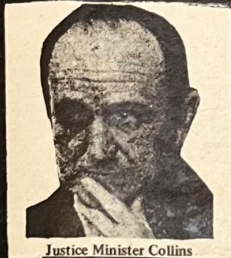


THE STARRY PLOUGH

10p.

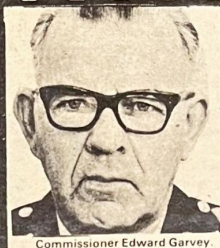
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY.



Justice Minister Collins



Tortured IRSP man



Commissioner Edward Garvey



'HIGH LEVEL SANCTION FOR TORTURE' — GARDAÍ

What RTE censored in its Politics programme (Friday Sept. 23rd) on garda torture is more important than what the programme broadcast. The evidence they had concerned proof that a deliberate attempt had been made to smash the IRSP as a political party by framing its members and that this scheme had very high authority, most likely to Ministerial level.

The interview given by IRSP man Noel Doyle was not broadcast in full. The remainder of his interview, it seems was too hot to handle by RTE. RTE let Doyle give an account of the brutality perpetrated against him but not the reasons. In the part of the interview not broadcast, Doyle specifically mentioned that his torturers had stated that they desperately wanted "something on that man Costello", referring to Seamus Costello, IRSP Cathaoirleach, who at the time was being interrogated in a Dublin Garda Station. The detectives made it clear to Doyle that they had permission from "high authority" to carry out the beatings. When Doyle asked them "what authority" they didn't answer. They repeatedly maintained that they would smash the Irish Republican Socialist Party, a legal, registered political party.

SAME ADMISSIONS

These admissions on the part of Doyle's torturers were not mere threats being used for psychological reasons. It is too much of a coincidence that the same admissions were made at approximately the same time to IRSP men in different Dublin Garda Stations, by different gardaí.

Again the detectives admitting that they "wanted" something on that man Costello is significant at a time when the Director of Public Prosecutions was refusing repeated demands from Edward Garvey, Garda Commissioner, to have Costello charged.

IRSP TRIAL LONGEST IN HISTORY

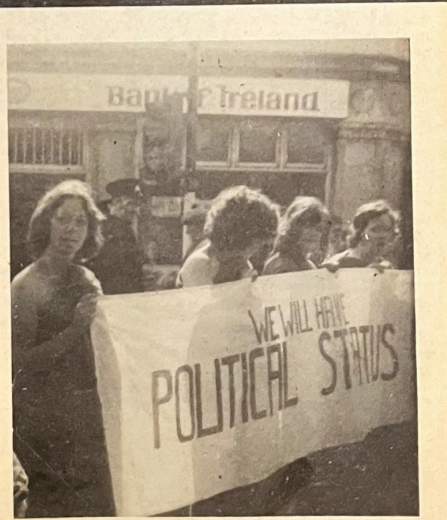
During the entire programme no mention was made of the Kildare Train robbery which after the Reynolds-Murray case became the first major case where torture was used on a wide scale. The forthcoming IRSP trial in January is

expected to be the longest in Irish history and extremely important from various legal judgements that are expected to be made. Yet no mention of the trial, of the robbery, or of the torture of eight others was made during the programme. Photographs clearly showing the results of torture were offered to RTE who refused them, despite their authenticity being previously accepted by the Irish Times and the Irish Press.

IRELAND'S WATERGATE

Torture there was, make no mistake about it. That was clear even before the RTE programme. But what was not clear is that the tortures were not isolated incidents confined to a few gardaí. It was official policy, implemented to its full logical conclusion by the deliberate attempt to smash the IRSP through false allegations, defamation, frame-ups and torture. This is the story that Noel Doyle was not allowed tell the Irish people on RTE.

The IRSP believe that nothing short of a full independent, impartial inquiry can answer the questions as to who organised, approved and participated in the torture campaign of the 'heavy gang'. The facts, when revealed, could be as important as Watergate.



Battle Roy Mason can't win SEE PAGE 3

They also threatened to burn copies of the Starry Plough every time he was selling them.

A SOCIALIST VIEW OF THE ECONOMY

We continue our column on a Socialist view of the economy and in Part Three deal with Monetary and Financial Policy.

Practitioners of "economics" have managed to make their discipline obtuse and jargon-ridden. They have given ordinary people the idea that it is a difficult and mysterious science, which deals with profound objective realities which are discoverable only by a certain kind of mind. These realities allegedly have nothing to do with human life or human decisions; they concern trends, fluctuations, cycles, market forces etc. In actual fact, economics is simply the description and prediction of certain facts, on the basis of certain key decisions about the production, distribution and exchange of wealth.

It used to be known as "the dismal science". That is because its "laws" all seemed to predict doom for the poor and wage-earners. Such were the calculations of Malthus, that to improve the lot of the poor would only make more of them die more miserably; and the "iron law of wages", that rising wages would cut "real" living standards. That one is still with us in full force today; it is all we hear from politicians, churchmen and many trade union leaders in every capitalist country, including Britain and Ireland, calling for responsibility in wage demands. It is not economics but capitalism that is dismal. We do not have to live by capitalist economics. We can live by socialist economics — from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.

Inflation and unemployment can be predicted. But only because they are a vital part of the capitalist structure. The following article shows how, by political decisions, the economic position of imperialist subjugation under Britain was maintained by the Irish Free State, and two generations of poverty and emigration forced on its citizens. The Key decision was maintaining the link with sterling.

The Treaty Settlement of 1921 conceded in theory full fiscal and financial autonomy to the 26 counties. As we showed in the last section however Britain used her position as the virtual monopoly market for Ireland's exports to crush any attempt by Dublin governments to pursue an independent economic policy. Nowhere was this more evident than in the monetary and banking field, where informal control or working through West Briton and native gombeen elements was quite sufficient to ensure that even that limited amount of independence permitted under the Treaty was not used in the interest of the Irish people.

Fiscal and financial autonomy means that the government can follow any taxation, trade and banking policy it pleases. It can create and control its own money and make any laws it likes in relation to the economy. The Currency Commission printed Free State bank-notes with the beautifully Lady Lavery's head on them and minted a new coinage on which good images of Ireland's wealth-producing animals replaced the wooden faces of Britain's monarchs but the substance was unchanged. Every Irish note could be freely exchanged for a British note every Irish shilling circulated with exactly the same specie content as an English shilling. All Ireland's massive financial resources were held in London and Ireland's monetary policy, interest rates, and the volume of credit continued to be controlled in London. The Banking Commission which sat from 1932 to 1938 reported in favour of continuing this servile relationship to British economic imperialism and a Central Bank was not created even on paper until 1946.

This is the fundamental explanation of the stagnation of the Irish economy and the persistence of emigration and unemployment.

INFLATION CAUSED EMIGRATION

But in the meantime Britain's economic power was declining in relation to the United States to which she bore the relationship of a satellite state. By the 1950's this had become obvious yet Ireland's people continued to flow into lowly paid, undesirable jobs in Britain because she had a temporary need of cheap labour. The mechanism by which Irish workers were conned into emigration was inflation.

WAGE DEMANDS NOT CAUSE OF INFLATION

Inflation simply means a fall in the value of money which means that prices rise in a way that is not fundamentally connected with a change in the conditions of demand or supply of goods and labour. It can only be caused by the supply of money being greater than the supply of goods and services that is by monetary manipulation by bankers and financiers in collusion with the political authority. Inflation is not a problem in socialist countries for this reason. As Ireland has never pursued an independent monetary policy she has been at the mercy of inflationary trends in Britain and imports her inflation. Because of the structure of the Irish economy inflation is always rather worse in Ireland. This has nothing to do with wage demands in Ireland or the level of social security but has everything to do with the failure of successive Irish governments to make a correct analysis of

Ireland's fundamental economic problems and to exert the sovereign powers of the Irish state in the material interest of the Irish people.

TRICK TO REDUCE OUR WAGES

Their profits increase in geometric proportion. Inflation is the great modern device for robbing workers of the real value of their wages and pushing through in a painless uncontested way a redistribution of National Wealth in favour of property owners and speculators. Meantime the Great Lie is peddled in the media and the institutes of higher education that it is the workers who push up wages. Even the bishops join in asking the workers to exercise "responsibility"!

