



# REPUBLICAN NEWS

"VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

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## SINN FEIN ULSTER CONVENTION

At a meeting attended by over 400 delegates from Sinn Féin Cumainn and Comhairli Ceanntair from the Nine Counties of Ulster, there was an overwhelming vote against contesting the Six County Local Government elections on May 30th.

Reasons against contesting were:-

1. The refusal by the British Government to lift the ban on Sinn Féin. The Sinn Féin Organisation has been banned in the Occupied territory since 1966. Not alone was the White Paper not removed the ban, but has reinforced it. Those who challenge Sinn Féin to contest this election in these circumstances are asking us to fight with our hands tied behind our backs.

2. The fact that under Section 4 (d) of the local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 under which this election will be fought "any person who has within five years immediately preceding the day of his election or at any time subsequent to that day, being convicted by any court in Northern Ireland or elsewhere in the British Islands of any offence and ordered to be imprisoned for any period of not less than three months without the option of a fine" is disqualified from standing, would exclude many of our candidates.

It should be noted that under this section of the act, people like Dr. Ian Paisley, M.P., and Bernadette Devlin, M.P. are not eligible for election.

3. Since the White Paper was issued, the British Army has shown its determination to pursue its policy of military repression and has increased it. Delegates described the harrowing experiences of residents of Belfast, Derry and other areas whose homes have been raided during the past week. Furniture has been smashed, housewives beaten up. Arrests continue and jails and internment camps continue to fill.

Delegates were stopped and searched at various checkpoints on their way to this convention.

The rejection of and from the White Paper by the Leadership of the Republican Movement was unanimously endorsed by the delegates.

A resolution was unanimously passed expressing solidarity with Republicans in jails and in concentration camps in Ireland, North and South as well as in England, Scotland and the U.S.A.

The Convention was opened by Maire Ni Drioma acting President of Sinn Féin, Daithi O Conaill, Vice President presided

# English Police degrade and assault ten Irish Nationals . . .

▶ WILL LEINSTER  
HOUSE ACT?

We have received reports of an alarming nature about inhuman treatment meted out to 7 young Irishmen and 3 Irish girls since they were arrested and detained by police in London, almost a month ago. The young people concerned are:- Billy Armstrong, Hugh Feeny, Gerard Kelly, Robin Walsh, Paul Holmes, Martin Brady, McLarnon, Dolores Price, Marian Price and Roisin McEnerney.

The living conditions of these young Irish people who are held in almost solidarity confinement in an English Jail give cause for serious concern.

### CLOTHING

All the young people had their clothing removed shortly after they were brought to Ealing Police Station. The men were left without clothing until Monday morning, March 12th. Miss Dolores Price was offered clothing on Friday for the purposes of an identity parade. She refused to take part in

the parade and the clothes were taken away. Her sister Marian, was offered clothes on Friday evening. She was not asked to take part in identity parade. During their stay at the Police Station, only 10 minutes "exercise" was permitted every 24 hours. All the men and Dolores Price, "exercised" each morning in the Car Park outside the station for 10 minutes. This consisted of walking under escort around the park, wrapped only in a blanket and barefoot. Marian Price did this once.

### QUESTIONING

Dolores Price and Marian Price were questioned by male officers and Special

Branch men while wrapped only in a blanket. Roisin McEnerney was questioned almost continually on Friday and Saturday.

Hugh Feeny was accused by his interrogators of planting a bomb, which they alleged, exploded killing 243 people. None of the others were told of specific bombs, or questioned about them.

They were asked questions related to why they had come to London, why they were leaving London, if they were all together, etc. and on membership of the I.R.A.

After they were charged, they were asked to sign for all personal property, clothes etc.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

Dolores Price was photographed in her cell, wrapped only in a blanket. All the rest had "mugshots" taken, again only wrapped in a blanket.

### FINGERPRINTS

Marian Price was told that if she refused to submit to fingerprinting, that this would mean an extra sentence in the event of her conviction.

Roisin McEnerney was told that she had no choice but to submit.

Dolores Price knew her rights and demanded to see the signed magistrate's warrant, which she knew was necessary before she could be lawfully fingerprinted. She was told it would be produced, afterwards. She insisted on seeing it first and said she would not resist the warrant. No warrant was produced in fact, and her fingerprints were taken forcibly. Two female officers held her down while this was being done.

We have been informed that Dolores Price and Hugh Feeny, were both physically maltreated. At the time of going to press, no details of their maltreatment were available to us but, if and when, they reach us, details will be published in a future issue.

We hope that the account given here has reached the National Council for Civil Liberties in London and that they will look into the matter.

We have also received a report that Paul Holmes is at present in solitary confinement 23½ hours every day.

## No Appeal in the 26 Counties?

By Cathal Mac Liam

We are sure that no genuine Irish Republican would object to an evacuation of the British Occupation Administration and armed forces from the Six Counties.

We were surprised to be told by a Republican leader that he thought a campaign for a British evacuation would have no appeal at present for people in the 26 Counties. WHAT DO YOU, OUR READERS THINK?

Has the spirit of Irish Nationality sunk so low as this in the 26 Counties? Are people there gutless and spineless?

WE ARE OPTIMISTIC ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT THE ORDINARY IRISHMAN AND WOMAN IN THE 26 COUNTIES WANT A FREE UNITED IRELAND.

