

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

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RTE: 60 YEARS
OF BROADCASTING
—
14 YEARS OF
CENSORSHIP

AS THE 26 COUNTIES prepares for an imminent general election, the self-proclaimed defenders of democracy in the Coalition government are once again denying the people those most basic of democratic rights — freedom of speech and freedom of information.

Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act is to be renewed this coming weekend. This censorship law bans Sinn Fein from RTE radio and television and, since its introduction in 1972, has extended a web of government censorship and self-censorship throughout the 26-County state broadcasting service, preventing many issues of public importance being properly debated on RTE.

By a stroke of his pen, Communications Minister Jim Mitchell will renew Section 31 in the face of widespread and growing opposition. Recent polls have shown that a majority of people are against the censorship law. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions, trade unions and trades councils, numerous local authorities, public bodies, student organisations and many prominent public figures have demanded that it be repealed.

HIDDEN CENSORSHIP

The growing demand for freedom of information has highlighted the fact that censorship has been hidden for so long that people have been unaware that RTE's coverage of current affairs is biased and controlled by the Dublin government. RTE television recently marked the 25th anniversary of its first broadcast. There was no reference to the 14 years of censorship during which its coverage of Irish politics has been a mockery and an insult to the Irish people.

Successive governments have taken it upon themselves to decide what people may see and hear and to lay down by law how people should think. This has extended far beyond Section 31's ban on interviews with Sinn Fein. Even nationalist songs which can be commonly heard anywhere in Ireland — and on other stations — have been chopped by the censors.

The responsibility for this does not just lie with the Fianna Fail and



REPEAL SECTION 31

Coalition administrations who have repeatedly renewed Section 31. It also lies with the news managers and journalists in RTE who have extended censorship far beyond the requirements of the law.

Journalists who have bowed down before the censors and become censors themselves have done so against the code of conduct of their very own union, the National Union of Journalists. If Section 31 is to be repealed, as demanded by the public, then RTE

journalists must take effective action to force the Dublin government into repealing the state censorship law.

Or will we face the prospect in the forthcoming general election of RTE personnel travelling around the constituencies and operating Section 31 under Garda protection for fear of anti-censorship protests?

Or will we witness the ridiculous situation of Sinn Fein candidates being interviewed on BBC and ITV but not on RTE, the alleged 'national' broad-

casting service in the state where the elections take place?

If a Sinn Fein TD is elected, will we have RTE interviewing the losing candidates and not one of the winners? Will such a TD's speeches in Leinster House be cut out of RTE radio recordings of debates?

Will the people of the 26 Counties be allowed to make a democratic decision in the general election?

That is what Section 31 means and it must be repealed — now!

Bloody

Sunday

commemoration

(15th Anniversary)
Sunday 25th January
Speaker: John Noonan
Assemble 2.30pm Creggan Shops
Rally at Free Derry Corner
DERRY



All bands and banners welcome. Anyone requiring billets contact Derry 368926

Blast kills RUC man

THE FIRST crown forces casualty of the year was inflicted by the IRA late on Friday night, January 9th, in the County Fermanagh town of Enniskillen.

IRA Volunteers placed a small explosive device in a litter bin outside a shop in High Street inside the town's security ring. Using a sophisticated remote-control detonating mechanism, an IRA Volunteer waited until after 10pm when an RUC foot patrol made its way down the street. About 10.15pm the bomb was detonated, killing one RUC man and injuring a second who was on the other side of the road.

Claiming responsibility, the IRA pointed out that the active service unit in the operation "took great care to ensure there was no danger to civilians".

Later, in a second statement, the IRA criticised a comment by the SDLP that it was against "peace and progress". The IRA said:

"The only way there will be peace and progress in Ireland is when the right to self-determination of the Irish people is achieved. The only way this can be obtained is the withdrawal, both military and economic, of Britain from this part of Ireland. Such utterances by the SDLP do nothing but support and strengthen British rule in the North of Ireland. We repeat once again that we will

continue to attack the enemy until our objective is achieved."

MORTAR ATTACK

The IRA's ability to strike at the enemy in the most unexpected areas was demonstrated last weekend when it launched a mortar attack against the heavily-defended cross-border vehicle checkpoint two miles south of Newry, County Down.

The checkpoint is surrounded by British army outposts dug in on the hillsides overlooking the main Belfast/Dublin Road and there are constant patrols of British troops in the immediate area. In spite of this heavy concentration of crown forces, IRA Volunteers successfully breached these tight defences and fired six mortars, each containing 45lbs of explosives. The missiles were launched from a side road hidden from view by some high ground. Four of the mortars detonated, injuring two members of the RUC. Claiming responsibility, the IRA again stated that its Volunteers had taken every care to avoid placing civilians in any danger.

INCENDIARY

Also in South Down, IRA Volunteers placed a massive incendiary device at commercial premi-



ses in Newry on Friday night, January 9th. The bomb had been attached to the grille of a shop in Canal Street just before 10pm and later exploded, causing extensive damage to several shops. The IRA described this attack as a blow against "the pretext of 'normalisation' in Newry".

RUC PROPAGANDA PLOY

In West Belfast 450lbs of explosives was discovered by the RUC in a van in the Woodside Estate, Poleglass, early on Monday morning, January 12th. The RUC needlessly evacuated the area, a



move which was later described by the IRA as "intending to inconvenience the local population and place the blame for this on the IRA". In a statement the IRA said:

"The explosives only become dangerous when a 'primer' of real explosives is added and this is only done when close to the intended target. The explosives in the van were entirely safe."

TACTIC SUCCEEDING

The success of the IRA's tactic of isolating crown forces in

the North (and particularly of denying them the essential services they require in order to function) was highlighted last week in a report in the new British daily, *The Independent*, which said:

"All substantial building and repair work on police stations in Northern Ireland has been brought to a halt by IRA intimidation, according to reliable security sources".

It further added that the IRA tactic had "brought a multi-million building and repair programme to a standstill".

Extradition ordered

THE EXTRADITION of Donegal man Patrick McIntyre from the 26 Counties to the Six Counties was ordered by a judge in the district court in Donegal town on Wednesday, January 14th.

The RUC had issued three extradition warrants for McIntyre, one of the H-Block escapees who was recaptured soon after the mass break-out in 1983. He was given Christmas parole on December 19th last and was arrested by gardai on foot of the RUC warrants in Kilarc, County Donegal, on Monday, January 5th.