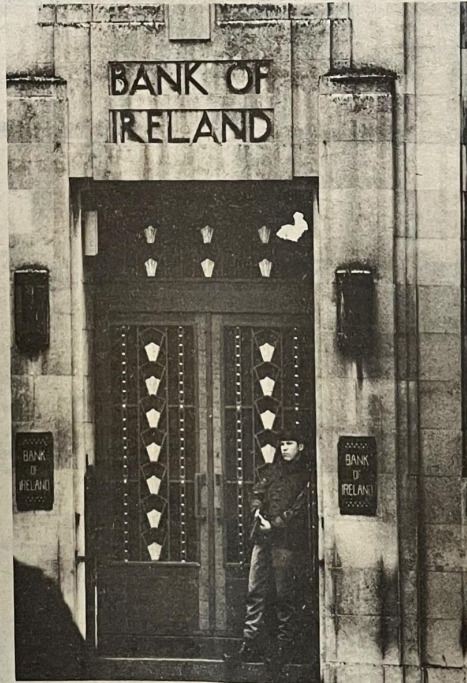
The inflation, which has been evident since 1950, with its accompanying price rises and fall in the value of money has reached giddy proportions since the 1970's. This has the added advantage of bewildering people, helping them to make imprudent decisions such as submitting to being over-charged for goods, and hiding from the working-class the grim truth that in real terms their share of the national wealth is declining. It also exposes people to manipulation by "experts" who mask the truth in carefully learned economic jargon and disguise the appalling simple reality in elaborate equations.

Inflation is always in the interest of property owners. Capitalists, manufacturers and producers always sell their goods dearer than the inputs cost as long as prices continue to rise.

Prices rise because the supply of money is increased. To make sure that only the working class in Ireland and Britain cut back on their standard of living in real sterling is reflected in the fall in the amount of foreign currency buys. Only Ireland of all the Common Market countries still continues to subsidise Britain. All other members of the Common Market can at least buy British goods cheaply. Though our national wealth has been increasing at a faster rate than Britain's all this has been used to prop up Britain's economic decay and still no government is prepared to push ahead with breaking the link with sterling though nowadays a growing number of "academic" economists admit that this is a first realistic step towards solving the problem of chronic unemployment.

INFLATION

IRSP CAN BEAT IT



The break with Sterling

Would a basis for Irish prosperity be laid by the decision to break the link with sterling now?

Yes — but only on the basis of an all-Ireland economy. That is the key importance of partition to Britain — that is why Britain sends its army into our country to suppress the attempt at national autonomy. Partition is still performing today the function it was designed

for — to divide and weaken the Irish people, economically as well as politically, socially and culturally. Real freedom is impossible on the basis of a six county or a twenty six county state. The political and the economic struggle are indivisible, and only a total political and economic revolution in Ireland can give Irish people the ability to work productively and defend the fruit of their labour from imperialism.

All socialists must understand the nature of inflation and how it operates to re-distribute income in favour of the property-owning class despite gestures towards raising wages, pensions, social security benefits etc. Economic imperialism is the key to explaining why wealth in Ireland is concentrated in fewer hands than in the United Kingdom or in the United States, more overtly capitalist states.

IRELAND'S MONETARY SYSTEM PROPPING UP BRITAIN

The Irish monetary and banking system is the means by which Britain retains economic control of Ireland. The supply of money which determines investment levels, prices, etc. is fixed to suit Britain's economic needs. The principal banks are owned and controlled by West Britons whose profits are never disclosed but are never less than 10%. If Britain goes bankrupt so does Ireland, irrespective of her real economic strength. In this way all the wealth of Ireland has been used by the monetary interests to advance Britain's economic interests or rather to prop up her ailing economy.

There was no need for this ever to have been the case. For over one hundred years Ireland has been a creditor nation, holding more investments or assets abroad than she owed. The myth of "poverty-stricken Ireland" was a British invention to conceal the real extent of her indebtedness to Ireland. In the short term this has been changed but the present drain of interest and profits abroad has replaced it.

A year of Mason

POLITICAL STATUS

The British policy on the political status issue is manifesting its contradictions more glaringly every day. At the time of the Feakle truce with the Provisional IRA, Rees pointed out ad nauseam that internment was no longer appropriate, as there was no armed insurrection; that what was left was criminality, gang warfare, sectarian violence, and common murder (into which the killing of RUC fitted). The appropriate way to deal with this was through the police and the courts. In effect, the situation was more or less akin to the Chicago of the roaring twenties. There was talk of drinking dens, massive fraud of taxpayers' money. There were tantalising hints at two million pound swindles of Northern Ireland Housing Executive money by the Provisionals; Mrs. Jill Knight the Tory M.P. from Birmingham has embarrassed the British government by demanding that these propaganda hints be logically followed up with prosecutions.

CONTRADICTIONS

But instead of behaving as they do in criminal cases in their own country, the British treated the drive against Republicans like a military operation. A weekly body count of "Criminals" put behind bars was celebrated at a joint security press conference in Stormont Castle, where the executive, police, judicial and military organs of the repressive state machine were openly paraded as being in collusion. (Gradually, as they were no longer needed, some loyalists as well as Republicans could be mopped up). "The books had to be closed" on the "unsolved crimes" and anybody would do; so torture was used to obtain confessions, which were then accepted by the single judge, no-jury Diplock Courts, where unidentified witnesses gave evidence from behind curtains. This is not criminal procedure.

RESISTANCE

But the turning point in the exposure of the contradictions in British policy came when Kieran Nugent, a Provisional prisoner, refused to accept the badges of criminal status, prison uniform and prison work. Savage punitive measures followed on Kieran and those who followed him - solitary confinement, no clothes allowed, no mattress or bedding, no washing or shaving, no visits or letters, no books, no leaving the cell for toilet purposes. These "punishments" were means of humiliation and degradation, and the effect of such deprivation was akin to the effects of sensory deprivation in Palace Barracks. But the morale of the young people resisting criminalisation was high - as when Kieran Nugent sent out the message "They'll have to nail the prison gear to my back". By the anniversary of Kieran Nugent's refusal there were 197 men and women refusing criminalisation. Of these, Connolly Brady from Derry was the first IRSP prisoner "on the blanket" just before Christmas 1976 - he was brutally and repeatedly beaten in his cell, as were many of the others. He was followed by fourteen other IRSP prisoners. By Christmas 1977 if things continue as at present there will be 360 or more "on the blanket". The last vestige of pretence that Mason is dealing with a mass outbreak of common crime will be ended.

Already there are signs that the British have lost. The Belfast review 'Fortnight' on 16th September carried as its main feature an article arguing that the treatment of the prisoners "on the blanket" is morally and legally wrong and "inhuman and degrading", - besides being counter-productive. The editorial also calls this "law and order" attempt at a "final solution" a dangerous illusion. A UTV 'This Week'

Mason's invisible victory clothes



THIS is the first anniversary of Roy Mason's arrival in Belfast and of Ciaran Nugent's rejection of criminal status. The complacency being shown by Roy Mason is a bad case of the emperor's clothes. He has little ground for self congratulation after one year in Belfast. He has strengthened the political position of the Loyalists and has encouraged them to defy reason. He has brought the attitudes of his previous Ministry of Defence to the situation, and has capitulated to the Loyalist pressure for more repression. His bland assurance that there will be "more SAS type activity" show what we can expect from what Paddy Devlin calls "social democracy". But the clearest grounds for self doubt on Roy Mason's part is the failure of his attempt over the past

programme has also examined the conditions in H Block, and its effect has been to make people call the British government's attitudes into question.

As an IRSP statement put it "This is one that Mason cannot win".

TURF LODGE

It is no coincidence that the area where popular protest against the criminalisation policy is strongest, Turf Lodge, is also the area where repression is hardest, and also the area where successful popular resistance to the British Army is at its highest - where "Brits Out" demonstrations are most spontaneous and vociferous. The H Block protests are inextricably linked with the Brits Out movement, because both are expressions of a high degree of anti-imperialist awareness, determination and solidarity.