Remember what Winston Churchill wrote, "A people not prepared to struggle for their freedom are unworthy of it".

We say, "THERE WILL BE NO FREEDOM FOR IRELAND WITHOUT A STRUGGLE AND THE STRUGGLE MUST EMBRACE ALL THE IRISH PEOPLE".

# NOT AN INCH

The Terry McDermott Sinn Fein Cumann approve of the Republican Movement's rejection of the British White Paper.

We fail to see how the British can expect the Republican people to forget all those brave men and women who have fought, endured and sacrificed so much even to the extent of their lives in this struggle for justice and equality. Nor can we comprehend how they can believe that we would forget the many hundreds of our people who are being held without charge or trial in the hell-hole of Long Kesh Internment Camp. Many of these people are being held for no other reason than that they might conceivably be of the type who would if the need arose, be prepared to defend their people against aggression. Not only does the White Paper ignore the plight of these people, it promises to "British It Up" a little more by incorporating it in the Diplock Commission.

Mr. Whitelaw, whenever you recognise the right of the Irish people to solve their Irish Problem, then and only then, will we applaud your actions. Insofar as this Paper is concerned, you again claim Britain's right to perpetrate British rule in Ireland. You even go as far as to advise a change in the Irish Constitution to facilitate recognition of this illegal statelet.

We also note that the civil service and special branch hierarchies are to remain unchanged. Here again we would insist on a complete reappraisal of these two senior echelons of corruption in the Six Counties.

Our people have fought long and hard for justice, democracy and Republicanism, too long and too hard to capitulate now to the perpetuation of injustice (Long Kesh etc.), the continued denial of democracy as far as we can see you shall be the only one with any real power in this new assembly

## ... SAY M'DERMOTT CUMANN

and not even a hope of achieving the final unity of our country emerges from your ever so well dressed up White Paper.

No, Mr. Whitelaw, your White Paper is certainly not the panacea that the media and the Church would have us believe it is. It is yet another bad let-down to those of our people who consider themselves British, not that their loss

is our gain, and perhaps it will help to show these fellow Ulstermen of ours that the cure for our ills lies within our working together as Ulstermen and not as puppets of people who have yet to do anything except deceive and play us off one against the other for centuries so that we might serve their imperialistic aims. £7,000 million is an investment that requires devious means to protect.

Finally we would again reiterate our support and allegiance to the Republican Movement and say to Mr. Whitelaw, recognise us as a political movement if you like but if you do you will have to recognise us as a Republican Political Movement and as our fellow Ulstermen are so fond on this point of principle we will give — "Not an Inch" — Republicans we are, Republicans we stay!

## DERRY NEWS

All Sinn Fein Cumann in Derry City, are to participate in a massive drive to "get the Sinn Fein message" to the general public. This will include — Public meetings, distribution of literature, etc.

### COMMEMORATION PARADE

The Colm Keenan, Eugene McGillen Cumann, Shantallow, held a Commemoration parade in honour of the two men, from whom the Cumann takes its name, who were shot dead, whilst unarmed, on the 14th March, 1972.

On that occasion, the B.A. sent a commando force into the Bogside to try and capture a particular house but they were beaten off and sustained fatal and major injuries.

Whilst retreating, they shot the two Derry men.

### GOOD LUCK MAIRE

The large contingent of Sinn Fein members, who travelled to Monaghan on Sunday, were very pleased to see Maire Drumm "on her feet again".

Derry has a soft spot for this grand lady and she in turn, never fails to inspire the youth of this City whenever she comes here. Good Luck Maire.

### "STARS OF YESTERDAY" PROTEST

In a novel form of protest, against the B.A. occupation of the Gas Works, in Derry, the John Starrs Cumann, organised a Camogie match which was played on the Leckey Road last Sunday outside the Gas Works.

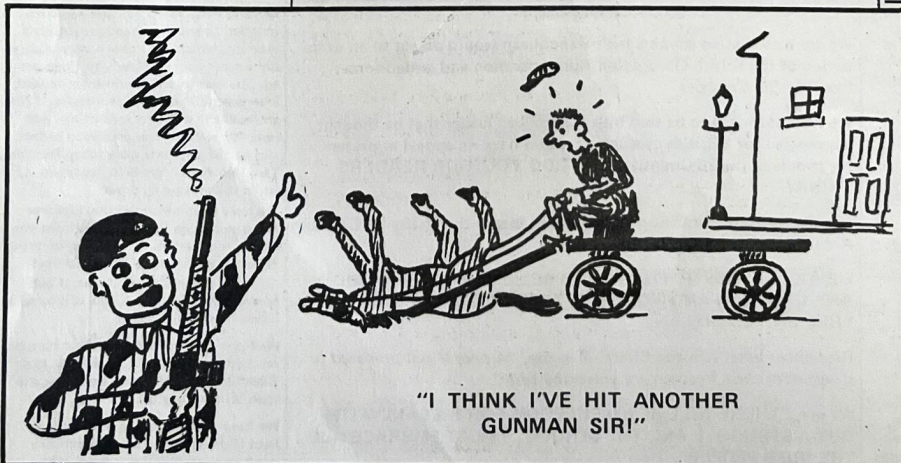
Several Camogie "Stars of yesteryear" took part in the Match which was watched by a large crowd and Sinn Fein Recruitment posters were pinned up on to sand bagged observation posts, and where photographed in that position by foreign Journalists.