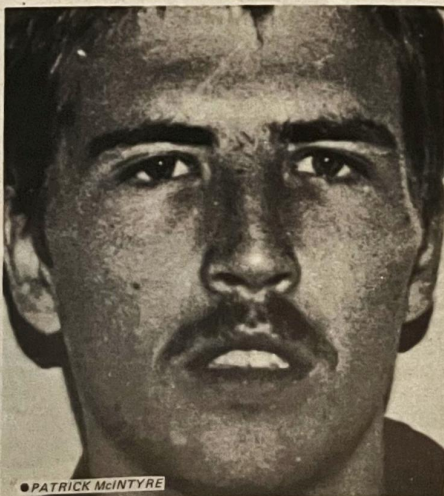
Hundreds of gardai and Free State soldiers cordoned off the courthouse on Wednesday, December 7th, and again on the 14th for McIntyre's court appearances.

Two hundred people took part in a Sinn Fein picket on the court on the 14th and were confronted by riot-clad gardai and soldiers.

HANDCUFFED

Patrick McIntyre remained handcuffed in court, where his family and six Sinn Fein members, including Martin McGuinness, were present to hear Judge McMenamin reject defence submissions that his initial arrest and detention under Section 30

of the Offences Against the State Act and his subsequent



● PATRICK MCINTYRE

re-arrest on the extradition warrants were illegal.

The judge gave McIntyre 15 days to appeal to a higher court before the order comes into force.

SCUFFLES

After the hearing there were scuffles as the gardai pushed back the crowd outside the court. They beat one man and chased another into a river before arresting and later releasing both after Martin McGuinness and local Sinn Fein Councillor Liam McElhinney visited the barracks to protest.

DELAYING TACTIC

AFTER the decision at the 1986 Ard-Fheis that Sinn Fein should register as a political party in the 26 Counties, the relevant papers were lodged with the Leinster House registrar on December 3rd.

Six weeks later, Sinn Fein has still not been registered. In a move directly related to Sinn Fein's registration, an Electoral Bill was pushed through Leinster House on December 11th which will prevent the words 'Sinn Fein' appearing on the ballot paper as part of the name of candidates who change their name by deed poll.

ALLEGATIONS

Since Sinn Fein applied for registration, Ard Runai Tom Hartley has received several letters from the office of the registrar in Leinster House. One of these, received in the New Year, itemised an alleged extract from a speech by Ruairi O Braidigh in 1971, Danny Morrison's 'ballot paper and Armalite' speech from the Ard-Fheis of 1981, separate resolutions on Sinn Fein's support for the armed struggle, and demanded that Sinn Fein "confirms that

these points represent Sinn Fein policy".

In a reply, Sinn Fein queried the right of the registrar to demand such information and were told that, under the Electoral Act 1963, the registrar has to ascertain whether a party was a genuine political party or not. Although the term 'genuine political party' has, in the past, referred simply to the structure of a party, it was clear that in the case of Sinn Fein the term 'genuine' is to be ascertained on political grounds.

ANSWERS

In any event, Sinn Fein had no difficulty in answering the four points. The first had, in fact, misrepresented the speech made by Ruairi O Braidigh by taking the quote out of context, the second was clearly an argument used in the course of a debate, the third had actually been superceded and clarified by motions at subsequent Ard-Fheiseanna, while the final point had never in fact been discussed nor voted on by an Ard-Fheis.

As we go to press no further correspondence has been received from the office of the registrar.

Majority reject Section 31

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

A MAJORITY of people oppose Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act and believe that Sinn Fein should be interviewed on RTE, according to a survey published just a week before the law is to be renewed amid growing protests against censorship.

The survey was carried out by the National Institute of Higher Education in Dublin and shows that 53% of people disapprove of Section 31 while 73% think that Sinn Fein should have access to RTE radio and television. There was a similar result from an Irish Marketing Surveys poll a few weeks ago.

Among the other very significant findings of the NIHE survey was the fact that, a large majority (77%) of people said they wanted RTE to always inform them when Section 31 affects any programme. At present, it is only on very rare occasions that RTE presenters mention the censorship law, even though it can be said to be invoked on any programme whenever a member of a named organisation, who would have been interviewed on RTE had Section 31 not existed, is denied an interview.

When the figures were broken down according to the political parties supported by the people surveyed it was found that a majority of all parties except Fine Gael opposed Section 31.

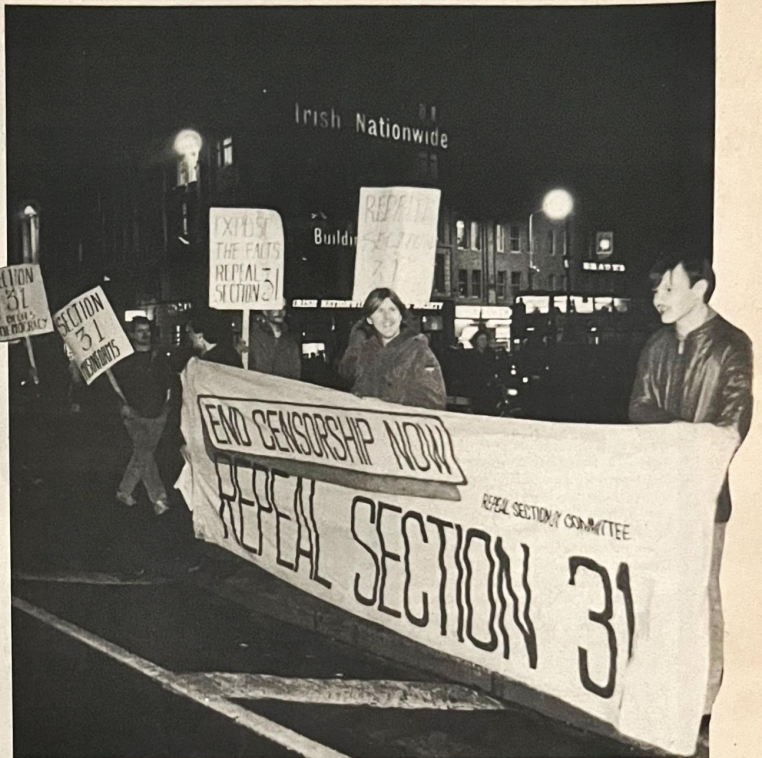
Approval of the ban was concentrated in upper middle-class people over 50.

