

SAOIRSE



IRISH FREEDOM

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Readers Please Note

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£3bn in... £4 billion out

OVER £4 BILLION has left the 26 counties in the last year in the form of profits accumulated by foreign-owned multinational companies here and repatriated to other countries. Along with this haemorrhage there are the huge sums of native capital being invested abroad in the form of pension funds etc.

The 26-county Budget announced on Wednesday, January 31, makes no attempt to effectively tackle this outflow and nowhere does it attempt to create jobs in Ireland or effectively tax the multinationals.

MORE WEALTH. MORE PROFITS

We know that the 26 Counties is producing 20% more wealth per year in 1989 than at the beginning of the 1980's - but that extra wealth has not been shared

equally by the community. The bulk of it has simply boosted the profits of foreign multinationals operating here.

Since 1980 also wages have taken 9% less of every pound of wealth produced while profits have increased their share by 8%. The dole queues have doubled in the period 1980-1989 and over the last two years alone 90,000 young people have emigrated.

The borrowing by the 26-county administration in the 1980s for which we

are now suffering literally lethal cutbacks in state services such as health and education, was undertaken in large part to subsidise the foreign multinationals in the export industry with tax holidays and grants.

Jobs are therefore dependent on the whim of foreign companies and foreign creditors continuing to lend to a state that has, relative to GNP, one of the largest public debts in the world. Our economic dependence is almost complete.

The hype about EEC structural funds, alleged to be £3 billion over five years, should be seen in this context - the economy is much weaker and more dependent now than in 1922!

THATCHERITE

And the conventional Thatcherite wisdom in Leinster House is that it is not the government's job to create jobs. This ignores the fact that the countries in Europe that have avoided widespread unemployment and performed well in international trade - Austria, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland - have all relied on state intervention and economic planning, not on the free market.

The message for the 1990s must be that socialism has still got a crucial role to play in getting us on our feet - but this will not happen while Britain occupies the Six Counties and blocks all efforts at nation-building.

No Return to Stormont

THE LATEST round of statements in Dublin, Bangor and Belfast by Charles Haughey, British Secretary Peter Brooke and various Unionist politicians has been given huge media coverage with much talk of "dialogue" and "opening doors".

Essentially what Dublin and the British are holding out as an incentive to the Unionists is the prospect of a new agreement which would involve a return of Stormont, reached by negotiations between themselves and the SDLP and excluding every other interest.

Alan Dukes of Fine Gael has been most explicit about this new agreement - proposing that the Unionists and the SDLP sit down together and that the resulting arrangements would be guaranteed by the Dublin administration and the British.

This is of course a blank cheque to re-invent and reconstitute partition in some "new" form, to attempt to make it more acceptable to the nationalists. That a "fair" Unionism because of its monolithic sectarian nature, backed up by the British guarantee is a contradiction in terms is well known to Republicans.

What we are seeing more blatantly now in Duke's and Haughey's statements is the promise of a Dublin guarantee also, even backed up with physical force, if a return to Stormont is achieved. And John Hume's hints about separate referenda in the Six and 26-counties to approve any new Stormont is merely an attempt to put a democratic gloss on British rule.

Only by Britain declaring its intention to end that rule will the deadlock be ended. Only then will the real dialogue begin.



**BARNES &
McCORMACK**

50th Anniversary Lecture
1940-90

Lake County Hotel
Mullingar

8-30pm Wed.
February 7th

SPEAKER:

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh

Uachtarán Sinn Féin Poblachtach
(SEE ALSO PAGE TWO INSIDE)

50 YEARS AGO:

BARNES AND McCORMACK HANGED IN ENGLAND

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 7, 1940 will ever be remembered by nationally-minded Irish people who were alive at the time, as the morning when English imperial vengeance was wreaked on two young men from the Irish midlands.

Peter Barnes (32) from Banagher, Co. Offaly and James McCormack (29) of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath were hanged in Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham at 9am. Their bodies were quickly consigned to graves in the prison yard.

A tremendous campaign for their reprieve had taken place. Public bodies and even de Valera himself had appealed for their lives. Bowyer Bell relates: "As their (court) appeals failed there was growing anger and on February 5 at the Mansion House in Dublin, five thousand met to protest. Two days later both were executed. . . ."

"On the following day Ireland went into national mourning, flags flew at half-mast, theatres and cinemas closed, sports meetings were cancelled, and masses were offered in the major churches for the repose of their souls."

And this writer remembers teachers in school leading their pupils in prayer. Later outside in the schoolyard, on that day at least, England and especially Churchill - who was not Prime Minister there yet - were vehemently cursed even by those whose families supported England in the World War.

PUBLIC FEELING

On February 5, the *New York Times* had analysed Irish public feelings as follows: "Opinion here is either that two innocent men will hang or that it is the partition of Ireland and the British who forced these two young Irishmen to perpetrate such outrages. Anglo-Irish relations could markedly deteriorate through the hanging of these men."

Letitia Fairfield (an English source) noted that "in personal relationships Barnes had evidently shown excellent qualities. He had nursed his dying wife devotedly through a long illness; much love from family and friends surrounded him up to his last moments."

To his brother Peter Barnes wrote: "Thank God, I have nothing to be afraid of. I am an innocent man and, as I said before, it will be known yet that I am. The only thing that worries me now is the thought of my poor father and mother, but I know God will comfort them."

UNWAVERING

Writing of James McCormack, Letitia Fairfield says: "In the long week... waiting for his trial his unwavering attitude

had been, 'we know what's coming to us and we can take it.' He could and did."

She continues by saying that even those totally opposed to him "must be struck by the watchful loyalty he showed throughout the trial to the Hewitts (the people of the house where he stayed), to his own organisation, and to his comrades in the conspiracy who were not before the court. There is dignity as well as courage in many of his replies under cross-examination."

This English source concludes: "Cheerful indifference to a capital charge and the ensuing sentence is not necessarily a sign of virtue. . . . In James Richards it appeared to spring genuinely from the satisfaction a man feels at having performed what he believes to be his highest duty."

Writing to his sister in Mullingar in his last letter, McCormack said: ". . . Thank God I am prepared as I know I am dying in a just cause. I shall walk out in the morning smiling, as I shall be thinking of my God, and of the good men who went before me in the same cause."

Brian O'Higgins wrote at that time: "The fear and panic that have ridden official England since January 1939 were believed to be seen in Birmingham on the day two unarmed, pinioned, well-guarded Irish exiles, whose thoughts had already flown far from this world, were led from prison cells to the scaffold."

ENGLAND FEARS HER VICTIMS

"The entire prison and all its approaches and all the streets leading to it were so heavily and closely guarded by armed police and soldiers that not a single person could approach within hundreds of yards of it. England fears her victims even while she launches them into Eternity."

Protest demonstrations were held in Dublin, Belfast and Armagh as well as in the prisoners' home towns and other centres. Simon Donnelly, Easter Week 1916 and Black-and-Tan War veteran who had long been inactive spoke at a huge Dublin protest.