IRSP woman held

The IRSP issued a press release condemning the arrest of Ard Chomhairle member MIRIAM DALY from her Andersonstown home on Monday September 19th. Only the Irish news carried parts of the statement which was ignored by all the Irish media and UTV. Similarly a press release issued at the time of the leaked report concerning the amnesty findings on garda tortures was ignored by all the media, North and South.

Miriam Daly's arrest comes one month after the arrest of her husband and following the wanton vandalism of their house during a 'search operation' by British Troops. Their threat not to leave the Dalys alone has been put into practice.

Miriam was taken to Fort Monagh in Turf Lodge by British soldiers who charged her with "withholding information". RUC Detectives who questioned her during her detention did not proceed with the charge. Miriam Daly is an active member of the Relatives Action Committee in Belfast.

Mourne men defy EEC

EEC bureaucracy is responsible for unemployment amongst other things as in the case of Mourne fishermen, The 'Mountainfoot men' as they are known locally have been fishing the immediate area off that part of the coast of Co. Down for the past 200 years and their method of fishing (drift netting) has ensured that only mature fish were caught to ensure a future for the livelihood of the fishermen involved, with only 510 tons caught every two weeks. The EEC banned all herring fishing in the area without any thought for the livelihood of the fishermen involved, their jobs wiped out by the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen.

Following discussions which resulted in no change in EEC policy the fishermen decided to continue fishing the area and on Sunday September 18th they began a fish-in with the support of Dublin trawlers. The British Navy ignored the local boats but arrested the Dublin boats. The latest we hear is that pressure is being brought to bear on the Mountainfoot men to wait-and-see and enter into more fruitless discussions and that someday in the future the EEC might decide to lift the ban. The IRSP fully support these fishermen and urge them to implement their original decision and to continue fishing the area. Otherwise their case will be considerably weakened.



NO AMNESTY LONG KESH LETTER

They were there from far and near; Castlereagh, Strand Road, Derry, Lurgan and Omagh police barracks to name a few. Ken Newman, Chief of Torture, was there. Roy Mason, Secretary of State for the 'peace keeping security forces' and their relatives was guest of (dishonour at the Sixth Annual Dinner held by the Police Federation and the Royal Ulster Crusade in a hotel near Newcastle Co. Down.

Congratulations and back slapping were the order of the night. Never before had they so much to be proud of; a successful Queen's visit, detaining 310 during her stay, recent murders of Paul Williams and Jack McCartan, increased repression on the ghetto areas, the arrest interrogation and subsequent death of Danny McCooey, H Blocks, internment by remand, new prisons and the resulting employment - all the hallmarks of success in a police state.

After eating and drinking his fill Roy Mason addressed the gathering. As usual he praised his trusted and loyal objects, assured them of the imminent defeat of "terrorism", accompanied by other inspired platitudes. The objects occasionally clapped him in the controlled and cultured way reserved mainly for Royalty and important figures. At least this was a better reception than their English counterparts had given Marilyn Rees. A pay rise was mildly touched on but meant little in the euphoria.

Encouraged by this reception and with the audience in differing stages of intoxication, Roy reached the crescendo of his speech. "There will be no amnesty" he sternly declared. The echo of approval filled the room.

His audience were now in different modes of thought. Some thought if only everyone was like Roy, life would be a lot easier and we wouldn't have to live in fear

continually. Others, who had been attending to this function for several years, realised what was happening: Roy was only doing his routine duty, lifting their flagging morale. The emotional types thought what a pity these cruiserweights cannot perform in public instead of the back rooms of such places as Castlereagh and Strand Road Derry and couldn't understand why people taken to such places didn't always appreciate the talents of the cruisers.

Boxing, in the Castlereagh sense, is a healthy sport, taking skill, speed and fitness to participate successfully. In recent times it has become very popular amongst the ruling classes in Ireland and as a result we have many famous 'promoters' around, none more so than Cooney, McGrath, O'Brien and Garvey in the south and Mason and Newman in the North, all household names. Little wonder there is an annual influx of medals to our cruiserweights: MBEs, CBEs, OBEs, etc. It seems this influx is guaranteed as long as Britain remains in Ireland.

Cross border 'co-operation' was never better than when the coalition were all K.O.ed. It seems likely that the Irish electorate didn't understand or appreciate the finer skills and crafts of our "boxing" promoters in spite of Conor Cruise's attempts at rewriting Irish history. Will there ever be an amnesty for Roy, his 'security forces' or their collaborators? Somehow I doubt it. My mind wanders to scammers from Vietnam: collaborators clam-

bering for places on overcrowded ships and boats in fear of their lives. Would the same ever happen here? I believe it will but Roy 'assures' us differently, regularly claiming that militant republican resistance is "almost defeated". The reality is that 'almost' will never become "is".

The struggle for national liberation will continue and gain momentum as the Irish people, and especially the working class, become more aware. They will realise they have nothing to lose and all to gain.

It is now history that the Viet Cong defeated the greatest imperial power on earth. It is inevitable that we in Ireland will repeat that feat against a weaker imperial power - Britain. We in Long Kesh and other prisons find ourselves imprisoned for resisting imperialism but our minds are still free and our determination to rid this island of the scourges of imperialism is never stronger and will continue to grow. Regarding amnesties and concessions, we do not expect such from imperialists. Any rights we have we fought for. We do not pine or worry about such issues but content ourselves in the knowledge that one day we will be free again to carry on more ably the struggle for national liberation. One fact is assured: there will be no amnesty for British imperialism nor for those who continue to support it in this country.

The cultural struggle is an integral part of IRSP policy and one aspect of this is the Irish language and the civil right to use it with the state. We asked Sean Mac Mathuna, who heads Conradh na Gaeilge's Rights Bureau to explain the work of the Bureau.

Rights Bureau in action

On the 10th of November 1976 Conradh na Gaeilge announced that it was setting up An Rannóg Chearta (The Rights' Bureau) to deal with "the complaints of people who have found difficulty, been delayed or even insulted while trying to deal with departments or offices of the state in Irish."

The Rights' Bureau is at the core of the Conradh's campaign to ensure that speakers of Irish will have the same rights as speakers of English. This campaign is also designed to actively promote the use of Irish by members of the public in their official dealings with the state — a major increase in such usage will be achieved only when the state makes the facilities to use Irish available to all. This will be done by the provision and display of bilingual forms and by ensuring that all public employees dealing with the public are enabled to attend courses to ensure that they have an adequate knowledge of Irish.

OVER 80 CASES

Since its inception, An Rannóg Chearta has dealt with over 80 complaints. The Bureau received complaints regarding the following sections of the public services and other bodies:

The Departments of Health, Finance, Social Welfare, Justice the Public Service, Posts and Telegraphs, Labour, Cork and

Dublin County Councils; Cork, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Galway Corporations; the Catholic Hierarchy; the E.S.B. (the Health Education Bureau; Allied Irish Banks; the Eastern Health Board; the Maze Prison; the V.H.I.; An Garda Síochána; the P.M.P.A.; etc.

THE SCOPE of the Bureau's work is no doubt indicated by the

above cross-section of agencies to whom representations were made. The Revenue Commissioners tops the league of complaints but has also satisfactorily dealt with all the complaints made against them (i.e. complaints made regarding Irish; not regarding taxation!). All but five of the complaints received have been resolved satisfactorily. Another twenty complaints are at various stages of being processed and dealt with.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

An Rannóg Chearta is run under the auspices of the *Fochoiste Cearta* (the National Executive's Sub-Committee on Rights). The *Fochoiste Cearta* is at present preparing for publication a booklet which will detail the various services which are available through the Irish language. The *fochoiste* is particularly urging people

(1) who have bank or savings bank accounts to use cheque/deposit books in Irish;

(ii) to make operator-assisted phone calls through Irish; and (iii) to fill in the Irish versions of driving license and car tax forms.

NO IRISH IN IRISH PRISONS

ANOTHER AREA which is receiving close attention by the *fochoiste* is the lack of facilities for learning and using Irish in prisons in the twenty-six counties. The *fochoiste* is in the process of compiling information on the situation in prisons here and in the six counties and will shortly highlight the appalling situation which now exists whereby prisoners in the six counties have access to Irish-language courses but prisoners in the twenty-six counties are denied similar access.