HEIGHTENED AWARENESS

The survey shows a heightened awareness of the undemocratic law and how it affects broadcasting. This has been due mainly to the wide support won by the Repeal Section 31 Committee since its formation in 1985.

As January 17th approaches, the date for the renewal of Section 31, there have been calls from many quarters for its repeal. The December meeting of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions executive committee called on the 26-County government not to renew the ban. Also in December, Cardinal O Fiaich expressed his opposition to it in an RTE radio interview.

Joining the union leaders in their call on Monday, January 12th, was a group of leading Irish artists and writers. They included the writer Sean O Faolain, who as editor of *The*



● The Repeal Section 31 Committee picket on Dublin's O'Connell Bridge on Friday, January 9th

Bell magazine campaigned against state censorship in the 1940s. In a statement the National Union of Journalists said it was ironic that O Faolain had to take up the fight again after 40 years.

Poet and publisher Steve McDonagh of Brandon Books revealed during the week that RTE had censored a radio advertisement made by him to announce recent publications. RTE refused to allow McDonagh to speak the words "*The Politics of Irish Freedom, by Gerry Adams*" on the grounds that Adams is banned under Section 31. This blatant act

of censorship shows clearly how the law and its effects reach much further than simply barring Sinn Fein.

LIVE SHOW DISRUPTED

The censors were embarrassed again when RTE's *Sunday Night at the Gaiety* programme was interrupted by four anti-Section 31 protesters who got onto the stage during live broadcasting of the show on January 11th. The cameras had to switch to a close-up of presenter Brendan Grace for several minutes while the protest-

ers shouted slogans and held up placards.

Seventy people braved Siberian weather conditions early on Wednesday morning, January 14th, to picket the RTE studios at Montrose in Dublin. The protest at the gates in the driving snow was to demand that RTE journalists refuse to implement Section 31 and the whole network of self-censorship that arises from it.

Another picket will be held on Saturday next, January 17th, at 2.30pm outside Leinster House to coincide with the expected renewal of Section 31.

SHOOT-TO-KILL COVER-UP

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE SHOOTING DEAD of three IRA Volunteers in an SAS shoot-to-kill operation in Strabane on February 23rd 1985 is to be investigated by the RUC.

The inquiry has been brought about as a result of an *Irish Press* article on December 12th last which carried detailed accounts of the incident by witnesses who all live beside the scene of the shooting. None of them had been interviewed by the RUC at the time despite a claim by the RUC press office that a detailed inquiry had been carried out.

One of the witnesses named by the *Irish Press*, Gerard Stevenson, was interviewed by AP/RN two days after the shooting and is quoted in the issue of February 28th 1985:

"They [the IRA Volunteers] weren't asked to surrender; the Brits just started shooting right away."

Sinn Fein Councillors Ivan Barr (Strabane) and Martin McGuinness (Derry) have dismissed the inquiry as "a cynical and cosmetic exercise". McGuinness said

that, as a result of the *Irish Press* story, "the local RUC has been instructed to go through the motions of interviewing the witnesses named".

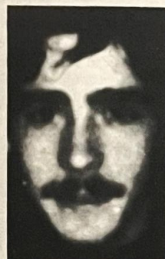
The people of Strabane would not be fooled, he added, as it was obviously a case of the RUC preparing the ground for another cover-up of its shoot-to-kill policy.

NO KIDDING?

Fourteen months after the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement, the cloud of gobbledygook has finally lifted - on the British side at least.

The talk of peace and reconciliation and recognition of identities is over. Down to brass tacks: the Hillsborough Agreement has improved 'security' on the international front, British direct-ruler Tom King declared last Tuesday in his New Year's message. He listed various arms finds in Europe, extradition cases in the Netherlands and the USA, and generally a freer "flow of information" about "terrorism" resulting from the increase in "goodwill" towards Britain since the Agreement was signed.

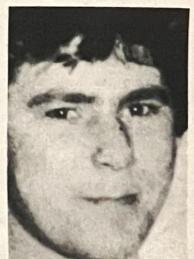
Another "major achievement" of the



● CHARLIE BRESLIN



● DAVID DEVINE



● MICHAEL DEVINE

Agreement, as pointed out by a British Foreign Office briefing document quoted last Monday in the *Belfast News Letter*, is the fact that Dublin ministers are now publicly and consistently condemning the IRA. Dublin's signature on a treaty which enshrines the unionist veto is seen as an "historic shift in political thinking of the South towards Northern Ireland".

With a British general election only months away, these statements should give many Northern nationalists food for thought. In particular as the SDLP

prepares to trot out once again its spurious list of "achievements of the Anglo-Irish Agreement" many members of nationalist community and cultural groups will remember all those promises about US funds which were to be made available to help them. These funds, it has now become clear, will be channelled exclusively into private enterprises in some border areas.

Nationalists can now hold their heads high, said Peter Barry 14 months ago. No kidding?

Fighting unemployment

BY TOM O'DWYER

THE ABJECT FAILURE of 26-County economic solutions was demonstrated on Friday when official unemployment figures topped a quarter of a million. This meant an unemployment rate of 19.3% - a record for the state. Hard on the heels of this announcement came the news that a further 200 jobs would go at the Memorex plant in Clondalkin.

Further redundancies were reported at Huet motors (70) and the Burton clothing chain (48). In a particularly cynical move, the builders' providers firm, PJ Matthews, announced its closure with 57 redundancies while the parent company, Abbey Group, increased its profits by 27% to £3.85 million. Cantrell & Cochrane announced 71 redundancies at Dwans in Thurles.

With brutal irony the Industrial Development Authority, the 26-County body charged with bringing in jobs, announced that 1986 was the best year since 1981 for job creation! In a similar vein, John Bruton, Free State Finance Minister, announced a plan to create 1,000 jobs "for the young, educated and internationally-minded" in a Dublin-based international stock market. This plan, costing £10 million, must be a great comfort to the Clondalkin paper workers who are seeking £4 million to save their plant.

...

Less than two years ago the Leinster House government was denying that large-scale emigration existed; today its statisticians are constantly increasing their estimates for future emigration.

In April 1985, Dublin government estimates put emigration at between 7,500 and 15,000 per year for the period 1986-1991, giving a total of, at most, 75,000 over the five years. By November 1986, expectations had gone up to 25,000 per year, leaving a total of 125,000 by 1990.