Enno Stephan says: "He proclaimed to the crowds' jubilation: 'We know very well what outcome we want to this war (WW2). We want the enemy who has kept our people in bondage for 700 years and who continues to pour insults on us to be pitilessly vanquished. Until such time as the Irish Republic is established, Ireland's youth will continue to sacrifice itself. If the government does not bring foreign overlordship to an end, others must be entrusted with the task.'"

Donnelly captured the mood of the moment. Many Irish people saw World War 2 in simple military terms - as a



• Peter Barnes

re-run of WW1. They did not recognise Nazism for what it was and would become and thought only of England's difficulty being Ireland's opportunity.

Tim Pat Coogan's assessment in 1970 was: "They (Barnes and McCormack) have since passed into an only slightly lesser place in the martyrology of Ireland as have Dunne and Sullivan, the men who shot Sir Henry Wilson (in 1922)."

20,000 FOLLOWED REMAINS

When the two 1940 martyrs were repatriated to Ireland 30 years later, 20,000 people followed their remains to Mullingar Cemetery on a memorable Sunday in July 1969.

Speakers at the graveside were Jim O'Regan of Cork, former International Brigade in Spain and later Republican prisoner serving 20 years in England, and Jimmy Steele of Belfast, beloved veteran Republican who criticised the direction then being taken by sections of the leadership of the Movement who now form the Workers' Party.

The comrades of the executed men were active in four English cities during February in what were by now merely acts of defiance. On the second of the month in Birmingham itself five incendiary packets were placed into slits cut in bus seats but only two of these exploded. Four days later on the eve of the executions another ignited in a London bus. On the same day there were fires resulting from explosions in the mails in London, Manchester and Birmingham with an attempt in Liverpool.

Back in Birmingham on the 14th there were explosions at two business premises. Three other bombs were discovered and defused. In London on the 22nd an explosion occurred at a public utility while another at a litter bin at Oxford Street in the West End injured seven persons.

BRENDAN BEHAN JAILED

At Liverpool Assizes early in the month the famous Brendan Behan, then aged sixteen-and-a-half, was sentenced to three years in Borstal for possession of explosives. He started the court by a well-prepared speech from the dock in which he called for an All-Ireland Workers' and Small Farmers' Republic.

His "Grannie Furlong" and her two daughters had received five, three and two years respectively at Birmingham the previous July. Behan's book "Borstal Boy" has served as a most interesting introduction to the Irish Republicanism of the 1930s and '40s for many people.

"The two that swung in Birmingham With ordered step from off the gallows floor. . . ."

("The Dead March Past", Behan's poem on the martyrs of the 1940s.)

Back in Ireland the amendment to the Offences Against the State Act to cement the closing of the gap in it, which the Séamus Burke Habeas Corpus case in



• James McCormack

December opened, finally became law on February 9. It had been passed through Leinster House in emergency session on January 4 and then referred to the Dublin Supreme Court to copperfasten it against constitutional action.

DUBLIN'S INTERNMENT ACT

The OAS (Amendment) Act 1940 provided for internment without trial; this time the Minister of State authorising it would be "of opinion" instead of "being satisfied" that the person being held indefinitely was engaged in certain activities.

A majority judgement of the court held that this time the minister was not exercising a judicial function and so technically internment could proceed under ordinary and permanent law without fear of constitutional challenge.

On the morning of Ash Wednesday two arrests took place in Co. Meath. Sylvester Fitzsimons and Bertie McCormack were interrogated as to their movements. Both had been trained for the English Campaign but were instructed to return home and await the call to action.

Sylvester refused to answer and was given three months in Mountjoy by the Military Court. Bertie, in compliance with a new directive from GHQ accounted for his movements and was promptly interned in Arbour Hill Prison - one of the first under the amended legislation. What de Valera did and not what he said was what counted.

The pattern was being set for the coming years. "The Dark Year 1940" had indeed settled in. More, much more was to follow. . . .

(Next month: The Ballykinlar Raid, the Meath Hotel Swoop, the Mountjoy Hunger Strike begins. Refs. "The Secret Army" by J. Bowyer Bell; "The IRA" by T.P. Coogan; "Spies in Ireland" by Enno Stephan, publ. Four Square Books 1965 and "The Trial of Peter Barnes" by Letitia Fairfield.)

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ADMISSION FREE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

GUARANTEED GOOD IRISH MUSIC

(Bring along your Instrument) EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

GUN FACTORY COLLUSION

CO. DOWN District Councillor James Cochrane of the Official Unionist Party (OUP) and Constable Cyril Orr of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) have been named in statements by a former British army soldier, who is on trial for manufacturing guns in Ballinahinch in the county for loyalist death squads.

The former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment of the British army, Samuel McCoubrey (49) is charged with making Sten sub-machine guns and components for a thousand Uzi sub-machine guns in his light engineering factory in the Co. Down town between 1971 and 1988. In his statement he alleges that Councillor Cochrane approached him saying he was representing a loyalist paramilitary organisation and wanted 80 sub-machine guns made. Later the RUC policeman Orr, who was stationed in West Belfast arrived to collect some of them from him. Orr has since been "suspended" from duty.

JOB BIAS IN DERRY, TYRONE

DURING JANUARY both Coleraine local council in Co. Derry and the Fire Authority in the Six Counties have been found guilty of job discrimination against Catholics. The Fire Authority was found guilty by the British-run Fair Employment Agency (FEA) of discrimination against a Catholic who applied four times for a post as a part-time fireman over a nine-year period.

Mr. Sean Kerr (29) from Dungannon, Co. Tyrone was turned down on each occasion and each post was awarded to a Protestant. The investigation revealed that all 19 firemen stationed at Dungannon are Protestants. The town itself is 50% Catholic, 50% Protestant and no Catholic has been appointed to the fire service in living mem-

ory. The Fire Authority on Tuesday, January 23 last, decided not to appeal the finding of discrimination and have accepted the jobs bias verdict.

ANOTHER SOP

The enforcing of equality of opportunity has always proved impossible within the sectarian struc-

Charlie Lavery and George O'Toole, he was interned in the Forties in Crumlin Road and never wavered in his support for those who worked for a free and united Ireland.

The sympathy of Sinn Féin Poblachtach is extended to the Harte family. Leaba i measc na nGael go raibh aige.

DAN HARTE R.I.P.

REPUBLICANS in Lurgan, Co. Armagh were saddened at the death during January of Dan Harte, one of the oldest Republicans in the area and a founder member of the National Graves Association in the town.

A contemporary of

ture of the Six Counties however and Britain's new Fair Employment Act which came into force this month is regarded by many as another sop to international, and especially US interests, that in any event will not change the status quo.

This point is borne out by the appointment at the same time to the British Government body "over-seeing fair employment" in the local councils in the Six Counties of the chief executive of the same Coleraine Borough Council which has been found guilty of discrimination!

The Council was exposed recently as employing no Catholics among its 15 senior staff positions and concern was expressed at the low numbers of Catholics in non-manual jobs. Eddie Andrews, Chief Executive of Coleraine Borough Council, was nevertheless appointed to the local government staff in what has been described as a "total insult to Catholics".