### MYTH EXPLODED . . . SINN FEIN ORGANISER POSES QUESTION TO BRITISH

*Mr. Malachy Foot, Organiser of Belfast North/East Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceanntair, told our reporter on Monday night that British paratroopers of the 3rd Regiment have really exploded the myth that they are here as "protectors" by their callous disregard for the lives of men, women and children, especially in the Ardoyne area.*

*Mr. Foot said that Sinn Fein members in his area, utterly condemned and deplored the cruel treatment being meted out to the residents of Ardoyne by the British Paratroopers.*

*He asked: "Is the smashing of pavements by British armoured vehicles, and the destruction of street lighting by British soldiers being done with the blessing of the British Occupation Administration?"*



"I THINK I'VE HIT ANOTHER GUNMAN SIR!"

### IN MEMORY

IN MEMORY (57th Anniversary) — In proud and loving memory of CAPTAIN NICHOLAS HAWES, O.C., "C" Company (Lisdoonvarna area), 6th Batt. Mid Clare Brigade, Oglai gh na h-Eireann, who died on the 12th March, 1924, a few weeks after his release in ill health from the Curragh Concentration Camp.

The 11 o'clock Mass at Lisdoonvarna Church, on Easter Sunday, will be offered for him and his comrades of the 5th and 6th Battalions, at the request of the members of the Sean Sabhat Sinn Fein Cumann.



# ANOTHER VICTIM

## of British Savagery

Photograph shows 15-year-old GERARD CRAIG of 49 Drumleck Gardens, Derry, after a British soldier fired a rubber bullet at his face when he was on his way to Mass.

The boy's father said that he, Mr. Craig, was standing at a bus stop talking to a neighbour when he was told that his son had been hit by a rubber bullet.

Mr. Craig said: "When I went to my son he was lying on the ground. I couldn't recognise him except for his clothes."

Gerard said in Altnagelvin Hospital: "The sight in my right eye is blurred. A bone in my jaw is broken. When I came in here I could do nothing for myself. I left home to go to Mass and called for some friends, on the way. I remember British soldiers coming towards me. That's all I remember until I woke-up here."

FROM PRESS CENTRE

## WHITE PAPER

"The Belfast Republican Press Centre is in accord with the statement distributed by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin, which states that there is nothing in the British White Paper to recommend itself to the Northern people in particular, or to the Irish people as a whole," according to a statement signed by Paddy Ryan, issued last Friday.

"We fully endorse the decision taken to continue the campaign of resistance against injustice, and until all our objectives have been achieved.

"The points put forward by the Republican Movement as far back as September, 1971, have been completely ignored. These are:

1. Statement of intent to self-determination,
2. Withdrawal of British Forces,
3. Amnesty for ALL political prisoners, tried and untried.
4. Complete abolition of all Special Powers Acts without substitution, e.g., Diplock, etc.,
5. Regional Government.

We see this so-called solution as but a continuation of British Imperialism in Ireland."



### REMINDER

One of our reporters will be interviewing in the near future, an important member of the Belfast Brigade, Oglaihn na h-Eireann, with a view to early publication. It is expected that his feature will be widely read with great interest. Readers are invited to submit questions which they would like put by our reporter. We have been promised frank answers.

## OUR 'PROTECTORS'

We will not comment on Whitelaw's White Paper in this statement. We will leave this to men we consider better qualified in our organisation to do this.

We do want to comment on the reaction to the British White Paper by one of the main bodies who seem to want to be involved — namely the British Army.

People returning from work to the Andersonstown area on Tuesday, 20th had to face yet another long line of queued cars stretching from Andersonstown R.U.C./B.A. Barracks to the Whiterock Road.

We suppose they could expect nothing else in the light of events that happened earlier the same day. But to see the same queue at the same spot later that night makes us wonder, "Is the British Army really here to protect us?"

One misguided person suggested that the British roadblocks were there to stop loyalist extremists from carrying out acts to show their opposition to the British proposals. The ghetto borders to the large Andersonstown area were well defined as the British Occupation Forces launched their operations to cool a potentially explosive situation.

In fact, they did nothing but flabbergast the people of Andersonstown and ensured that many were either late for work or for their evening meal. It was the same the following day — long queues of cars with angry, irritated drivers.

At a time when the British are trying to expound the view that their presence in the Six Counties is of a low intensity nature, people just had to look at the tea-time rush to see that motorists have more to contend with than bad roads.

DAN TURLEY, Press Officer.

Terry McDermott Cumann, Gransha, Belfast.  
21st March, 1973.

## HELP US TO MAKE IT A DAILY

As part of our long-term plans to publish Republican News as a daily newspaper, we have launched a sales campaign directed at newsagents.

We are pleased to announce that our paper is now on sale with 14 newsagents in Belfast. You can help us by asking your newsagent to stock Republican News. He could send his order direct to us or you could send us his name and address.

We ask our readers to support those newsagents who are willing to stock our paper.

# PRAYER

Consider the situation where you arrive home one night to discover that your home is on fire. Do you:-

1. Pray for the fire to go out?
2. Sit down and bemoan the fact that your home is on fire but console yourself by blaming the Fire Brigade for not putting the fire out?
3. Ring the Fire Brigade and pray that they will arrive in time? Then render them every assistance in fighting the fire when they do arrive.