The *fochoiste* has published the Conradh's Declaration of Rights (in both Irish and English) and has also published A Bill of Rights for the Irish Language (*Bille Cearta don Ghaeilge*) which specifies the legal steps which must be implemented to ensure that the rights of Irish speakers are safeguarded. (Copies of both these documents may be had by writing to Conradh na Gaeilge, 6 Sraid Fhearchair, Baile Átha Cliath 2.)

USAID CHOMH TATHACHTACH LEIS AN EILEANACH

NI LEOR go mbeifear ag eileamh go mbeidh seirbhíse eagsula an stait ar fail as Gaeilge do phobal na Gaeilge; caithear, ag an ceanna, feachaint chuide go mbeidh púbal na Gaeilge ag lorg na seirbhíse sin as Gaeilge agus a n-usaid nuair a chuirtear ar fail doibh iad. Ia an usaid rialta chomh tabhachtach leis an eileamh. Anois go bhfuil billí eilectreachais ar fail go hionann as Gaeilge ba choir duit scríobh chuig ceannaras an B.S.L. ag cur in iúl doibh gur mian leatsa do bhail a fhail as Gaeilge (luagh d'uimhir cuntas ar an litir).

Bíodh do sheicléabhar/heabhar taise as Gaeilge.

Bíodh d'aínn as Gaeilge ar chlar na vótóirí, ar chairpéisí cíosraí raití do chomhairle contae no bhardais.

TA ILIOMAD bealaí eagsula ann chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn id' shaol pearsanta — tríd an V.H.I., an P.M.P.A., na Boird Slainnte &rl. Ta geallúintí fágthe againn o na dreamanna sin uilig go bhfuilid sasta (agus go bhfuil na foirmeacha cíu cíu) chun gna a dheanamh leatsa as Gaeilge. Ma theipeann orthu-san, dean teagmhail linn agus reiteoid an deacracht duit. Ma theipeann ortsa, afach, ní dheanfaidh aon duine teagmhail linn id' thaobh.

FIANNA FAIL BACK SOME IRSP CLAIMS ON UNEMPLOYMENT

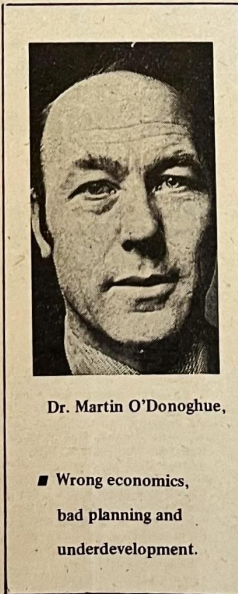
The Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Dr. Martin O'Donoghue has admitted that unemployment is well in excess of the officially registered total of 109,000. The IRSP have been claiming for the past three years that official statistics were deliberately falsifying the unemployment figures in Ireland, North and South. We have consistently claimed that unemployment was over the 200,000 mark during the peak of unemployment last year but that it still remained at 160,000 — which is 51,000 higher than the official figure. This figure deals only with the 26 Counties. Even accepting the unemployment figures issued by the Northern Ireland Office it means a staggering 227,000 people are out of work in Ireland.

Dr. O'Donoghue showed that Fianna Fail have no answer to unemployment, just as their predecessors did not, when he was addressing a Dublin Chamber of Commerce luncheon on September 15 last. He admitted that he was uncertain what the unemployment figures will be in 1978 "since there are many uncertainties about next year. Some relate to factors outside our control, such as the trend of world economic activity"! While this is somewhat true, "world economic activity" and such like phrases have become the escape clauses for incompetent governments and Fianna Fail it seems is about to repeat the performance.

The truth of the matter is that Ireland has all the resources to combat unemployment and eradicate it — if the correct economic system is applied. While "world economic activity" influences all economies, those that pander to these influences

and its false markets come off worse. On the other hand those that steer as independent a course as possible, taking into account the real needs of the society it purports to serve, fare much better. Fianna Fail are still intent on pursuing the disastrous capitalist economics which, in turn, ensures unemployment will be with us for a long time to come. Private enterprise is still the main thrust of the economy which refuses to acknowledge the real needs of Irish society, such as full employment.

In agriculture private enterprise allows a small minority of large ranchers and farmers to maximise their personal profits. Rather than ensuring the maximum scientific exploitation of land to produce the maximum small farmers are being forced off the land to increase the holdings of large farmers. This has led to unemployment, underdevelopment and rural depopulation.



Dr. Martin O'Donoghue,

■ Wrong economics, bad planning and underdevelopment.

Capitalism is also the cause of high food prices because it allows the price of food to be determined by export prices, and 'world economic activity'. On top of this it allows middle buyers to inflate food prices by 100%.

>Private enterprise in industry is geared to produce only what it can make a profit from, which is again determined by 'world economic activity' instead of being geared to producing the essentials required by the community as well as providing maximum employment. The policy of giving away our rich mineral wealth, begun by Fianna Fail and followed through by the coalition, is still an integral part of Fianna Fail policy — not surprising when we hear that Desmond O'Malley, our Minister for Industry and Commerce, has share dealings with Tara Exploration and that his brother-in-law Peter McAleer, is a Vice-President of Northgate Exploration and a Director of Tara Mines Ltd., and Anglo United.

With the export of our mineral wealth go thousands of jobs and important industries such as feed stocks, plastic and rubber industries, PVC and vinyl products from our gas alone. The Navan mine alone being the richest lead mine in the world, is worth £1,300 million. We are therefore talking about practical immediate steps that can be taken to provide employment and through a planned socialist economy, totally eradicate unemployment.

Dr. O'Donoghue has no intention of nationalising our mineral wealth, reorganising the agricultural sector, keeping prices down and providing the necessities of our society. Such a policy would destroy the financial bonanza being enjoyed by the minute section of this society which he represents in the Dail along with his party. In such circumstances at least O'Donoghue has been honest enough to admit that unemployment is higher than officially stated and that he cannot tell what unemployment will be like in 1978. We, on the other hand can.

If Ireland continues her capitalist economics, inflation will rise as will unemployment and much of our potential economic strength will be depleted through export of raw materials, such as meat and natural resources. Unemployment in Ireland, now at over 225,000, will continue to rise. This fact is unwittingly supported by an EEC report published, ironically enough, the same day O'Donoghue was promising 20,000 jobs by mid-1978: the EEC commission forecast a rise of three million unemployed by 1980 in the EEC. At present Ireland has the highest unemployment figures (proportionally) in Europe as well as the highest inflation and taxation rates.

FISH INDUSTRY FACES COLLAPSE

The fishing industry in Ireland is described by Kevin Page, National Organiser for the National Fishermen's Branch of the ITGWU as "an ad-hoc, loose, chaotic system" showing the failure of both Fianna Fail and the coalition to expand an industry that could provide huge employment as well as harnessing some of the wealth of one of our most obvious natural resources, the sea.

The controversy over the past year in the fishing industry has been confined to the fishing limit but this is by no means the only issue involved. The national and bread and butter issues of deck hands have not been pushed as hard as the union would wish as they wanted to keep the fishermen's camp united in the campaign for an exclusive 50 mile limit. This has resulted in the general public believing that the Irish Fishermen's Organisation solely represented all fishermen. The National Fishermen's Branch is, comprised mainly of deck hands but due to the recent occurrence of skippers being employed, they too are being admitted to the branch. "We are trying to broaden the whole campaign to develop a comprehensive policy for the fishing industry to maximise job potential and to raise important questions as to the distribution of wealth derived from fish and its utilisation to the best benefit of the economy" Mr. Page told the Starry Plough.

voluntary basis. This will mean a depletion of stocks and a possible destruction of the future livelihood of fishermen, who along with the general public are only now becoming aware of the importance of stock preservation. The ITGWU wants statutory protection for stocks.

Despite the introduction of new standards for the size of meshes, which allowed seed fish to escape it was not being enforced by the government. This negates the introduction of standards. Then there was the dumping of fish at open sea once the catch had been registered to get the EEC intervention price.