'STALKERGATE'

AS JOHN STALKER, the former Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester, hands over documents which he claims are the minutes of a British cabinet meeting at which it was decided to withdraw him from the Northern Ireland investigation, there are renewed calls for a public inquiry into the Stalker affair.

The former RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, entered into the fray claiming that Stalker's document is a personal memorandum in an official engagement diary which he kept in his office at RUC headquarters in Belfast. Hermon has consistently rejected claims that there was a conspiracy to remove John Stalker from the inquiry into RUC shoot-to-kill operations in 1982, mostly in the Co. Armagh area in which at least 7 unarmed Republicans and civilians were gunned down.

Stalker was suspended from his force and withdrawn from the Six Counties in May 1986 after it emerged that he himself was under investigation in Manchester for links with a business man there, Mr. Kevin Taylor, who was being investigated for supposed fraud charges.

ALL CHARGES DROPPED

This investigation began in 1985 and ended during January in Manchester Crown Court when all charges were dropped against Taylor and three associates.

The five year investigation cost £1 million. The London *Independent* newspaper said that the Taylor/Stalker case constitutes "a centre of infection threatening public confidence in the integrity of the government" - that is a political decision was taken not only to discredit John Stalker in order to cast doubt on his inquiry into RUC shoot-to-kill operations, but to "mount a ruinous prosecution against an innocent man to achieve that end".

Stalker's document allegedly bears the initials of three men, RA - either Sir Robert (now Lord) Armstrong, then Cabinet Secretary or Sir Robert Andrew, then permanent under-secretary in the 'Northern Ireland Office', PM - Sir Philip Myers, Inspector of Constabulary for the North-West of England and CS - Colin Sampson, the man who investigated Stalker and replaced him on the shoot-to-kill inquiry which subsequently became another cover-up.

The analogy with Watergate in the USA is becoming more apt as times goes on!

IN ÓMÓS SHEÁIN SABHAT

A LARGE CROWD of Republicans from throughout the 32 Counties attended the 32nd Annual Seán Sabhat Commemoration organised by an Coiste Cuimhneacháin in Limerick, Sunday, January 7. Beginning at 12.45pm they paraded from Bedford Row in very bad weather to Mount St. Laurence's Cemetery where Seán Sabhat is laid to rest in the Republican Plot.

Altogether there were six carloads of Special Branchmen present at the ceremony, a mark of the ongoing collaboration that remains the hallmark of the 26-county state, 33 years after Seán Sabhat laid down his life at Brookeborough in Co. Fermanagh, fighting against British Occupation Forces.

Gathered around the large Celtic Cross at the graveside an Cathaoirleach Des Long mentioned the fact that Seán Sabhat had found the true Republican road only after trying to use the Leinster House 26-county assembly and other institutions. He tried these other roads and failed, he said.

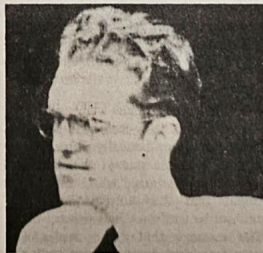
He called on Kitty O'Brien, Corcaigh, to recite a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge. Jack O'Donnell laid a wreath on behalf of Coiste Cuimhneacháin Seán Sabhat and Bertie McCormack laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement. Bertie was the second man to

be interned by the Fianna Fáil administration. The Last Post and Reveille was played by a bugler.

The main speaker was Aileen McCarry, a native of Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, who has lived for many years in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. Her husband Frank was a Sinn Féin councillor on Moyle District Council for many years.

NO OTHER MEANS

Recalling the week of almost national mourning that followed the deaths of Seán Sabhat and Fearghal Ó hAnluain at Brookeborough in Co. Fermanagh on



• Seán Sabhat

New Year's Day 1957 Aileen McCarry said that their deaths had shocked many people into realising the depth of their convictions which were at one with Pádraic Pearse's when he said: "I know of no other means by which a nation's freedom can be attained, and when attained, maintained, except by armed men".

Describing Seán Sabhat as "no impetuous youth" but "a leader of the finest calibre" she said that his vision was that

of Pearse's: "Éire Saor agus Gaelach - Ireland not Free merely, but Gaelic as well". "After the election of 1948 he realised the futility of involvement in constitutional politics in a Two-State Ireland. He resigned from Clann na Poblachta".

TWO-STATE IRELAND

"In his own publication in Irish called 'An Guth' (The Voice) he outlined the problems facing Ireland then, as now:

1. The Border, dividing the country, imposed and maintained by force, setting up a Two-State Ireland;
2. An Béarlachas (Anglicism), Ireland unduly influenced by a foreign language, culture and customs;
3. Emigration/Unemployment in a divided country still economically tied to Britain whose unemployed were forced to emigrate.

"Seán Sabhat saw that political solutions had failed. The time for talking was past. It was time to act. The raid on Brookeborough Barracks became a legend and overnight physical defeat was turned into spiritual victory."



• Marching to the Mansion House along Nassau Street, Dublin, Saturday, January 20.



• Leaving Kilreekil, Co. Galway on the road for Ballin...

MAYO TO DUBLIN WALK COINCIDES WITH FIRST DAIL ANNIVERSARY

All-Ireland Democracy Campaign Launched

Le Ruairí Ó Conchúir

IT BEGAN IN MAYO. At 9am on Friday morning, January 12 nearly two dozen men, women and children gathered at the home in Cross village, 24 miles north of Galway, of Comdt.-General Tomás Maguire, who at the age of 97 remains the last living link with the All-Ireland Democratic Assemblies of the revolutionary period of 1916-23. The first leg of the 163-mile Walk for All-Ireland Democracy would take us into Galway city and a well-earned rest.

Before setting off Tom Maguire, who was unable to join us in person because of a bout of 'flu, sent a message of encouragement:

"I am very happy to know that you are marching to Dublin for All-Ireland Democracy. It is of the utmost importance that the denial of Democracy in Ireland, and the way it was done, and perpetuated be made known to the Irish people first, at home and abroad, and to the whole world.

"All the people of Ireland should have the power, since denied them, of voting in an All-Ireland election, so that the Third Dail Eireann will become a reality. The Crown Forces must leave our country, no matter what part of Ireland they are stationed in.

"Go raibh rath Dé ar bhúr gcuid oibre."

Tomás MacUídhir

As the march went out of Cross towards Co. Galway and Headford people appeared to give encouragement by the roadside and motorists stopped to take leaflets and wish us well. We all felt that the starting point was entirely appropriate.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

In the towns of Headford and Galway that first day, and in every town and village for the next eight days when the walkers stopped for a rest, a cup of tea or lunch - Oranmore, Loughrea, Kilreekil, Ballinasloe, Athlone, Moate, Kilbeggan, Tyrellspass, Kinnefad, Enfield, Kilcock, Maynooth, Leixlip and Lucan - there was the opportunity to talk to people and explain what the Walk for Democracy was all about.

And the response was positive and encouraging. When told that the renewal of national democracy and freedom in Central and Eastern Europe was happening because the Soviet Union was pulling back and allowing self-determination after 40 years of domination the ordinary man or woman in the street could immediately see the parallel with Britain's presence in Ireland.