Even the smallest child will give number (3) as the correct answer. Now consider the following however.

*Assume that a British Administration holds your nation divided by legalised murder, general oppression, enforced emigration, buying politicians and policemen etc. Do you:-*

- (a) Pray that by some miracle, after 800 years, the British will act correctly and give Ireland back to the Irish?
- (b) Sit at the fireside and tut tut about how awful this, that and the other is, and judge all and sundry except yourself and the British?
- (c) Rise up and resolve to help the people to cleanse your country, once and for all, of the mercenary army which is recognised by the stench of death it carries with it to every country it hopes to conquer and do you pray for God's help in achieving this?

## CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

It has been abundantly clear for some considerable time that the Judiciary in the Six Counties is subordinate to the British Executive. We have witnessed Republicans who had been granted bail being rearrested by the Political Police at the court house door and interned. Outrageous sentences have been passed on Republicans whilst Loyalists go free for similar offences and in some cases are commended by the "judge". One could site other abuses of justice and infinitum. All this is done openly and no attempt is made to conceal the one-sided application of the Laws.

The Free Staters have attempted to conceal a judicial system, in operation in the 26 Counties, the sole purpose of which is to put as

many members of the Republican Movement as possible behind bars in order to appease Ted Heath. The Free Staters have tried to conceal the fact that the "judges" are only permitted to convict Republicans. Now however the whole rotten system has been exposed to the world. Recently an Irish traitor and a self confessed English spy were acquitted by this kangaroo court and escorted to a plane, bound for England, by the Political Police whilst an Irish Policeman was convicted of the "crime" in helping his fellow Irishmen and was sentenced to two years imprisonment. Little wonder that a Northman, having read of the two cases, remarked, "No doubt about it, the Free State judges owe the best that MONEY CAN BUY".

## MURDER

Recently another young Irish boy was murdered by the Mercenary army. A spokesman for this army, in a comment on the murder, used the excuse (and it is an excuse, not a reason) that he thought the child was armed. This excuse is a contradiction in terms. Since when was a British mercenary capable of thinking? If he were able

Answer "A" of course is that advocated by the "Pharisees" who pray once a week for peace at any price and then return to their homes to sit in front of the T.V. and pontificate on events sure in the knowledge that they have done their bit. They know that at most they will go to heaven and at least they will safeguard their jobs.

Answer "B" is the answer given by the "moderate" supporters of William Whitelaw and the so-called "Peace" campaigns. Examples are of course the Free Staters and their northern lacky's the S.D.L.P., the Trade Union Movement in the North etc.

Answer "C" is of course the only answer of any substance. It recognises that the old adage "God helps those who help themselves", is just as true to-day as it ever was. It does not blame God for everything that goes wrong. In this respect it is unlike the people from (a) and (b) who when they see men, women and children "lean on" by the Mercenaries, in collusion with the U.V.F./U.D.A., exclaim "the Lord moves in mysterious ways" i.e. they absolve the British of all blame and shift the responsibility to God. Finally it advocates the self evident truth that prayer is not meant to be a substitute for direct action. Rather it is meant to supplement direct action. Anyone who does not recognise this is either a fool or a knave.

something, somebody or somewhere. Take for example another relative adjective, "stupid". If someone were to describe himself on T.V. as a "stupid" then no doubt the commentator would enquire of him "a stupid what" (don't answer that) yet whenever someone describes himself as a "moderate" on T.V. the obvious

## OUR FIFTH COLUMN

During the Spanish Civil War, General Franco, while directing the march of four field columns on Madrid declared that he had "a fifth column" of secret supporters working for him within the city itself. Since then the term "fifth column" has been regarded as meaning that section of a community which works for the enemy by causing disarray in its own camp and attempting to dilute every proposal put forward by the people. Our "fifth column" goes under the guise of that over-worked word "moderate". Let us examine the word, and the people who use it to describe themselves, in more detail.

Strictly speaking the word moderate is an adjective and it is therefore used to qualify a noun. The term is therefore meaningless unless it is used to qualify a person, place, or thing. It is also a relative term which again makes it meaningless unless it is referenced to something, somebody or somewhere. Take for example another relative adjective, "stupid". If someone were to describe himself

## THEY SAID

1. Condemnation is not the best means of impressing someone with your opinion. (Ted Heath on Nuxious bombing campaign in Northern Vietnam).
2. The U.D.A. may be bombing border towns in the South to keep the Irish Army, sic, busy so that they won't cross the border to help the minority. (R.T.F.F. reporter in the North).

to think surely he would realise that as far as his political masters are concerned he is merely a hired gunman who is paid £20 a week to "lean on" the Irish. (The morality of this situation incidentally is in sharp contrast to the position of the Irish volunteer who sacrifices his job, money, home life and in some cases his life to fight for

on T.V. as someone d... doubt the... (inquire of... (don't ans... someone d... "moderate... question is... illustration... ions of the... the case of... could say v... ion that rel... was a mode... were both... sider Brian... one could... is moderat... Khan. Fin... the differ... erately ext... moderate v... reference l... Where doe... ates". Gen... are found... watching... giants, the... British Me... our whoe... battle and... "see we w... along".

