulation of about 20,000, with readers all over Ireland and many in England, Scotland and Wales, we consider it a suitable time to thank once more

ALL THOSE who have helped in any way to achieve our present position. Many of them must, for the present, remain unknown. Those who wrote, distributed, printed or sold the paper, did so, at times, during the past three years at some personal risk. In spite of the British Army raids, internment, corrupt courts, harassment, seizure of papers, etc., we are still going strong.

THANKS TO EVERYONE OF YOU AND NOT LEAST OUR LOYAL READERS.

We have decided in order to give a better service to publish two

EVENING EDITIONS every Monday and Wednesday for a trial period commencing on 25th June. These will have four pages to start and will sell at 3p. We shall still publish a Weekly Edition every Saturday.

If the Evening Editions are successful, we hope to publish, later this year, every day, Monday to Friday. This will mean an extra burden on our staff, our distributors and our loyal sellers. We are confident that they will give us their usual co-operation to combat false British propaganda.

Circulation will be confined in the

beginning, more or less, to Belfast. This will later spread throughout the Six Counties. We will be glad to post single copies anywhere in the world. Help us to print the truth in the news. Send your letters, articles, news items and photographs to:

REMEMBER THE POLITICAL HOSTAGES SPOIL YOUR



SPOIL IT EARLY!



HAPPY FACES

No. 1 Mrs. Alice Keenan and Mrs. Marlene O'Brien, the main organisers of the project who handed over the bus to Miss McVeigh.

No. 2 The smiling faces of these children who have been living in a battle zone for four years say a big "thank you" to their benefactors in the USA.

No. 3. Wednesday was a day to be remembered for these kids, some of them have not seen their fathers, who are in Long Kesh for two years.



COVENTRY NOT ON THEIR OWN

The Coventry Prisoners' Defence Committee, 27 Paynes Lane, Coventry, are to be commended for their unceasing efforts to secure the release of the six Irishmen, including Father Stagg, who are being held in almost solitary confinement by the English police.

The Committee publish an effective weekly bulletin now in its 8th week. 6,000 copies are printed of each issue; these are circulated in Coventry and Leamington.

The Committee have tried to show how the arrests in Coventry are part of a national campaign by the British Government and police to whip up hysteria against the Irish in Britain, and to pave the way for increased repression of all political activists - Irishmen, trade unionists, immigrants, socialists.

Coventry Trades Council, at its last meeting passed a motion condemning the use of conspiracy charges as yet another weapon of the Tory government against working class. The Council will be having another meeting in the near future to discuss the matter in more detail.

Anyone wanting more details about the "Coventry Seven" should write to the Committee.

REPUBLICAN VIEWPOINT

IN TRADITION . . .

By Our Strabane Correspondent

A statement on the "men of violence" by Dr. Philbin, Bishop of Down and Connor, was prominently displayed in the "Irish News", 28.5.72. It raised again the thorny old question of whether or not the Republican resistance struggle was morally defensible.

Dr. Philbin, already renowned for his anti-Republican tendencies, shows contradictions galore in his attitude: more, it showed the stunning hypocrisy of Church leaders generally over their attitude to Irish Freedom. One is also prompted to wonder whether the "Irish News" would give this analysis the same front page publicity, or is this just another example of how Tories interpret "freedom of the Press?"

The Church Hierarchy can also take the dubious comfort that the people are not so utterly stupid that they would ignore facts. One of those facts is that the Church has always opposed Irish revolutionary violence, while actively supporting outrages against working people by the British. This modern age prevents outright hostility to the basic idea of Republicanism. It is for that reason that a leading cleric recently found himself in the absurd position of attacking the Republican Movement while asserting that the men of 1916 were justified, and that he supported them. If only for the sake of maintaining a facade of unity, Dr. Philbin would probably concur with the public relations mess. But that in itself highlights the pro-Imperialist nature of the Bishop if we were to even take such an attitude at its face value, since it infers that the Church is not against Republican violence in principle, but only when there are alternatives. Since many groups would state that there is no alternative, what is that, other than a political stand?

However, Dr. Philbin continues to use his clerical garb to pump the party line. There is continued references to the substitution of "democratic means" for violence. Did it matter that many people, from many political parties, would dispute the existence of "democratic means?"