If British occupation and the British army are withdrawn will the situation in Ireland not unlock itself and can not change be as swift and radical as in Czechoslovakia or East Germany?

RADICAL CHANGE

Sinn Féin Poblachtach's proposals for such radical change contained in EIRE NUA (1989) were outlined in several press conferences along the route and in Dublin on January 19, the eve of the Walkers arriving in Dublin. These proposals outline a highly decentralised system of government with provincial parliaments for Ulster, Connacht, Leinster and Munster and control of decision-making for local majorities in communities to the district level.

This would involve economic as well as political democracy, allowing all employees below management level a direct say in the decision-making process in their companies.

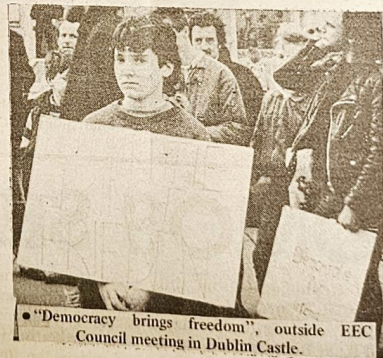
And the point was frequently made to us that Section 31 had its counterpart in every dictatorship in Eastern Europe - indeed among the charges that Erich Honecker, the former East German leader is now facing is "controlling the media".

ILLUSTRATED

The extent of that control in partitioned Ireland was pathetically illustrated by the reporter from one of the new local FM radio stations who mistakenly thought that the words "Sinn Féin" could not be used on the airwaves.

The message that came across with clarity from our coast-to-coast walk this January is that if the people can be reached behind the wall of censorship erected by the British and their satellites in Leinster House they will respond. The Campaign for All-Ireland (and genuine local) Democracy is up and running, calling on the British to leave us in peace to decide our own future.

We have to convince people, despite all the obstacles placed in our way, that Irish democracy restored will be the crucial first step in solving Ireland's problems.



• "Democracy brings freedom", outside EEC Council meeting in Dublin Castle.



• The Radio Tara mast issue highlighted in Co. Meath.

THE WALK for All-Ireland Democracy arrived in Dublin on Saturday, January 20 by way of Leam, Ballyfermot, Inchore, Kilmainham, moving down Thomas Street at 2.30pm. The walkers were joined by an accordion band from Co. Antrim, flag-bearers and a large crowd from all over the country at the top of Dame Street.

At Dublin Castle the letter was handed in to the EEC Council of Ministers meeting there to discuss the development and growth of democracy throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The letter was signed by the secretary of the Council of Ministers, Caoimhín Mac Cárthaigh, Gaillimh, who organised the Walk, accompanied by Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Uachtarán, Dáil Éireann, Leas-Uachtarán, Cathleen Knowlton, Rúnai, Sinn Féin.



Ballinsloe, Sunday, January 4.



Day one. Arriving in Galway after a 24-mile walk.

Dublin Castle Protest

lachtach.

Stating that it was the 71st Anniversary of the last occasion when the Irish people in an All-Ireland parliament asserted the democratic rights of the Irish nation, the letter went on to say:

"As one of Europe's oldest nations the Irish people are denied their inalienable right to true democracy by England, a member of the European Community.

"That denial has obtained for centuries and has led to wars, famine, suppression of our culture and language and the current insurrectionary state in the north-eastern part of our island.

BIRMINGHAM SIX

"Britain's arbitrary and colonial rule of Ireland must cease. The right of the Irish people to true democracy is being asserted now as it has been in every generation and we call on the EC Council of Ministers to support that demand. As a beginning, the council must de-

mand the immediate release of the Birmingham Six who have been unjustly and cruelly imprisoned for the past fifteen years."

Outside on Dame Street the crowd held up placards in Irish, English, German and French: "Demokratie Bringt Frieden", "A Bas l'Administration Britannique", "Deireadh le Eiseach-adadh", "End Censorship" among others.

The march made its way from there down Westmoreland Street to the GPO in O'Connell Street where a rally was held. Dáithí Ó Conaill announced the names of those who completed the whole walk from Mayo and Michael Hegarty (Clare) thanked everyone who participated, gave billets and sustenance and financial support along the way.

FORCE AND FRAUD

The first speaker was Ruairí Óg O Brádaigh (Roscommon) who recalled the words of the Declaration of Independence on January 21, 1919 that English rule in this country

"is and always has been based upon force and fraud and maintained by military occupation against the declared will of the people which we will never tolerate and that we demand the evacuation of our country by the English garrison."

Referring to political extradition he said that Chief Justice Tom O'Higgins' return in 1982 resulting in the handing over since of Dominic McGlinchey, Robert Russell, Gerry Harte and Paul Kane to the British in the Six Counties has reduced the 26 Counties to a satellite state without either sovereignty or respect.

He quoted Birmingham Six prisoner Paddy Hill when he spoke out publicly against extradition by Dublin in July 1989. Sinn Féin Poblachtach intended to highlight this national treachery at every forum, national and international, in the next six months and beyond, he said.

Michael Cunningham (Cork) spoke of the £1.1

billion invested abroad by native capitalists during 1988 while £3.1 billion in profits was taken out of the country by foreign multinational companies operating here.

GRANT-AIDED MULTINATIONALS

"The massive debts owed by the Free State arise as a result of this scheme of grant-aiding multinationals while the workers, the unemployed, the old, the sick and the handicapped are being told to tighten their belts.

"Mr. Haughey and Mr. Collins' high-sounding words in condemning the Polish and Romanian secret police brought some ironic smiles to the Cork ESB workers who were arrested under the Offences Against the State Act by our own home-grown "Securitate" while exercising their right to strike for better standards during the ESB strike in 1985."

Events such as this today, he said, set the ground for future victories. "We aim to expel British imperialism and its oppressive laws and put the Irish people back in control of their country by institut-

ing a system of participatory democracy as detailed in the *EIRE NUA* programme."

Deasún Daltún (Kildare) addressed himself to the young people: "The young people of Ireland must come out and demand their basic rights, the right to live and work in their own country, the right to a decent education system and an end to a two-tier system of health. While ordinary people die at home or in hospital corridors, Brian Lenihan can fly to the Mayo Clinic in the USA.

DEDICATION AND RESOLVE

We of Sinn Féin Poblachtach have shown by our walk across Ireland that we have the dedication and resolve to demand real democracy in Ireland that has been subverted by the two artificial statelets imposed upon the people of Ireland by Britain in 1921. We call on the youth of Ireland to aid us in this work."

Eamon Larkin (South Armagh), Leas-Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach made a strong appeal to the people in Ireland not

to allow the Dublin regime extradite men like Dermot Finucane to the British, a man whose own brother, lawyer Pat Finucane, had been gunned down by British assassins after being targeted by British minister Douglas Hogg in the British House of Commons. There is no such thing as British justice, he said, and there is no such thing as British democracy in Ireland either.