3. After... ion it was... of voting... the age of... register of... from Sept... than Sept... additional... States bur... student).

a cause wh... fact of the... the British... given a rifl... direction a... thing that... ity of the... whose "res... land are ra... bugles, pai...

# FOR IT'S USE AND ABUSE

## THE COLUMN

### WHO THE ARE MODERATES

on T.V. as a "stupid" then no doubt the commentator would inquire of him "a stupid what", (don't answer that) yet whenever someone describes himself as a "moderate" on T.V. the obvious question is not asked. As a further illustration of how absurd descriptions of the nature are, consider the case of Hitler and Goering. One could say with complete justification that relative to Hitler, Goering was a moderate Nazi. Yet they were both Nazi Fascists. If we consider Brian Faulkner then again one could say that the "wee man" is moderate, relative to Genghis Khan. Finally one cannot define the difference between being moderately extreme and extremely moderate without first defining a reference level. Where does one find these "moderates". Generally speaking they are found waiting in the wings watching the battle of the two giants, the People's Army and the British Mercenaries, eager to devour whoever is vanquished in the battle and to say to the victor — "see we were on your side all along".

1. We have the moderate Political Police who are so shy they hide behind blankets.
2. The moderate British Cabinet and Stormont Cabinet (now thankfully deceased) who planned for months the systematic torture and internment of thousands of Irishmen.
3. The moderate British mercenaries, who have carried out their orders to the latter in "leaning on" the minority. This includes the army Chaplains and Medical Officers.
4. The moderate British M.P.s. who passed all stages of a Bill, in one night, which decreed that all illegalities committed by the mercenaries were in fact legal.
5. The moderate Judiciary which found the Para murderers guilty of "behaviour bordering on the reckless".
6. Our own moderate M.P.s who have supported both directly and indirectly the legal R.T.F.F. ban on Republican views, the voluntary ban by the British media and the endless stream of vilification against the Republican Movement which emanates from the enemy camp. They continue to assert that the bombing campaign being carried out by the Army is sectarian and is directed at civilians in spite of the fact that both Catholic and Protestant targets have been hit and that some Volunteers have placed their freedom in jeopardy and indeed some have given their lives in ensuring that civilians were warned in time. These democrats miss no opportunity in the media

to castigate Republican ideas safe in the knowledge that no Republican will be permitted a reply.

7. The moderate Catholic clergy-men who see nothing wrong with refusing to meet Sinn Fein delegations but are in daily contact with an Administration and a Mercenary Army which has murdered, tortured, interned, harassed and oppressed their flock.
  8. The moderate Protestant clergy men who ignore the massive intimidation campaign. Who absolve Unionism and the British from all blame and preach that it is really all a Communist plot.
  9. The moderate Labour Party and its Trade Unions who have for 50 years supported both directly and indirectly the obscenity of the employment practices in the Shipyard, Sirocco, Ropeworks etc.
  10. The moderate Castle Catholics One could expound volumes about the inaction of these people in spite of the fact that they know exactly what is happening to their fellow Catholics. Incidentally if these paragons of virtue want to see Christianity at work then they should visit Long Kesh (it's a Concentration Camp sited near the M.1) and observe the labours of the dear Quakers. I have not mentioned the Free Staters specifically in this article. The reason is, of course, that every time I hear a Free State Politician on T.V., I look for somewhere to vomit. In any case it is the considered opinion of an Economist at Queen's University that the entire Free State Dail, with a few honourable exceptions, could be purchased for the princely sum of £2 and 3 knighthoods and the purchaser would have change back.
- The lesson to be drawn from this analysis of the "moderates" is that the ones in our camp are not people who are basically Republican at heart. On the contrary they are just as much our enemies, if not more so, than the British "moderates" and should be recognised as such. But this is not a litany of despair for Republicans. To be warned is to be half armed. Furthermore it should always be borne in mind that our movement has its professional people, its

clergy and most important its grass roots support. These people in spite of all opposition have had (1) the "B" Specials abolished, (2) local government re-organised, (3) a new voting system introduced, (4) housing allocation taken out of the hands of the Unionists, (5) they have removed and presided over the funeral of Stormont, fragmented the once monolith Unionist party, exposed the Free Staters for the collaborators they are, cost to date, the British Government £162 million in compensation and other costs, and exploded forever the myth of British fair play. The majority of these people never appear on the mass media and their identities remain a closed secret. The reasons for this are obvious. Periodically attempts to draw the secret army into the open are made, e.g. Whitelaw pretended that he wanted a truce in an attempt to draw out people in the movement unknown to the Political Police. The move failed because able, but known people were used in the negotiations, (we have learned quite a few tricks from the Treaty days) and Whitelaw promptly broke the truce at Lenadoon. Remember there is no virtue in compromise where principles are concerned. Republicans want a New Ireland. We do not want a rehash of the old one where the politicians who were abysmal failures are given new titles and new salaries and told to maintain the old system. Republicans did not fight and die to get a few politicians new jobs nor the Free Staters positions on a Council of Ireland established by England. This does not mean however, that we want the border to disappear overnight. On the contrary it is recognised that a period of transition is necessary for numerous reasons. Of immediate importance however is that the demands should be stepped up, for instance, for —

- (1) The immediate end to internment and harassment by the British mercenaries.
- (2) The siting of new industries in minority areas and regions.
- (3) Legislation to "encourage" a fundamental policy change in employment practices in existing industries.

