



An Phoblacht

Sraith Nua Im 17 Uimhir 40
(England, Scotland, Wales 50p) Price 45p

REPUBLICAN NEWS

Déardaoin, 6 Deireadh Fómhair
Thursday, 6 October 1994

PROCESS COULD FLOUNDER IF MAJOR DOESN'T MOVE

"MR MAJOR does have serious problems within his party" but once the forthcoming Tory Party conference is over, he will have to engage in the peace process, or the whole process might "run out of steam" and "flounder".

Such were the words of warning which Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Féin's chairperson in the Six Counties, delivered last weekend, at a fringe meeting of the British Labour Party's annual conference. There

were also words of warning for the Labour Party leadership, whose current fence-sitting has not helped peace in Ireland one bit.

Mitchel McLaughlin acknowledged Major's difficulties with the

'unholy trinity' of the Thatcherites in his cabinet, the Lamonts, Tebbits and other right-wing backbenchers, and the unionists. Major would be expected to "make all the necessary soothing noises" at his party conference, but then, he should "get down to the real business of taking the Irish Peace Initiative seriously".

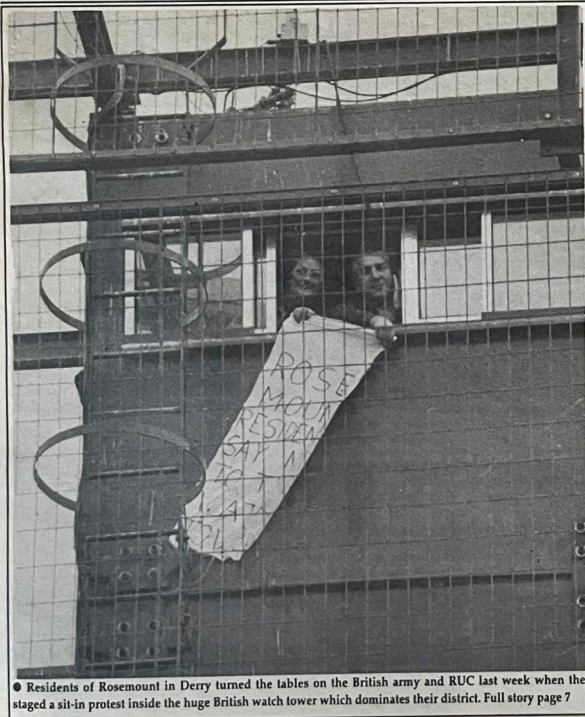
The IRA had "taken the vital first step towards breaking the cycle of hatred and violence that

has poisoned Irish life", McLaughlin said.

The discipline shown by the IRA during the first five weeks of the cease-fire was indication enough of its genuineness. Major stood alone in refusing to recognise this. Worse still, his government was still engaged in a propaganda war against republicans, as shown by the effort and expense it went to in trying to pursue Gerry Adams in his tour

of the US. Downing Street is still today "playing silly games" such as keeping up the debate around the 'permanence' of the IRA cease-fire. If the peace process floundered, Mitchel McLaughlin asked: "Where would that leave the peoples of Ireland and Britain?... The lives of the peoples of Ireland and Britain are at stake here," he warned.

(continued on page 6)



Residents of Rosemount in Derry turned the tables on the British army and RUC last week when they staged a sit-in protest inside the huge British watch tower which dominates their district. Full story page 7

Demilitarise Now!



March and Rally

Crossmaglen, South Armagh
Sunday, 16th October
Assemble 3pm

News



● Members of Dublin Sinn Féin at the demonstration held last Saturday at the GPO

Withdrawal demanded in Belfast, Dublin and London

One month on from cease-fire

■ BY FRANCES SHILTON

THE SUCCESSFUL peace camp in West Belfast last weekend completed its week-long occupation of the roundabout outside Andersonstown Road RUC Barracks.

The camp was designed to highlight the demand for demilitarisation in the Six Counties and judging by the number of international journalists present at various times during the week, it achieved its objective.

The protestors took over the traffic island on Saturday, 24 September 1994, following a

white-line picket. It was then continuously occupied over the week by local people and Sinn Féin representatives.

The camp, which was in a prominent position in West Belfast, attracted considerable support, with those passing in cars sounding their horns to demonstrate this. Quantities of food and

other essential facilities, were provided by people living locally, as well as passers-by.

Former hunger striker Laurence McKeown, who was present at the camp during much of the week, said that the support of local people was "a great help in keeping up the morale" of the peace campers. Assisting in the atmosphere during the daytime was a PA system broadcasting Irish music and political speeches to the camp's neighbours in the British military base.

On Friday, 30 September, the peace island was given over to prisoners' relatives and their supporters. They surrounded the camp in banners and posters calling for the release of political prisoners.

As a spokesperson told AP/RN, they were there "to highlight the fact that there can be no permanent peace in Ireland without the permanent release of all political prisoners. As part of the whole peace process the issue of 700 political prisoners cannot be overlooked."

The camp brought the issue of prisoners to the attention of many,



● Peace campers outside Andersonstown Road RUC Barracks

including journalists from the *Los Angeles Times* who visited the camp.

The campers were due to pull up their tent poles the following day, Saturday, 1 October, but it was not until the early evening that the site was finally cleared. Before they left the island, the campaigners planted a tree to commemorate their peaceful occupation outside the barracks.

Prominent Sinn Féin representatives were also amongst those who gathered outside Belfast City Hall on Saturday, 1 October, 1994, to demand the demilitarisation of the Six Counties.

The group held placards and banners calling for 'Troops Out' and for peace in Ireland.

In Dublin on Saturday, 1 October, Sinn Féin held a colourful and musical event in O'Connell Street. Participants carried posters and banners highlighting British injustice and demanding demilitarisation. Thousands of leaflets were distributed. They were joined by the Smith/Harford/Doherty Republican band, which attracted much attention in the crowded city centre.

The passing of one month since the announcement of the IRA ces-

sation was also marked in London, where the Troops Out Movement held a vigil in Trafalgar Square. Placards and leaflets called for the British government to follow the IRA's lead by calling a halt to all its military operations and to immediately begin talks with Sinn Féin without conditions.

In a statement marking the first four weeks of the cessation, Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness said that the British army and RUC were "trying to oppress and provoke". During the past four weeks of what should have been a winding down period of British army activity, the British forces have pursued a policy of raids, arrests, roadblocks and general harassment, he said.

"Republicans have been carrying out detailed monitoring of incidents of British aggression and are extremely concerned at the behaviour of the British army and at the unbridled sectarianism of the RUC."

Calling on the British to leave behind old habits of conflict and to embrace peacemaking, McGuinness said that an historic opportunity existed which should not be squandered by those with a vested interest in maintaining a conflict situation.



● Belfast Sinn Féin picket at City Hall, Saturday, 1 October

Slap in face for border community

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT and British army have snubbed moves by a border community association to temporarily suspend cross-border road openings to allow political movement on the issue. On Sunday, 2 October, the South Tyrone/North Monaghan Community Association issued a statement taking a decision to suspend its closed cross-border roads operations with effect from that day.

The association said that the decision was taken "in expectation of an early announcement by the British government, through its Northern Ireland Office, that a decision to rescind the closure orders on all roads in this catchment area and on all closed cross-border roads will issue in the coming weeks". The association also forwarded requests for meetings with British Direct Ruler Patrick Mayhew and Tánaiste Dick Spring.

Following a nine-day lull in the Tyrone/Monaghan border area, locals grew more confident that their reopened roads would be left alone. However, in the early hours of Wednesday, 5 October, British soldiers once again dug craters in

the Drumfurrer crossing on the Tyrone/Monaghan border and placed concrete-filled steel barriers across a track that had given some relief to local farmers since it was opened on Monday, 26 September.

South Tyrone/North Monaghan Community Association spokesperson Jimmy McKenna described the action as the "British government's response to our outstretched hand that sought to meet Patrick Mayhew. We are deeply disturbed by the British government's response to our decision to suspend road openings. They seem hell-bent on confrontation. I hope that those politicians who the press tell me offered us recent congratulations will now be as willing to condemn the British

government for this action. It is time these armchair critics did something practical for people living on the border. If they don't, they can keep their criticism to themselves if we are forced to step up our road-opening campaign again.

"Our recent decision was a test case. We could not now recommend that any other association follow our lead. We will also wait and see what response Mr Mayhew will give to our letter seeking a meeting," McKenna added.

In an interim statement pending a meeting on Sunday, the Combined Cross-Border Roads Committee advised that they are adopting a cautious approach. "Our planned series of road openings and other protest activities in the coming weeks will go ahead as scheduled. We understand and accept the decision taken by the South Tyrone/North Monaghan Association and will watch the British government response with interest."



● A Border Buster at a road opening in Derry last Saturday, 1 October

News

Call for international inquiry into collusion

■ BY LAURA FRIEL

More files 'go missing'

A FULLY INDEPENDENT, international public inquiry into collusion between British forces and loyalist death squads has been called for by the newly-established Committee for Truth on Collusion.

Chairing the launch of the committee at a West Belfast press conference on Tuesday, human rights activist Catriona Ruane said that the terms of reference for such an inquiry would need to be agreed under international law.

Citing the trial of British agent Brian Nelson as "a stark reminder of the ongoing cover-up" Ruane said that the committee could have no faith in an internal inquiry by the British government. The Goldstone Inquiry in South Africa might be an appropriate model, she said.

Describing the committee as "drawn from community and human rights workers and individuals who believe that they are victims of collusion between the security forces and loyalist paramilitaries", Ciarán Quinn said that the group "came together in response to the growing body of evidence supporting the allegations of widespread collusion". He continued:

"Evidence exists on the many forms of collusion from the handing of security files and photomontages to loyalist paramilitaries to the involvement of members of the security forces in the commissioning and enactment of sectarian murders. This includes the role of Brian Nelson, a British agent, who targeted individuals for assassina-

tion and procured arms for the UFF."

Relatives of two victims of collusion, Teresa Slane and Brendan Bradley, outlined the circumstances surrounding the killing of Gerard Slane in September 1988 and Martin Bradley in May this year. Brian Nelson's role and that of his British intelligence handlers in the death of Gerard Slane was exposed during the Nelson trial. Martin Bradley was shot

dead within days of being threatened by the RUC.

Calling for a full and independent inquiry into allegations of collusion, Ciarán Quinn said that the weight of evidence merits such an inquiry. The committee, Quinn said, would endeavour to support families in their efforts to establish the truth about the killings of their relatives, researching and documenting instances of alleged collusion, as well as promoting the need for an independent inquiry:

"We further believe that this inquiry is a prerequisite to the establishment of a just society in which a police service will be seen to be impartial and draw the support of all the community."

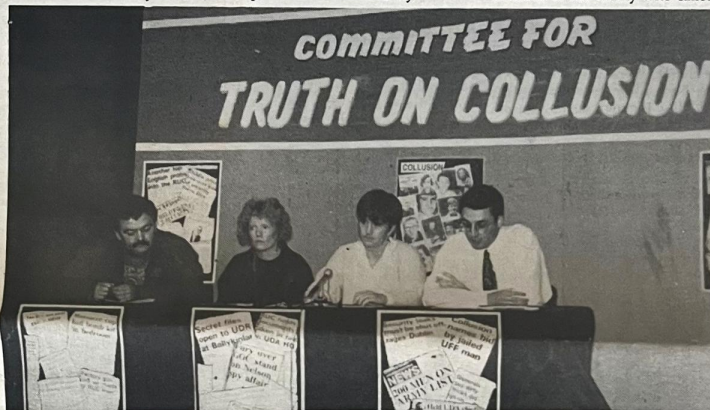
Tuesday's press conference took place against the backdrop of yet more "missing" files on nationalists. In the last few days, a number of families in Belfast and Derry have been informed by the RUC that confidential files containing their personal details have been passed to loyalist death squads.

In Derry, two men from the Gobnascala area of the city were told that their files had been passed on to loyalists. In one instance, members of the crown forces called to the family home of a man and when they found that he was not there they told the man's elderly mother that his files had "fallen into the hands of loyalists". She was found to be in an extremely distressed state by a member of her family who called

to the house several hours later.

Over the past week, a further 20 families living in West Belfast were informed that their personal details, which include names, addresses and car registration numbers had "fallen in to the hands of loyalists". To date, crown forces' documents containing the personal details of approximately 3,500 nationalists have been passed to loyalist death squads.

"This is seen by nationalists as an indictment of the RUC and their continuing and active collusion with loyalist murder gangs," said Sinn Féin spokesperson on justice and legal affairs, Barry McElduff. "The RUC is a totally unacceptable force. This latest evidence of collusion only underlines this."



● Brendan Bradley, Teresa Slane, Catriona Ruane and Ciarán Quinn on the platform last Tuesday, 4 October



Maginnis challenged on loyalist terror

UNIONIST MP Ken Maginnis stated on Tuesday, 4 October, that since the IRA cease-fire there has been a "de facto" loyalist cease-fire. He went on to claim that there had been no loyalist killings since "a few days after the IRA cease-fire".

Commenting on Maginnis' remarks, Sinn Féin Vice President Pat Doherty said in Dublin:

"This is a stark and timely reminder of how people like Ken Maginnis view loyalist violence and its victims. They are dismissed as nonexistent or unimportant."

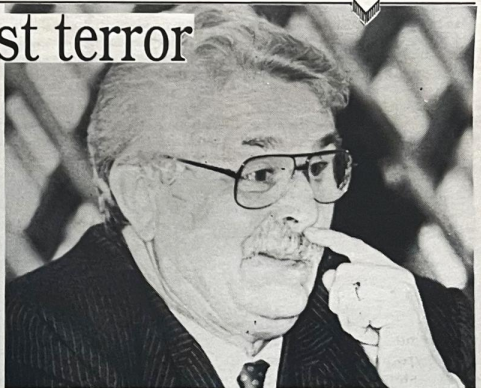
"Contrary to Ken Maginnis' claim, northern nationalists are still living in fear of loyalist attacks. There have been several attempts at mass murder of nationalists since the IRA announcement."

"One Catholic man, John O'Hanlon, was shot dead in North Belfast on 1 September, a bomb was attached to the door of the home of Sinn Féin Councillor John Hurl on 9 September, a car bomb was left at Sinn Féin offices in Seavastopol Street on 4 September, a bomb was left outside the Rock Bar on the Falls Road on 21 September, and there was an attack in Newtownabbey where a Catholic man was shot on 26 September.