MANSION HOUSE

The parade re-formed after the rally and marched to the Mansion House in Dawson Street where the First Dáil assembled 71 years ago. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh spoke to the crowd there and called on Seosamh O Maoleoin, Co. na hIar-Mhí to read the Declaration of Independence as Gaeilge. Following this Seán O Brádaigh (BAC) read the document in French and Cathleen Knowles, Ard-Rúnaí read the English version. This was the same procedure followed by the All-Ireland TDs in 1919.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiain by the accordion band.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

21st January 1919
First Dáil Éireann

"Whereas the Irish People is by right a free people:

"And whereas for seven hundred years the Irish People has never ceased to repudiate and has repeatedly protested in arms against foreign usurpation:

"And whereas English rule in this country is, and always has been, based upon force and fraud and maintained by military occupation against the declared will of the people:

"And whereas the Irish Republic was proclaimed in Dublin on Easter Monday, 1916, by the Irish Republican Army, acting on behalf of the Irish People:

"And whereas the Irish People is resolved to secure and maintain its complete independence in order to promote the common weal, to re-establish justice, to provide for future defence, to ensure peace at home and good will with all nations, and to constitute a national policy based upon the people's will with equal right and equal opportunity for every citizen:

"And whereas at the threshold of a new era in history the Irish electorate has in the General Election of December, 1918, seized the first occasion to declare by an overwhelming majority its firm allegiance to the Irish Republic:

"Now, therefore, we, the elected Representatives of the ancient Irish People in National Parliament assembled, do, in the name of the Irish Nation, ratify the establishment of the Irish Republic and pledge ourselves and our people to make this declaration effective by every means at our command:

"We ordain that the elected Representatives of the Irish People alone have power to make laws binding on the people of Ireland, and that the Irish Parliament is the only Parliament to which that people will give its allegiance:

"We solemnly declare foreign government in Ireland to be an invasion of our national right which we will never tolerate, and we demand the evacuation of our country by the English Garrison:

"We claim for our national independence the recognition and support of every free nation in the world, and we proclaim that independence to be a condition precedent to international peace hereafter:

"In the name of the Irish People we humbly commit our destiny to Almighty God Who gave our fathers the courage and determination to persevere through long centuries of a ruthless tyranny, and strong in the justice of the cause which they have handed down to us, we ask His Divine blessing on this the last stage of the struggle we have pledged ourselves to carry through to freedom."

(Dáil Éireann: Minutes of the Proceedings of the First Parliament of the Republic of Ireland, 21st January 1919.)

GAEIL Ó THUAIDH I gCRUACHÁS

D'OSCAIL grúpa in Iúir agus Morn, Bun-scoil lánGhaelach san Iúir trí mhí ó shin agus suas go dtí an lá inniu níl tacaíocht airgid ar bith faighte acu ón aire oideachas sna Sé Chontae, Brian Mawhinney.

Is léir go bhfuil córas follasach cinéidheighte i gcúrsaí teanga ar siúl ag Oifig Tuaisceart Eirinn, a deir urlabhra thar ceann muintir na Gaelscoile.

"Dá mbeadh Béarla a úsáid sa scoil seo ní bheadh fadhb ar bith deontas airgid a fháil ó Mawhinney. Ach de bharr gur scoil lánGhaelach í tugann sé diúltú glan dúinne, cosúil leis an Scoil lánGhaelach i mBéal Feirste le haon bhliain déag anuas. Úsáideann sé an léitheolaí go dtéistáinn scoil ar bith sa Tuaisceart 200 daltaí ar a laghad a bheith acu chun deontas airgid a fháil ó Stormont.

"Níl anoch sotal agus fimíneacht na Breataine in ionad gníomh truaich-rofoich le beartú dea-intinneach na ndaoine.

"Téann an córas oideachais seo glan in aghaidh an chórais nua oscailte atá ag scaipeadh ar fud na h-Eorpa.

"De dheasca an diúltú ó Mawhinney braitheann an scoil seo ar mhórchroíl na gnáth daoine san Iúir agus Morn chun seomraí scoile agus tuarastal na múinteora a shóiláthar.

"Tá sé tuille go maith ag na páistí scoile aire a bhíad níos feara a fháil ón roinn oideachas. An bhfuil oideachasóir tuiscenach ar bith sa roinn oideachas sna Sé Contae-tha?" a deir preas-ráiteas ón Ghaelscoil.

MÁLA POIST



JUSTICE FOR BIRMINGHAM SIX

A chara,

As we approach the 1990s and much is being made of the fact that the Dublin Government is about to assume the Presidency of the EC it must be said, to say the least of it, that the only thing that the two Fianna Fáil TDs who visited the Birmingham Six on behalf of the Government reported was to "hope" that by next Christmas there would be better news.

We have, of course, always to be grateful for even small mercies and I have no desire to do or say anything that would add to the misery of these six unfortunate Irish prisoners by a moment. But one of the reasons why this outrage took so long to get on to the front pages in the first place has been the failure of so many of us who have campaigned over the years for many of the various cases to keep certain basic facts before the public mind, in the hope that a "quiet diplomatic pressure", "comm- on decency" and even such a dubious factor as British political good-will could and would work.

It is with no sense of "we told you so" therefore that in noting the efforts of Mr. Andrews and Mr. Stafford - who in fairness have shown more public concern than most about the fate of Irish people at the hands of British justice in recent times - that I feel we must recall that in 1974

alone no less than 18 life or long sentences were passed on Irish people, all totally innocent, in Britain.

A decade and a half later only three of the Guildford Four have been totally vindicated while cases like Judith Ward, who has spent her 16th Christmas in jail for something she did not do, are not even on the "political agenda" having been pushed off the media focus in recent times by the euphoria of the minor advances and volumes of hot air that has been coming from Irish late arrivals on a bandwagon which so many worked so diligently to prevent from rolling in the first place at the time it mattered - 16 years ago.

I have before me as I write a list of nine basic demands, based on factual investigation of the situation, put forward by the Irish in Britain and in the North over the years. Only in those early days, at least, we did not extradite people for offences that had a clear political dimension. And in those days it was at least possible to argue that some of the dishonesty we now know for a fact involved in the "Irish cases" would not be believed by some of the more "decent" members of the Irish establishment. These refused to believe in the Heavy Gang and Nicky Kelly trial nightmares in their own backyard, either.

It is sad to see Mr. Andrews and others now hinting at the very least, that media publicity and political pressure are, unfortunately, necessary to try and get the Birmingham Six cases resolved. Not because we would not rejoice if these men were released at once under whatever formula ("clemency" was the word most frequently on the lips of Gerry Collins once he got involved as Foreign Affairs Minister, after presiding over the Irish justice system for most of the decade from 1977 to 1987) but because it seems there is a general acceptance now

for Mrs. Thatcher in our time.

But in view of the big deal being made all round about the removal of "Category A" status from the Birmingham Six, the point needs to be made that as far back as 1978, it was proven beyond reasonable doubt - simply by checking the statistical factual record - that "Category A" treatment was more an extra measure of vindictive punishment meted out by the authorities to Irish prisoners than anything to do with special security, protecting the public etc, not to mention any ideas of criminal reform, prisoner rehabilitation etc. Again the record is there for those who wish to see.