Let me remind Dr. Philbin of some prevailing conditions which constitute nothing short of an affront to "democratic means". "Let him forget the "reason and necessity" for them: the fact is that they exist and the authorities will keep them as a reserve measure.

1. Gerrymander stays, as evidenced by partition.
2. Political parties are illegal; parades are banned, according to the politics of their organisers (i.e. the conflicting attitudes towards UDA and PD marches in Belfast city centre). Heads of political parties are jailed on trumped up charges. Ruairi O' Braidaigh is the ultimate example. If the Bishop is so keen for "democratic means" why did he not organise for Mr. O' Braidaigh's release, or protest publicly against the monstrous provisions of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Bill which incarcerated him?

Dr. Philbin derides the continued process of reminding the youth on injustices "past and present". Does he want the Republican Movement to stop shouting the latest news from the horror that is LONG KESH CONCENTRATION CAMP? Does he want us to stop reminding the people that ex-Unionist M.P. Mills once denied gerrymandering in Derry City? It happened when Mills was in the U.S.A., countering "CRA propaganda." Ought the people not be made aware of that the next time Mills appears as a "moderate" member of the Alliance Party? Ought we not produce the record of the British Government to prove that their policies are riddled with deceit, and are basically unfair to the Irish people? If Dr. Philbin expects us to do otherwise, he is in for a disappointment. As long as there are grave breaches of justice, as long as past misdemeanours of the British are relevant to the current situation, we will not only draw the attention of the people to them, we will insist that no opportunity to reveal it be passed up.

It is also stated that the campaign is "against the interests of the vast majority of the people. "What is that - other than the use of the collar to gain the ear of the people?"

There are dire references to the "moral issue" here - nothing less than a statement that the blowing up of economic targets and the shooting of members of an Occupation Army is immoral. Republicans will look forward to the learned Bishop taking this matter further. Will he DEMAND the abolition of the world's armies, even if it means destruction for the human race? Will he demand the removal of Garda Special Branch guns, an end to the "Irish" Army, the

wrecking of the cluster of boats which constitute the 26 county Navy? How about a removal of Catholic padres from the world's armies, plus anyone of a million other things? If he fails in this, he is showing the two faced nature of his absurd criticisms.

The real reason for Dr. Philbin's anti-I.R.A. campaign can be seen in even a cursory examination of the Church's role in Ireland. It was a Pope that gave Ireland to England. Irishmen were under pain of excommunication if they failed to swear allegiance to the British Crown, and the men of 1916 were condemned. Yet now some Bishops (as was initially pointed out in this article) laud them. The men of 1920 were refused the sacrament of absolution - who will bet that British troops stationed in Ireland were similarly treated?

The Church has always intervened against workers' liberation organisation. At the time of James Connolly, priests from the pulpit declared that "hell was not hot enough nor eternity long enough to punish those who would bring continental Socialism to the shores of Holy Ireland. "Priests then urged the people to leave their oppressors' property alone!

The issue of I.R.A. violence is not cut and dried, with the Church maintaining an ascending and united stand, both on it and violence generally.

The "just war theory" meant KILLING - THE CHURCH UPHELD IT. Indeed, that theory is no centuries old idea. It was only abandoned recently, and the odds are that some aged priests who would now condemn the freedom fighters of the Republican Army upheld it when it was Official Vatican policy.

Pope Pius XI once went so far as to say: "A people threatened with an unjust aggression or ALREADY ITS VICTIM may not remain passively indifferent, if it would fit and act as befits Christians." On several occasions the Bible totally condemned violence, while Christ used force when the Temple was being used for purposes other than those intended. Similies between the usurped position of the Temple and Ireland to-day are in abundance.

If the Church would sort it all out, then, and only then, can they expect the I.R.A. and the risen Republican population to even listen to them.

Dr. Philbin, Republicans are not fooled by your ridiculous pontificating. We recognise your real nature. We will expose it to the world.

DEAD DUCK

"The success claims of the various political parties in Whitelaw's recent election farce are a hollow sham. The real victor is William Whitelaw, who has crossed to some extent his first hurdle in his White Paper bluff to fool people and retain British control over this part of Ireland," say Andersonstown Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair, in a statement issued on the 3rd June.