"The home of a nationalist family was attacked in the Grosvenor

Road area on 23 September. Pubs in nationalist areas have been attacked, including a pub on the Oldpark Road on 29 September. "These attacks were intended as a Greysteel-type massacre. Loyalists also left a bomb on the Belfast/Dublin train on 12 September which exploded in Connolly station in Dublin, with the intention of killing large numbers of people.

"Ken Maginnis dismisses these murder attempts on nationalists as unimportant. This blinkered unionist attitude to loyalist violence is encouraged by John Major and the British government's refusal to move forward on the peace process."



● Unionist MP Ken Maginnis

Support Toomebridge march

COMMUNITY SUPPORT for this Saturday's (8 October) march and rally in Toomebridge in support of the demand for British demilitarisation, was urged by Sinn Féin Councillor Henry Cushnahan, addressing a recent meeting of the County Derry and South West Antrim Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.

He said: "To date, 30,000 British soldiers and RUC remain on our streets. In the South Derry/South West Antrim area, nine major crown force bases remain.

"Emergency laws are still in force and being used vigorously against nationalists. Loyalist death squads are still killing Catholics,

roads, Diplock Courts and prison cells filled with republicans all remain.

"We cannot achieve a democratic and peaceful Ireland while any of these injustices remain. Nor can we achieve it without the support of our people on the streets and in the campaigns ahead."

Saturday's march and rally will assemble at the Elk Bar at 2.45pm and will be addressed by speakers from Sinn Féin and pro-nationalist democracy campaigns. Local bands will also be in attendance.



News

workers in struggle...workers in struggle...workers in struggle...work-

Hotel bosses break pay agreement

■ BY NEIL FORDE

FORTY-TWO hotel workers were forced into taking industrial action this week as their management at Blooms Hotel refused to honour a three-year-old pay and conditions agreement.

The pickets were placed on Blooms last Saturday, 1 October, after two years of failed negotiations for a 3% pay rise in basic rates. The workers maintain that they have used every available procedure to resolve this dispute.

The wage increase is a meagre £3.50 per week. However, Blooms workers maintain that the real issue is that their employers want to break their link with all other Dublin hotels.

For over 40 years, there has been an agreement in the industry between SIPTU and Dublin hotel owners that all hotel workers should receive the same basic increase in wages.

In line with these agreements, over 98% of employers in Dublin have conceded the 3% PESP rise to their employees, the only exception being Blooms Hotel.

The workers also point out that when the hotel was sold in 1991 by the Ryan Group, who have five other hotels in the 26 Counties including the Gresham in Dublin's O'Connell Street, they were promised that their pay and conditions would be maintained. Other Ryan Hotel workers have been paid the 3% increase. The strike is now entering its sixth day.

TEAM SIDE EFFECTS

With nearly 300 workers set to be brought back to work over the next two weeks, and the prospect of half the workforce back in work by the beginning of November, the dispute at TEAM is effectively over.

Then, like Irish Steel, the TEAM workers will disappear from the media coverage with the false impression given that the issues

which led to the mass lay-offs have been solved.

The three-sided worker/management/government struggle in TEAM and Irish Steel showed the uniform failure of industrial relations structures in the 26 Counties.

The process whereby disputes are referred to the Labour Relations Commission, then onto the Labour Court, culminating in eleventh and twelfth hour interventions by other third parties, added little to the resolution of disputes in TEAM and Irish Steel.

Now, with the prospect of other similar problems at Telecom, the ESB and other public-sector companies, there is a pressing need for more effective methods of resolving industrial relations problems where the government itself is the actual employer.

However, the only response from the coalition on the failure of the arbitration process are plans to amend the 1990 Industrial Relations Act.

Rather than examine the failures of arbitration or their own role in the problems at Irish Steel and Aer Lingus, the coalition wants to change trade union balloting procedures. The proposals will aggregate votes at a particular plant, regardless of the number of unions or the actual issues involved.

The act has been disastrous for effective equitable industrial relations. It has been an effective tool for government to undermine workers rights and disempower their ability to take industrial action.

Tinkering with the Industrial Relations Act in the manner proposed will only dilute workers' rights further.



● TEAM examiner Hugh Cooney

TAXING SUCCESS

Bertie Ahern and his staff in the Department of Finance have been congratulating themselves over yet another bumper year for tax revenue in the 26 Counties.

Revenues are up by 15% on last year, which was also a bumper year for tax revenue. Figures now show that Ahern has up to £260 million of savings in 1994 as current income is set to bypass current spending for the first time in nearly 20 years.

The publicising of the tax returns has created yet more calls for selective tax reliefs as a small number of households around the state consider demands for property tax.

However, a much larger number of people are also considering demands for service charges and thousands of part-time and seasonal workers will have their unemployment benefit taxed this year.

One wonders what chances there are, as Ahern prepares the 1995 budget, for an end to service charges, which will be £50 million this year and the tax on unemployment benefit which will also garner £50 million this year.

Submissions on these vexing tax quandries can be sent to the Department of Finance, preferably on the back of a residential property tax form as holders of these are the only people who seem to have some pull in government.

IN BRIEF...

Call to support Derry events

ANNOUNCING a weekend programme of events to mark the anniversary of the first civil rights march in the city on 5 October 1968, a Sinn Féin spokesperson called for participation and support from the general public.

He said the programme would commence with a series of white-line pickets throughout the city at one o'clock on Friday, 7 October, and anyone wishing to participate should contact their local Sinn Féin advice centre or any party member for details of activity in their own area.

The spokesperson said that he would also like to draw attention to the Phoenix Drama Society of Belfast's production of veteran republican Martin Meehan's play *State Injustice* which will be playing in Pilot's Row Centre at 8pm on Friday, 7 October. He pointed out that when it played in Belfast recently, it received rave reviews in the papers.

The programme will be brought to a close with a very lively debate staged by the Bobby Sands Memorial Debating Society. The annual lecture will be delivered by an invited panel consisting of Lawrence McKeown, ex-prisoner and hunger striker, Mary Reid, local activist on women's and social issues and Mitchell McLaughlin, Derry City councillor and chairperson of Sinn Féin's Six-County executive.

He concluded that the Bobby Sands Memorial Lecture will start at 7.30pm sharp on Saturday, 8 October, in the Pilots Row Community Centre and admission is free. (See Imeachtaí for full details.)

Barr calls for talks on IFI spending

IVAN BARR, Sinn Féin councillor on Strabane council, is calling for a change in the criteria for the distribution of International fund for Ireland money in a motion to the council's monthly meeting. Barr hopes to solicit the support of all relevant bodies on both sides of the border for his call.

Barr's proposal comes at a time when the European Union has suggested that it would be willing to donate an extra £45m to the fund over the next three years.

"The bulk of grant aid from the fund has been channelled into property owned by commercial interests and property speculators and has proved to be of little benefit to the working-class community and the unemployed in particular," said Barr.

The Sinn Féin councillor attacked the use of IFI funds to improve the lot of the already well-healed, saying that the only apparent benefit to the working-class community has been the creation of a small number of commercial premises involving low-paid jobs together with the short-term servicing of a few existing jobs in the building trade.

IFI criteria disallowing councils to apply for fund money should be changed, said Barr, who outlined several projects that could benefit from international funds. "The council has the potential to be a major employer, but is debarred under existing IFI criteria from applying for money."

"If the IFI is serious about job creation, grant aid should be made available for such projects, otherwise the perception will continue to be that the IFI monies are simply being used as a political tool to purchase the loyalty of the more advantaged sections of the community," said the Strabane councillor.

Paras deployed in West Belfast

THE DEPLOYMENT of soldiers from the infamous British Parachute Regiment on the streets of Belfast has been called a provocative and an aggressive move by Sinn Féin. The regiment, which was responsible for the murder of 14 civilians on Bloody Sunday in Derry, has been spotted recently in nationalist areas.

Mid-Ulster representative Barry McElduff, who reiterated the concern of nationalists about the failure of the British to deliver a "demilitarisation dividend" following the IRA cease-fire, said: "If evidence of moves towards demilitarisation is the litmus test towards their commitment to peace, then the British government can only be judged to be failing miserably so far. Indeed, it could be said that the British government is militating against the peace process."

"Nationalists have seen absolutely no let-up or reduction in the routine of abuse, or of stop, arrest and search powers which remain completely and ominously on the statute books."

"How are nationalists supposed to interpret the redeployment of the paras in West Belfast? We demand that the British government immediately embrace the spirit of the IRA cessation which is now in its fifth week. They must accelerate a programme of demilitarisation and this must be comprehensive, not cosmetic."

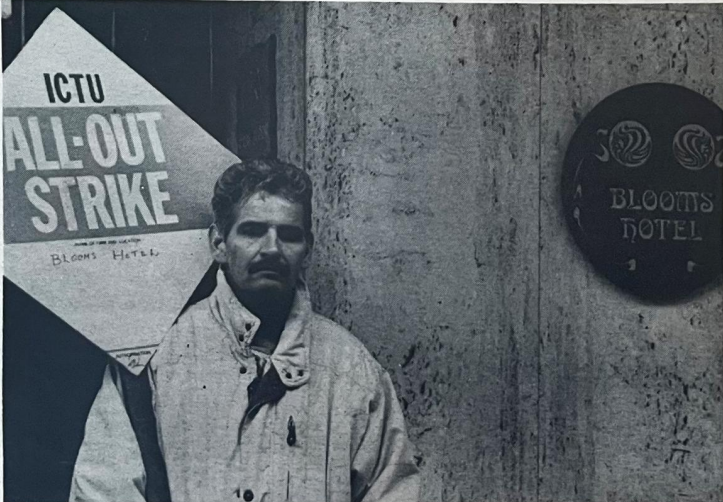
Unionists target GAA

THE BIGOTED EXTREMES of loyalism on Belfast City Council were again highlighted at the monthly council meeting on Monday, 3 October, when unionists voted not to hold a civic reception for the victorious All-Ireland football champions Down.

In a vote that put the lives of GAA members at risk, the council carried an amendment from Official Unionist Nelson McCausland which read: "This council regrets that the main organisation promoting Gaelic games, the GAA, is politically sectarian and lends to indirect support to the IRA."

The original motion tabled by Alliance Councillor Steven McBride was defeated by 24 votes to 16 when unionists on the council voted against it. The council decision was condemned by Sinn Féin Councillor Joe Austin who lambasted McCausland's amendment.

"The sectarian comments of unionists on Belfast city council will only help to fuel the loyalist terror campaign against the GAA, a campaign which has been at its fiercest in County Down," said Austin.



● Hotel workers have been forced to take industrial action over management's attempt to break a longstanding agreement

If you have a story at your workplace, let us know. Contact AP/RN by phone 8733611 or fax 8733074.

News

Community action on drugs

"OUR CHILDREN have few chances in life. They have little chance of getting a job. Drugs mean they have no chances." This was how one Dublin mother, a resident of the Oliver Bond flat complex, described her reasons for participating in a seven-week picket with other residents against drugs being sold in their local community.

A small group of residents, mostly mothers, held daily pickets from ten in the morning until ten at night throughout August and early September, organised by the Oliver Bond Tenants Association.

Carrying placards saying 'No drugs sold here', the mothers guarded two of the entrances into the complex. There are 16 blocks in Oliver Bond, housing over 400 flats. While it was run, the picket was successful in disrupting and temporarily halting the drugs trade in the area.

Oliver Bond, together with other similar complexes and commercial areas such as Meath Street and Thomas Street in Dublin's South Inner City, are just some of the urban retail centres of the multi-million pound Irish drugs 'economy'.

The sale of drugs in the area wreaks havoc on the local community. Drug pushing brings addiction and crime into a marginalised and impoverished community where unemployment is in excess of 70%. What employment does exist is in the informal economy where workers are paid subsistence wages, without pensions and other rights.

Due to government cutbacks in health and social services, low-

social welfare payments, institutionalised unemployment, inane and meaningless work schemes and lack of access to educational opportunity, a drug economy has taken root in urban Dublin where small-time sellers can supplement their own income and in many cases their own drug habit by dealing in drugs.

In many cases drug dealers use young unemployed people as couriers and low-level dealers, paying them meagre wages or allowing them a small mark up on the drugs they sell, but at the same time creating an economic dependency on the drugs trade. Many of these people end up drug users themselves.

Despite endless media hype on the drugs issue, particularly drug seizures and the substantial funds expended by the Dublin government, there is still no effective policy in action to prevent the sale of drugs.

A community worker who brought AP/RN on a tour of the area told of how when the Minister for Justice Máire Geoghegan Quinn visited the area, the police arrived earlier in the day and lifted all the drug users and sellers in the Thomas Street/Meath Street area.

However, a trip to one of the betting shops on Meath Street shows the reality of the area's role in drug sales. A printed sign warns that it is an offence to be in possession of, or to sell, drugs on the premises.

AP/RN talked to many of the Amothers who held the seven-week picket. They felt it was effective while it lasted, but they were exhausted from picketing over 12 hours a day seven days a week.

They maintained that they will restart the picket if necessary. In the meantime, they are trying to

organise a mass meeting of all the tenants in the blocks in order to win more help and support for their picket.

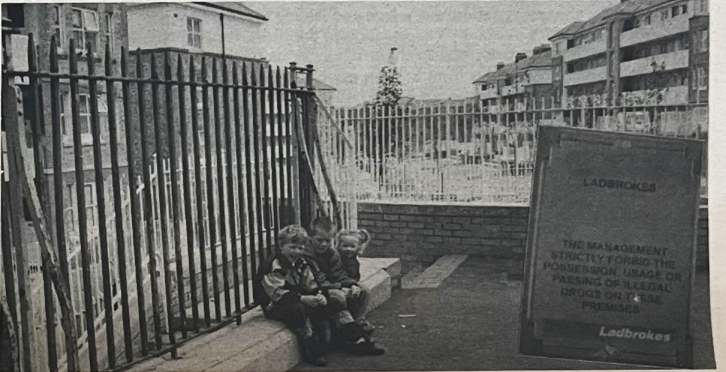
They questioned the role of both the gardai and the corporation in their failed attempts to eliminate the drug problem from the area. Many people AP/RN talked to believed there should be longer sentences for drug-related offences and that the gardai had to play a more active role in actually arresting and charging drug dealers.

