

CLARE SPEAKS TO DE VALERA

At a public meeting held in Inch, Co. Clare, to call for the release of Sean McCaughey, on hunger strike, and his fellow-prisoners in Portlaoighise, the following resolution was passed :

RESOLUTION.

To : An Taoiseach, Eamonn de Valera, T.D.

“ We the people of this historic parish of Inch, in meeting assembled, do hereby call on you as head of the Twenty-Six County Government and our Senior Deputy, to release forthwith and unconditionally, Sean McCaughey and his fellow-Republican Prisoners.

We deem it our duty to remind you that when you came amongst us first in 1917, our parish was one of your strongholds, because of your declaration in Scariff, on July 1st of that memorable year, that your claim for Ireland was:—complete and absolute separation, a free and independent Irish Republic. Notwithstanding you were not an inheritor of the Fenian tradition, nevertheless during your campaign you nailed that tradition to the national mast, and in the succeeding years you, as it were, became the living embodiment of it. You will recollect that after 1921 when British policy of ‘ Divide and Conquer ’ succeeded, you as President of the Republic declared (17/11/22) that, ‘ the persons known as and styling themselves the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland and their adherents are and shall be deemed always to have been an illegal body, and that each and every person is guilty of Rebellion against the Irish Republic.’ When you resigned the Presidency of the Republic and founded Fianna Fail (Republican Party) you approved of the action of the I.R.A. in rescuing the late Jack Keogh. In 1929 you stated in Leinster House that that Parliament was not the legal Parliament of the country. In our opinion, therefore, if responsibility for the tragedy that is being enacted in Portlaoighise to-day can be laid at the feet of any one Irishman, living or dead, that man is Eamonn de Valera.

You seem at the moment to be drunk with power, and believe that the people have become so debased that their support is assured to you. Have a care, Basil Brooke and Co. are doubtful bed-fellows. If you follow in their footsteps much further your 1921 wish to be buried in a Fenian grave will never be realised. Of a surety if the people are ever as deluded as to attempt burying your remains in a Fenian plot, the dead Fenians will arise in their wrath and eject you out of it.”

May 8th, 1946.