The increased 'guesstimates' are due to the discovery by the Dublin Central Statistics Office that 31,000 people left the country between 1985 and 1986. The economic planners of the 26-County National Economic and Social Council expect that this will be reduced to 25,000 a year. But they don't explain why they make this optimistic conclusion. At present, the US, Canada and Australia are all increasing their entry quotas for Irish emigrants. The coming British election is likely to mean at least a temporary economic upturn there. On balance this is more likely to increase rather than decrease Irish emigration.

The average unemployment rate in the EEC is between 11% and 12%. It is estimated that without the safety valve of emigration, 26-County unemployment would be 25% instead of the present 19%.

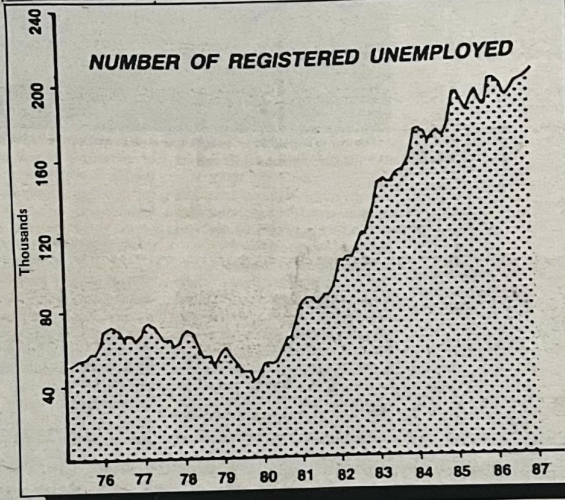
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Despite a court injunction to the contrary, 80 journalists at the *Belfast Telegraph* were locked out on Tuesday.

The journalists had refused to sign an agreement on the introduction of new technology because the company has refused to follow its own disputes procedure on the matter. The National Union of Journalists members have the support of their union.

...

Tara Mines in Navan are demanding



Workers' occupation of Leinster Paper Mills, Clondalkin

shareholders only invested £1 million. The major shareholder is the Canadian Bedford Capital Corporation. The shareholders are now injecting £300,000 to keep the plant going for the moment while estimates of the money needed to properly refinance the plant vary between £4 million and £6 million. The company borrowed £7 million three years ago and it's this debt which enabled the banks to threaten closure.

The 26th wage round negotiations began for many workers with the new year but 16 B+I electrical and engineering maintenance workers are on their fifth week of a strike to get a 7% increase due under the 25th round.

The company pleads poverty but Andy Dowling, shop-steward of the National Engineering & Electrical Trade Union, points out that they have recently spent £7 million on refurbishing car ferries and £5 million in redundancy payments. "If they can do that then they can pay the money due to us," he said.

The strikers have received the support of 50-60 general workers and truck drivers, members of the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union. The freight vessel *MV Kilkenny* has also been hit by sympathetic action by the ship's officers.

The ship's officers, who are members of the Federated Workers' Union of Ireland, have also stopped passenger sailings in a dispute over staffing levels. What unites the two disputes is the high-handed action of the B+I boss, Alex Spain, one of the highest-paid executives in the country. On Tuesday, Spain announced his intention to cut £7 million in labour costs with the loss of 370 jobs.

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As a postscript to a very depressing week, 600 tyre workers at Semperit, Ballyfermot, Dublin West, have been threatened with the sack by the German parent company, Continental Uniroyal. On Sunday, these ITGWU members rejected by a margin of four to one a company package involving a 20% increase in productivity without any increase in pay.

100 redundancies from a workforce of 980. The company is using a fall in ore prices as an excuse. Management is also demanding a 14-month pay pause.

...

Cork trade unionists have denounced "slave rates" being paid to youngsters in the area. One 17-year-old was getting £50 for a 60-hour week. On Thursday, January 8th, Joe O'Callaghan of Cork ITGWU called for the suspension of 26-County 'worker training' schemes until rigid guidelines on pay could be laid down.

...

Over 1,000 Aer Lingus maintenance workers marched through Dublin to Leinster House on Friday, January 9th, to draw attention to their five-week long dispute over productivity. They called on Ruairi Quinn, 26-County Minister for Labour, to force management to abide by previous agreements. Their petition to Quinn emphasised the dangers to air safety posed by management intransigence.

...

Also on Friday, 960 workers at Packard Electric, Tallaght, County Dublin, walked out in protest against management manipulation of production targets.

The strikers had served official strike notice due on Monday, January 19th, and the company, a sub-division of the American multinational General Motors, had increased production to prepare for this. The management response was to ship out a consignment of electrical wiring at 3am on Sunday morning with the help of a very large number of gardai. This action may prolong a dispute which began over the 26th pay round and changes in working conditions.

...

Last week, 264 workers at Leinster Paper Mills in Clondalkin staged a four-day occupation in defence of their jobs. The sit-in ended on Saturday, January 10th, when a bank consortium headed by Standard Chartered allowed rescue attempts to continue for a fortnight. Without this continuous pressure organised in three eight-hour shifts, management would have shipped out the £2-£3 million worth of printed paper stocks. Sixty workers are now keeping the plant in operation without pay. During the occupation workers spoke of "blackmail" and "intimidation" by the banks.

The plant has been seriously undercapitalised since it was reopened three years ago. The Dublin government then put £5 million into the plant while the



MAGILLIGAN VISIT PROTEST

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE PROTEST by republican and nationalist prisoners in Magilligan Jail, who are refusing all visits, enters its fourth week on Saturday.

The protest began on December 27th after the British Northern Ireland Office introduced so-called 'open visits' at the County Derry jail. The new system of visits prevents any privacy between prisoners and their families.

In a letter from one of the 36 republicans in the jail, the visiting area is described as:

"20 tables (at times reduced to 15) spaced 12 feet apart. There are three elevated observation points manned by several prison officers, while a number of officers patrol up and down the aisles, regularly standing beside tables in use. Throughout the visit one is constantly aware of watching eyes and listening ears. There are no partitions at all, no level of privacy is afforded to men and their visitors, so-called private conversations are clearly audible and they are exposed to the view of everyone.

"It is an outrageous lie for the NIO to claim that these visits are 'less intrusive' or a 'relaxation of security...' Their purpose is to inflict further emotional stress on men and loved ones."