Local people also believed that the education system had a role to play. They proposed child aware-

ness school programmes on the effects of drug use.

Local Sinn Féin spokesperson Daithí Doolan said: "Sinn Féin has always supported local communities in their battle against drugs and other anti-social activities. The residents of Oliver Bond give a positive and hopeful message, not just reflecting this estate, but Dublin's South Inner City in general."

"Bridgefoot Street flats opposite Oliver Bond have also organised themselves against the problems of drugs. All these people got no support from any of the locally elected representatives, this shows where their priorities lie. We will continue to work with these communities in any way we can."



Children outside a betting shop in Oliver Bond flat complex, beside a sign that shows the realities for young people growing up in inner-city Dublin

Candidate calls for living wage for all

DON O'LEARY, Sinn Féin candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Cork North Central, has called for the establishment of a minimum hourly wage and increases in social welfare to ensure that everyone can enjoy a decent standard of living.

Speaking to a meeting of election workers in Knockaheeny, he said: "The last number of years have seen a steady worsening of peo-

ple's income in this state. There is a high level of poverty and unemployment in every county. Cork's northside has been particularly

badly hit. Sinn Féin believes that only through the establishment of agreed basic pay and social-welfare rates that make living without desperation possible, can we even begin to tackle the poverty problem.

"A legal minimum wage of £5 an hour, a basic social-welfare

rate of £100 per adult and £20 per child dependent will go some way to redressing the imbalances in our society and begin the process of rebuilding the communities devastated by unemployment and the low-wage economy."

He attacked the PD leader

Mary Harney for her call to establish a low-wage economy such as Hong Kong.

"With the wage Mary Harney receives she has a brass neck asking people to become slaves for her rich friends. We will never accept that economic progress depends on workers receiving even more pitiful wages. Let our slogan be no to the low wage economy, yes to a legal minimum wage."

SF councillors at Bord na Gaeilge seminar

SINN FÉIN CULTURAL spokesperson Gearóid O hEara has called for the British government to make resources available towards the development of an all-Ireland Irish language television station.

The Sinn Féin spokesperson made his comments at a Bord na Gaeilge seminar in the Donegal Gaeltacht at the weekend. Following a presentation by the chairperson of Teilifís na Gaeilge, Brian Mac Aonghusa, delegates, including councillors from all over Ireland, engaged in a lively and positive debate about the nature of the new television station. Six Sinn Féin councillors were in attendance. They were Gearóid O hEara (Derry), Christy Burke (Dublin), Caoimhghín O Caoláin (Monaghan), Gerry McMenamin (Armagh), James McCarry (Ballycastle) and Brendan Curran (Newry & Mourne).

Councillor O hEara welcomed the advent of Irish-language TV and said that, while he was worried about the lack of a definite starting date, he was particularly encouraged to hear that it was to be broadcast to Irish speakers throughout the entire island of Ire-

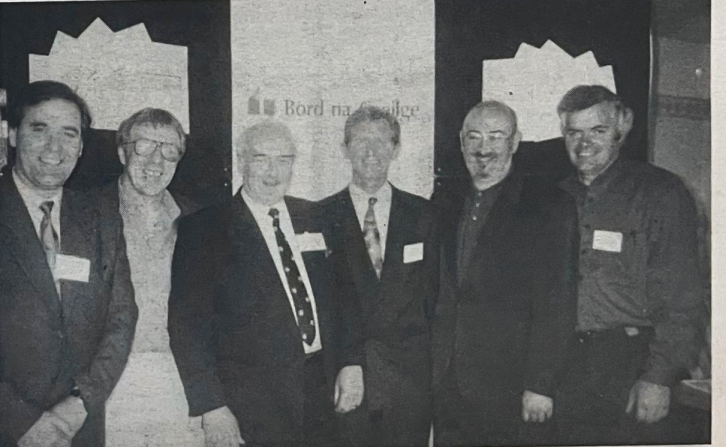
land. He said that this was a milestone in the revival of the Irish language and that he hoped that the initial allocation of three hours would quickly increase.

Pointing to the need for an effective monitoring mechanism he said that it would be important in these early years that there be an efficient method of gathering, and responding to, feedback from the public.

Speaking directly to Brian Mac Aonghusa, he said that the Irish language community in the North would give a special welcome to Teilifís na Gaeilge and he asked that the British government be approached and asked to make a financial input to the new station.

The Sinn Féin representative said that for however long the British government retained jurisdiction over the Six Counties they should be asked to honour their obligation to the Irish-speaking community there.

He said that the television sta-



(From left) Gearóid O hEara, Christy Burke, Gerry McMenamin, Brendan Curran, Caoimhghín O Caoláin and James McCarry at the Bord na Gaeilge seminar in the Donegal Gaeltacht

tion would be a vital part of the language revival and would contribute to the Gaelicisation of the

environment and would be invaluable to all learners of Irish, but especially to the generation of

children who are presently going through the Irish-medium education system.



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

6 October 1994

National democracy is the goal

FIVE WEEKS on from the IRA cessation of military operations, it is important to point out that republicans will settle for nothing less than the achievement of the objectives for which many republicans and others have suffered and died.

The achievement of a national democracy in Ireland, where all the people of this island, free of British interference, can decide the future of Ireland is the only guarantee of a true and lasting peace.

After five weeks of a complete cessation of the IRA's armed struggle, republicans are in a new phase of the struggle for national self-determination. The struggle will continue until our objectives are achieved.

The immediate issues which need to be tackled on the road to peace in Ireland are demilitarisation, the repeal of emergency legislation, the disbandment of the RUC and RIR and the release of all political prisoners.

Republican activists will continue to campaign for equality for nationalists in every area of public life pending the creation of a national democracy for all the Irish people with equality for all.

Sinn Féin will soon be involved in direct dialogue with the British government. We will be challenging the British government's undemocratic involvement in the affairs of the Irish people.

The British have said that they have no strategic, military or economic interest in remaining in Ireland. Republicans will be taking the logic of that statement to its inevitable conclusion and demanding that they announce their intention to disengage.

Don't turn farce to tragedy

THAT the squalid row over who is to be appointed president of the High Court should have come to the stage of almost precipitating a general election in the 26 Counties is incredible.

This non-issue has preoccupied the coalition government and the media for several weeks to the bewilderment of all outside the corridors of power. In recent days, it very nearly forced the ordeal of a pointless poll on a horrid electorate.

We have seen the Beef Tribunal costing £35 million, passports put up for sale to wealthy foreign business people, the crises at TEAM and Irish Steel involving thousands of jobs, the pay rise awarded to themselves by TDs. Yet none of these scandalous issues brought the state so close to a general election as did the row over which friend of which party in government should place his or her backside on the bench of the High Court.

It is a farce that has come very close to tragedy.

For a tragedy it would be if a totally unnecessary and unwanted general election were to damage the peace process and possibly usher in a new coalition government containing parties such as Fine Gael, the Progressive Democrats and Democratic Left, who have shown themselves to be negative and begrudging throughout the search for lasting peace.

What is at the bottom of the debacle? The egos of men in power, most people will answer, and they will see the row between two highly-paid men about who should occupy a third highly-paid position in the context of 300,000 people unemployed in the 26 Counties.

When the Labour Party entered coalition it signed up to a programme which sold short on many of the issues it championed and won support on during the last general election. For example, it opposed privatisation and is now acquiescing in the creeping privatisation of major state companies. That Dick Spring should choose to take a stand not on a substantial issue, but on the power play between himself and Albert Reynolds will only redouble cynicism in the electorate.

Nonetheless, the reality of the electoral figures is that the most likely alternative combination of parties would be worse on the peace process. The achievement of lasting peace is today the central issue which should be concentrating the mind of this government. Beside it, petty Leinster House rows shrink to invisibility.

News

Labour still committed to Irish unity

PERCEIVED DIFFERENCES between Kevin McNamara and new British Labour Party leader Tony Blair brought considerable media focus onto the British Labour Party's policies on Ireland in the last week as Labour delegates gathered in Blackpool for their annual conference.

If media reports were to be believed, the longstanding commitment to a united Ireland by consent was to be amended by Blair in his proposals for sweeping changes in party policies, which now include the rewriting of the party's constitution.

The truth was more simple. A campaign was waged prior to and during the conference by the integrationist Democracy Now faction, Democratic Left and New Consensus, who, having failed in their attempts to convince the Irish public to adopt anti-unity policies, have moved their anti-nationalist campaigns to Britain.

However, the net effect of their efforts came to nothing as the Labour Party reaffirmed its commitment to unity by consent, although motions adopted now also support any agreement which has the support of "both communities" in the Six Counties.

There have always been substantial differences between Sinn Féin's policy and that of the Labour Party on Ireland, in particular on the Hillsborough accord and the Downing Street Declaration and this remains the case.

However, Sinn Féin Councillor and Six-County Chairperson Mitchel McLaughlin, who was at the conference, emphasised the importance of Labour's long-term commitment to

Irish unity, saying that it was an important issue as Labour were currently the largest opposition party in Westminster and probably the next government.

Other Sinn Féin representatives present at the conference were councillor Francie Molloy and Joan O'Connor of the Women's Department, who spoke at fringe meetings.

Last Sunday, 2 October, Mitchel McLaughlin and Tony Benn participated in a question and answer session sponsored by the Labour Committee on Ireland (LCI) and the Labour Party Irish Society (LPIS).

Joan O'Connor, head of Sinn Féin's Women's Department, spoke to a packed meeting on Tuesday, 4 October. Also speaking at the evening meeting were Labour Party MPs Ken Livingstone and Tony Benn.

The emerging theme from the meetings was the belief among Labour Party delegates and MPs that dialogue between Sinn Féin and the British government is an essential next step as is dialogue between Sinn Féin and the shadow cabinet.



● New British Labour leader Tony Blair

(continued from front page)

For the rest of the world, seemingly, the 'permanence' debate is dead. The courageous move by the IRA five weeks ago has been acknowledged as such by the Dublin government, John Hume, Labour MEPs in Brussels, US President Bill Clinton, several European governments, Japan and Australia. As Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Martin McGuinness remarked last week in a *Belfast Telegraph* interview, there is nothing to add to the IRA statement. Very little in life is permanent, or as 26-County Tánaiste Dick Spring put it: "The issue of permanence is beyond the capacity of any individual to guarantee."

Meanwhile, the unionists, while obviously confused, are hardening their stance. While some positive noises have been coming from OUP MP John Taylor and various loyalists including David

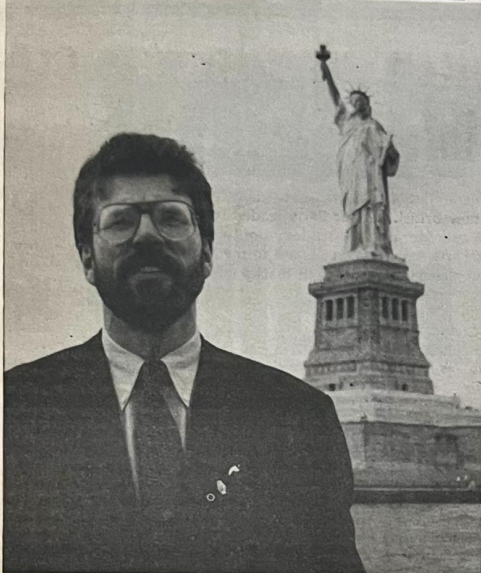
Ervine, and even the Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, others are continuing to issue negative statements about the IRA move.

Ken Maginnis gave a display of unionist intransigence and downright puerile bad manners in front of US and international TV audiences on Tuesday night by refusing to exchange words, glances or handshakes with Gerry Adams. And David Trimble paved the way for a new unionist obstacle to talks by announcing last week that unionists would not be satisfied with an amendment to Articles Two and Three of the 1937 Constitution — they wanted Article Two removed altogether. Article Two defines the territory of Ireland as the 32 Counties.

In that context, it is difficult for nationalists not to interpret the British government's recent moves as purely cosmetic. It highlights the need to keep up the campaigning pressure

which republican activists have applied since the start of September on issues of demilitarisation. It also highlights the need to be watchful of any further stalling by Downing Street, and any potential slippage of the peace process if the British government should try to impose an internal settlement over the heads of the Irish people. Major's proposal of a referendum in the Six Counties has been described by several commentators as having such a potential, by allowing the British government to propose an internal settlement to the Six-County electorate, and get it passed by the majority of unionist voters, even if parties to the talks have not reached an agreement.

The IRA initiative and the peace process of which it is part, have created a unique opportunity in Irish history. Irish nationalists must work hard to ensure that the British government does not let the opportunity slip.



● Gerry Adams on his way to visit Ellis Island in New York through which hundreds of thousands of Irish emigrants once passed

US government meets Sinn Féin

■ BY ART Mac EOIN

IN THE SECOND WEEK of his historic tour of the United States, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams sat down with White House and US State Department officials in the first meeting between Sinn Féin representatives and a US administration in over two decades.

The meeting on Tuesday, 4 October, followed a phone conversation between Gerry Adams and US Vice President Al Gore and a letter to Gerry Adams on Monday from National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. In the letter, Lake

said the US administration was ending its policy of noncontact with Sinn Féin so that dialogue could be facilitated.

Following his telephone conversation with Vice President Al Gore, Gerry Adams said: "My

conversation this morning with Vice President Gore was both friendly and informative. During our discussion, I welcomed the positive and constructive role which the White House has played in moving the situation in Ireland forward.

"I asked Vice President Gore to pass on to President Clinton my warm appreciation for his interest and involvement in the Irish peace process. I gave an assessment of the present situation. This includes the need for fundamental political and constitutional change, an immediate programme of demilitarisation and effective action to bring about parity of esteem. All of these issues need to be addressed through immediate and inclusive peace talks.

"The United States government is clearly committed to building on the present opportunity and to the creation of a just and lasting settlement in Ireland. The White House is engaging directly and at a very senior level with Sinn Féin. The British government should take encouragement from this and follow this example.

"This morning's conversation is a promising first step in the dialogue which will now develop between the US administration and Sinn Féin."

The contact between Sinn Féin and the US government came in the face of desperate and unrelenting opposition from the British government. Adams described the meeting as ushering in an "historic new era".

A Sinn Féin delegation met with John Kornblum, Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs, Leon Feurth, Al Gore's National Security Adviser and Nancy Soderberg of the National Security Council.