"British propaganda combined with unscrupulous party politicians to intimidate and coerce many into voting. Although Area 'D' in Belfast had the highest percentage boycott, it is significant but not surprising.

"This area is under virtually Martial Law. The suffering of the people in it as the result of raids, harassment, internment, etc., etc., is almost beyond human endurance. Perhaps when the British Army start applying more force now to implement Whitelaw's political "solution" after his "elections," those who did vote will rue the day and condemn the party hacks who misled them.

"Our basic aim is the reunification and freeing of our country. This must be achieved before there can be any worthwhile social and economic progress.

"Some sincere people voted in frustration and in a misled hope that the local and assemble elections would bring peace for the time being. Even a writer in last Sunday's "Times" said that Whitelaw's hopes for his puppet assembly are a 'dead duck'."

SPOIL YOUR VOTE SPOIL IT EARLY

Now that the local government elections are over it is to be expected that the electors will be subjected to an even greater barrage of propaganda to encourage them to support the gung elections for the so-called assembly.

Not unexpectedly the failure of the S.D.L.P. is being blamed on the call to the people not to support internment and to remain away from the polls.

Many people however, who would have normally stayed away from the polls, did cast their votes, not as an indication of their support for the S.D.L.P. or others but because they were genuinely afraid that the Unionist would be returned to power.

Such a fear is understandable and stems from bitter memories of the shameful abuse of power which was the hallmark of Unionist dominated councils in the past.

It must be borne in mind however that the new councils do not possess a fraction of the power formerly enjoyed by their predecessors. In other words it has been recognised that such power as they then enjoyed was manipulated solely for the privilege of party and not for the good of the people.

The functions of the new councils have been diminished so much as to make them almost completely irrelevant. Indeed, if anything has come out of the elections it is the fact that an undemocratic system of local government has been replaced by an even more undemocratic system of appointment to the various Executive bodies and Area Boards.

One man, one vote, there may be, but one man, Whitelaw, has now rendered that basic right null and said by his arrogance and assumption that he and he alone has the right to determine who shall administer to the needs of the people.

Sinn Fein is acutely aware of the longing of the people to return to a normal way of life and to engage in activities of a non-violent nature in order to highlight their many injustices.

Let anyone assume that the call to boycott the poll was one which was taken lightly we wish to assure them that this was not so. Indeed we are more aware than most people

of the wills of our society. The people should realise that the best way to ensure that Unionism does not remain is to make certain their votes are not used by others by spoiling their votes.

Remember Whitelaw has made it quite clear that unless all the people are represented on Faulkners Executive, assuming he gains control, that he will dismiss the new assembly on March 31st, 1974.

In order to forestall any attempt by the so-called opposition to do a 'deal' with Faulkner which would enable him to comply with Whitelaws requirements it is vitally important that no such opposition is returned.

When Stormont was set up Britain allowed that assembly to encroach upon the lives and liberties of the Anti-Unionist population. We paid dearly in lost lives and lost liberties as a result of Stormonts evil rule.

If the new assembly is permitted to become a reality with the assistance and co-operation of those who claim to be our public representatives there is every possibility that the people, lulled by a false sense of security will once more find themselves powerless in the grip of an even more brutal and repressive administration. Further more, it will be an administration determined to do all in its power to avenge the defeats and humiliations of the past four years.

We urge you then if you wish to prevent Whitelaw from restoring Stormont, the surest way to do so is to spoil your vote and to spoil it early.

Reject Britains attempt to impose a new face saving system of control. Compel them by your rejection of her authority to face up to the realities of life in the six counties. She must be made to accept not only responsibility for the past, but also responsibility for the future.

If you, the voters assist Britain in the election by returning an ineffective opposition of approximately 25 to 30 out of a total of 78 then the fault will be yours, but the burden will be your childrens.

NO TOLERANCE FOR COLLABORATORS

By JOE WHITE

THE SIX COUNTY STATELET is totally undemocratic, blatantly corrupt and incapable of internal reform.