3. After the Irish General Election it was discovered that the loss of voting privileges extended from the age of 18 to 22% because the register of voters used was valid from September, 1971, rather than September, 1972, owing to additional delays within the Free States bureaucracy. (Anonymous student).



a cause which has no price). The fact of the matter is of course that the British Mercenary is merely given a rifle, pointed in the right direction and told to shoot anything that moves. This is the reality of the situation. A person whose "responsibilities" in England are restricted to blowing bugles, painting poles, serving

time and clearing horses droppings from parade grounds is given the power of life and death in the Six Counties. This situation is intolerable and it is high time our politicians did something more than call for inquiries (once Widgeried twice shy) every time someone is murdered by the mercanar-



# NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

The recent "sneak attack" on Long Kesh by that well known (at least well known now) reporter from the Press Association, Mr. Browne, was well planned and the operation was carried out with typical expertise by our equally well known benefactor Robert Truesdale. The whole episode was not really unexpected after the truth has been told by people who can be believed the only alternative is to counter attack by "exposing" that truth as a myth. Mr. Brown, for all his acknowledged experience as a reporter certainly did the press a good turn, not with his report, but by opening the door to other reporters and press men. It would appear that there is after all, a lot to hide if Whitelaw were to refuse other members of the press access to Long Kesh. We in the camp are delighted to hear that the press are already making representations to gain access.

Mr. Brown's story is good, we liked the bit about Barons etc., it gave the hard worked cage representatives an opportunity to expand on their theory of dictatorship but aside from that it was a

very unfair slight on the character of the cage O/C's (as they are called), because the only reason we in Long Kesh have elections for leaders is to ensure that there is someone there to accept responsibility for all the necessary work that has to go into the maintenance of the huts, the canteen, the toilets and the cage itself, and we also need someone who is prepared to take out complaints up with Truesdale and company, because, as we differ so much from a prison, and as there are so many things to take up with the authorities and also because the system is not geared to deal with these complaints in the normal manner of prisons, the cage O/C sees the governor about ALL the complaints in his cage, thus in effect helping the system as well as the men under his charge. When, in 1972, our relations with Truesdale dropped to an all time low, we decided that such men would deal with his own problems, we found that the system could only handle about twenty a day. The result was utter confusion. One other important point must be made. The O/C's are elected democratically by the

men in each cage, and even with him around it is still a difficult task to see that all needs doing is done. Brown's reference to the state of Republican cages is again unfair, he overlooks the fact that the cages we are in are the original ones "threw up" by the British Army. For some unknown reason we have great difficulty in obtaining brushes and shovels for cleaning the compound. His remarks about the amount of money that is spent on cage five in refitting that cage, are also untrue.

We here in cages two, three, four and seven have never at any time talked to or enquired of the possibility of talking to Loyalists (as they are termed). We have no desire to talk to them. It would not achieve anything anyway. What we did ask for and were refused permission to do so, was to arrange meetings with the representatives of our comrades in the other end of the camp, the sentenced Republicans, if sentenced is ever the correct word to use under the circumstances. We would also take Brown to task for his insinuations about Kangaroo Courts, they

do not exist, and never have, we have never intimidated any of the staff here and at this very moment "civilian workmen" who are employed by a York Road firm are busy every day working at the repairs in cage five, which, incidentally, is between cage four and three and means that those same workmen have to walk down among the cages here to get to it.

The man in the hospital with facial injuries "rather doubtfully acquired" could have told Brown that he received them at the expense of the British Army on his recent arrest, we have always believed in the old maxim that journalist tell the truth, even if for the sake of their readers they dress it up a little, but we take great exception to Albert Brown's report. We demand, like our comrades in the top end of Long Kesh, that reporters from other papers be allowed to see for themselves the conditions under which we are expected to survive. We can guarantee they will tell a different story from that which has been related. We have always said that we tell the truth about this camp. The visit from Tom Conaty and the M.P's. verified that fact, we have nothing to hide. Therefore nothing to fear from the truth. Long Kesh is dismal, dreary and completely unsuited for the purpose of containing people who have lost their freedom because of the political manipulations of British and Unionist Governments, the world has been told the truth. Events like Brown's incognito trip to here will not erase the full blunt truth of the matter, Long Kesh is a Hell-Hole, and it will remain so, no matter what is done to it.

Is mise,  
Seamus Loughran,  
Camp P.R.O.

## IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE I.R.A.!

'Oh No, we do not ill-treat our prisoners. It must have been the I.R.A. after they left here to get us blamed.' . . . So said a British Army Officer last week to two women who went to Glenravel Street to complain about the three young men who were tortured there.

If the Republican News is NOT sold regularly in your area, you can make sure of your copy by becoming a postal subscriber, or if you wish it to be sent to your friends abroad, the subscription rate for six months is £1.75p or better still for one year the rate is £3.50p. Further details may be obtained from the Circulation Manager, 182 Brompton Pk., Belfast BT 14 7LE



The following incident happened to a family from this district during last week:-

"At four thirty on Friday 9th March, 1973, I heard knocking at my door. My mother and I went down-stairs and opening the door we were met by the security forces. They informed us that they intended searching the house, one of them went up-stairs while another one told me to waken the rest of the family and get them down-stairs. While I did this the first soldier waited on the landing. When all the family were in the kitchen, another soldier went up and both soldiers began to search the bedrooms.