Adams said that the meeting dealt in a very positive way with all of the core issues. "Not only did we discuss the broad constitutional, political and other matters which require to be moved upon,

we also discussed issues like investment, the need for parity of esteem and equality of opportunity," he said.

Adams also met with members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and addressed the Council for Foreign Relations on Wednesday, 5 October.

The meeting with government officials was the latest highlight in Gerry Adams' high-profile tour of several major US cities. It followed the honouring of the Sinn Féin president by New York City Council on Wednesday, 28 September. The reception at New York's City Hall was hosted by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Adams was presented at the ceremony with the city's freedom award by Alan Hevesi, the New York City Comptroller. That evening, Adams attended a reception at the Merchants Club arranged by the O'Dwyer and Bernstein law firm of which veteran Irish-American civil rights lawyer and supporter of Irish republicanism Paul O'Dwyer is the head.

The following night at New York's Sheraton Centre, Gerry Adams addressed a large gathering of Irish republican supporters. During his address, he specifically acknowledged the role of women in the republican struggle and paid a specific tribute to the women of the 'Long Green Line' who were brought on to the stage at the Sheraton. The women of the Long Green Line have taken turns to maintain a perpetual picket outside the British Consulate in New York for many years.

The aspect of the Adams' tour, however, which captured most attention on this side of the Atlantic last Wednesday was the two historic televised debates with Michael Mates, the former Six-County 'Security' Minister and ex-British soldier, and Official Unionist MP and former UDR major, Ken Maginnis. Mates was forced to resign last year after it was discovered that he exchanged gifts with Asil Nadir, a millionaire

businessman and funder of the Tory Party. Nadir was charged with embezzlement and the resulting scandal forced Mates to resign.

Mates, who has trailed around the States on Gerry Adams' coat-tails in a rearguard effort to regain some ground in a publicity battle which the British are clearly losing, underlined the hypocrisy of the British government when he challenged Adams to a live debate. It demonstrated just how cynical is the British position regarding talks with Sinn Féin. "Why couldn't we have this conversation in London?" Adams asked of Mates on the BBC 2 *Newsnight* broadcast.

The discussion was a stormy one, with Mates attempting to speak for the Dublin as well as the London governments, while Adams pointed to the obstructive and violent legacy of the British government in Ireland and demanded that they now move the situation forward. "I believe that the unionist people and the nationalist people of the island of Ireland can come together in agreement, provided your government removes all vetoes, has a level playing pitch, encourages, facilitates, persuades everyone to come together," Adams said.

Appearing together on the *Larry King Live* show, Ken Maginnis twice refused to shake the outstretched hand of Gerry Adams. Maginnis also refused to speak directly to the Sinn Féin president and would only address Adams' questions through Larry King.

Maginnis' display was being seen as widely unpopular in the States.

During Adams' tour, the death occurred of veteran Irish Northern Aid founder Michael Flannery. Gerry Adams said that he had learned with sadness of Mike Flannery's death and extended sympathy to his family. He added that as well as being a founding member of Irish Northern Aid, Mike Flannery had championed the cause of Irish freedom all his life.

British watch tower occupied by Derry residents

■ BY BRIAN O'DONNELL

MEMBERS OF THE Rosemount Anti-Watch Tower Campaign in Derry staged a dramatic 30-minute sit-in protest in the crown forces' watch tower on Wednesday, 28 September. The RUC tried to scupper the story, claiming that the protest never took place. However, photographs taken by a local photographer showing protestors in the tower have embarrassed the RUC.

The peaceful and good-natured sit-in took place after solicitors acting for the residents group arranged for them to have a guided tour of the RUC barracks. But during the tour, the residents staged their tower sit-in for 30 minutes during which they displayed a banner which read 'ROSEMOUNT RESIDENTS SAY NO TO THE WATCH TOWER'.

Other residents held a simultaneous protest outside the tower for 45 minutes calling for its immediate dismantlement.

Cecil and Marion Hutcheon, whose home is overshadowed by the tower, were amongst the four representatives who took part in the protest.

Hutcheon told reporters afterwards that an RUC officer informed him that British soldiers had removed infrared observation

equipment prior to their arrival.

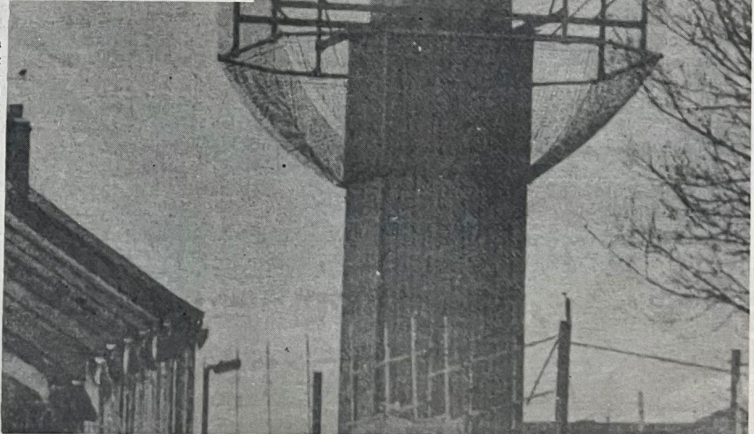
"There are 24-plug points in there and the police told me that the army took out all the listening devices, the infrared camera and other monitoring equipment before we arrived. We simply have never believed the British army's claims that they were not able to see into our bathrooms and bedrooms — now we know for sure they can," said Hutcheon.

Speaking at the protest, Sinn Féin representative Dominic Doherty stated:

"The RUC and British army have always denied that there was anything detrimental in the tower. So why was all this equipment removed? They obviously had something to hide and this is just another example of repression in nationalist areas."

Residents scoffed at claims by

the RUC that the tower was there to protect the RUC station saying that a month after the IRA ceasefire, the spy post is now more redundant than ever and should be dismantled.



The peace dividend — myth and reality

CUTTING UP possible peace dividend cakes is a growing sport in media and business circles. In the wake of the IRA cessation, media economists in particular have turned their spotlights on the Irish economy, hyping possible peace dividends and new economic opportunities.

THIS WEEK, NEIL FORDE gives a background to the peace dividend and the current island economy plans. He reviews two views of the peace dividend, beginning with a background to emerging island economy structures and a review of the print media's and business community's utterings on the peace dividend.

Two-and-a-half years ago, *An Phoblacht/Republican News* reported on a speech by Ulster Bank chairperson George Quigley. Speaking at the annual conference of the Confederation of Irish Industry (CII, now known as IBEC), he outlined the steps necessary to create the structures for an 'island economy'.

Quigley believed it was possible to create such an entity without constitutional or political change. Former PD leader Des O'Malley, present at the conference as the then Dublin government Minister for Industry and Commerce echoed this, saying that "businessmen were the people to make these things happen".

The address by the Ulster Bank chairperson was linked to the launch of a report by the CII which had studied the outcome of an island economy, predicting a possible 75,000 jobs.

This figure was seized upon

by a variety of politicians, including John Bruton, who visited Belfast to publicise Fine Gael's island economy plan, which was remarkably similar to George Quigley's.

Albert Reynolds launched a book of academic studies on economic unity in June 1992, and both he and John Hume made frequent references to the 75,000 jobs.

Meanwhile, in the real world, the Quigley plan was moving from being an aspiration to actual policy. The ill-fated Fianna Fáil/Labour National Development Plan on how to spend the Euro dosh was published in October 1993. It contained all the elements of the original Quigley/CII proposals.

However, while the politicians publicised the jobs potential of an island economy, the business community moved towards making it possible on their terms. IBEC and its Six-County counterpart the Confederation of British

Industry in Northern Ireland (CBINI) established a range of links to promote trade and cooperation between their members and set themselves the objective of doubling Six and 26-County trade over the next five years.

Both groups actively lobbied for the speedy implementation of the Single European Act and Maastricht Treaty which would effectively create the island market that now seemed so lucrative.

The Dublin government appointed Professor Harford Robb to be chair of the Joint Cross-Border Business Enterprise. In August 1992, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in Dublin and the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre (NIERC) announced plans to carry out a joint research project to identify common economic opportunities and problems of the two states. Both organisations have complex economic models for forecasting and analysing trends in the two economies. The Dublin government set up a State Companies Linkage Group between the two economies. It is chaired by one of the coalition's economic



● The CBI view that British 'security' savings should be diverted to such things as reversing the damage to infrastructure, has no mention of a democratic role for the people of the Six Counties

advisers. Its stated role is to "ensure that major state compa-

nies in both areas provide more goods and services for multinational and private and public companies in both the North and South".

In the aftermath of the IRA cessation, the island economy plans have been subsumed into the peace dividend hype.

We have a growing promise of funds flowing into the two economies. A figure of up to \$150 million dollars over three years has been mooted from the US, while the London and Dublin governments are looking to secure a similar figure from the European Union. Funds from Australia and Canada have also been promised, while both Dick Spring and Albert Reynolds have lobbied Japan and Asian states for funds. This is ironic, as many Irish banks and pension funds have, over the past year, diverted investment funds from the Irish economy into this 'Pacific rim' area.

There are many positive points in these plans, particularly the job creation potential. However, none of this can hide the absence of democratic controls in the plans and policies currently being implemented.

A business

WHILE THE issues of have been on the p three years, there has by n A second argument propos that the Six-County economy a viable entity in its own rig and can grow and provi employment, given the rig economic conditions.

Peace — A Challenging Ne Era is a position paper pr duced by the CBINI in rece weeks. It claims to set out "C Northern Ireland's views o what needs to be done ensure that the Northern Ir land economy achieves accele ated growth and great employment" as a result of th IRA cessation.

The paper argues that strategic partnership needs be made between the Britis government and the privat sector. Essentially, the CBI lobbying that the funding cur rently spent on maintaining Britain's garrison in the Six Counties should be redirecte

Equality

If the self-professed Br last December's decla to be given substance, Brita of support for those agenci the mainstay of the unioni Protestant men only."

The above passage came fro *The Costs of War and the Divi dends of Peace*, this year's Fra Cahill Memorial lecture held in the West Belfast Economic Forum.

Mike Tomlinson, a Queen's University social policy lectur er, gave the memorial lectur which has now been printed a 39-page pamphlet.

The pamphlet is broken u into four sections dealing w 'The Context of a Peace Age da', 'The War Economy', 'Su vention and the Costs of th War' and lastly 'The Dividen of Peace'.

Tomlinson's work offers crucial insight to the proble of dismantling the war econ my that has been constructed the Six Counties over the pa 25 years and transforming into offering full employe for all. Tomlinson also dea with the need to dismantle th economic structures of privile and discrimination create under the unionist Stormo regime.

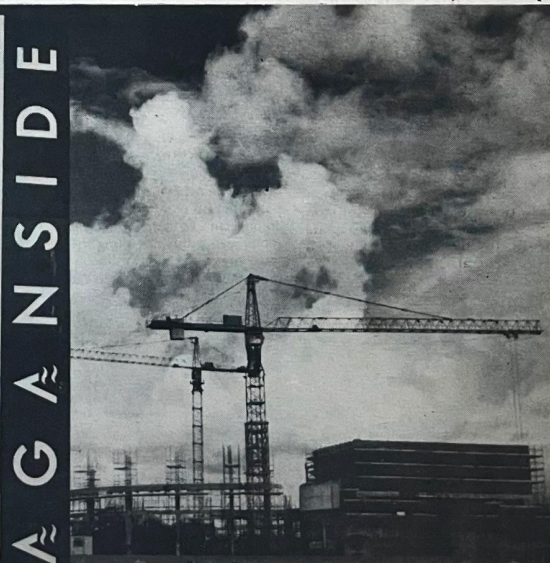
There is a need to dismantl ec based on equality and social just

LAGANSIDE AT LAGANBANK

- Conference and Concert Hall
- 200 Bedroom Hotel
- Major Office Block
- Speciality Shopping
- £100 million plus investment
- Developers
- Belfast City Council
- Laganbank Development Company
- Development Timetable 1993-2000

L A G A N S I D E

● New economic structures are necessary that break the link with Westminster and establish an economy based on democratic principles, under the control of all the Irish people



business partnership?

THE issues of all-Ireland economic structures have been on the public agenda for at least the last 20 years, there has by no means been general acceptance.

argument proposes Six-County economy is entity in its own right to grow and provide employment, given the right conditions.

A Challenging New Position paper proposes the CBNI in recent claims to set out "CBI Ireland's views on what needs to be done to get the Northern Ireland economy achieves accelerated growth and greater employment as a result of the situation.

paper argues that a partnership needs to be between the British government and the private sector, essentially, the CBI is that the funding currently on maintaining a garrison in the Six should be redirected

CBI

to "wealth-creation activities". They make their link with Westminster, with no mention of a local democratic role in this partnership.

The paper outlines three key objectives for the Six-County economy and the "refocused expenditure". First, they want to "immediately stimulate economic progress and social cohesion throughout the community". Next, they want to reverse the decline in infrastructure provision and level of services. The third objective is

to "accelerate the development of trade skills and provide extended employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed.

The CBI believes that the cessation has opened up opportunities for increased tourism and greater inward investment. They argue that it is vital that the British government thinks through the strategic implications of the IRA cessation. They present the objective of developing policies to "ensure that the benefits are maximised and an increase in employment opportunities and standards of living for all are achieved".

The paper offers a range of figures and advice on how to increase employment, workers' skills and raise everybody's living standards. However, notably absent from the position put forward is any mention of economic relationships or links with the 26-County economy or even a local democratic input in the Six-County economy.

The CBI paper talks of efficient management of the economy, but with no hints as to who would manage it. The NIO's track record is completely suspect. Their only contribution to the Six-County economy has been either to undermine it or else to maintain an inequitable and stagnant status quo of discrimination and privilege.

This is not addressed by the CBI paper. The paper presents the view of a Six-County economy still dependent on British subvention, run by the British government and the Six-County business community. It does not propose any real partnerships with the people of the Six Counties, never mind the people of Ireland.

Some of the aspirations in the paper are worthy, but the proposed alliance between the business community and Westminster is unworkable, not least because they would be rejected by Westminster. Full employment has never been delivered by Westminster, nor has democratic control of the economy.

quality and social justice

self-professed British disinterest in the North and December's declaration of self-determination are on substance, Britain will need to change its policy for those agencies and institutions which remain stay of the union and which primarily benefit women only."