The protest may prevent prisoners

from seeing their families for a considerable time, but the republican prisoners believe it is their "only option".

DREADFUL

The mother of Belfast republican prisoner Liam White last saw her 29-year-old son just before Christmas. That

meeting was Ellis White's first experience of the open-visit system. She says:

"There's no way you could have a personal, private conversation. The Screws are walking up and down and round and round.

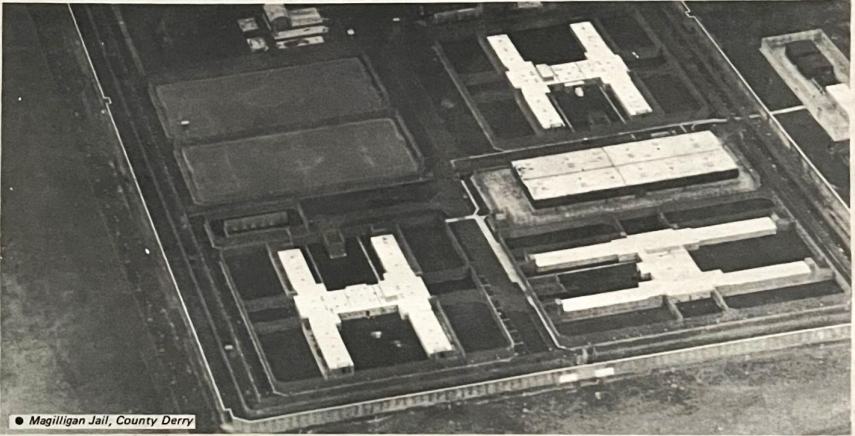
"I got the feeling that the Screws were sneering, that they were enjoying

it all. All the visitors came out crying that day... I support the prisoners all the way because on that visit I felt as if I was being punished for something."

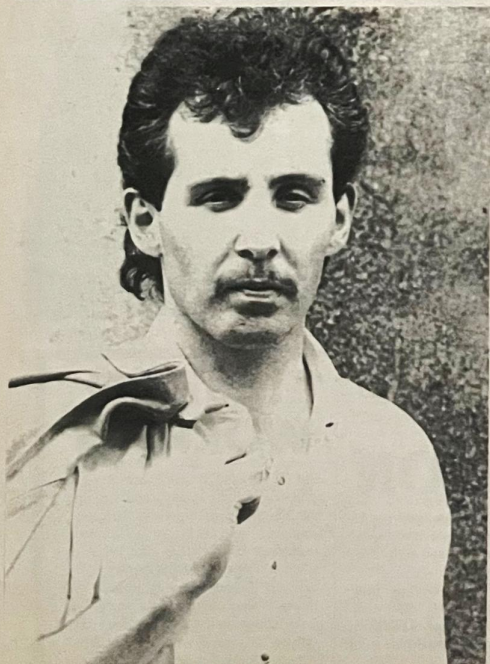
GRAVE

Sinn Fein's Six-County chairperson, Jim McAllister, last weekend accused the British prison authorities of "putting the boot into prisoners and their families". He warned:

"The situation in Magilligan is very grave and demands the attention of concerned people to halt NIO cruelty."



● Magilligan Jail, County Derry



● STEPHEN MOORE

Border rendezvous slammed

BY JACK MADDEN

A 26-YEAR-OLD County Monaghan man has been barred from entering the Six Counties within days of a border rendezvous during which the RUC were supplied with documents by the gardai.

Stephen Moore, a factory worker from Clones, was arrested on New Year's Eve at Kilturk British army checkpoint on the main Clones/Newtownbutler road. He was taken to Armagh's Gough Barracks by the RUC and held there under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which allows up to seven days detention.

On New Year's Day, a Garda patrol was observed meeting members of the RUC (backed up by the UDR) at the border crossing a few hundred yards from Clones. Amongst the documents which

are believed to have been given to the RUC at this meeting were statements implicating Moore in a number of offences. RUC detectives at Gough Barracks used the statements in an attempt to pressure Moore into becoming an informer.

The actions of the Garda in collaborating with the RUC have been condemned locally where it is believed that the Garda have been motivated by spite. Several months ago, Moore was awarded £25,000 in an action he had taken against Garda brutality in Monaghan Barracks.

During his detention in Gough Barracks, Moore was offered £50,000 if he would agree to 'set-up' a number of named republicans from County Monaghan. RUC detectives joked about the death of IRA Volunteer Seamus McElwain and said that the same SAS gang which killed McElwain had been on its way to Newtownbutler to assassinate Moore but that he had left before they arrived.

After seven days' interrogation, during which he was beaten on two occasions, Moore was due for release. However, the RUC held him until the following day before serving him with an exclusion order which bars him from entering the Six Counties.

LEGAL ACTION

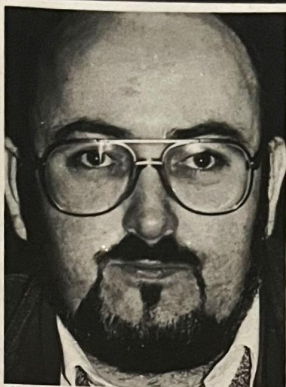
Speaking to AP/RN, Moore said that he was still considering legal action to remove this bar, given that he was born in England and reared in Belfast until he was 14 years of age.

Local Sinn Fein Councillor Pat Treanor slammed what he called "Garda complicity" in the detention of Stephen Moore and warned of the increased use of exclusion orders against Sinn Fein activists in border areas for whom such an order would be a source of major inconvenience since the border is crossed as part of every-day life in such areas.

Campaign of Disruption

ATTEMPTS by the Coalition government to disrupt the electoral programme of Sinn Fein have been intensified in recent weeks through the deployment of the gardai in a campaign of harassment and intimidation of Sinn Fein members and supporters.

Over the past four weeks, the homes of at least 25 members have been raided and members, supporters and their friends have been detained and questioned when either seen in the company of members or leaving party offices. One of the most serious incidents over the past few weeks has been the raid on the home of the secretary of the Donegal Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair, Rosie Diamond. During the raid the following items were confiscated by the Special Branch: the minutes and files of both the Donegal Comhairle Ceantair and Letterkenny cumann; personal items, including a video of Rosie Diamond's wedding; her children's birth certificates; and a copy of a book written by Gerry Adams. Another very significant item taken was a copy of the UDA magazine *Uistear*, which contained a photograph of a group of republicans. This photograph had been taken in Letterkenny and had been confiscated by the Garda during a previous raid on houses in Letterkenny.