It is undemocratic, because ever since it's artificial conception by a foreign power who has interfered in Irish affairs for over 800 years, it has been ruled not for the people but for a section thereof.

It is obscenely corrupt in its para-military "police" in its unjust legislative and its judiciary as well as in its discriminatory practices.

Those who tried to peaceably reform it (in the pre-'69 Civil Rights Campaign) were met with the armed thugs of the RUC and "B" Specials. Those who controlled the Six Counties for 50 years were determined to resist reform in even the slightest degree.

Faced with such basic and simple demands such as fair housing allocation, universal franchise and an end to gerrymandering in elections, the Unionist regime (backed with British money and guns), reacted in a most brutal and reactionary fashion culminating in the August '69 program.

From the darkness of that time arose a body of people determined to wrest from Britain by legitimate armed means, what the British government would not freely give. These people are to be found in the Irish Republican Army.

Britain still wants to maintain a grip on Ireland in order to exploit the Irish people... but today she is faced with the steadfast determination of Oglain na h-Eireann, who are ready to fight to the end. If the British were our only enemy, the war would not be so protracted. There are however collaborators in our midst. The most notable to spring to mind are the SDLP and the NLF.

The combined struggle of the people involved in the Civil Resistance Campaign, after internment, and the heroic guerilla war continued by I.R.A. volunteers, resulted in the downfall of Stormont. Republicans are determined that down it will remain. There is no future in Ireland for any misguided people who collaborate with Britain in trying to rebuild it under another name.

SHOW NO TOLERANCE FOR PEOPLE WHO COLLABORATE WITH THE ENEMY.

Let there be no mistake about it. Sham appeals by the SDLP and N.L.F. to vote for them in order to keep Unionist out of Whitelaw's puppet assemble are to no avail anyway. Pro-British Unionists will control the rotten setup. Any participation by so-called anti-Unionists will only help them in their control.

DEMAND FOR BRITISH EVACUATION WILL GROW

A statement issued by the Whitelaw regime attributing 123 fatal casualties to the I.R.A. is erroneous. To date, the I.R.A. have suffered 99 deaths in the war with the British. It was the practice of British army propagandists to make outlandish claims as regards I.R.A. casualties in an attempt to boost the flagging morale of their forces. That role has now been assumed directly by Mr. Whitelaw's office and it is an indication of the seriousness with which the British Government views the disintegrating morale of their army.

The statement did explode the myth of previous claims by Mr. Whitelaw that his forces were winning the war. It is difficult for any English politician to justify 257 British deaths "trying to impose the mistaken policies of successive British Governments" as one Labour M.P. so aptly put it. The growing desire in Britain for a withdrawal of troops is now finding expression in the House of Commons and that feeling will grow to a crescendo as true British casualties become known. The disclosed casualty rate of 43 dead and 133 injured for this year alone is not accurate. The casualties suffered by rocket attacks on Saracen armoured cars are not being released as witnessed recently in North

Armagh. British troops went to great pains to cover a knocked-out Saracen with canvass sheeting and no attempt was made to remove casualties until darkness had descended. Local people reported that the entire crew had been killed in the rocket attack.

A further setback for Whitelaws war effort is the inability of the N.I. Ministry of Finance to meet bomb damage claims. Mc Caughey Bros. of Dungannon received £150,000 out of a claim for £250,000 and the Company was informed that no further funds were available. In effect, the Ministry of Finance is no longer able to meet compensation claims.

Current British military policy is one of blind fury directed at the civilian population. The killing of a young Derryman by firing a rubber bullet at point blank range has roused the people of Creggan and Bogside. The I.R.A. will continue to spearhead the resistance of the people and the recent successful penetration of the top security zone in Belfast is an indication of the operational capacity of the urban guerilla units. The British Forces will sustain further casualties until Britain ceases her campaign of military repression against the Irish people.

Signed: P O Neill (Runai, I.R.P.B.)

I note the emphasis placed by local government candidates on the necessity of jobs. The NLF especially have been noisy in this field. But in view of the economic facts of Irish industrial life they would be well advised to reconsider.