The passage came from the War and the Dividends, this year's Frank Cahill Memorial Lecture held by Belfast Economic

Tomlinson, a Queens social policy lecturer in the memorial lecture, now being printed as pamphlet.

pamphlet is broken up sections dealing with text of a Peace Agency 'War Economy', 'Subsidies and the Costs of the Dividends

son's work offers a insight to the problems of the war economy. Counties over the past and transforming it into full employment Tomlinson also deals need to dismantle the structures of privilege discrimination created Unionist Stormont

need to dismantle economic structures of privilege and discrimination and set up new structures equality and social justice

Fort Pegasus, providing employment for members of the British army."

He writes that comparisons between the Six and 26-County states have changed over the last 20 years. He quotes Will Hutton of the Guardian, 31 January 1994.

Hutton believed that: "It is not because the republic needs the Six Counties that there will be new political structures in Ireland; but because the Six Counties need the South to break out of decline... in practice that means some sort of political accommodation with the South".

Tomlinson devotes considerable space to analysing the scope of the British subvention to Six-County employment. He breaks it down into the problems of the Six-Counties' high number of public-sector workers; four out of every ten workers depend on the state, which he describes as an island of Keynesianism in a UK free-market sea.

He points out that compared to Britain, there are more luxury cars per capita in the Six Counties. He quotes Bill Rollston, who classifies this bureaucratic class in the Six Counties. He says that: "The expansion of the

middle class in the North is a direct outcome of the attempts to contain the consequences of the Troubles."

Detailed information is provided on the affects of having 38,000 people employed in prisons, the RUC and the army, running a yearly bill in excess of £3 billion. He believes that the conflict "has become an essential part of the economy of the North".

The question then for Tomlinson, is how to generate an effective peace dividend and refocus the economy away from its conflict dependency. That means cushioning the run-down in military and 'security' employment while creating jobs in other areas for the new unemployed and the 100,000-plus currently unemployed.

Tomlinson believes we need a plan of reconstruction and a vision of a new Ireland based on principled support for self-determination, liberty and equality.

The only drawback to Tomlinson's plan, is the gap between policy formulation, people on the ground and their elected representatives. After all, how will equality and social justice be secured on an economic plane?

Sinn Féin have produced a pamphlet on creating a democratic island economy based on republican principles along the lines suggested by Tomlinson. (Economics of a United Ireland, Sinn Féin, February 1994).

This gets scant mention in his pamphlet, except to be knocked on the basis that some of Sinn Féin's assertions were simplistic.

This detracts from his overall emphasis, which is otherwise a crucial addition to the debate on the peace dividend and an island economy.

The Costs of War and the Dividends of Peace is published by the West Belfast Economic Forum, 216 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6AH.

Price £2.00 + 50p postage and packaging (£1 for posting overseas).

Dúirt Siad

"An important aim must be to ensure that the social and economic benefits of peace are realised as rapidly as possible to the advantage of all sections of the community of Northern Ireland."

— George Quigley, Ulster Bank chairperson.

"We now want the Northern economy to move forward and will be looking for investment opportunities to take advantage of that."

— Richard Burrows, managing director Irish Distillers.

"It remains to be seen whether and how quickly the IRA cease-fire will lead to greater integration between the economies North and South of the border."

— Robert Chote, Economic journalist, Independent on Sunday.

"The island of Ireland is at a major turning point politically and economically. The politicians have clearly thought a lot about future political structures. It is now time for the economic policy-makers, like our central bank governor, to do the same."

— George Lee, Sunday Business Post.

"Peace in Northern Ireland could be a mixed blessing for an economy that has been propped up by the British taxpayer for the last 25 years."

— Anne Segall, Daily Telegraph.

"There will be a lot of business opportunities in the medium and long term."

— Nigel Smyth, director of the CBNI.

"If the IRA situation bears fruit, it could make the UK investment environment look a lot more favourable."

— Jim Blackwater, vice president Nat West Financial Markets Group.

"Whatever happens now, the economic consequences for the whole island will be far-reaching."

— Cliff Taylor, finance editor Irish Times.

"The IRA cease-fire may also improve sentiment and focus the attention of international investors on Ireland's favourable economic fundamentals."

— Graham Bowley, Financial Times

"The peace initiative could do nothing but good and promote trade particularly in cross-border and tourism areas."

— Seán Quinn, chairperson Quinn Group.

The Second Annual
Frank Cahill Memorial Lecture

25 YEARS ON:
THE COSTS OF WAR
AND THE DIVIDENDS OF PEACE

Mike Tomlinson

Corway Mill, Belfast
8 August, 1994

News

Shankill conference shows dissent from unionist leadership

BY LAURA FRIEL

ROBERT McCARTNEY in his *Belfast Telegraph* column of 3 October evokes the tried-and-tested method of unionist political persuasion, the threat of "potentially 20,000 armed Protestants, none of whom looks ready to budge an inch". Yet, McCartney's comments contrast with the more diverse portrayal of Protestant identity and unionist political analysis which emerged at last weekend's conference 'Beyond Fife and Drum' hosted in the Shankill.

Beyond the traditional rhetoric, what became clear during the conference was that unionist perceptions are changing as the diversity of Protestant interests within the Six Counties begin to emerge. Reflecting this diversity, speakers explored differences

between rural and urban, middle and working-class Protestants, between the unionist political hierarchy and their grassroots, even between unionists and the British.

Addressing the conference, Frazer Agnew, a historian with the Ulster Historical Society, attributed the rise of the "blood and thunder" ethos of Orange bands as resentment at having an uneducated, unaccountable government.

He criticised unionist politicians and their cosy relationship with the British government. The OUP still had the mantle of the unionist gentry "cups of tea and triangular sandwiches". "They put us in the frontline and then give in."

Paul Burgess, who lectures in University College Cork, suggested that the Protestant and Catholic working class had more in common than many of the strands within unionism. Criticising the cultural traditions approach of Orange/Green, Burgess said that it ignored the complexities. It was the product of middle-class commentators imposing their framework on working-class culture.

Burgess pointed out that the cultural traditions approach preaches tolerance rather than solidarity and "a grudging tolerance at that". The old order of "dependable reference points" is disappearing. He concluded: "We need the courage to face up to what is unacceptable in our past."

In an interesting contribution, David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, which is conversant with UVF opinion, argued that unionism had got lost against a background of violence and a history of patronage and suppression.

"We've got to have choices. We've got to move towards a pluralist society. The politics of division see headstones of young working-class men of all sides who listened to the clarion calls and didn't read the small print."

Highlighting common "bread and butter" issues like housing and employment, Ervine warned: "You can't eat a flag."

Unionism was unpopular with Catholics, Ervine argued, somewhat implausibly, because of its institutional links with the Protestant churches. He called on the Ulster Unionist Party to cut its formal ties with the Orange Order and for the DUP to divorce itself from the Free Presbyterian Church.

Recalling Carson's comment: "Look after the minority," Ervine concluded: "We didn't and we suffered for it." According to Ervine, unionists brought the pain upon themselves by refusing to move. "It wasn't the nationalists. It can't be like that any more," he concluded.

Presenting more traditional unionist fare, Iris Robinson claimed that "black propaganda had made unionism a dirty word" and had portrayed its adherents as "drunken, foul-mouthed bigots". She said unionism should be more outward-looking, selling its case to the world and convincing Catholics of its value.

Oblivious to the obvious irony, referring to Adams, Hume and Reynolds, Robinson continued: "I'm fed up being told by every leprechaun in a pin-striped suit how I have to accept the inevitability of a united Ireland." Convincing nationalists that Iris Robinson is not a bigot may prove to be difficult.

Robinson was heckled by a woman in the audience when she described herself as "a simple housewife" and her husband Peter

Robinson as the "head of the household".

Tensions between unionist politicians and the audience again emerged during the speech by Official Unionist MP John Taylor. Taylor was severely criticised by many of the audience for being out of touch with life in working-class Protestant areas and for supporting conservative social and economic policies.

Taylor ruled out the option of a united Ireland, but also said that "remaining in the United Kingdom is not an end in itself". He continued:

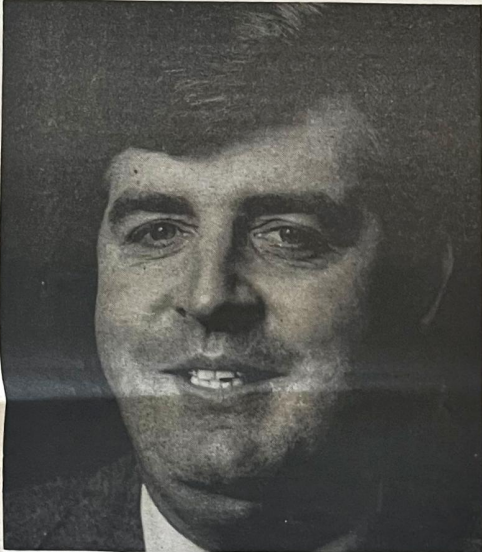
"We must develop a relationship between the North and South. There is a need for cooperation. We have both been members of the European Union for over 20 years and have common policies on, for example, fisheries and agriculture. As unionists we must recognise this."

The debate within unionism continues. In an interview in the *Belfast Telegraph* on 4 October, William Smith, prisoners' spokesperson for the Progressive Unionist Party, acknowledged the need for inclusive dialogue and a complete demilitarisation of the situation within the Six Counties.

"I realised a long time ago that when the war eventually ended, we would have to talk to Sinn Féin. Anyone who doesn't believe that is living in cloud cuckoo land. Eventually, in any war, the combatants have to sit down and talk. People mightn't like it, but it's realistic."

Commenting on demilitarisation, Smith continues:

"The whole structure of normalisation, for want of a better word, doesn't just exist because paramilitaries declare peace. It applies to all arms of government as well. So when I talk about demilitarisation and disengagement, I'm talking about the whole society, government, police, everyone."



● Unionist MP John Taylor — criticised for being out of touch with working-class Protestants

Crannchur Náisiúnta Sinn Féin National Draw

Over £18,000 in prize money

COMMENCEMENT DATE: SATURDAY, 8 OCTOBER 1994

STAR PRIZE **£10,000** STAR PRIZE
or
New Car

Five Weeks of Bumper Prizes



Tickets are still available for the Sinn Féin National Draw. The first draw takes place on 8 October and ticket stubs and money should be returned immediately to:

Sinn Féin National Finance Committee
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1.
Phone 8726932.

Victory for Portlaoise community

RESIDENTS of the Knockmay area of Portlaoise have won a significant victory in their long campaign to have recreational facilities in the area. After two years of campaigning to have land provided for playing pitches and other amenities, Laois County Council have agreed to lease over four acres to local residents.

Welcoming this development, Brian Stanley of Portlaoise Sinn Féin said:

"The council has at last recognised the need for playing pitches for this large housing estate. These facilities are badly needed because of the large youth population and the high unemployment rate in the area.

"Local residents can congratulate themselves for winning this victory. It was the persistent campaign work such as picketing, petitioning, marching and lobbying that they took part in, that forced the council

to provide a suitable area. They have also forced the council to recognise the need for consultation with local residents before any future development takes place.

"This victory will hopefully encourage other communities to demand their right to have a democratic input into how their areas are developed."

Reviews

Exposing Britain's bloody hand

A NEW BOOKLET from Republican Publications looks at the Brian Nelson affair and British collusion with loyalist death squads. *British Intelligence, Brian Nelson and the Rearing of the Loyalist Death Squads* looks in detail at the Nelson trial and aftermath, the arms from South Africa revelations and the M15 sting operation at Teesport in November 1993.

Tracing the historic links and the UDA and UVF, this publication shows why

agents like Nelson are no mere 'bad apples' in the British basket. "Far from being neutral, the British state has allied itself militarily and politically, overtly and covertly, with the loyalist cause."

This booklet should be read carefully by all republi-

cans and sold as widely as possible to the general public as this vital issue is placed high on the political agenda at this crucial time.

British Intelligence, Brian Nelson and the Rearing of the Loyalist Death Squads is available from Republican Publications, priced at £3.



GEMS OF THE IRISH TRADITION

IT IS NOT OFTEN that RTÉ is praised on these pages, but credit where credit is due. The new series *Come West Along the Road* on Network 2 looks like being one of the best music programmes the station has produced.

Normally when you see something advertised as an 'archive' or 'retrospective' programme you are immediately alerted. Here they go

again, you say, raiding the vaults, dusting off old programmes, repackaging them and selling them as new. It's cheap TV. But this is defi-

nitely not the case here. RTE producer Tony MacMahon, himself one of the country's leading traditional musicians, and Nicholas Carolan, Director of the Irish Traditional Music Archive have put together with sensitivity and a deep knowledge of their subject, a series that sets some of the rarest gems of our music in historic context and brings them before a new audience.

Come West Along the Road has compiled the best of music from RTÉ programmes between the years 1961 and 1982, creating a series of 13 programmes. Great names of Irish music like Willie Clancy, Séamus Ennis, Seosamh O hEaná, Christy Moore, Dolores Keane and groups like Planxty and the Bothy Band are featured. Many of the clips have not been seen since they were first broadcast. There are dozens of lesser-known musicians whose fleeting appearances on the new medium were in some cases the first and last time their music was recorded.

"We are beginning the second generation of Irish television. I feel that now is the time to look back on gems that we have collected during RTÉ's first 21 years and give our viewers a chance to experience what a previous generation has

enjoyed," says Tony MacMahon.

A very young and fresh-faced Tony MacMahon appeared playing accordion on last Sunday's programme in a clip from the early '60s. As a TV presenter and producer, he was responsible for making

many of the programmes over two decades from which clips have been taken for this series. Like the late great Séamus Ennis, his contribution in collecting and promoting our music has been tremendous.