'EEC withdrawal would benefit Ireland'

The whole industry has a history of obtaining a quick buck with no thought for the job potential of the industry, as witnessed by the export of fish instead of being processed here in Ireland. A small minority have been getting rich on public funds and while the availability of grants is to be welcomed there has to be a more responsible attitude to their use.

EEC membership has had a disastrous effect on the fishing industry claim the Branch. Fianna Fail were not aware of the

potential of the fishing industry during the negotiations for entry while fishermen on the other hand did not put enough pressure on them. The Branch will not commit itself to answering whether they feel Fianna Fail have changed. "when the negotiations began in October we will know then" said Mr. Page, he also forecast that when the negotiations began that they would drag on and on.

Possession without control of administration is useless in any industry. The Branch is calling for state involvement in the control of supplies, in distribution and in providing security of employment. In relation to the national issue of the 50 mile limit the Branch points that they originally called for a 200 mile limit but agreed to limit this to 50 miles to produce a unified front with the IFO. They will not bargain on the 50 mile limit and are demanding state control over the outer

limits on the fishing seasons and fish catches.

The danger of all European negotiations is that issues are decided in political lobbies, the Branch points, and Ireland is politically weak in such lobbies.

Europe's mainland fishing plants and the international companies have created a dangerous demand for fish, pressurising the continental fleets to increase their catches. This is an important, vocal, if dangerous, lobby. According to EEC law, all member states will be entitled to fish up to Ireland's shore by 1980



and despite the fishing limit discussions the EEC are sticking to their guns. The Branch does not have a policy on EEC withdrawal but Mr. Page stated in a personal capacity "Ireland could only benefit from withdrawal, provided we have control over the 200 mile limit. There is no reason to suppose we couldn't exert that control when Iceland has a navy smaller or as small as our own".

The coalition handling of the fishing limit issue is attacked by the Branch who assert that they were "led up the garden path". In regard to submissions on their own bread and butter issues they believe that they were not even listened to: "there were so many conflicting reports from government and Brussels' sources that no one knew what the situation was" claimed Mr. Page. He also believes that it was, and still is, EEC policy "to leave Ireland in no mans-land". October's talks will see further delays despite the fact that we are losing more and more fish everyday and that the EEC is concluding arrangements with non-EEC countries to fish our waters. "The attitude of the public at large will be a crucial factor in our obtaining this limit and it is the EEC tactic to confuse them to such an extent that they will lose interest", said Mr. Page.

The Fishermen's Branch attacked the loss of sovereignty associated with EEC membership. Mr. Page pointed out that while

the EEC had to ask each member state to declare a 200 mile limit for the EEC "we have to ask the EEC to declare a 50 mile limit of our own. Its painfully obvious that the EEC is eating into our sovereignty" he said.

The whole attitude of the Irish government and the EEC is endangering the entire fishing industry. The government's failure to ensure massive state expansion of the industry with a view to harnessing the employment potential as well as ensuring cheaper fish and preserving fish stocks is leading to increased militancy amongst workers in the fishing industry. Whole communities are being endangered by the government's refusal to fight the EEC who are out to satisfy the needs of multinational and European cartels. This has led to the Campaign for the Preservation of Fishing Communities which began in Killybegs and which is since spreading to other ports. Fishermen are determined to ensure better work and pay conditions within that industry, encouraged by their recent, and first, annual general meeting. The remainder of this year and 1978 will show that the controversy surrounding the fishing industry is only beginning.

"We're here to stay" says Fishermen's ITGWU Branch.

Before the rage of inflation with which we have become accustomed there was little pressure on skippers in relation to repayments and fuel bills and the traditional rights of deck hands were respected, particularly since the skipper in most instances came from the same community as his crew. Wages were determined by the price of the catch at the market. The skipper deducted expenses and took 50%

of the remaining cash. The rest was divided amongst the crew. Apprentices in the trade were allocated half a share until they were experienced enough to earn a full share, which was decided erratically by either the crew the skipper - or both. A sacred rule was that the galley table was for eating and sharing; with all receipts for expenses etc., produced to be examined by the crew before being deducted by

the skipper.

The rise in inflation has pressurised skippers, straining their relationship with the crew. The crew have discovered their unprotected situation. The share system is changing with new shares being introduced (e.g. for boat owners). No books or receipts are being produced at the galley table. This has led to demand for a union which is insisting that they be consulted

as to expenses, difficulties in repayments and indeed any proposed changes.

The ITGWU is also seeking welfare rights which are too loose at present. Fishermen are not allowed sign on the dole at different ports and in the case of bad weather or no fish being available there is no system of fall back payments. Fishermen rely on the charity of their skipper in the form of subs.

Another point of contention is holiday entitlement which is denied most fishermen. Some skippers held that being laid up in port due to bad weather was holiday enough.

The recommended EEC retirement age for fishermen is 55 but with no insurance or pension scheme, fishermen are left with a paltry £10 government pension. A comprehensive document calling for payments in the event of deaths or injuries has been submitted to the government and other employer organisations, including the EEC. Fishing is a hazardous job with an above average mortality and injury rate. Fishermen find themselves totally unprotected and are demanding the introduction of a definite scheme to cover them. This problem was emphasised recently following the tragic deaths off the Donegal coast.

The Irish Fishermen's Organisation have taken the stand of the ostrich in relation to the Fishermen's branch, refusing to even accept their existence. "The quicker they accept us the better" said Mr. Page "as we are here to stay".



Fishermen protesting at Dail Eireann demanding 50 mile limit.

BEHIND THE WIRE

Britain before

Strasburg again

The work of the Prisoners Aid Committee over the last five years has shown that Irish political prisoners are treated differently from and worse than other prisoners in English jails. The deaths in prison of Michael Gaughan, Prionsias Stagg and Noel Jenkinson clearly resulted from this treatment. In fact from 1974 onwards, as the number of prisoners grew, treatment markedly worsened. During 1974 seven Irish political prisoners were brutally force fed while on hunger strike and Michael Gaughan died as a result. In November 1974 a total of 14 prisoners were assaulted by warders in Winson Green prison. 14 screws were tried for this nearly two years later and after a farcical performance by the "prosecution" were acquitted. In May 1975 five Irish prisoners were badly injured while in police custody in Manchester and Merseyside and now, 12 months after it began an internal police inquiry into this is still not completed. During 1975 Irish prisoners were attacked in Wandsworth, Wakefield and Parkhurst, one of them while actually standing trial, and others were held for long periods in solitary. In February 1976 Prionsias Stagg died while on his third hunger strike in support of his demand for a transfer to Ireland. In August all Irish prisoners who had taken part in the Hull prison rooftop protest were badly beaten by warders and according to evidence from English prisoners they, along with the blacks, were the worst treated of all. In September six Irish prisoners in Albany were set upon by a gang of warders armed with truncheons and several of them suffered terrible injuries.

LEGAL ACTION NECESSARY

This mounting toll of injuries amongst Irish political prisoners in England was clearly not going to be halted by long term campaigns for transfers or for amnesty. The PAC decided therefore that legal action should be taken wherever possible. The Home Office refused to allow the prisoners solicitors to see them, demanding that instead complaints should be made to them — the very people responsible for the ill-treatment. The HO also said that visits from lawyers should be within the hearing of warders.

These conditions are a clear defiance of the Golder decision by the European Court in 1975 against the British government which ruled that all prisoners be allowed access to legal advice and to the courts. The cases of all Irish political prisoners refused permission to see their lawyers have been taken to Strasburg and this number now totals 16 cases, one of which, Sean Campbell's, has already been returned to the British to be answered. Noel Jenkinson's case for unfair trial and refusal of access to legal advice has also passed its preliminary stages. At the moment over 30 prisoners have cases in the process of being taken before the courts, and this does not include a number of appeals which will come up later this year. Cases which involve ill-treatment in prison may have to go straight to Strasburg for there is no "domestic remedy" in England for these abuses given the limitless autonomy of the prison system. Irish prisoners are engaged in a variety of actions: over 20 are

taking actions for assault; there are several actions to test the punishments of solitary and loss of remission handed down by the prisons kangaroo courts, the Boards of Visitors; other actions involve the use of notorious Rule 43 to hold prisoners in solitary indefinitely; the right of prisoners to open prisoners mail; interference with the maintenance of family life; the use of screened and boxed visits; the right of prisoners to serve their sentences near to their families. In addition the PAC will take the case of the Maguire family to Strasburg as seven members of the family are serving huge sentences after a trial based on a police forensic frame up.