At present, Irish industry is geared towards profits for foreign Imperialists. Any money made from what are the workers' factories is not used for the reimbursement of the people, which can only come when a 32 county Democratic Socialist Republic is achieved. Therefore, if we urged the establishment of factories and thus jobs, we would be doing the people in the long run, a disservice. We would be doing them a disservice because we would be merely aiding in the draining of Ireland's wealth. One might as well call for the old nineteenth century absentee land-lord system to be reinstated. Surely, this generation ought be prepared to suffer some unemployment so that the wealth they would be processing is kept for the time when it would find its way back into the pockets of the people who create it, rather than

Are jobs really for the people's benefit now?

be squandered on wine and women on the Spanish Riviera?

No matter how well intentioned the NLF may be, they are only making British economic control of this island more firm, heightening the dependency of the people on British social security systems and providing a very temporary job sop to the people of Derry, Strabane, Newry, Ballymurphy and other neglected zones. Republicans also want jobs. The difference is that Republicans do not want to create more British millionaires in the process. Their policy is the only realistic one. It is also the only revolutionary one, and like all revolutionary tactics it means that the people must suffer to an extent. After all, no political or economic freedom has yet been achieved without disruption.

The IRA campaign is often criticised on the grounds that it puts people out of work. This is so. But we feel that the campaign is justified on the above grounds—grounds which have been para-

mount in the reckoning of every other serious revolutionary/guerrilla force in history. Indeed, Nazi Germany might well have spread across Europe had French Resistance fighters refused to hit economic targets aiding the Nazi economy on the grounds that it would put people out of work. Algeria might still be under French domination - the profit from its oil reserves might be helping a Paris businessman.

The mines in this country are also viable economic targets. If the Provisionals did launch an all out attack on them, many workers would be on the dole, many potential jobs would be lost. Yet, at the same time, many millions of pounds which would have went to Los Angeles would be saved, and, eventually, more jobs than those the current mining system provide would emerge. We can easily imagine the derogatory statements from Downing Street, or even Gardner Place!

The Irish people are in the midst of a war, with the purpose of restoring the wealth of this country to its people. The IRA will not cover up the fact that NLF policy means the removal of that wealth before the people get their hands on it.

Last week's announcement of massive pay rises for members of the British subordinate judiciary in the Six Counties, although sickening, came as no surprise.

The rises varied from £2½ thousand to £1½ thousand per annum, and believe it or not, back-dated to January 1972. This blatant violation of the British Government's alleged Prices and Incomes freeze must have shaken the steel workers in Belfast Shipyard.

WHO SAYS NOW THERE IS ONLY ONE LAW IN THE LAND?

Only a very small whimper was heard from the Northern Area Committee of the ICTU. Hardly surprising since Billy Blease and his mates were bought for £10,000 a few years ago by the Unionist jaunta!

Why are these pay rises so enormous? Answer is simple. These hacks are being paid off for services rendered: such as— (1) East Belfast Loyalist found by 3 soldiers with an arsenal. Remanded on bail. Found to have weapons for "defence against terrorists." Sentenced to six months jail (suspended of course!). (2) Short Strand youth jailed for one year for possession (alleged) of a single round of .22 ammunition. (3) Mentally retarded man receives one year's jail for shouting "Up the IRA!" (4) Bangor youth receives 'severe caution' for half beating to death of young Catholic boy. . . . I could go on, and on, but it seems unnecessary.

SUPPORT FOR PAUL WATSON

We wish to draw attention the plight of Paul Watson, a young lad of 21 years of age who, as a result of being denied political status has been on hunger and thirst strike since Thursday 7th June.

This boy, who refused to recognise the court, received a total of 19 years imprisonment last week. Instead of being transferred to Long Kesh, he was placed in solitary confinement in Crumlin Road Prison, and told he was not being recognised as a political prisoner.

We view his treatment as the beginning of an attempt by Whitelaw's administration to label our young men as criminals. Paul Watson, is currently fighting for his just rights, single-handed and without the support and consolation of even the knowledge that his struggle has been brought to the attention of his friends and comrades on the outside.

We assure those responsible that Paul Watson is no longer alone in his struggle and we pledge him our full support.

The Liars of the R.U.C.

Here is a tale I'm going to tell,
Its God's truth and not all lies
About a band of men you'll see
Called the liars of the R.U.C.