Next Sunday, the programme reflects the 'ballad

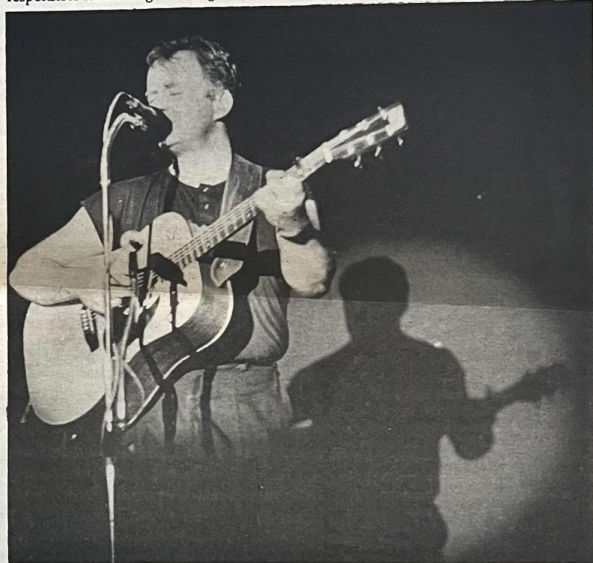
boom' of the 1960s, a flavour of which we got last week with Anne Byrne's singing of *The Foggy Dew*, from the days before nationalist ballads were taboo in Montrose. The series continues until the end of the year and should not be missed by any lover of Irish music.

Come West Along the Road is broadcast on Network 2 at 9pm on Sunday nights and continues every week until 18 December.

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA



● Nicholas Carolan, presenter of *Come West Along the Road*



● Folk singer Christy Moore — to be featured in a forthcoming programme

Too many closed doors

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

ONE OF the legacies of colonialism in Ireland is officialdom's obsession with secrecy. This has made the corridors of power in Dublin "more Whitehall than Whitehall itself" in the words of the authors of this pamphlet, which is a timely call for openness and freedom of information.

I had thought that 'official secrets' in the 26 Counties were covered solely by preparation British legislation. Not so. In fact, it was Charles Haughey who added more powers to the British legislation and made secrecy more stringent. That was in 1962 at the height of the Cold War, when it suited Fianna Fáil to see Reds, foreign agents and IRA men under every bed. Haughey's law made every piece of 'official' information secret — from the colour of the toilet roll in the Department of Finance to the most obscure

and irrelevant memos, decades old.

The little-known Official Secrets Act of 1962 contains some incredibly drastic provisions. For example, if it can be proved that a person charged under the act visited the address of a "foreign agent" or an IRA member, then he or she "unless he proves to the contrary" is "deemed to have been in communication" with that person. Any address "reasonably suspected" of belonging to a foreign agent or member of a banned organisation will be enough

to prove that one has broken the Official Secrets Act. Like most such legislation it does not have to be put into practice regularly in court to do its work. The fear it induces is sufficient to ensure secrecy.

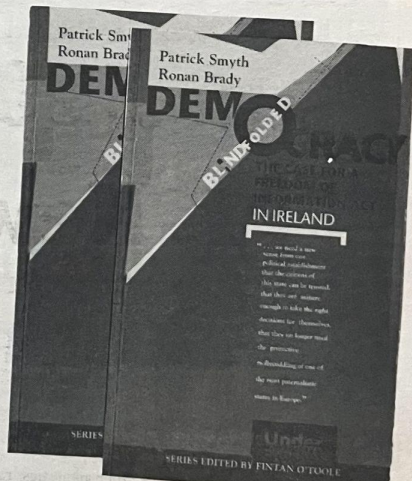
Have you ever noticed that man in Leinster House dressed in a blue and green frock, who every so often rings a bell like that used in boxing matches? It is the Ceann Comhairle Seán Treacy. He obviously loves the job which he has occupied for as long as anyone can remember and which guarantees him automatic re-election. In their chapter on the Beef Tribunal, the authors show how lack of freedom of information legislation has allowed Treacy to further restrict the already limited

types of questions that government ministers can be asked in Leinster House.

Obsessive secrecy in a supposedly open and democratic parliament is one of the main reasons the unconsulted taxpayer has had to fork out over £35 million on the Beef Tribunal. But as one civil servant said in reply to Judge Hamilton at the tribunal, the rule of thumb when answering Leinster House questions is to "give the information in direct answer to that question but not to offer information". Work that one out.

The authors look at freedom of information in the international context and show how such legislation would work here. It is badly needed and will be one of the essential ingredients in the creation of the democratic settlement we seek in our country.

● *Democracy Blindfolded* —



The Case for a Freedom of Information Act by Ronan Brady and Patrick Smyth.

Undercurrents pamphlet published by Cork University Press. Price £4.95.

Nuacht

SLOGADH SHINN FEIN AR AIS I GCONAMARA

Bhailigh slua de Ghaeilgeoirí tuirsúla le chéile ófche Dé hAoine seo caite in Ostan an Dóilín ar an Cheathrú Rua do Shlogadh blaintúil Shinn Féin. Cé nach raibh an slua chomh mór agus a mbíonn sé de ghnáth don imeacht, creidim go bhfuil bunús na bpoblactóirí sa tír ag iarraidh a gcuid anála a tharraingt go fóill i ndiaidh móirmeachtáí na seachtainí malla, bhí daoine ann ó achan cearn.

Bhí na himeachtaí le toiseacht ar 8.30in agus mar is nós leis an Slógadh ba chosúla le 10in nuair a thosaigh an chéad chaint ar ahruithe is sochaf na hEireann le 25 bliana anuas.

Is é Seosamh Mac an Bheatha an chéad chaintoir ar an abhar seo. Dhearc an sagart as Fear Mansach ar na hathruithe a tháinig ar an eaglais ach go háirithe san am sin agus an teip ar an mhórchuid seasamh lena pobal féin ar cheist cearta froghabháil na tíre ag an Bhreatain.

Thar rud ar bith eile bhí Mac an Bheatha cinnte de go raibh níos mó féin mhíne agus ábalacht ag an pobal ó thuaidh ná mar a bhí ag an pobal náisiúnach 25 bliana ó shin.

Dúirt sé go raibh meon difriúil ag an pobal anois, go raibh siad éirithe ó na glúine agus gur mhóthaigh siad go raibh cumhacht acu chun cúlfa a athrú.

Labhair Lucilíta Bhreathnach Ard Rúnaí Shinn Féin ar thaitní s'aicse sna 26 Chontae mar bhean, mar Ghaeilgeoir agus poblachtóir agus ar an tionchar a d'imir móirmeachtaí na tréimhe uirthi ar a dearcadh ar an saol polaitiúil.

Dúirt Bhreathnach go raibh meon an phobail sna 26 níos oscailte anois don teachtaireacht phoblachtach ná mar a bhí sé le blianta.

Maidin Dé Sathairn d'oscail Marcas Mac Ruairí an Slógadh go

hoifigiúil. Tá mé go fóill cailte maidir leis an chiall a mbaineann leis an oscailt oifigiúil seo. Caitheadh go bhfuil sé tábhachtach go leor mar chaith Marcas culaith éadaigh faoina choinne nach bhfachtas a leithéid de ó na '50í!

Is í Brid Hausaf, seanfhóndúir de chath na Gaeilge agus iarbhall de Choiste Gnó Chonradh na Gaeilge, a labhair ar an chéad séisiún eile.

Labhair Bríd ar na deacrachtaí ar bhain le hiarrachtaí chun do chuid gnó a dhéanamh leis an stát ó dheas d'ainneon áit bhunreachtúil na teanga.

Dúirt Bríd go raibh sé an-deacair ar fad ag daoine sa Ghaeltacht gnó a dhéanamh leis an stát trí mheán na teanga. Ar ndóigh dúirt sí gur bh seacaí Atha Cliath ná mar atá sé aici anois sa Ghaeltacht.

Dúirt sí go raibh míneadh agus caighdeán na teanga sna scoileanna ag fulaingt go fóill mar gheall ar athruithe a rinneadh sa chóras oideachais maidir le hoilúint múinteoirí san '60í agus '70í.

Labhair cuid den lucht éisteachta faoi dheacrachtaí a cuireadh os a gcomhair féin agus iad ag iarraidh déileáil leis an stát sa tenga. I gcás na Sé Chontae de aontafodh go raibh bille cearta teanga de dhúth ar Ghaeil ó thuaidh. Ní hé gur chriod duine ar bith go mbeadh na Bille ar réiteach bhfadhbanna ar leith atá i gcoinne Ghaeil sna Sé Chontae agus síleadh go dtabharfadh Acht



● LIAM O CUINNEAGÁIN

Ghaeilge feidhm dlíthiúil le cuid d'éilimh na nGael.

Ag críochnú an tséisiúin san dúirt Bríd Husaf go raibh failleanna nua dí dhul chun cinn maidir leis an stát agus an dlí le reachtafuocht Aontas na hEorpa ar mhíonteangacha.

Ina dhiaidh sin a bhí ceann an chaint is spéisiúla i Slógadh na bliana. Bhí Liam O Cuinneagáin ina aochaintoir agus thug an fear as Glann Colm Cille óráid smaointeach bríomhar spreagúil ar an teanga i gcoitinne agus ar staid na teanga sa Ghaeltacht.

Thagair sé do na fórsaí ar fad a bhí ag brí Béarla ar an Ghaeltacht idir stát, cleir, meán agus an meon i measc cuid de Ghaeil na tíre nach raibh tábhacht ag baint le maireachtáil na Gaeltachta.

D'íarr sé ar a lucht éisteachta tacaí leis an Ghaeltacht trí cheangailt a thógáil leis na ceantair éagsúla. Ba chóir ceangal a

dhéanamh idir na scoileanna sa Ghaeltacht agus na Gaelscoileanna sa Ghalltacht. (Níos mó an tseachtain seo chugainn.)



● Leag lucht an tSlógaidh bláthfheasc ag an leacht chuimhneacháin seo don tAthair O Gríofa a mharfadh ag na Tans



● BRID HUASAF

Moltaí SF os comhair an Fheidhmeannais

BHUAIL TOSCAIREACHT Shinn Féin faoi cheannais an Chomhairleora Annie Armstrong le hionadaithe den Fheidhmeannas Tithíochta maidin Dé Máirt le roinnt ceisteanna prainneacha tithíochta a phlé.

Ar na rudaí a phléigh an toscaireacht ó Shinn Féin leis an Fheidhmeannas bhí:

An fhorbairt tithíochta ar an Phól Chlús a feadhú amach ionas go dtófar na 8,000 teach a

gealladh nuair a chéadnochadh na pleananna don eastát i lár na '70í.

An mhoill 15 mhí ar fhorbairt 108 teach atá beartaithe do Hanahstown in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste;

Éilimh gur chóir clanna Caitliceacha a lonnú sa bhreis is 100 teach atá ina luf folamh ar an Bhóthar Dubh sa chathair;

An gá le hathruithe sna rialacha a mbaineann le daoine gan teach ionas go mbeadh sé ní bhfusa do chúpla le leanáil agus do dhaoine aonaireacha tithíocht a fháil.

Arsa Annie Armstrong: "Dhiúltaigh an Feidhmeannas Tithíochta leis na blianta éisteacht leis na dearcaithe de na náisiúnaithe i mBéal Feirste cé go bhfuil níos mó daoine gan baile san ceantair seo. Caitheadh an Feidhmeannas éisteacht anois leis na héilimh de na comhphobail is-úbairt sa chathair seo."



Letters

Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist...



● Criticism of AP/RN's sport's scribe is being strongly contested

Down v Dublin — sports scribe replies

A Chairde,

As the scribe who penned the 'offending' report of the All-Ireland football final, I feel I must reply to Seán Mag Uidhir's letter which he felt compelled to write in complaint.

First off Seán, thanks for your initial kind words about my previous articles covering the football championships. It's a relief to know it all wasn't in vain. However, you soon lump me in with the Dublin press in terms of pro-Dublin bias in my analysis of the match. This puts me in the company of journalists like Martin Breheny, Peadar O'Brien, Eugene Magee and Liam Hayes, to name but a few, and these individuals have never been known as cheerleaders for the Dubs cause. Perhaps as you're domiciled in Béal Feirste, Seán, you wouldn't be too au fait with this, what with having to survive on a diet of the *Belfast Telegraph*, *Irish News* and other such provincial publications.

At all times, I have attempted to be objective in my reports and to allocate praise and criticism in fair measure. I am aware that most, if not all, readers of AP/RN would have already read the mainstream newspapers extensively before they'd come to my report on a game and as such, I've tried to cover different ground, along with my personal comments rather than personal biases. Despite Seán Mag Uidhir's assertion, the mainstream media were lavish in their praise of the Down team, both before and after the final. It was my contention though, that on the run of play, the final was lost due to the inherent frailties in the Dublin team more than anything else and I stand over that. Down have the good fortune to possess three or four exceptional players but overall, they are not an exceptional team — well-drilled, competent but hardly great. This is not to detract from their

achievements, merely to put them into context.

Perhaps Seán was irked by lack of enthusiasm and column inches regarding Down's win, damning them with faint praise and all that. Down won because they were the more cohesive unit, made far fewer mistakes, and maximised their advantage in the opening 20 minutes when the Dublin defence looked like they'd just met each other. That's my view and I'm sticking with it.

I think I can safely state that my knowledge of GAA matters in Dublin regarding the county board, team management etc would be far greater than Mag Uidhir's and my criticisms were informed ones. Interestingly, he glosses over the antics of some Down players after the final whistle. If Vinny Murphy and Paul Clarke had stormed up to the Canal End to taunt the Down supporters subsequent to a Dublin victory, do you seriously think they'd have got away with it? Lengthy suspensions and hefty fines would have been the order of the day, with the 'pro-Dublin' mass media baying for blood. But I'm sure Gregory McCartin and Co's contribution to the post-match 'celebrations' won't be forgotten by the relevant people.

In conclusion, credit to Peter McGrath for guiding Down to their second title in four years. More's the pity their latest win was tarnished by the mean-spirited antics of a few of his players in the aftermath.

Seánus
O Caomhánaigh.

A light for peace

A Chairde,

May I suggest that all nationalists in our country (32 Counties), especially republicans, place a light in their windows from evening time for a few hours before retiring for the night as a sign of hope that all our political hostages will soon be released.

On our recent holiday in

Portugal, my wife and I purchased a beautiful pottery table style lamp which we got fitted up electrically and placed in our front window. We just think that this might be some little token as a beacon of light for our prisoners, when they will hopefully be released soon.

During our holiday we met and talked to people from various countries and it was amazing to find that most of them seem to be under the impression that it was a sectarian conflict that was going on in the occupied part of our country. We had to try and put it right for them.

Hope that these few remarks may be of some value to *An Phoblacht* readership.

Joe and Mary Burns,
Sligo.