It is as clear as all the sins of omission by the various Dublin Governments and Embassy officials in their dealings with the Irish in Britain and in the North over the years. Only in those early days, at least, we did not extradite people for offences that had a clear political dimension. And in those days it was at least possible to argue that some of the dishonesty we now know for a fact involved in the "Irish cases" would not be believed by some of the more "decent" members of the Irish establishment. These refused to believe in the Heavy Gang and Nicky Kelly trial nightmares in their own backyard, either.

As a member of the Birmingham Six Committee and Winchester Three Committee, I would ask SAOIRSE readers to write to the above prisoners. Addresses can be got by contacting the Birmingham Six Committee at Usher House, 40-41 Usher Quay, Dublin 1. The Winchester prisoner John McCann can be written to in Frankland Prison, Durham, England. Newsletters on the Birmingham Six can be got from myself or the Dublin office of the Birmingham Six Committee. A booklet on the Birmingham Six by Derek Dunne will soon be

that only political action and pressure can resolve what was always, of course, a political situation.

The saddest thing of all would be that the Government which is taking over the EC Presidency would accept that a neighbouring member state of the Community can only be forced to grant human rights and basic freedom for the Irish (guest citizens from another member state) by political dealing. We seem to have lost faith in the prospect of ever clearing the names of all wrongly convicted Irish prisoners in Britain, the North or even (dare one say it?) in the South and seem resigned to plead for "clemency" or "special category" compromises rather than a bold championing of real law and order, full and fair human rights and genuine democracy and self-determination for the Irish nation.

Surely a son of Derry parents like the incoming EC President, must realise that Germany is not the only nation with an historical legacy that raises all sorts of problems, including faith in due process on the other side of the various borders?

Nollaig O Gadhra
Na Forbacha
Gaillimh

* * *

A chara,

As a member of the Birmingham Six Committee and Winchester Three Committee, I would ask SAOIRSE readers to write to the above prisoners. Addresses can be got by contacting the Birmingham Six Committee at Usher House, 40-41 Usher Quay, Dublin 1. The Winchester prisoner John McCann can be written to in Frankland Prison, Durham, England.

Newsletters on the Birmingham Six can be got from myself or the Dublin office of the Birmingham Six Committee. A booklet on the Birmingham Six by Derek Dunne will soon be

in the shops at a cost of £2.50 a copy.

We welcome anyone willing to help in any way big or small.

John Houlihan
Droumroe, Currow,
Kilrarney
Co. Kerry



● Pádraic Pearse

A chara,

Dublin Corporation have refused the gift of a statue of Patrick Pearse as a schoolmaster. The same Corporation now proposes to commemorate (1) a tramp (2) a half-wit. Why not Honour Bright?

In 1848 John Mitchell said that "Dublin was a City of Genteel Dastards". Dean Swift provided money for the building of an Asylum as he said it was badly needed. The "AOS-DÁNA" is not DÁNA enough to provide a satirist. Should not the names of these Councilors go down in history along with the names of "FORTY-COATS" and "BANG BANG"? Surely there is material for a comic song here?

P. Caomhánach
Sráid Fhearchair
BÁC 2

AGM

The AGM of Cumann Liam Mellows, Baile Atha Cliath took place recently and elected the following Officer Board:

Cathaoirleach Tom Concanon, Leas-Cathaoirleach: Tony Ruane, Rúnaí Mary Moynihan, Cisteoir John Gilraine, Delegates to the Comhairle Ceantair Con Horgan and John Gilraine.

Women in Ireland's Fight for Freedom

● THE EASTER RISING - PART 1

IN AUGUST 1915 the death took place of the old Fenian, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. It was the biggest nationalist demonstration to take place before the Easter Rising and large numbers of uniformed members of Cumann na mBan took part in the funeral cortege, something that caused a great deal of comment.

Preparations were continuing for the planned Rising and Cumann na mBan continued to raise funds and train their members to be in readiness when called upon. Most members simply thought they were getting ready for marches or manoeuvres at Easter 1916, but the more active knew that their training would be used for something more than that. The week before the Rising was spent by Cumann na mBan branches making up medical kits.

When MacNeill's order appeared in the papers, cancelling all parades and manoeuvres for Easter Sunday, (because of the capture of Roger Casement and the loss of the expected German guns) everything was thrown into disarray. The Volunteer leadership decided to overrule MacNeill and began to send couriers throughout the country with new orders, postponing the Rising until Easter Monday. Most of the couriers were women, who had a greater chance of getting through than did the men.

The Proclamation of 1916 guaranteed equal



● Cumann na mBan, Irish Citizen Army and Clan na Gael members, who took part in the 1916 Rising.

rights and equal opportunities to all citizens, a provision insisted on by James Connolly. Hanna Sheehy Skeffington had also been chosen (without her knowledge) as one of the five members of a civil provisional government which would come into being if the Rising continued for any length of time.

90 WOMEN

About 90 women took

part in the Easter Rising, 60 from Cumann na mBan and the rest from the Irish Citizens Army (ICA). The women of Cumann na mBan had great difficulty in convincing the Volunteer leaders that their services were essential to the Rising - de Valera refused point blank to allow women into Bolands Mills and the others were reluctant to allow, the

women into what the men saw as combatant positions. They saw the women in the role of Red Cross nurses. It is an indication of the women's determination to fight that so many of them did eventually take part.

The women were responsible for keeping lines of communication open between the various garrisons, carrying food and ammunition supplies through the many British Army checkpoints in the city, as well as cooking and nursing the wounded.

James Connolly had ensured that the women of the ICA had their roles allotted to them well in advance of the Rising. Most of them were armed and before taking over as second-in-command at Stephen's Green, Countess Markievicz and other ICA women drove first aid supplies around the city and commandeered vehicles for use as barricades.

Brón ar an mBás

FRANK J. McGOVERN, USA

IRISH REPUBLICANS in the USA and Ireland were saddened to learn of the death on November 18 last of Frank J. McGovern of Newark, New Jersey. A life-long Republican and native of Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan, Frank emigrated to the United States in the 1920s and owned the famous McGovern's Tavern in Newark for over 50 years. He was 87 years old.

After his arrival in the United States Frank McGovern worked in construction in New Jersey and at the end of Prohibition in the 1930s he opened the bar which was to become a home away from home for thousands of Irish emigrants up to the present day. A tremendous father figure, he regarded the young Irish emigrants almost as his foster children.

A quiet, soft-spoken man, he was always ready to help with a phone call, assistance in getting a job or a place to stay. He was a founder of the Newark St. Patrick's Day parade and grand marshal in 1960, and was enormously influential in the New Jersey area.

His wife, the former Catherine Martin, died in 1981 and he is survived by his two sisters, Marg-

aret McBrien of Long Island and Tessie McKiernan of Co. Cavan, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Active in the Republican cause before leaving Ireland he was born 20 yards from the British-imposed Border and was a strong supporter of the movement throughout his life in the USA. He will be sorely missed.

The National Committee and New Jersey Chapters of Cumann na Saoirse, the Sinn Féin Poblachtach support organisation in the USA extends deepest sympathy to the relatives, comrades and friends of Frank McGovern - ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.



• The late Frank McGovern, of Newark, New Jersey.