They come in many sizes,
Some like corkscrews and F-A-I-R-I-E-S-I
But they're all tarred by the same bigot brush
The liars of the R.U.C.

These men cann see around corners
And straight through walls if you please
The greatest disease in our land
Are the liars of the R.U.C.

From Phillington down to Satterson
Bill Craig and Straubanzee,
They're all the pigs of one litter
The liars of the R.U.C.

For the risen people of Ulster
Who've sworn to see our land free
Firstly we must clear out of Ireland
The scum called the R.U.C.

And now to end my verses,
I never went to college or U-N-I-V-E-R-S-I-T-Y
But you don't need education
To be a liar of the R.U.C.

The only cure for these bigoted men
Is a feed of lead for tea
And then to Whitelaw's graveyard
With the liars of the R.U.C.

And when to hell these men all go
"Old Nick" will shout "Oh no!
Not more of these dishonourable men,
Damned liars of the R.U.C."

Provo Post - Teqnavin.



James C. Heaney, Esq.,
 President,
 American Congress for Irish Freedom
 295, Main Street,
 Buffalo 3,
 New York. 23rd May, 1973

LETTER FROM AMERICA

From James C. Heaney

Dear Mr. Heaney,
 Further to our recent correspondence, it has now come to my attention that you have issued letters to various bodies in the United States making a number of allegations about Northern Ireland which are totally unfounded - e.g. that it is Government policy to discriminate against Catholics in hiring, and that you would try to discourage American firms from locating in Northern Ireland, despite the desperate need to improve the employment situation there.

In view of the tone and content of these communications, I do not feel that I can enter into any further correspondence with you, as the line you are pursuing is totally at variance with the interests of the Irish people, North and South, and diametrically opposed to the policy of the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Ireland.

May 29, 1973.

Mr. Garret Fitzgerald,
 Minister for External Affairs,
 Dublin, Ireland.

Dear Sir,

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 23rd last.

I am stunned by the tone of your letter in which you indicate that because my political views differ from yours, you will not "enter into any further correspondence" with this organization. Apparently you do not tolerate a difference of opinion in political affairs.

Your assertion that the British government does not discriminate against Catholics in hiring is ridiculous. We need only refer you to case of employment practices of Harland and Wolff, a corporation owned largely by the British government itself. There are fewer than 100 Catholics employed there although about 10,000 workers are on the employment rolls. We could also point to the case of Siroco Limited, Mackies and many other employers in Northern Ireland whose employment practices are the direct result of governmental policy. The situation will not change as long as your administration opposes reforms and works to promote the interests of the British government to the detriment of the Irish people.

You apparently resent recent brochures we sent to approximately 2,000 U.S. corporations dealing with the situation in Ulster. As for foreign investment in Northern Ireland which you state is badly needed, the record shows that the British government has purposely channeled foreign investors into Unionist areas in order to create jobs for Unionist workers. It is rare for a Catholic to be employed in these firms. This is a fact of life which your government apparently will not recognize, for reasons known only to itself. Perhaps you can explain why the Catholic unemployment rolls are so high in Catholic areas such as Derry, Newry and Strabane.

The program of our organization is not at variance with the interests of the Irish people, though I concede it is at variance with the interests of the British government which seems to be your sole interest.

You refer to your administration as a "democratically elected government" but I must question this in view of the fact that your administration is presently enforcing the provisions of the sordid Offenses Against the State Act. As an attorney, I can only condemn your government's action in this area.

The Offenses Against the State Act is something out of Nazi Germany.

I sincerely regret the attitude outlined in your letter. It is quite obvious that your administration opposes any change in the status quo in Northern Ireland. Such a negative policy can only perpetuate existing injustices and prevent the enactment of reform measures. The apathy of your predecessors has already destroyed the tourist industry in Southern Ireland. Your present policy can only serve to discourage American investment in Southern Ireland since the violence has now spread over the border into the south. Your policies can only serve to perpetuate the present system in the north.

We strongly urge you to re-evaluate the situation before the entire economy in Southern Ireland is destroyed.

Respectfully yours,

James C. Heaney,
 PRESIDENT,
 295 Main Street,
 Buffalo 3, New York.