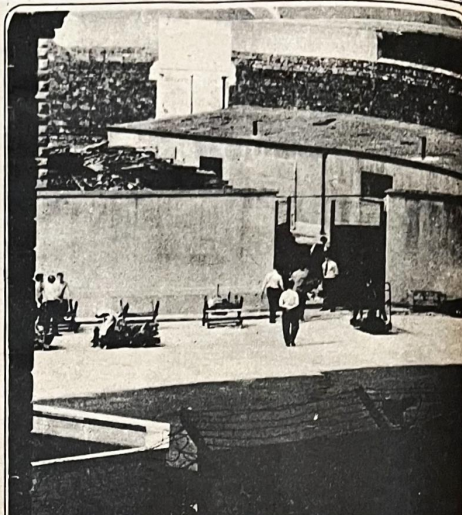
The Home Office recently admitted that all mail between prisoners and their solicitors and the Prisoner's Aid Committee in relation to the cases being taken in Strasburg are being read by the Home Office. This is being done to strengthen Britain's case at Strasburg, who will be equipped with all the prisoners' evidence before the case begins. This spying is allowed by interpreting the mail as routine and not recognising that it constitutes a private legal matter with pending legal proceedings.



BRUTALITY STILL METED OUT

As a result of this deluge of legal action, prisons are now treating Irish prisoners with some circumspection. Incidents of outright brutality seem to have decreased but the HO is experimenting with many other ways of fending off the results of their systematic discrimination against Irish political prisoners. This has mostly taken the form of bureaucratic delays of eight weeks at least to answer letters; refusing legal aid for actions and continuously moving prisoners from one end of England to another so that solicitors have huge distances to travel to see their clients. In addition outright brutality is still meted out: Brendan Dowd is now well into the second year of an imprisonment spent almost entirely in solitary under Rule 43; Shane Paul O'Doherty is in his 13 month in solitary wearing only a blanket in Wormwood Scrubs; a writ had to be issued against the HO to force them to give Giuseppe Conlon basic medical attention. In August Sean O'Connell was beaten up while in transit to Albany from Gartree 20 minutes before his family arrived for a visit they had booked a week before; in September Harry Duggan had to refuse a visit from his girl friend in Parkhurst as warders were insistent that he have his mouth searched even though he was also being strip searched before and after the visit.

The HO's frantic efforts to prevent these legal actions being pursued is a clear indication of their fear that the prisoners will prove that there exists a system of discrimination in the treatment of Irish political prisoners in England. The PAC has asserted for five years that "political status" does exist in England but that it is a status of victimisation, brutality, harassment and interference with basic human rights. If this can be proven then a small memorial will have been erected to three brave Irishmen whose lives were taken from them by the British prison system.



Inside Crumlin Rd.

It appears that the Governor of Crumlin Road Gaol is above the law and that he is allowed to treat a Remand prisoner as if he had been found guilty and to try to "criminalise" him before even the Diplock courts have made a decision on his innocence or guilt. Or is it just that the Governor is licenced to mete out any kind of brutal treatment to prisoners who are politically aware and attempt to defend their statutory rights.

RIGHTS ERODED

Whilst held as a Remand prisoner in A wing Gerry Dowdall only gets two hours exercise every 48 hours at a maximum.

Whilst the British and Irish media are quick to use the term "Kangaroo Courts" in regard to Republican discipline their silence about the arbitrary behaviour of the prison officers in punishing remand prisoners is conspicuous. The Northern Ireland Office it seems will tolerate any level of lawlessness and brutality in the 6 county gaols.

As part of Mason's campaign to "criminalise" the anti-imperialist struggle in the 6 counties the rights and privileges of Remand prisoners are systematically being eroded. The following are examples of what is happening to all the Remand prisoners in A Wing Crumlin Road.

PETTY RESTRICTIONS

The food is insufficient and the interval between tea, 3.30 p.m. and breakfast at 8 a.m. is 16½ hours which is excessive. Breakfast is only a small helping of cornflakes, tea and bread.

Exercise starts on the landing but smoking by prisoners is not allowed though warders smoke

there constantly. If prisoners are caught smoking they are just put back into their cells and lose their exercise. Radios, books or fruit are not permitted in the yard. Exercise periods are kept to a minimum with men being taken out late and returned early.

Prisoners who report sick to the doctor — regardless of the complaint are locked up for three days instead of being treated. Some men who are locked up are not permitted a wash for days on end.

STRIP SEARCHES

Men are not allowed to put their hands in their pockets, a petty example of discipline for the sake of discipline.

Men are strip searched going to and from visits. This is despite the fact that the searches given to visitors to the Crumlin Road prison are the most degrading in the 6 counties. Cell searches are frequent and then the men are also strip-searched.

NEED FOR INQUIRY

The Remand prisoners are in general treated worse than convicted prisoners. The prison officers seem to suit themselves completely and to vary the rules and erode the prisoners' rights in an entirely arbitrary manner. Yet the Prison Visitors, the elected representatives and the professional men go along with this brutal bullying of defenceless men. There is a most pressing case for the defence of the human rights of the prisoners on remand in Crumlin Road and Long Kesh. Amnesty International and the International Red Cross must be requested to mount an inquiry immediately.

THE REAL USA

After 1783 the Americans began expanding West and South over the Appalachians, to settle the rich, fertile Indian lands which reached to the banks of the Mississippi River. Opposing these intruders were the Indian tribes such as the Shawnees, Iroquois, Miami, Ottawa, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Seminoles and a host of other tribes, their names long since forgotten in the relentless march of "Civilisation". Indian war since that period were frequent affairs. But even though the Indians were once again subjected to all the vices of the white man, they survived in large enough numbers, scattered throughout the lands of the East, on reservations, where the soil and game were poor, as compared to their own land which had been taken off them by the so-called Treaty. Eventually even this state of co-existence could not last long either.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

The USA has always tended towards territorial expansion. From its very first settlers on it has striven to annex territory, both physically and economically, until today, when it is still trying to annex the rest of the world it does not already control. The term thought up later to justify this was "Manifest Destiny", by which the ruling class in America claimed that they were ordained by destiny to rule all of America (the world also), to be the dominant race. The first major act of expansion on a vast scale was in 1803 Thomas Jefferson, then President, bought Louisiana from France. The deal is better known as the Louisiana Purchase. Louisiana covered a vast tract of land, which stretched from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, and it now includes the States of Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, part of Colorado, North Dakota and South Dakota: a vast amount of land which covered 2 million square kilometres and cost the US 15 million dollars, which worked out at barely 7½ dollars a square kilometre. This deal was shrewdly accomplished by Jefferson, in that he knew that Napoleon was at war with Britain and needed money to finance his campaigns. Thus, while Napoleon sold Louisiana, he also got US neutrality in the war.

By this one act, the USA doubled its territory which now stretched to the Rocky Mountains. Included in

USA - 1783 - 1848. US fulfils its "Manifest destiny" to expand. Britain bought Cuba from Spain. Florida won from Spain. Texas and Pacific states won in war.

this territory were the lands of the Great Plains Indians, whose names linger on today, made immortal by this heroic yet tragic struggle to keep their lands, way of life, culture and religion. The tribes' names were the Sioux (the most numerous) Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Comanches, Kiowas etc. Although in 1803 they had a few more years left to themselves, it would not be long before Washington would send out their surveyors, miners and gold-hungry desperadoes streaming in from the East, and in a 30 year period it would all be over.