British people want peace

A Chairde,

The big question today is surely, what have the British people gained over the many years of the illegal occupation of Ireland? Isn't about time we stopped spending billions of hard-earned working-class money, sending SAS-trained troops to sustain a divided Ireland, when the vast majority of Irish people want a united Ireland, and a peaceful settlement.

Anyone with any common sense should realise by now that the Reverend Paisley does not want a united Ireland. He is using 'reverend' opportunism, to maintain a divided Ireland. If he really wanted peace, he would be all out to accept the wonderful opportunity for peace with the IRA, now that they have made an historic decision by announcing a cessation of all military operations. This is a wonderful opportunity for peace in Ireland, that the British Tory government and Labour Party should accept without delay.

Gerry Adams said, we want a fundamental change to transform Ireland. He also said, we

wish an end to British jurisdiction in Ireland, and an end to partition. I feel positive the British people want peace, in a united Ireland also.

Tom Hopkins,
(Retired Miner),
Penyrheol,
Wales.

Free these prisoners

A Chairde,

The republican leadership is to be congratulated for maintaining the cease-fire in the face of extreme provocation from the loyalists and their patrons the Imperial British Empire.

I would urge every Irishman and Irishwoman to show solidarity with the republican leadership. I would also ask that the Irish people remember the fallen comrades of Oglagh na hÉireann and the political prisoners whose sacrifices are the reason the evil empire is negotiating with republicans. The political prisoners must never be abandoned.

An appeal of the convictions of the Derry Three, Tony Millar, Gerald McFadden and Seán McMonagle, is now being heard. These innocent men were railroaded in a classic example of colonial imperialism and its lack of justice for the Irish people. The plight of these men equals that of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four. Let justice prevail — Free the Derry Three!

Joseph F Joyce,
Hanover,
Virginia,
USA.

POWs relatives scapegoated

A Chairde,

I would like to highlight the recent media hype concerning the POWs in England's escape attempt from Whitemoor Prison.

In the wake of the escape attempt, tabloid press and TV

coverage made remarks that alleged that POWs' family members were responsible for the security breaches, saying that articles may have been smuggled into the prison inside babies' nappies.

I would like to point out that all family members travelling to England are subjected to rub-down searches at airports, their luggage is x-rayed and they must pass through metal detectors. Landing in England, we are almost always stopped by Special Branch detectives and questioned on where we will stay, for how long, reason for visit to England? Afterwards, families are kept under surveillance throughout their stay.

Arriving at the prison, yet again we are rub-down searched, put through metal detectors and our personal effects passed through an x-ray machine. Children must also, go through the rigours of these security measures.

Therefore, it is important these remarks implicating relatives don't go unchallenged. Yet again, it is the relatives who are most vulnerable. Whilst in England, we are left open to the mistreatment, abuse and the vindictiveness of the press. This gives a system that already victimises and discriminates against the relatives more excuses for their hateful behaviour. Having just returned from visits, I have experienced this treatment first hand. It is nothing new to families but nonetheless is always traumatic.

I would urge everyone to work harder than ever on the transfer/reparation of prisoners campaign to help alleviate at least that part of the nightmare prisoners' families must endure.

Theresa McComb,
Dundalk.

Disgusted at garda actions

A Chairde,

I was sickened and disgusted to read in AP/RN 22/9/94 that a woman member of Sinn Féin arrested for allegedly painting a slogan 'Who Arms the UVF?' was strip-searched by the gardaí. Ask any woman what is her greatest fear and most will automatically answer rape/sexual assault. In any country, the answer will be the same — the fear of sexual attack is a universal one of women, young and old. This perverted assault was a clear attempt to terrify and intimidate this young woman and the other two people arrested who were not strip-searched. Because this happened in a garda station does not mean that it was not a sexual assault, because in the eyes of every decent living person it was. One can only guess at the feelings of this young woman's attackers, but their willingness to participate suggests that these people feel that it is perfectly acceptable behaviour. All

women's groups should come out and condemn this sick and disgusting act.

Paul Walsh,
Cork Sinn Féin,
136 Barrack Street,
Cork.

Hard work ahead for leadership

A Chairde,

Just a few points I would like to share with fellow readers on the current climate regarding the peace process. I am now nearly convinced that republicans did not secure any concessions or 'nods' or 'winks' leading up to the cessation of IRA activity. Thus, when I heard John Major talking of an amnesty for republican prisoners and a promise of a Six-County referendum on the outcome of negotiations, I became very worried for the leadership of Sinn Féin. Republicans, (particularly those in the Six Counties) will feel very let down and angry if after offering an unconditional cease-fire, republican prisoners are not given political recognition. This could also be the case if the British don't budge on the undemocratic unionist veto. I have confidence that Sinn Féin will not accept this. Republicans certainly have the hard work to do at the table and I would like to wish them patience, wisdom and courage.

John Keeley,
Kilbarrack,
Dublin.

Negotiations not recriminations

A Chairde,

John Major has a duty to respond quickly and positively to the IRA's decisive peace move. The British government is adopting a stalling tactic by insisting the IRA incorporate the word 'permanent' in its cease-fire declaration. The onus is on John Major to move the peace process forward without prevarication or posturing.

Any political settlement must have the consent of both traditions in Ireland. A referendum with an in-built unionist majority will steer the situation back to square one.

Unionist prisoners must abandon their negative attitude to change. The days of sitting on their hands and saying 'No' to everything are over. The unionist population would be better advised, if they were to find common ground with the rest of the people in Ireland. Experience of Britain's colonial past indicates that the British government will drop the Ulster unionists when it becomes politically expedient. Surely unity by degrees is better than disunity and strife.

Finally, what is required for the betterment of Ireland and all its inhabitants, is for the British to disengage 'permanently' from Ireland.

Tim Jones,
London.

Letters to: The Editor, AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

PLEASE KEEP LETTERS SHORT

Notices

Join Sinn Féin

SINN FÉIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied Six Counties, the reunification of our country and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin, fill in the form below and send it to Sinn Féin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Name.....

Address.....

Tel:..... Age.....

Imeachtaí

BALLYMURPHY SEVEN PICKET: Every Saturday, 2-4pm, O'Connell Bridge, DUBLIN

SINN FÉIN PEACE PICKET: Every Saturday, 3.30pm, Market Square, DUNDALK

PROTEST: For peace and against British rule. 1pm, Saturdays, Daunt Square, Patrick's Street, CORK

SINN FÉIN PROTEST: 1-3pm every Saturday at the GPO in O'Connell street, DUBLIN. This week is to highlight the issues surrounding our POWs

PEACE PLEDGE: Signing GPO, DUBLIN, Monday to Saturday. Organised by the Irish National Congress

ANNIVERSARY 5 OCTOBER

1968-94: Calendar of events, DERRY. **WHITE-LINE PICKET:** For demilitarisation. 1pm, Friday, 7 October, Expressway Roundabout (behind Guildhall).

PLAY: *State Injustice* by the Phoenix Drama Society. 8pm, Friday, 7 October, Pilots Row Community Centre. Táille £2. **BOBBY SANDS MEMORIAL LECTURE:** 7.30pm, Saturday, 8 October, Pilots Row Community Centre. Admission free. **FUNCTION:** With the Big Electric Céili Band. 9.30pm, Saturday, 8 October, St Eugene's Parish Hall (Stardust). In aid of the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign. Táille £3

MARCH: Unemployed protest march. Assemble 2.30pm, Saturday, 8 October, Connolly Hall, CORK. Organised by the INOU

COMMEMORATION: Seán O Conaill and Noel Jenkinson Commemoration. 1.30pm, Sunday, 9 October, Leicester

Prison, Welford Road, LEICESTER, England. Transport from Birmingham, 12pm, Cambridge Street. Organised by the Irish Republican POW Campaign (Breataine)

FUNCTION: Civil liberties benefit gig, 8.30pm, Friday, 14 October, De Burca's, White Street, CORK. Traditional music and poetry, with John Spillane and others

CONFERENCE: Britain in Ireland: Right or Wrong? 14-16 October, YORK, England. Details/application form from David Lancaster, York Peace Centre, 15a, Clifford Street, York YO1 1RG, England

MEMORIAL: Unveiling of memorial to Joe Ennis. 3pm, Sunday, 16 October, Drumkilly, KILLNALECH, County Cavan. Guest speaker. Followed by function in Lakeland Hotel, Cavan. Music by Na Lads.

SPECIAL FROM REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS



Border Buster T-Shirt Price £6

STILL AVAILABLE

25th anniversary T-Shirt of the deployment of British troops on the streets of Ireland.

Price £6

25th anniversary poster.

Price £1

COMING SOON

A Christmas calendar and a selection of Christmas cards will be available from October.

When ordering, please include cost of post and packaging

Republican Publications,
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

Tel: 8726932 or
Fax 8733441



I nDíl Chuimhne

GREW, Dessie; JENKINSON, Noel; McAREAVEY, Daniel; McCaughey, Martin. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Dessie Grew (died 9 October 1990), Daniel McAreevey (died 6 October 1972), Martin McCaughey (died 9 October 1990) and Sinn Féin member Noel Jenkinson (died 9 October 1976). "As long as Ireland is unfree, the only honourable attitude for Irish people is an attitude of revolt" — Pádraig Pearse. Proudly remembered by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

GREW, Dessie (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Dessie Grew, who along with Volunteer Martin McCaughey was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by the McCaughey family, Galbally.

GREW, Dessie (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Dessie Grew, who along with Volunteer Martin McCaughey was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by the Nugent family.

GREW, Dessie; McCaughey, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and

loving memory of Volunteers Dessie Grew and Martin McCaughey, killed in action at Listasley, Loughall, on 9 October 1990. "We bleed that the nation may live. I die that the nation may live. Damn your concessions England we want our country." — Seán Mac Diarmada. Always remembered by Póilín and Niall.

McAREAVEY, Daniel (22nd Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Daniel McAreevey, D Coy, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on 6 October 1972. I measc lahra na nGael go raibh sé. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFáil and the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

McCAUGHEY, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of our son and brother Volunteer Martin McCaughey, who was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by his father Eoin, mother Brigid and brother Peter.

McCAUGHEY, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Martin McCaughey, who along with his comrade Volunteer Dessie Grew was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by uncle Gerry and aunt Maureen.

McCAUGHEY, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Martin McCaughey, who along with his comrade Volunteer Dessie Grew was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by Maggie, Eugene and family.

McCAUGHEY, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Martin McCaughey, who along with his comrade Volunteer Dessie Grew was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by Hughie, Vera and family.

McCAUGHEY, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Martin McCaughey, who along with his comrade Volunteer Dessie Grew was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by Anne, James and family.

McCAUGHEY, Martin (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Martin McCaughey, who along with his comrade Volunteer Dessie Grew was killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by the Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Jim Lynagh Sinn Féin Cumann, Clogher; By the Colm Keenan/Martin Hur-

ston Sinn Féin Cumann, Cookstown; By the Martin Hurston/Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Féin Cumann, Galbally; By the Eoin McNamee Sinn Féin Cumann, Kildress; By the Martin Hurston/Séamus Woods Sinn Féin Cumann, Pomeroy; By the Frank Ward Sinn Féin Cumann, Carrickmore, Creggan; By the Ahern/Loughshore Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann, Ardboe, Mooretown and Stewartstown; By the South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin; By the Tyrone National Graves Association.

McCAUGHEY, Martin; GREW, Dessie (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Martin McCaughey and Dessie Grew, who died on active service on 9 October 1990. Never forgotten by the POWs in Magilligan Jail.

McCAUGHEY, Martin; GREW, Dessie (4th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Martin McCaughey and Dessie Grew, killed on active service on 9 October 1990. Always remembered with love and pride by the Dungannon Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Coalisland Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Clonoe Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann; By the Jim Lynagh Sinn Féin Cumann, Clogher; By the Colm Keenan/Martin Hur-

ston Sinn Féin Cumann, Cookstown; By the Martin Hurston/Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Féin Cumann, Galbally; By the Eoin McNamee Sinn Féin Cumann, Kildress; By the Martin Hurston/Séamus Woods Sinn Féin Cumann, Pomeroy; By the Frank Ward Sinn Féin Cumann, Carrickmore, Creggan; By the Ahern/Loughshore Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann, Ardboe, Mooretown and Stewartstown; By the South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin; By the Tyrone National Graves Association.

COMHBHRÓN FLANNERY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Michael Flannery, on his death. From Colm Hughes, the Bronx, New York. **McAULEY.** Deepest sympathy and condolences extended to Pearse and the McAuley family on the death of his brother Thomas. From Kathleen, Martin and Michael. **McAULEY.** With deepest sympathy to Pearse (Portlaoise) on the death of your brother. From The Keg, The Wee Man, Seamy, Bosco, Pól, Scoot, Snake, Neil, John B. Nigel, republican prisoners, H4 Long Kesh. **McAULEY.** With deepest sympathy to Pearse (Portlaoise) on the death of your brother. From Tommy, Sandra and family, Strabane.

Comhbhrón

FLANNERY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Michael Flannery, on his death. From Colm Hughes, the Bronx, New York. **McAULEY.** Deepest sympathy and condolences extended to Pearse and the McAuley family on the death of his brother Thomas. From Kathleen, Martin and Michael. **McAULEY.** With deepest sympathy to Pearse (Portlaoise) on the death of your brother. From The Keg, The Wee Man, Seamy, Bosco, Pól, Scoot, Snake, Neil, John B. Nigel, republican prisoners, H4 Long Kesh. **McAULEY.** With deepest sympathy to Pearse (Portlaoise) on the death of your brother. From Tommy, Sandra and family, Strabane.

thy to Pearse (Portlaoise) on the death of your brother. From Tommy, Sandra and family, Strabane. **McAULEY.** Deepest sympathy to Pearse on the death of your brother. From Aran Foley

Beannachtaí

O'NEILL. Happy fourth wedding anniversary Declan (Portlaoise). Love you always, Linda; Happy anniversary Declan and Linda, from Francis and Mick Kearney. **NOLAN.** Congratulations to Paddy Nolan (San Francisco) on his testimonial. From Mick Murray and his friends in Donnycormey.

FOGRA

POWS: Paul (Dingus) Magee, Peter Sherry, Liam McCotter, Danny McNamee and Liam O Duibhir are currently being held in the Segregation Unit, White-moor Prison, Longhill Road, March, Cambridge PE15 QDR. They can receive books, money, letters etc. For further information, please contact POW Department Dublin at (01) 8727096.