After about 15 minutes these two came down and began to search the back yard. While all this was going on two soldiers remained watching the family. At this point another soldier came in and told my brother Martin and myself that we were going to be arrested for questioning and brought to Hastings Street Barracks. He told me to get my coat and on going up stairs to look for it, I discovered that my bed was wrecked. It was then I remembered about my savings which I kept under my pillow. I checked immediately and

## North watching

discovered that the total amount of 51 pounds was missing. I searched everywhere for this but could not find it. I returned down-stairs and told the soldier in charge about the missing money. He told me to go into the back yard and get one of the soldiers who had already searched my bedroom. The

(With acknowledgements to "Saoirse", organ of Robert Emmett Sinn Fein Cumann, St. James's District, Belfast.

soldier accompanied me up the stairs and I showed him where the money had been and asked him if he had seen it. He admitted searching the bed but denied knowledge of seeing the money.

My mother helped me to further search the room. The soldier in charge told me that the two soldiers involved were going to be thoroughly searched in the presence of the whole family. At this point the three of us went back down-stairs. My three brothers were told to go up-stairs and the two soldiers in the back yard were called into the house to be searched. While my mother watched these two soldiers being searched by other military, one of the soldiers asked permission to go outside to see another soldier, when he came back about 30 seconds later my mother protested furiously. The soldier in charge said that the

man only went to the gate. When he returned the so-called search was continued.

After being searched the two soldiers went up the stairs and searched the room again, looking for the money and when they had no success they brought my three brothers and myself into the bedroom and made us strip completely naked, insinuating that we had this money ourselves. After putting on our clothes we were allowed to go down-stairs again. At this point the soldier produced the form that stated that no damage had been caused to the house. I told my mother not to sign this on any account but the soldier in charge explained that this form did not relate to missing property but was only about damage done. I was still against my mother signing but fearing more harassment by the British Army, she signed it. More soldiers entered the house and my brother and I were taken to Hastings Street Barracks. Some soldiers still remained in our house as we left for the barracks".

Foot Note: We sincerely hope that the above statement will act as a warning for other families. At least one member of a family is perfectly entitled to accompany the searching party throughout the house. Make sure and enforce this rule and avoid the sheer disappointment and frustration endured by this young person.



# PROPOSED R.U.C. FORTRESS NOT WANTED

At the beginning of 1973, the Tom Williams/Bernard Fox Sinn Fein Cumann became aware of a Belfast Corporation Planning Development intention to requisition private dwellings at the Cavehill/Antrim Road junction, in order to erect a Building Complex for a Police Headquarters. Previously the people of the area had been offered the choice of an Hotel or a Car Show Room or a Super-Market, taking in the grounds of the local nursery only, not the private dwellings. They decided for the Hotel, but then the information came that the Planning Authority had decided to have a Police H.Q. instead — the most modern in these islands — with accommodation for 100 policemen, including a swimming pool and amenity centre, all of which would require the purchasing and replacement of 33 private houses in addition to the Nursery.

Members of the Cumann interviewed the householders concerned who said that on being officially informed of the project in October they had exercised their statutory right to protest. Their letters were acknowledged, but no further steps were taken, and no official information or plans for public discussion were forthcoming from the Planning Development.

It is felt that the people of the area should be further alerted to the situation, especially in view of the security and amenity problems created by the project and the Cumann now invite the views of the people directly, or through the offices of the Editor of the Republican News.

## NOT AGAIN!

"Eighteen Sixty Nine will be memorable in our annals as the year in which Sectarian Ascendancy was trampled underfoot by the English Government and the English Parliament and Religious Equality proclaimed by Ireland with the unanimous approval of the whole British people".

(Freemans Journal 1st January 1870)

There is surely one thing you must hand to the Brits, that is their innocence in believing that with every concession forced out of them by the Irish people, it will at long last cure the whole problem. So the above quotation from the Freeman's Journal relating to the Dis-Establishment of the Church of Ireland in 1869, showed once again that they didn't even want to face up to the real problem or the cure.

And so to-day over 100 years later, with the new 'final settlement' of Willy Whitelaw, in which he lays down new rules to do away with sectarianism. I as an Irish Republican, must forget my dreams of a united, free and independent Nation and abide with the basis and principles of his paper, that "It is the responsibility of the U.K. Parliament to determine how N.I. shall be governed as part of the U.K. (Para. 11)". Thus our Willy suggests that now he is going to see that the six counties are run on fair play, there should be no further need for sectarianism. All I have to do is play the game to the new rules, and allow those who want to keep the link with the U.K. be the dominant partner — in a nice way of course — for another fifty years. By that time it will be the responsibility of another generation of Irishmen, and another Willy Whitelaw who will have to work out another compromise.

## THE ALLIANCE!

I liked the phrase Ian Paisley used to describe Willy Whitelaw's new dictatorial position in the six Counties, that was that Willy would become the queen.

The delegates at the annual conference of the Alliance Party on Saturday 24th March must have also come to that conclusion, but they loved the thought and stood and cheered for many minutes Willy and thanked him a special resolution for his endeavours on their behalf. Well if through his paper he has breathed some life into this party of odd-balls they didn't show much life at their conference. They all slept through the many speeches of their leaders only lifting up their hand in token that they agreed with the resolu-

## your man says

utions each proposed. Resolutions? Yes, they had one on, more pay for the R.U.C. Another against the Government according any prisoner's 'political status' and Oliver Napier's own wee hobby horse, integrated education'.