HAPPY OCCASION

A HAPPY informal ceremony took place in the St. James's area on Wednesday, 6th June, when a new Volkswagen minibus was handed over to the Rock/St. James's Community Centre by Mrs. Marlene O'Brien and Mrs. Alice Keenan.

These two ladies who are active community workers in the area wrote to some friends in America about 18 months ago explaining how useful a minibus would be for the people of the areas, especially the children and old folk. As a result their friends in the U.S. some of whom are from Belfast, started organising functions to raise the necessary money to buy the bus.

The ladies saw their dreams realised on Wednesday evening when the new shiny bus arrived to be quickly surrounded by excited, bright-eyed children many of whom have fathers or brothers interned without trial in Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

At least 49 men and boys from this small area, not forgetting young Angela Nelson (17) are prisoners held by the Whitelaw Tribunal.

(See pictures on Page Eight).



House of Lords?

SPOIL YOUR VOTE.... SPOIL IT EARLY!

YOU WRITE

184 Brompton Park,
Belfast 14.

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to public notice, through your paper, the lack of medical facilities and humanity that exists here in Long Kesh. And in particular the case of David Hilton (cage 6) of Lenadoon, Andersontown.

David suffers from a dislocated collar bone. He has had this condition before and his doctor advised him that if dislocation reoccured specialist treatment and possible surgery would be required. Three weeks ago (15.5.73) Davids collar bone dislocated again and refused to go back in to place. David went to the camp doctor and was banded up to relieve the pressure of his dislocated collar bone upon his throat. Although David daily went to the doctor no further treatment was forth coming, despite his great physical discomfort.

Saturday night (19.5.73) David found his breathing affected by his condition; a doctor was requested of the night guard. One and a half hours later, after constant demands by David's fellow prisoners, a medical orderly came. No medical help was given. Only upon the demands of David's fellow prisoners and David's own request was he taken to the "camp hospital". (A nissen hut). David saw a doctor the next day (Sunday), at 5 o'clock; a period of 18 hours elapsing from his request for a doctor. The following day he was taken to the Lagan Valley hospital where his dislocated collar bone was physically reset in to its proper position. While a t hospital David was told by the doctor there that he would have to return shortly for examination by a specialist.

David was not back to Long Kesh 3 hours when his collar bone dislocated again. This is the situation at present.

Two weeks ago David requested his own doctor. This is being held up by the red tape of Commandant Truesdale and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Meanwhile David suffers constant pain, causing loss of sleep and great physical discomfort. For those who doubt I can assure them Long Kesh has enough depressing features without this young man being made suffer any futher physical or mental duress.

The lack of humanity of Commandant Truesdale to men whose only crime is being Irish shall not go unheeded. In the eyes of God and the Irish people he shall have to face his judgement, as did the war criminals for their acts against humanity. I can only hope for his sake his judge has more humanity than he has.

Signed H. J. Brady,
Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

1st June, 1973.

A chara,

Now that the furore over the Local Government elections is dying, and before the slow-motion action re-play begins for the Assembly Elections, perhaps you would allow me space in your paper to speak for some 460 odd men who have no suffrage, no legalised party, and therefore no interest in the political frolics of this past month or so.

It is a fact though, quite well known, that in an airfield just 12 miles from the homes of the majority of them, these 460 men in accomodation not passed by any housing executive, or acceptable by any standards of hygiene.

It is also a fact that, we were used by a great diversification of politicians during the elections to further many aims and ambitions not connected with us or our situation.

Despite all the statements issued by the parties, not one of them mentioned the fact that we here have been separated from our families for the past 13 weeks, unable to see them because of an edict from the man who set up the polls and elections, William Whitelaw.

We are unfortunately, not newsworthy enough on that score to warrant help either from the press or the politicians. The ordeal of going without visits is a hard task for the men here, but it is twice as hard for our families. All they can do is to make up a parcel, write a letter, and hope that all goes well... a sorry position for the administration of this camp and it's overlord, Robert Truesdale!

The men here have not, and will not, accept the fact that footware must be removed to have a 30 minute conversation with our people... we feel that the restrictions imposed already are more than sufficient.