SPARE A THOUGHT for Douglas Hurd. The British Foreign Secretary, known since his school days as 'Hitler' Hurd because of his bullying ways, has not had a particularly good week. Dougie was dispatched to the far corners of the globe to deal with his government's post-colonial problems. At one time, these matters were very simple. Whitehall just had to send a destroyer or two and do a spot of naval bombardment — problem solved. The diplomacy of the end of empire is much more difficult, as Hurd well knows.

"Journalists' mocking laughter reduces glib Hurd to humiliating incoherence" ran the headline in the *Asian Times* on 30 September over a report by Li Zhigao on Dougie's two-day visit to Hong Kong. Under pressure from journalists over the British government's stalling of the negotiation process for their withdrawal from Hong Kong, Hurd spoke of the "shared interest of Britain and Hong Kong and China". His refusal to say what Britain would do to break the deadlock and repeated use of the slogan "shared interest" caused journalists to "burst into laughter so upsetting the usually glib Hurd that he was reduced to incoherence".

Dougie then flew to New York to join Michael Mates in their forlorn fire brigade operation on American public opinion in the wake of Gerry Adams. Interviewed on American TV, Hurd said: "On the whole, people are beginning to understand a bit more about the realities of Northern Ireland than perhaps they did." This from the man who first introduced the 'actor's voice' British broadcasting ban, lifted only a fortnight ago.

OLD BAILEY retired judge, Michael Argyle, who boasts of trying a number of cases directly or indirectly connected to the political situation in the Six Counties, has blown away the myth of the impartial British judiciary by confessing — in the *Irish News* — to being a "convinced Conservative and unionist".

Argyle opened a recent article by calling for the crushing of nationalist resistance in the North and for the crown forces to shoot suspects on sight — shoot-to-kill.

Resistance, Argyle writes, must be "beaten and crushed". He rants on that trials in the North have to be abandoned because of

intimidation of jurors (in the nonjury Diplock courts?), and Britain's extradition warrants are rejected in the 26 Counties not because of their illegality or the low (nonexistent) standard of British justice, but because judges are afraid of the IRA. And "anyone who knows" the learned judge adds, knows that the IRA has "friends in high places in Eire".

What do readers think are the chances of a fair trial in front of Argyle and Associates?

Answers on a postcard to the Department of Justice, Dublin. American readers can send theirs to the Department of Justice, Washington.

DAVID MCKITTRICK, the portly Six-County correspondent for the *London Independent*, this week



published a book of his collected articles about the North, *Endgame*.

Big Mac — who is regularly wheeled into ITV and radio studies as a noted 'authority' — writes in his preface dated August 1994:

"At the time of writing, much of the original hope of an early end to the IRA campaign has faded."

Two weeks later, the IRA announced its total cessation of military operations.

BORIS YELTSIN'S reason for standing up (or about that by lying down?) Albert Reynolds' entourage at Shannon Airport is a mystery, according to Boris Johnson of the *Daily Telegraph*. But Dublin ministers have an idea, Johnson says.

"It may be that men of the world such as Mr Albert Reynolds and Mr Bertie Ahern and the others who waited vainly on the red carpet, representing as they do the last truly drink-fuelled nation in Europe, have an inkling."

A 100-FOOT STATUE honouring the Tory landlord who ethnically cleansed 15,000 people from the Scottish Highlands 150 years ago to make way for sheep, will be demolished if local campaigners have their way.

The statue, which stands above Golspipe, near Inverness, is of the first Duke of Sutherland, who thought his one million acre estate would be better used sustaining sheep than Scottish people. The people were forced out in the infamous 'Highland clearances'.

Now locals have decided that the time has come to remove the monument to 'Scotland's Hitler' and the other landlords who removed 500,000 people in the pursuit of profit.

"Like Stalin and Hitler, he destroyed people's homes without cause," former councillor Sandy Lindsay said.

"He has no honour in Scotland and is despised in the Highlands."

Historian Dr Jim Hunter, author of *The Making of the*

Crofting Community, denounced the monument as "a grotesque representation of many forces that destroyed communities in the Highlands and islands".

Ex-councillor Lindsay wants the eyesore replaced with "a memorial to the suffering, death, emigration and tragedy which the land policies of that time caused".

TORY EX-MP Sir Charles Irving has denied receiving heroin from his GP and best friend, who is accused of illegally obtaining and supplying the drug.

Irving said of his medical and political associate, Dr Clive Froggatt: "I am certain he is innocent. He is my best friend and he has been for a long time." Can't possibly be guilty then, can he?

A DETECTIVE INSPECTOR in the Essex police has been fined £450 and banned from driving for 18 months after driving his unmarked police car while more than twice over the alcohol limit and failing to stop after hitting a lamp-post.

The blocked dick's name? Detective Inspector Dick Block.

TOP COP Wyn Jones, meanwhile, is awaiting trial on charges of shoplifting.

nuclear peace camp at Greenham Common.

Jones, sacked nearly a year ago for "misconduct", was one of the masterminds behind the anti-union police operation safeguarding strike-breaking scabs at Rupert Murdoch's Wapping plant, and the women's anti-

Once deputy of Scotland Yard's Criminal Investigation Department and earning £67,000 a year until his dismissal, Jones stands accused of stealing £24 of wine, cheese and chicken breasts from Marks and Spencers in Chelsea.

STING STUNG. Rock star Sting has had his accountant **S**up in a London court for allegedly stealing £3 million from him.

Ageing Provo posters will recall that Sting, ironically, used to be lead singer with The Police.

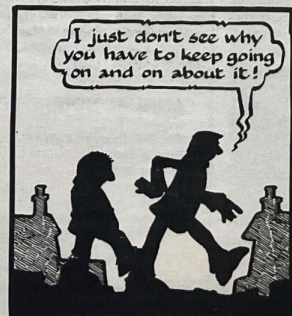
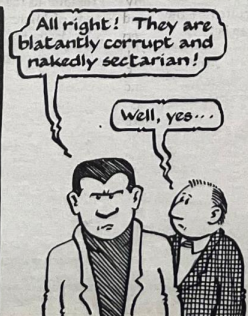
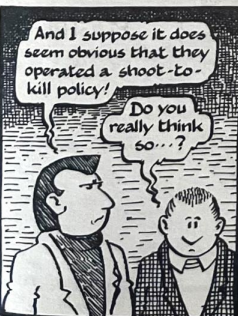
His first solo hit in 1982 obviously struck a chord with accountants everywhere — *Spend a Little Happiness*.

LAST WEEK this column reported that three of the H-Block Four facing extradition proceedings in the United States had been released on bail. Inexplicably, crossed wires led to this error, for in fact

Pól Brennan, Kevin Artt and Terry Kirby are still in custody. They have not yet applied for bail but will be doing so and we urge all our readers — especially those in the US — to continue to support them.

DUBLIN LORD MAYOR and Green Party Councillor John Gormley had his official Mansion House residence robbed of jewellery while he was in another part of the building hosting a dinner for World Vegetarian Day.

I wonder if the robbed sparklers were 24 carot?



Dúirt Siad

The Irish community's hopes for an enlightened policy on Ireland and those of a majority of Irish people in Ireland itself were cruelly dashed in recent memory by a Labour government that succumbed to the forces of reaction. There is again the whiff of betrayal in the air. It would be ironical indeed if such a betrayal were to be facilitated by a man whose mother was born in Donegal! — Editorial in the *Irish Post*, newspaper of the Irish in Britain, on 1 October, warning against a change in Labour Party policy on Ireland.

Hey Mister Moderation, play a song for me
I'm not angry and there's no ideas I'm flying to
Hey Mister Moderation come on strong to me
In the frankly fiscal morning I'll come following you.

— Replacement (to the air of *Hey Mr Tamborene Man*) by poet William Scannell for the Red Flag as the anthem of the 'new look' British Labour Party. *English Independent* Monday, 3 October.

British partition created Northern Ireland and the British army protects the status quo. As long as the army supports the loyalist veto, politicians such as Ian Paisley will not move an inch. — Donncha McCarthy, student from Peckham at the Liberal Democrats conference last week which voted, against the advice of the leadership, to support amendments from its youth and student wing opposing British exclusion orders and powers of internment.

Hardly the man to pit against the likes of Gerry Adams. Could not the British have found a politician of note and integrity among the 600-odd candidates in the House of Commons, not to mention the few worthies in the Lords. — Michael Mates as described by *Daily Express* columnist Michael O'Flaherty under the headline 'Colonel Blimp no match for Adams'.

News

Man's skull fractured by plastic bullet

PLASTIC BULLETS fired by crown forces at point-blank range left one nationalist in intensive care with life-threatening head wounds and another had been treated for severe head and body injuries at the weekend.

The condition of the most seriously injured was described as being "ill but stable", while the second man was described as "ill". The most seriously-injured man had his skull fractured when a plastic bullet hit him at a distance of just over ten yards. Firing this weapon at the head and at this distance contravenes the legal guidelines for the use of this weapon.

Though crown forces describe the use of these weapons in the Six Counties as "riot control", they are continually used, as in last week's incident, as an instrument of terror. Individuals have been targeted by trigger-happy British army and RUC patrols leaving 16 people dead, seven of them children, after being hit by either rubber or plastic bullets. The youngest to die was ten-year-old Stephen Geddiss shot dead by a British soldier in August 1975.

It was only when eyewitnesses described what happened on Friday, 30 September that the lie was given to the RUC version which was issued to cover up their murderous intentions on Friday night. The RUC even went so far as to say that four of their officers and two British soldiers had been "slightly hurt" during the incident

which they described as a "coordinated attack" by "over 50 rioters". However, no member of the crown forces attended hospital or even required on-the-spot medical treatment.

Prior to the incident on Friday, 30 September, there was heavy crown forces patrolling in the area. Several residents complained that they had been acting in a "very heavy-handed and aggressive manner". Tension had been high in both the Oldpark and Ardoyne areas following the attack by crown forces on a peaceful anti-collusion protest at Oldpark Barracks on Tuesday, 27 September, and the subsequent arrests and ill-treatment of three local people.

Witnesses to the shooting say that at around 1.30am, a group of youths were standing outside a fish and chip takeaway in Ardoyne Avenue. When a large British army foot patrol passed by, some verbal abuse was directed at the youths by members of the British patrol. A taxi driver explains:

"A group of Brits were shouting at the lads. They were extremely abusive. When one of the lads retaliated by throwing his chips at the soldiers, they immediately reacted

by firing plastic bullets into the crowd at point-blank range."

One of those injured, Michael Gormley, was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital after the attack. He was struck in the back of the head with a plastic bullet and suffered a fractured skull. A scan revealed that he suffered massive bruising to the rear of his brain. In fact, his condition was so serious, at one stage he suffered cardiac arrest. Gormley had metal staples inserted in his skull while in hospital and is now forced to stay indoors for several weeks while his wounds heal.

During his time in hospital, Gormley was harassed by the RUC and since his release he has been stopped and roughed up a British army patrol, despite his wounds. Not content with harassing locals the RUC arrested two men from the area on Tuesday, 4 October, claiming that they were involved in the disturbances. This tactic of harassment is often used by the RUC to terrorise the nationalist community.

Commenting on the attack local Sinn Féin Councillor Bobby Lavery said: "This was a vindictive and provocative action by the crown forces, particularly when they are responsible for the man's wounds in the first place."

Dismissing claims by the RUC that they came under a coordinated attack, Lavery continued:

"Contrary to RUC claims, that



● A young nationalist after being attacked by crown forces, shows injuries inflicted by their plastic bullets

they were the victims of a well coordinated attack, the reality is that the heavy-handed actions of the RUC and the British army are completely responsible for these

events. The community in Ardoyne and the Bone would be better served by the immediate withdrawal to barracks of all crown forces in the area."

Springfield residents fear copycat attack

■ BY BRIAN O'DONNELL

RESIDENTS OF SPRINGFIELD PARK in West Belfast fear another loyalist attack after two men, which locals are assuming were loyalists, were seen tampering with the fence that divides the loyalist Springmartin from the nationalist Springfield Park.

The men were seen at the same part of the fence used by the killers of Paul Thompson. Thompson was slain on the night of 28 April by a UDA gang that broke a hole in the fence earlier that day.

This most recent incident happened on Monday, 3 October at around 9pm. A resident noticed two men tampering with the fence. She went home and immediately phoned the RUC who were on the scene in minutes.

"This was in stark contrast to their actions on 28 April, when they did not even bother to drive past the fence when residents phoned," said the resident.

Residents, speaking to AP/RN, also expressed their anger that it

took the NIO and RUC three years to build the wall presently being built between Springmartin and Springfield Park.

They believe that the wall is only being built because it fits in with the plans of the NIO for "a new super barracks they are planning for the area", said Brenda Murphy a spokesperson for the residents.


"We have had over ten gun and bomb attacks on homes in this small area over the past two years, and the NIO and the RUC must take responsibility for these attacks due to their failure to act on residents' demands and build the wall before now," said local Sinn Féin Councillor Marie Moore.



● Residents have expressed their anger that it has taken three years to commence work on a wall between Springfield Park and Springmartin



● Sinn Féin Councillor Marie Moore



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

6/10/94

In the aftermath of the IRA's historic August announcement and at this crucial juncture in the unfolding Irish peace process, the uncensored version of what republicans have to say is vital to a full understanding of the political situation in Ireland.

The process of demilitarisation, of achieving a just and lasting peace in Ireland and the struggle to create a national democracy will mean a new political landscape. The uncensored views of Irish nationalists and republicans are essential to understanding this newly-developing political climate.

An Phoblacht/Republican News provides that insight. With 16 pages of news, views, republican statements in full, reviews and a full page in the Irish language, there's more to AP/RN than you might think. Complete the picture of what's really happening for yourself by subscribing.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES | |
| Ireland | £35 |
| England, Scotland & Wales | Stg£35 |
| Europe Surface | Stg£40 |
| Europe Airmail | Stg£58 |
| USA | US\$90 |
| Canada | Can\$100 |
| Australia | Aus\$105 |
| Elsewhere | Stg£50/IRE58 |

To: An Phoblacht/Republican News,
58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| Town | |
| Country | |
| Tel | |
| Amount enclosed | |