● CAOIMHGHIN O CAOLAIN



● PAT DOHERTY

The only way this photograph could have come into the hands of the UDA is through their friends in the RUC, who must have received it from the Garda. The photograph was being used by the UDA to pin-point people for assassination. Despite repeated demands for the return of this property by Rosie Diamond, the Garda have so far refused to comply. Garda Special Branch members oper-

ating from the new Cavan/Monaghan Divisional Headquarters in Monaghan town, have in recent months been engaged in a systematic campaign of harassment and intimidation of known republican families, particularly in the Clones and North Monaghan areas.

One family had their home raided and were subjected to verbal abuse on four occasions in one week. A number of homes

were raided twice on the one day.

Monaghan Sinn Fein County Councillor Caoimhghin O Caolain has condemned the raids and lodged a formal complaint with the Garda.

In Dublin, John Doyle, a worker in Sinn Fein Head Office, was arrested and held for two hours by Special Branch gardai in the Bridewell on Thursday, January 8th.

TRADE UNION LITERATURE

In Limerick, documents relating to Sinn Fein's election campaign were seized on a raid of the home of local Sinn Fein activists Padraig and Anita Malone.

During the raid on Friday morning, January 9th, Special Branch members spent an hour going through Sinn Fein and trade union literature and searched every room in the house. They also took the minutes books of the Limerick Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair and a local cumann.

Commenting on the recent upsurge in harassment, Sinn Fein's 26-County Director of Elections, Pat Doherty, said:

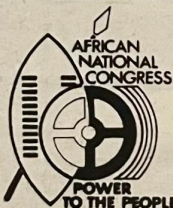
"In the light of these incidents and the continuing harassment of Sinn Fein party activists, it is obvious that the Coalition is determined to use any means available to cause as much disruption as possible to Sinn Fein's electoral strategy."

ANC rally in Dublin

BY TOM O'DWYER

THE SOUTH AFRICAN struggle came to Dublin on Thursday, January 8th, when the 75th birthday of the African National Congress was celebrated. Two hundred and fifty people filled the ATGWU hall to hear Reg September of the ANC national executive declare that 1987 would be the "year of advance towards people power".

September congratulated the Dunnes strikers and welcomed the 26-County government ban on the importation of South African fruit as "small, but it's a beginning". He went on to point out that the ANC is the oldest liberation movement on the African continent. Its ability to withstand the terror of the apartheid state led September to conclude that "the organisation is indestructible".



22,000 ARRESTS

There have recently been 22,000 political arrests (8,000 aged between 13 and 18). To the clear embarrassment of the platform speakers, who included John Hume, September gave details of armed action against the racist state and noted "the beginnings of white participation in the struggle". He concluded that the regime "has its back to the wall".

Kader Asmal of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement compared the ANC's Freedom Char-

ter to the 1919 programme of the first Dail, seeing both as programmes for liberation. His salute to Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, received tremendous applause - even John Hume of the SDLP was seen to clap. This must have surprised Hume's SDLP colleagues on Derry City Council who last year refused to grant jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela the freedom of the city because of his support for armed struggle.



● Reg September, executive member of the ANC, meets Catherine O'Reilly, one of the Dunnes Stores strikers at the ATGWU hall in Dublin

26-COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION

WITH A GENERAL ELECTION imminent in the 26 Counties, it is essential that republican supporters make an all-out effort to raise the funds necessary to fight the election on a professional basis against establishment parties supported by vested commercial interests.

Sinn Fein will be contesting seats across a wide area, offering a real change to the bankrupt policies of the establishment parties. To

wage an effective campaign, however, we need a substantial sum of money and we turn to our friends and comrades in Ireland and abroad for their vital assistance once again.

Now is the time to start sending your donations, large or small, to the Sinn Fein Election Fund, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (Please send only cheques, postal orders or money orders - no cash.)

ELECTION WORKERS

ELECTION WORKERS are another vital component of any campaign and there's plenty of work for everyone, whatever your skills or talents and regardless of whether you've done any election work before or not.

Even if you can only spare a few hours, please contact your local Sinn Fein advice centre or Sinn Fein Head Office, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (phone 726932) now.



RUC steps up blackmail

BY JANE PLUNKETT

THE RUC is increasing its attempts to blackmail and intimidate nationalists into becoming informers, with four such cases coming to light recently.

The first case was brought to public attention by the West Belfast Taxi Association and involves a black-taxi driver, a victim of continual crown forces harassment, who last August was summoned on five petty charges after an RUC/ British Army search of his taxi.

As the driver left Belfast Magistrates' Court after an interim hearing on November 6th, he was approached by two plainclothes British soldiers. They offered to "drop all charges" in return for him agreeing to supply information. The driver firmly rejected their blackmail and left.

On December 11th, after another appearance at the Magistrates' Court, the driver was again accosted by one of the plainclothes British soldiers, who this time was more aggressive, and ordered the driver to go with them. The soldier threatened: "If you don't talk to us now we'll come looking for you." Another British soldier was waiting in a parked car across the road.

However, the taxi-driver sensibly resisted this intimidation and gave his solicitor a full account of the incidents.

DOWNPATRICK

A South Down farm labourer has revealed that the RUC offered him hundreds of pounds to become an informer and threatened that he would be shot by the UVF if he refused.

Patrick McGinn (25) was arrested from his home in Seaforde, Downpatrick, on December 9th and taken to Castlereagh

Interrogation Centre where, in the course of 11 successive interrogations in a two-day period, he was verbally abused, kicked repeatedly, beaten and threatened.

"I was told that I had three weeks to live, that my name and details about me would be given to the UVF. One interrogator told me that in the next cell to me there was a top UVF man from Ballynahinch and that he would give the UVF man my file to read over."

Maginn was offered an initial payment of £500 to become an informer and told he would get more. The RUC offered to meet him at the Forum Hotel or in the car park at Drumanness. Maginn summed up his two-day ordeal:

"I was constantly pressurised by the RUC who tried to make me become a spy for them. Threats were made against my life. I was told that my testicles would be electrified, I was spat upon, had my face stuck in an ashtray, smoke blown into my face, and I was beaten viciously."