After all, our visitors are searched coming in, and we ourselves are searched going to and coming from each visit. Because the security forces claim to have caught some mail leaving the camp, it does not warrant collective punishment. That is the only way we can judge the last demand from Truesdale.

It is unfair, undemocratic and completely unwarranted. No matter how many times we approach the authorities with ideas of conciliation on this point we are rebuffed out of hand as if it was a trifling unimportant matter. Apart from our freedom, to us, it is the most important item on any agenda... political or otherwise. We are at a loss to understand why it has been permitted to stretch on for such a long time.

Whitelaw claims to be sincere and humanitarian... we have yet to witness either of these things. If he feels thus, may I recommend him to visit the CCDC

and have a talk with the people who go there with their parcels, hoping daily to hear work that the visits to Long Kesh are on again.

I cannot guarantee that they will talk to him, but I can guarantee that if he is humane in any sense of the word, he will desist from this harse line and give us our rights.

Is mise,
Seamus Loughran.

9th June, 1973.

A chara,

At this time, the prison system operating in Ireland is coming under scrutiny by the Council of Europe.

We, the internees of Long Kesh, welcome this as the points they mention should be granted on humanitarian grounds alone. Apparently the points causing most concern are:- Medical Services, Contacts with the outside world, Vocational Training, Education, Food, Suitable accomodation and finally the Psycholocial effects of modern penal servitude.

These amenities will be explained in a booklet and will be protected with no less than 94 rules.

I would like to state that, we the internees of Long Kesh, after a period of 22 months internment have never been issued with a precise set of rules regarding our rights.

This leaves negotiations for conditions (as mentioned by the Council of Europe) between that Camp Council and Governor Truesdale very much on the side of the Governor. At present the amenities that are causing the most concern with the Council of Europe are little or non-existent behind the wire of Long Kesh.

Of course, a very important factor that needs mentioning is that we are not guilty of any crime. We have not been charged, given a trial or been convicted. That leads us to believe that these amenities within internment should be rights and recognised as such.

At present the most important deprivation is that of our weekly one hour visit. We have been denied this for a period of 14 weeks. An interesting point regarding this is that the Governor reached agreement with the Internee's Camp Council and the visits should have recommenced. However, when the results of the meeting were referred to one of Whitelaw's intransigent Ministers he overruled the Camp Governors decision and insisted that we undergo a degrading shoe, boot, sandal search.

In conclusion, I ask that when the Council of Europe publishes its book of rules for sentenced prisoners - I hope her member countries abide by them - she will send the internees a copy and we can then compare England's rules for Irish

men held without charge, trial or sentence.

Long Kesh Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair,

Samuel Hyland... Press Officer.

Dear Sir,

In last week's edition of your paper you listed names of prisoners serving a total of 427 years, I think I can add to your list.

In Hut 87, there are three prisoners from our district who were omitted from your list, they are:- John J. Mc Gurk, Martin Mullan and Michael Mc Crory, who are all serving eleven year sentences and in my opinion are also political hostages.

You have only named 24 men in this hut, but to my Knowledge there are 37 in it.

Yours etc. "Tyrone Girl".

(We thank our correspondent for bringing these facts to our attention. The details published were taken from a plaque sent out from Cage 10. Editor).

spoil
your
vote

Closer Co-operation by Republican News media

As a result of meetings held between the Editorial Boards of An Phoblacht and Republican News, it was decided to establish a Co-Ordinating Committee.

The following objectives were agreed:-

1. Complete co-operation with circulation and distribution.
2. The provision of a comprehensive day to day news service.
3. Interchange ability of editorial and reporting staffs of both papers.
4. To immediately launch a printing plant and premises fund.

Subscriptions to the Fund are now invited and should be sent to the "Press Fund," 44 Parnall Square, Dublin

Continued from page 4

Republicans will not stand idly by and let Unionists and a spineless "opposition" stand in the way of compelling the British to get out.

Our readers can help bring Irish freedom nearer and the war to a successful end by spoiling their votes on the 28th June. A spoilt vote is a vote against the British connection and for the freeing of the political hostages.

By spoiling your vote you will help spoil Whitelaw's and Faulkner's plans to make the croppies lie down. We are off our knees and will never lie down again.

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