ANNEXATION & INVASION

After this the greedy eyes in Washington turned to the South. Jefferson wanted to buy Cuba from Spain as the Southern States wanted to incorporate it into their system of slavery, while the Northern merchants wanted to ensure and control the sugar and molasses market. But on this occasion Spain refused as she saw Cuba as her richest property in America and aptly named Cuba, "The pearl of the Antilles". The US turned towards the Mississippi delta and Florida, which also belonged to Spain and worked out a very simple plan where by the US could annex these territories. US citizens would settle in Spanish Territory and after a short period they with the help of the US would attack the capital and set up a free and independent State. They would then ask the US to annex and presto they would have a new state to add to the US. It worked in part of West Florida (now the state of Mississippi) in 1810, and then the rest of West Florida in 1813 (now Alabama). But East Florida still remained and the impatient US Army invaded it in 1813. They promised Spain that they would withdraw shortly but they were still there six years later, by which time Spain was embroiled in wars with her ex-colonies in South America who were declaring independence. On February 2nd 1819 Spain ceded Florida over to the US who promised neutrality in Spain's efforts to recover her South American colonies. This was how the South was conquered and added to the slave states of America, with cotton

growing being the main and most prosperous mode of production - by slaves of course. Incidentally, in 1823, President Monroe of the USA proclaimed his infamous Monroe Doctrine stating that no European power would be allowed to colonise in the Western Hemisphere. In effect the ambitious ruling clique in Washington was keeping the future colonisation of South America in its own exclusive interests, a policy which is still enforced to-day.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER

In the meantime, in 1829, President Andrew Jackson resolved to settle the whole question. He recommended that all Indians in the East be moved West beyond the Mississippi River for "permanent settlement" and this became law on May 28th 1830. But even the Mississippi was not far enough West as settlers and ranchers had already crossed the river and occupied the West bank. Thus the million square kilometres and cost the US nearly 200 miles West again to the 95th Meridian. Numerous forts were established along this line (which were to grow over the years) to keep the Indians in. Meanwhile the gradual process of moving the Indians westwards was drastically speeded-up, owing to the discovery of gold in the Appalachians in 1838. The Cherokee Indians were rounded up off their reservations in the middle of winter and forced to march West. The gold

We are serialising a pamphlet produced by the IRSP collective in Cage 14 Long Kesh

lust of the whites was insatiable. One out of every four Indians died of cold hunger or disease in the "Trail of Tears" as the Cherokees called it. Almost all the Indians from the North, South and East were moved West into the lands of the Plain Indians with all their belongings. Thus was established the "permanent Indian frontier" but even this would not prevail for long. Next in line was the territory of Texas, enviously eyed for its vast plains and rich mineral resources by fortune-seeking adventurers, bankers and politicians back in Washington. But the problem was that Texas was an integral part of Mexico; so they resorted to what is termed "Covert Operations" in modern terminology.

TEXAS & THE ALAMO

In 1819 Moses Austin, a St. Louis banker, got permission to settle in Texas with about 300 US families. By 1829 there were 6,000 living there. Then the campaign for the annexation began. The US tried to settle the matter by offering Mexico 5 million dollars but Mexico refused point blank. Trouble continued as President Jackson met with Sam Houston (or "Big Drunk" as the Indians called him) to plan the conquest of Texas. In December 1835, the Texan settlers proclaimed their independence and Mexico immediately marched to defend part of its sovereign state led by General Santa Anna. It was at this time that the Battle of the Alamo was fought: the US glorifies those who fought there as fighting for a glorious ideal and fighting to the death. They were in fact fighting for a group of men greedy, wealthy people, firm believers in the "manifest destiny" who had their eyes set on the rich resources of Texas, fighting to usurp a part of Mexican soil. The depiction of Crockett's gas as heroes is so that the US's present youth will do likewise. In reality what they are really fighting for is oppression, false ideals and exploitation for the maintenance of a small fabulously wealthy ruling class in the USA.

After numerous battles Houston's army, assisted by US 'volunteers'

Members of the Swiss Ireland Committee protested outside the British embassy in Berne on September 14th. Before the picket stated the participants, some of them in blankets, marched to the city centre, where leaflets were handed out to the general public, which explained the struggle for political status in the six



defeated Mexico in the Battle of Jacinto in 1836. Texas was signed over to Houston and nine years later, in March 1845, the US annexed it, incorporating it into its growing territory.

WAR PROVOKED WITH MEXICO

The last step in the conquest of a continent was the Mexican - US War of 1846-48, a deliberate US act of aggression against Mexico by President James Polk. To show how premeditated the war was we only have to look at General Ulysses S. Grant's memoirs. At the time he was assigned to the Mexican - US borders he wrote:

"We had been sent to provoke a war, but it was essential that Mexico declare war first. Therefore it was necessary to come within suitable distance for attack."

Being the good obedient General he was efficiently followed his orders to the letter. Thus in March 1846 President Polk announced Congress: "After repeated threats, Mexico has crossed the border of the US, has invaded our territory, and has shed US blood on US soil, in spite of our efforts to avoid war. It is a fact that we are already at war, and that Mexico is to blame."

Mexico was invaded by the US from the North, the US also marched West through "the permanent Indian Frontier" and annexed Oregon in 1846 and marched on to California, thus reaching the Pacific. Fierce Mexican resistance practically stopped the US advance on Mexico City. The US changed their tactics and bombarded Vera Cruz in the Gulf of Mexico, south of the Mexican capital while 10,000 soldiers under General Winfield Scott landed on the Gulf. On September 13th 1847 they reached and attacked Mexico City which fell to them. On February 2nd 1848, at the end of the war, the US imposed the infamous Gualadpe-Hidalgo Treaty on Mexico, by which Mexico lost more than one and a half million square kilometres of her territory, half of Mexico's original size. This territory now includes California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, parts of Colorado. It also included the Apaches, Navahos, 4 Palutes, Utes, Modocs, MOhaves, Nez Percés and Yuma Indian tribes.

The objectives had been achieved. The Western US border had stretched over the Rocky Mountains and had finally reached the Pacific. Its land mass now reached from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande. In 1867 with the purchase of Alaska from Russia, US territorial expansion on the mainland would come to an end. Its area was now three and a half million square miles, 13 times larger than the original 13 states on the Eastern seaboard. It was time to settle internal matters, to resolve the contradictions existing in the US. The time was coming for Civil War, industrial expansion, immigration and Indian extermination.

Swiss protest

counties. Pickets carried demanded "British troops out of Ireland", "solidarity with the fighting prisoners" while others read "One year of struggle against the criminalisation of the liberation movement" "Northern Ireland: the real terrorists are in Westminster", Embassy staff called the police and refused to

accept the following note: "We protest against the inhuman treatment of the imprisoned resistance fighters and against the attempt to criminalise the Irish liberation movement... We demand: immediate withdrawal of British Troops from Ireland, the release of all prisoners, and self-determination for the Irish people".

Manx protest

Y charrey,

Your report (22-8-77) about the complaints made by Norwegian people against the behaviour of British troops encamped there, prompts me to observe that the Isle of Mann also provides training and recreational facilities for H.M. Army at the former wartime base at Jurby.

The aggressive and sometimes obscene behaviour of the troops in pubs in nearby Ramsey have occasioned complaints by locals for some years, but when, last year, 'high spirits' were carried to such lengths that the notoriously conservative Manx press carried reports of the soldiers' misconduct during a night out in the town, the (supposedly sufficient) explanation by an army spokesman was that the soldiers were 'letting off steam' after the pressures and stress of serving in the six counties. Presumably it was this incident which has led to the dispersal of the troops over a wider area in the island for 'recreational' purposes. However, there is growing local resentment that letting off six counties steam should provide carte blanche for undisciplined or obnoxious behaviour here. That service in Ireland can be used as an excuse for almost any variety of misconduct was highlighted by the English judiciary in the recent Grenadier Guard rape case. It is becoming increasingly clear to Manx people that a similar reasoning applies to soldiers when in their country.