DRIVING

A 22-year-old man from the Short Strand area of East Belfast has revealed that the RUC pressed him to become an informer after he appeared in court on a drink-driving charge on December 23rd.

Tom Kelly, of Madrid Court, was taken aside by two plainclothes RUC men at Belfast Magistrates' Court after being given £50 bail on the driving charge.

At the court, one of the RUC men told Kelly, "You're in deep trouble," adding "we want something on somebody." One of the RUC men mentioned the name of a well-known Short Strand republican, saying:

"This is the man we want. We don't want anything big on him, just something that will stick."

The RUC man told Kelly that they would telephone him at a Short Strand



● Belfast City Councillor Alex Maskey with Gerry Young after he had exposed the RUC's first attempt to recruit him as an informer, in December 1984. (See below for details)

club, then told him to meet them at Jackson's Road near Palace Barracks, Hollywood at 2pm the following Friday, January 2nd. They said Kelly and his family would "have hell to pay" unless he co-operated. But Kelly, feeling "very, very worried", contacted Sinn Fein and did not keep the rendezvous.

FOLLOW-UP

The fourth case concerns 38-year-old Belfast man Gerry Young, a former republican prisoner. In December 1985, Young revealed in AP/RN an elaborate attempt by the British Special Branch to recruit him as an informer, using threats against his children. On that occasion he was told that a guitar catalogue would be posted to his home in a few weeks' time, and this would be the signal to collect an envelope of money at a local post office. When the catalogue duly arrived, Young took an independent witness, Fr Des Wilson, with him to collect the envelope which contained £150 in cash.

Now, a year later, Young has been the victim of a sinister follow-up.

On December 11th, another guitar catalogue arrived at his home, together with a letter saying "Happy Xmas" and "PS - You owe us £150." It was signed "Jock", the first name of one of the Special Branch men who had interrogated him the previous year.

APPEAL

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, has denounced these latest RUC blackmail attempts, which he said were "a sign that the RUC is still stunned by and isolated from the nationalist people and thus will use any sordid tactic in their search for scraps of information."

"For anyone who finds themselves a victim of the RUC's unscrupulous blackmail, publicity is their best protection, and I would appeal to them to come forward to Sinn Fein, their solicitor, or the media immediately."

RIFLE HELD TO MAN'S HEAD

A SQUAD of the RUC's notorious Divisional Mobile Support Unit in Dungannon, County Tyrone, meted out a severe beating to a young nationalist man on Tuesday night, January 6th.

Oliver Nugent (20), from Galbally, was stopped at a checkpoint on the Galbally Road at 8.30pm. From the outset the RUC were aggressive in questioning Nugent and threatened to bring him to Dungannon Barracks and charge him with assault. When Nugent opened the boot of the car to be searched, one RUC man handed his rifle to another, pulled off his coat and grabbed Nugent by the hair. Nugent told AP/RN:

"They pushed me into a ditch and gave me a kicking. I wouldn't be fit to walk now only a neighbour came out when she heard them at me."

SCREAMED

Mother-of-seven Mary Nugent (no relation) screamed in shock when she saw an RUC man pointing and cocking his rifle against the youth's head. She immediately ran towards Nugent and got between him and the RUC,



● OLIVER NUGENT who warned him: "We'll finish you off now."

Mary Nugent told AP/RN: "I really thought he was going to be shot dead and I begged the RUC to stop."

She too was kicked and after a few minutes she heard an RUC man ordering the others to disperse. She added:

"If I hadn't drawn attention to them by screaming as hard as I could, I'm sure they would have left that lad for dead."



● PADDY DEVLIN

Invalid assaulted

A DISABLED MAN from Castleberg, County Tyrone, was admitted to hospital with leg injuries following an RUC raid on his home in which he, his wife and several of his eight children were assaulted.

The RUC raided the Devlin home at Castlefin Park at 7am on Monday, January 5th. At least 12 RUC men, some carrying crow-bars as well as their usual heavy weaponry, rushed into the house and arrested the eldest boy, 18-year-old Kevin. The youth was detained in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre but, after nearly four days, was released without charge.

After seizing Kevin, two RUC men threw his father onto the floor. Paddy Devlin (46), an invalid, is in constant pain and unable to walk without the aid of sticks. Devlin fell on his good leg and suffered torn ligaments and a chipped bone. He was subsequently detained for two nights in Altnagelvin Hospital, Derry, where his leg, which may need an operation, was put in a plaster cast.

Michael (16) attempted to help his father but was held in a stranglehold, suffering bruising. Eight-year-old Jacqueline was pushed, jammed against banisters and slapped by RUC men. She was badly bruised on her back and very frightened.

Her brother Brendan (14) was pushed into the bathroom and

struck twice on the head with an RUC torch.

"They ripped his T-shirt and I myself got a clout across the jaw in my own bedroom," said their mother, Carol Devlin.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING TORN

Several items of clothing worn by the children were torn by aggressive RUC men who forcibly prevented members of the family from supervising the search and instead kept the Devlins under illegal group arrest. The RUC smashed tiles in a fireplace and broke a window-catch.

Carol Devlin attempted to contact the family solicitor John Fahy but was prevented by the RUC. Paddy Devlin told AP/RN:

"Two people who came to my house during this display of thuggery were refused admittance and only when our local doctor arrived did the RUC allow entry and pretend everything was normal."

REFORMED RUC?

The RUC raid was condemned by local Sinn Fein Councillor Charlie McHugh, who pointed out that some eight nationalist homes in the area had been raided in the previous fortnight, with seven people held for up to five days at interrogation centres:

"In spite of calls by Peter Barry and other pro-British politicians for nationalists to join a 'reformed' RUC, there are no signs of any 'reformation' in Castleberg or Aghyran."



The new Tallaght

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

WORK has recently been finished on the first part of a new 'town centre' for the sprawling Dublin suburb of Tallaght. Years of waiting for long-promised facilities are not, however, going to be fulfilled when the new building opens - it is a Garda barracks.

The large new building stands on its own on the empty site of the 'town centre', surrounded by the large housing estates of West Tallaght. All built in the 1980s, these estates house communities with some of the highest unemployment rates in Ireland. It is reckoned that in the Fettercairn and Cushlawn estates, 85% of people are unemployed. In other areas the rate is never less than 60%.