I must admit they came alive when one of their spies at the City Hall, reported back that the demonstration there of the Loyalist United Front, had been a flop, they sure cheered the roof off.

There was also humour, but the delegates didn't seem to see it. Oliver Napier, when answering a question on the possibility of a Centre Party being formed, seriously suggested that the one reason why they couldn't have a Centre Party with the N.I.L.P. was that unfortunately the N.I.L.P. was a socialist party. Imagine that now, giving the N.I.L.P. the dignity of being socialist. Up to now I haven't heard the N.I.L.P. objecting.

Last year at their conference the Alliance passed a vote of thanks to Whitelaw and Ted Heath this year one to Willy himself — I wonder who will they be thanking next year?

## ANNE DICKSON

After the Unionist Parliamentary Party had met to give wee Brian their leader, their full support for transferring the unionist blue print into Whitelaw's White Paper — wee Brian's own words on why he supported it — they found they had little else to talk about, so up jumped Anne Dickson and told them there was one point in the Whitelaw Paper they couldn't agree with, that was the doing away with the governorship of the six counties. She told them it was a dirty thing to do in making Lord and Lady Grey redundant after all the enthusiasm the poor dears had shown in carrying out their duties.

From the middle-class point of view, I agree they are going to miss having such a character opening their flower shows and tea parties. What's the betting the Alliance will be demanding a change in the rules to retain the odd couple.

Isn't it wonderful that Anne Dickson should be worried about such things, you surely don't expect Anne, a good Tory, to worry about all those people burned out of their homes around Carrick Way. My dear those are a different class of people they wouldn't be capable of opening flower shows.

## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

"At an Orange music rally in Queen's University under the auspices of 'The Williamite and Glorious Revolution Society' attended by Mr. John Taylor, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Jack Maginnis, Unionist M.P. for Armagh at Westminster, gave a performance on the Lambeig drum." (Derry Journal 3/3/70).

## THE UPPER CLASSES

In a drug pushing case in London, a Mr. Charles Rennie, the son of the head of M.I.6 the Brits intelligence service, told how he spent a £50,000 inheritance on drugs in three years. He was giving evidence in support of his wife who was being tried for pushing drugs and told the court that he and his wife took an ounce of heroin a week, costing them £30 a day.

## LOYALTY

"Different people have different ways of showing their loyalty. One reader told us modestly of his less demonstrative celebrations 'I didn't switch the telly off until after the National Anthem'." Belfast Telegraph 14/3/73.

## TACTICS?

Bully Hull is a worried man these days since a rumour got around the workshops that Billy Bleasie of the I.C.T.U. had contacted Willy Whitelaw and suggested that he should make plans to have the Brits take over the power stations if and when Bully Hull would call for another political strike against the White Paper.

Within a few days of the start of the rumour, Bleasie went into print in the newspapers and on television denying any such action. He had timed it very nicely — Now Bully doesn't know what to believe. The last thing at this state Craig and Paisley want is a confrontation with the Brits.

# REPUBLICAN PRESS FUND

We acknowledge with thanks the following donations:-

J.H.de Vere, London £1.00; B. Halpin, London £5.00; K. McAteer, Belfast £2.00.

We have been asked to place these in a fund to help launch "Republican News" as a daily newspaper.

We believe that 4 prior conditions for such a venture would be — (1) Circulation of 40,000. (2) £30,000 in funds. (3) Full time editorial staff of four journalists and (4) Suitable premises for editorial offices.

We must work to build up the network of newsagents who are selling the paper, also our team of writers.

Sinn Fein P.R.O.s. in Ulster can help by sending us a copy of all press statements issued by them.

We are at present discussing the idea of publishing a daily bulletin for posting to people on a mailing list. The postage charges would be heavy but if the problems can be resolved, such a bulletin could act as a launching pad for a daily newspaper.

In the meantime, the Belfast Republican Press Centre urgently needs voluntary workers to serve one night per week as typists in our Press Office.

# THE NORTH BEGAN THE NORTH HELD ON

WE WELCOME the formation of the JOHN O'NEILL SINN FEIN CUMANN in Derry/Loughain, near Coalisland, Co. Tyrone.

We understand that the majority of the local people have promised their support to the members of the Cumann in promoting the policies of Sinn Fein and in exposing British injustice in the Six Counties.

The General Secretary of Sinn Fein announced in Monaghan last Sunday that there are 16 Comhairle Ceanntair and over 100 Cumainn functioning in Ulster.

The rapid growth of Sinn Fein in Ulster since August '69 continues unabated. The decision made at the last Ard Feis

to form a Sinn Fein Ulster Council, will be implemented within the next fortnight.

It is understood that the new Council will consist of 21 members. Five of these will be elected by the 16 Comhairle Ceanntair. The 21 members will elect an Officer Board to direct and co-ordinate Sinn Fein activities throughout the Province.

We are confident that more will be heard of Sinn Fein in Ulster in the near future. The British Government and Willie Whitelaw are in for a nasty shock if they think that they can ignore Sinn Fein.

SINN FEIN WILL SPEAK LOUD AND CLEAR IN THE COMING MONTHS!