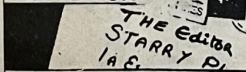
shrugged it off as 'a strong attempt at professionalism'. The past 3 or 4 years has seen a marked increase of British Army activity on the Island, and it has been strongly rumoured that Britain intends to renegotiate a permanent base in Mann at Jurby. (At present the island is used as an annual summer camp). In the late sixties the Manx parliament and Whitehall agreed that "There should be fullest consultation between the two governments before defence decisions directly affecting the Isle of Man are made... but that there should be special provisions for emergency action in peace or war and for the procedure to be followed where agreement cannot be reached between the two governments." (Publication by Govt. buildings I.O.M.) With this agreement the Manx government abrogated its responsibility and allowed Britain use of the island as it pleased. Obviously, once established the British forces will be difficult to expel to say the least, and the autonomy of yet another Celtic nation, in this case Mann, will be further weakened.

Resistance to further British encroachments on Manx autonomy, of which the Army's move is the prime example, whilst not widespread amongst the largely Anglicised Manx public, is at least in evidence, as witness by the Manx delegation's concern over the military base, which was expressed at the conference of the Celtic League in August in Cornwall; though it must be said that of four Manx newspapers informed of this display of national feeling in an 'international' arena, only one thought it newsworthy.

Lhiats,
Patricia Bridson.

Bell Cottage,
Derby Road,
Peel,
Mannin (Isle of Man),

THE EDITOR



In June this year another incident was reported in the local press, this time of a more serious nature. Whilst on exercise on the outskirts of Douglas a number of troops 'interrogated' a party of high-school girls at gunpoint; a woman soldier searched the girls' bags. At one stage the girls were spreadeagled on the grass (at gunpoint) and 'grilled' by the Territorials. A spokesman later 'regretted' the incident and



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IRSP TRIAL FIXED FOLLOWING COURT PROTEST

IRSP at London
prisoners' meeting

A meeting in London, Sept. 23rd last organised by the Prisoners' Welfare Committee was well attended and IRSP Ard Chomhairle member Miriam Daly spoke at the meeting on behalf of the Belfast based Relatives Action Committee and on behalf of the Kildare Six Defence Committee. There were also speakers from the People Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, (Bob Churchill), and the International Tribunal on Britain's Crimes Against the Irish People (Gerry Fitzpatrick).

"If present trends continue" says Miriam Daly when speaking on political status "there will be 300 people fighting for political status by Christmas. This is a battle we can win and we are in fact winning it. The way forward is being shown by 197 young men in Long Kesh who are 'on the blanket' and the 14 women protesting in Armagh jail".

Speaking on the framing of IRSP members by the coalition and the forthcoming Kildare Six trial (this page and page one) Miriam Daly said it was "an example of an attempt to lash all opposition to the coalition policies. The present continuous remand, limiting liberty, with all its drawbacks, is being deliberately done to harass the innocent IRSP men. Although a date has been set for the trial it, in effect, means nothing as preference is given to custody cases. The entire frame up, now being continued by Fianna Fail, is a clear case of political victimisation".

MAN KIDNAPPED IN BELFAST

That weekend also saw a picket outside Paddington Green Police Station in London against the kidnapping of Dicky Glenholmes from the Short Strand in Belfast by British troops. He was flown to Paddington Green and held incommunicado by the Bomb Squad and released after seven days detention. No charges were preferred.

Holmes is involved in political action in Belfast and served the longest period of internment. He had no connection with England, family or friend wise, and the case is seen as a pure case of harassment.

Following outburst by IRSP men in the Special Criminal Court a trial has been set for the **KILDARE SIX TRIAL** which followed the arrest of over 40 IRSP members and supporters in April 1976. At the time nine were severely tortured and six charged with the robbery of a mail train in Co. Kildare, the biggest robbery of its kind in Irish history. Four of those charged can prove that statements they signed were dictated by gardai after severe torture.

The case was thrown out of court in December '76 because the state would not produce any evidence but a few weeks later four of the original six were arrested and re-charged with the robbery. Since then there have been continuous remands despite the fact that the IRSP men demanded an immediate trial.

The date set for the trial is January but means little as a similar date was set for June

8th last but postponed due to a back log of cases.

Precedence is given to cases where defendants are in custody and as the IRSP men are on bail their case could be put back again if numerous cases arise between now and January. However, only the outburst at the court appearance on September 20th forced a date from the court, who wanted to remand the case until Oct. without giving a date for the trial.

All the defendants, along with another five IRSP men, are taking proceedings against the gardai and the state for false arrest, false imprisonment and assault. These cases cannot be heard until the trial case is over. The IRSP is confident of a victory in both cases. Their allegations featured prominently in the recent Amnesty findings and the RTE Politics programme.

In another instance Mr. Stagg told us how evidence was given by a garda that they were called "pigs and bastards" but Justice O'hUadhaigh had wrongly attributed these remarks to a particular defendant, something that was not stated in any evidence.

Our attention was also drawn to the fact that an onlooker charged with assaulting a garda had the case against him thrown out while an ICRA member on a lesser charge of resisting arrest was sentenced to three months.

"This will not put us off our programme" said Mr. Stagg who said the appeal to the Circuit Court could take anything up to a year and a half.

Superintendent had explained that sit-down protests were a common form of protest, especially by housewives to which Justice O'hUadhaigh had interjected "so is housebreaking". Mr. Stagg told us "when I was asked what my function at the protest was I replied that I was responsible for preparing placards, ensuring a professional photographer was present and addressing the march and onlookers through a loud hailer. In this instance I also looked after the injured. Justice O'hUadhaigh in his summing up tried to portray the demonstration as being geared to violence by quoting as evidence that I had said that I was there to assist the injured and that therefore that violence was premeditated. This is not what I said"

ICRA to appeal sentences

The Irish Civil Rights Association (ICRA) is to appeal eight sentences and fines imposed by District Justice O'hUadhaigh in the Dublin District Court on September 15th. The case arose after gardai arrested ICRA demonstrators during a sit-down protest at the top of Grafton Street on August 6th last. The sit-down followed a refusal by gardai to allow the ICRA to march down Grafton Street during an amnesty-for-political-prisoners march. Many of the

demonstrators and onlookers claimed gardai used unnecessary violence and photographs subsequently published showed a Special Branchman kicking a peaceful demonstrator.

Mr. Joe Stagg, Chairman of ICRA, told the Starry Plough that they intended to appeal the court's verdicts. "It was not a fair trial" he said "and showed very clear bias in favour of the gardai". The case had been accompanied by "numerous sarcastic remarks" by Justice O'hUadhaigh who had "misquoted evidence out of context" said Mr. Stagg. Giving one example he told us how a

FOYLE FISHERIES:

The British Army's terms of reference in their so-called peace keeping role in Ireland has recently been extended to include within its scope bailiff duties on the Lough Foyle estuary. This situation arose when the British Army arrested a number of local fishermen (trying to earn a decent living from the Lough as they and their ancestors had traditionally done) under the notorious Emergency Provisions Act. They were ostensibly arrested as a measure to prevent terrorism i.e. British terminology for any opposition to their imperialist rule in Ireland. The real purpose of the arrest was to protect the interests of that small minority of unscrupulous exploiters who own the major fishing rights in this country and who regularly cream off and export the wealth acquired through their privileged position. By their action the British Army have clearly shown that their armed presence is solely to maintain the dominant economic class as represented by the small band of industrialists and land-owners in power.

Consequently the unfortunate fishermen were charged before a magistrate in Derry and fined £400 for daring to take what was rightfully theirs.

JOIN THE IRSP

ANTRIM, FERNANAGH,
TYRONE, DOWN &
ARMAGH: Contact national
headquarters, Dublin.

CARLOW: Contact Michael
Aherne, 7 Royal Oak Road,
Muine Bheag,

DUBLIN/WICKLOW: Contact
national headquarters, 34 Upr.
Gardiner Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 721175.

The aim of the I.R.S.P. is to establish a
32 County Democratic Socialist
Republic with the working class in
control of the means of production,
distribution and exchange.

I want to join

teastaíonn ballaíocht uain

Aim (Name) _____

Seoladh (Address) _____

CO. DERRY: Contact IRSP,
8 Chamberlain Street, Derry
City.

ENGLAND: Contact London
Support Group, Box 6, 182
Upper Street, London N.1.

ENNIS: Contact Patrick
Kennelley, 26 Corrovin Green.

LIMERICK: Contact John
Gilligin, 143 O'Malley Park.

SHANNON: Contact Stella
Makowski, 16 Traderee Court.