Jean McAlinden O'Hare

THERE WAS widespread sorrow and regret among Republicans at the sudden death of Mrs. Jean O'Hare of Newry on Monday, January 22 last. A veteran Republican, Jean O'Hare was the Ulster representative honoured by CABHAIR - Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents' Fund at their Testimonial Dinner in May 1989.

Jean McAlinden was born in Lurgan in 1917. While she was in exile in England she met her future husband, the late John O'Hare. After their marriage they returned to set up home on a small farm in South Armagh.

Jean's brother, the late Art McAlinden was a former OC, South Armagh Oglagh na h-Eireann. For both herself and her husband John, working for the Republican Movement was central to their way of life. John was very active in Green Cross and was a former chairman of Newry and South Down Comhairle Ceantair.

The funeral Mass on Wednesday, January 24 took place at the Sacred Heart Church, Cloughogue, Newry where the coffin draped with the National Flag was carried into the church by her grieving sons. In his address the celebrant Fr. Devlin PP described Jean as a distinguished member of the community.

Members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach provided a guard of honour as the cortege passed along the Dublin Road and also acted as pallbearers. At the graveside Tomás O Lonergáin addressed the mourners in Irish and Eamon O Mathúna recited a decade of the Ros-



• Jean O'Hare

ary. Among the attendance was Eamon Larkin, former Newry and Mourne Councillor and Vice-President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Sorcha Uí Mhurchú, Newry spoke at the graveside and described Jean O'Hare as "an Irish woman cast in the mould of Maud Gonne and Countess Markievicz. She wanted absolute and unconditional withdrawal of the British from Ire-

land - she would settle for nothing less.

"Without people like Jean O'Hare the struggle for Irish Freedom would have ground to a halt long ago. She was not content just to eat and work and sleep. She wanted the things that the human spirit cries out for - justice, freedom, democracy".

On behalf of SAOIRSE sympathy is extended to the relatives and friends of Jean O'Hare. Leaba i measc na nGael go raibh aici.

COMHBHRÓN

DELANEY, It was with deep regret that the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach learned of the death, on Monday morning, January 29 last, of the death in her home in Athlone, Co. Westmeath of Máire Og Delaney (née Ní Bhrádaigh) sister of Ruairí and Seán Ó Brádaigh. To her husband Jim, son Eoin and daughter Jeanne and to the Ó Brádaigh family, we extend our sincere and deepest sympathy. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

FAGAN, Sincere sympathy is extended to Niall Fagan and family, Summerhill, Co. Meath on the tragic death in December of their son Pádraic. From Comhairle Atha Cliath, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Go ndéana Dia grásta ar a hanam.

FAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Niall Fagan and family, Summerhill, Co. Meath on the tragic death in December of their son Pádraic. From Comhairle Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Beannacht Dé lena anam.

FAGAN, Pádraic. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family circle and friends of Pádraic Fagan who died in December. From the Central Committee of CABHAIR - Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

FERRIS, Kerry Comhairle Ceantair extends sincere sympathy to the wife, nephew, nieces and friends of the late John (Ace) Ferris, Church Hill, Tralee. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

FITZPATRICK, Comhairle Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach extends deepest sympathy to the family of John Fitzpatrick of Newry who died recently. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

KISSANE, A vote of sympathy was passed to the husband and family of the late Nora Kissane, Lanesrough North, Ballyunion, Co. Kerry, at a recent meeting of Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Go ndéana Dia grásta ar a hanam.

LAVELLE, Sincere sympathy is extended to the Lavelle family of Belleeks, Co. Armagh on the death of their father Joe in December. From Comhairle

Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Go ndéana Dia grásta ar a hanam.

McKEE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Billy McKee on the death of his mother Elizabeth in Belfast on January 21 last. Also to her daughters, sons, relatives and friends. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Solas na bhFlaitheas dá hanam.

McKENNA, Sympathy is extended to Paddy McKenna, Ballinlough and Mary McKenna, Craigavon on the death on January 22 last of their father Joseph of Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. From Bearna Uladh/South Armagh Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

McKENNA, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy McKenna and his sister Mary on the recent death of their father Joseph of Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Beannacht Dé lena anam.

McMAHON, Comhairle Laighean Sinn Féin Poblachtach expresses deepest sympathy to Paddy McMahon, Dundalk on the recent death of his nephew, Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy McMahon, Dundalk on the recent death of his nephew, From Comhairle Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

MAHER, O'GORMAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán and Moll Maher, Kibeggan, Co. Westmeath on the death of Seán's brother James and Moll's brother John O'Gorman, who both died recently. From the Seán Costelloe/Martin Hurson Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Westmeath. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

O BRYAN, At a recent meeting of Kerry Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, a vote of sympathy was extended to the O Bryan family, Killynny, Tralee on the death of their sister, Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam.

O'HARE, Bearna Uladh/South Armagh Sinn Féin Poblachtach extends deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Jean O'Hare, Quarry Lane, Dublin Road, Newry, who died during January. A sister of the late Art McAlinden, she was a life long Republican. Leaba i measc na nGael go raibh aici.

O'HARE, Sincere sympathy is extended to the O'Hare family, Quarry Lane, Dublin Road, Newry, on the death of their mother Mrs. Jean O'Hare during January. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Solas na bhFlaitheas dá hanam.

ed he took a job as a chef on a luxury liner which was launched at Belfast and sailed around South America. I always visited Joe at Christmas but alas I was to be denied this pleasure on last Christmas.

May the soil of Ireland rest gently on him.

Barney Larkin
also
Joe Campbell
Newry

Comóradh

Vol. Kevin Coen

VOLUNTEER Kevin Coen was killed in action at Cassidy's Cross in Co. Fermanagh by British Occupation Forces on January 20, 1975. Badly wounded by a British undercover squad, he was left bleeding and in pain for eight hours before he died. A native of Riverstown, Co. Sligo, the 15th Anniversary of his sacrifice was marked on Sunday, January 14 last by a commemoration, organised by his friends and comrades in Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

The parade formed up at Sooley Chapel after 11.30 Mass and led by a colour party and lone piper, Noel Farrell, the large local turnout marched the mile or so to the local cemetery. Parade Marshall was Seán McGoldrick.

At the graveside Vincent O'Doherty, Cathairleach, presided. Jimmy Coen, a brother of Kevin's, laid a

wreath on behalf of the Coen family, Tommy Cull laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement and Paddy McNeema laid a wreath on behalf of the National Graves Association, Sligo. Co. Leitrim Ard Chomhairle member Declan Curneen gave the oration in which he pointed to the democratic changes now taking place in Eastern Europe and the



• Vol. Kevin Coen

hypocrisy of British and 26-county politicians and "continuing to deny the Irish people their right to All-Ireland Democracy.

"The restoration of that democracy would be the fulfillment of the ideals for which Kevin Coen gave his life," he said. The ceremony concluded with the piper playing Amhrán na bhFiann.

Joe Quinn

AS TWO OLD comrades of the late Joe Quinn we attended the removal of his remains to the Church of St. Paul in November and we would like to pay a little tribute to his memory by recalling his time resident in Newry and his contribution to the Republican Cause during that time.

When Joe was only 15 years old he was jailed in Crumlin Road and only after Paul Rose, a Labour MP at Westminster, raised the issue about a juvenile being put among adult criminals was Joe taken and put in St. Patrick's School.

During the 1950s when the *United Irishman* was banned and one could expect five years jail for having just one copy Joe Quinn had the task of taking four dozen from the Border each issue. Many times I used to wait

on him till 2 o'clock in the morning at Castle Street in Newry waiting for my supply. Sometimes Joe would walk the five miles and other times he would get a lift from the two Special Branchmen (Whitecroft and Harry Crawford). Little did they know they were helping Joe to break the law by transporting four dozen banned papers in their car.

About 1957 Joe was sentenced to five years for having a few rounds of ammunition in his house. I think when he was released

Anonn is Anall



FREE
JIM CLARKE

KILLARNEY Urban District Council members have joined in the call for the release of Letterkenny man Jim Clarke who is being held in Portlaoise Prison awaiting extradition to the British Occupying Forces in the North.

They have agreed to support a call from Donegal County Council to request the 26-county Minister for Justice to release Mr. Clarke.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Seán O'Grady and seconded by Deputy Michael Moynihan at the meeting on Monday, January 15 last.

Ballyshannon Town Commissioners also gave their support to the Donegal County Council motion at their January meeting. The motion was proposed by Commissioner Anthony O'Malley Daly and seconded by Cmr. John McIntyre.

Jim Clarke is being pursued by the British for escaping from the H-

Blocks of Long Kesh in 1983 and for the alleged attempted killing of a UDR soldier in 1977. The only evidence for this was a confession extracted through beatings while in Castlereagh RUC Interrogation Centre. He also has an alibi for the time of the attempted killing, and several witnesses including Donegal Fianna Fáil TD Dr. James McDaid to back it up.

★★★

ATHLONE GARDA COLLUSION WITH RUC

GARDA attention being paid to the 163-mile Mayo to Dublin Walk for All-Ireland Democracy in Athlone, Co. Westmeath resulted within a few hours on Monday January 15 last in the harassment of a young Co. Antrim girl by the RUC.

Former Moyle District Councillor Frank McCarry of Sinn Féin Poblachtach lodged a complaint with the Gardaí in Athlone after the incident in the town when he was stopped by the 26-county police. Within a few hours the RUC rang his home, in the Glens of Antrim, demanding to know from his 14-year-old daughter what his car was doing in the Co. Westmeath town.

Frank McCarry points out that at that time he was sitting at a public

Press Conference in Athlone and an explanation was readily available from the Gardaí who passed on the information to the RUC. In a statement issued Sinn Féin Poblachtach said:

"We regard this incident as a gross act of intimidation of a young girl which places the safety of Frank McCarry's wife and children in danger. The Gardaí's systematic passing on of information to the British Occupation Forces has once again exposed people to risk.

"The Walk for Democracy will continue undeterred by this collaboration."

★★★

SDLP TYCOON

ONE OF the SDLP's new financial backers is a property tycoon originally from Tullow, Co. Carlow but now based in London. Mr. Eddie Lawlor runs a publicly quoted company, Lawlor Land Company. The company specialises in buying and selling commercial property and is now estimated to be valued in excess of £30 million.

It is also believed Mr. Lawlor has purchased a property in an exclusive South Belfast cul-de-sac which is due to be opened in March as the SDLP party headquarters.

With such backers it is plain to see which side of the social divide the SDLP stand.

★★★

PANAMA INVASION — NO EXCUSE

SINN FÉIN Poblachtach went on record recently to deplore the United States invasion and occupation of Panama as contrary to the United Nations Charter and a violation of national sovereignty and international law.

"We have likewise condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan ten

years ago this month, the US takeover of Grenada in 1983 and indeed the British Falklands/Malvinas war in 1982," the statement said.

It continued: "While holding no brief for General Noriega — or indeed the Galtieri regime in its day — Sinn Féin Poblachtach

denies the claim exercised by these superpowers in subjugating and/or turning into client states small nations whom they regard as being in their "backyards".

"We regard President Bush's "excuses" for this latest intervention in Latin America as specious and without foundation."



ERU — ATHY

AS reported in SAOIRSE last October, the 32-man 'Emergency Response Unit' of the 26-county police, which was involved in the Athy shootings on Friday, January 12 last, was set up directly as a result of pressure from the European Commission — the non-elected law makers of the EEC.

They are armed with Heckler and Koch HK 33 automatic rifles, already used by the RUC mobile support units and the SAS. This standardising of

firearms is a preliminary move to an integration of police forces, presumably under control of Brussels.

In a statement after the Athy and Grahams Book-makers shop shootings the next day in Belfast, Sinn Féin Poblachtach President Ruairí Ó Brádaigh said that vicious shoot-to-kill actions are nothing new by the British forces in the Six Counties but asked if the speculation about the removal of the death penalty in the 26 Counties is going to increase the likelihood of Athy-style incidents?

imeachtaí

FREE THE BIRMINGHAM SIX!

WEEKLY VIGIL British Embassy

31 Merrion Road (near RDS), Dublin 4, 11.30 to 2pm, every Saturday. Contact Booterstown Support Group, Tel: 887299

* * *

QUIZ

8.30pm Tuesday
6 February
Club na Muinteoirí
Parnell Square
Dublin

* * *

SCHOOLS POSTER COMPETITION

Theme:

Justice

Prize Fund: £500

For details

Send SAE to:
Birmingham Six
Committee
Usher House
40/41 Usher Quay
Dublin 8
Closing date:
28 February, 1990

FRIENDS

OF

IRISH

FREEDOM

20th ANNUAL
BANQUET OF
AID TO IRELAND
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 10

K.O.C. Hall, West School Street, Charlestown, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Honorees: James D. Fitzgerald (President, Boston Firefighters); Philip X. Carr (Chairman, Mass. State Bureau); Eileen O'Flaherty (New Jersey President of Irish American Fenian Society). Guest Speaker: Michael Flannery. Guest of Honour: Senator Francis D. Morris. Organisers: Joe Kelly, John Hurley, Teresa King, Jim Maunsell. Commences 7pm.

DRAW RESULT

JANUARY winners in the Sinn Féin Poblachtach Dublin Draw were: £100, no. 118; £50, no. 292; £30, no. 179; £20, no. 376; five prizes of £10, nos. 236, 291, 250, 306, 367. Next draw for CABHAIR, Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund on Sunday, February 11.

PETER McNULTY COMMEMORATION

REPUBLICANS in South Down gathered at Bryansford Cemetery, Newcastle, on Sunday, January 28 for a commemoration at the graveside of Vol. Peter McNulty who was killed in action on January 26, 1972.

Members of the McNulty family were present for the ceremony after 10am Mass which was chaired by Séamus McCrickard. He sent best wishes to Eamon McNulty, a brother of the dead Volunteer, who was unable to attend through illness.

Geraldine Taylor, Belfast gave the oration after a minute's silence was



• Vol. Peter McNulty observed. She paid tribute to Peter McNulty for his unselfish ideals which saw him become OC of B Company, South Armagh Brigade, Óglagh na h-Éireann up to the time of his death.

Proceedings concluded with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

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