Dublin is one of the most 'ghettoised' cities in Europe in that there are very few suburbs with mixed unemployed, working-class, professional and middle-class populations. All the various social groups are concentrated in definite areas. Tallaght, and in particular the newer estates there, are ghettos of unemployment and all the problems faced by people in them are related, directly or indirectly, to the lack of jobs.

VACANT HOUSES

The decay caused by massive unemployment is evident by the large number of vacant and boarded-up houses around the estates. These tell their own tale about Tallaght's social problems. They are there because the trend is for people to move out when they can by taking advantage of the £5,000 Dublin government grant for first-time house buyers.

The result is that those lucky enough to get jobs naturally take the chance of moving away to areas with better facilities, thus further increasing the proportion of those unemployed in the community.

In the Fettercairn estate 200 out of 750 houses have been vacated since the grant was introduced. The vacant houses quickly become derelict and this has had a domino effect with people living next door to them moving out as the dereliction spreads.

For those who are left there are few in-

TALLAGHT

- communities on the edge



centives to stay in Tallaght. All the new estates were built with no consideration of people's needs and a total lack of planning. As with other local authority housing schemes throughout the 26 Counties

but particularly in Dublin, houses went up without any plans for shops, transport, or recreation facilities.

Bill Fleming of the Brookfield Residents' Association explains that his area is typical

with regard to the problem of lack of facilities.

Built in 1981, the houses are still not served by proper shops and the people have several miles to travel to the nearest shops.

Thousands forced out by loyalist terror



A Housing Executive spokesperson told AP/RN that 445 families had been rehoused in 1986. However, 135 families remain without priority status and are currently living in fear while their cases are "investigated" by the RUC. In cases where intimidation is claimed, the RUC must substantiate that a sectarian attack took place before the Executive award priority rehousing status.

While the Housing Executive figures are high they do not reflect the real and more widespread numbers of families who are living in terror but who have so far not applied for rehousing.

LOGICAL CONCLUSION

Criticising the Housing Executive for using intimidation as an excuse for not being able to meet housing needs, Sinn Fein MP Gerry Adams pointed out that, as most cases of intimidation occurred in Lisburn, "the logical conclusion would be to build more houses in West Belfast", as "Catholic victims of intimidation opt to move to the relative safety of the area".

Instead, the present situation is the reverse as "over the next three years less houses will be built than in the last three years" which proves that the Executive has neither the will nor the inclination to tackle the housing problem. He called on them to be "honest" about this and not use intimidation and the suffering of families as an excuse for their own inability to meet housing needs.

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

LAST WEEK the North's Housing Executive used the plight of families intimidated from their homes as an excuse for keeping others on the waiting list longer. In reality, the intimidation crisis has pin-pointed the Executive's underlying inability to overcome the housing shortage which has been a feature of life for decades in the North.



● Just two examples of the widespread intimidation by loyalists of Catholic families in Lisburn

They revealed on Wednesday, January 7th, that during 1986

intimidation cases accounted for a staggering 1,102 applications for rehousing, the highest recorded since the early '70s when thousands fled their homes. The report also admitted that the vast majority of applicants were Catholics intimidated by violent loyalist reaction to the Hillsborough Agreement. The three major areas where intimidation occurred were Belfast, Antrim and Lisburn where more than 200 families were forced out of their homes.

points out, that "West Tallaght people have been very united in their stance". As well as withholding rents, tenants have been picketing the local rent offices since the strike began.

Community action has been the only way that people have managed to improve living conditions.

"Facilities for youth are minimal in an area with up to 80% of people under the age of 25," says John Noonan of Sinn Fein, who is deeply involved in the Fettercairn youth club, one of several set up by voluntary workers in the community with no help from the authorities.

This lack of assistance is despite the fact that Tallaght has been officially designated a poverty area by the EEC. Community activists are unhappy with the unplanned and discriminating way EEC funding has been used.

PRIORITY MUST BE JOBS

John Noonan says that what is needed is an overall attack on the problems of the area:

"As well as providing basic essentials like adequate maintenance, a proper bus service, shops and recreation facilities, the provision of jobs must be the priority. The establishment politicians have failed miserably to represent the unemployed and working-class people of Tallaght. Their welfare cuts and rent increases are only the latest of their attacks on communities. It has been learned the hard way that community action against them is the only answer as the anti-water rates campaign and now the rent strike have shown."

The drifts of snow that descended on Tallaght's new Garda barracks this week could not hide the emptiness around it or the fact that it remains the most fitting symbol of the failure of successive Dublin governments and the cycle of poverty and deprivation they have created.

ISOLATION

The problems of isolation for families are worsened by the state of many of the houses themselves. Willie Stacey is chairperson of the West Tallaght Community Council representing Cloonmore, Jobstown, Brookfield and Fettercairn. He explains that the houses have basic flaws:

"The houses were built 'on the lump' by contractors for Dublin Corporation. They have sinking floors, rotten window frames and defective roofs, doors and fireplaces."

Maintenance of the houses is consequently a major problem. Tenants have to wait for months or even years for essential repairs to be carried out. Dublin Corporation's maintenance depot in Tallaght employs only 36 workers for a suburb with a population comparable to that of the average large Irish town and almost completely made up of local authority tenants. There are only two bricklayers, one slater and one glazier for the whole area. More significant still is the fact that there is only one apprentice employed in the Tallaght depot.

While spending on maintenance is cut back, the Corporation has spent large sums on security firms to guard vacant houses. These 'cowboy companies', as Willie Stacey describes them, employ people at £1.50 per hour. As is increasingly the case with work carried out for the Corporation, those employed usually come from outside the area.

Willie Stacey says that instead of breaking the vicious circle of maintenance problems and vacant houses, the Corporation has widened it. It has failed to take the obvious solution of employing local people to carry out maintenance, thus helping to ease the lack of jobs and the long delays in getting repairs done.

COMMUNITY ACTION

In the light of all these failures, the Corporation rent increases introduced at the end of last year have met with bitter opposition in Tallaght. On January 1st, tenants in West Tallaght joined the National Association of Tenants' Organisations' rent strike en masse. The response has shown, as Willie Stacey

LIMERICK FLATS DANGER

SINN FEIN in Limerick has recently been highlighting the dangerous state of disrepair of corporation flats in Ballynanty.

Despite the severe housing problem in the city, many of the flats have been unoccupied for over a year. This is due to the failure of the corporation to carry out urgent maintenance work. Financial cut-backs have meant that, as in every other local authority in the 26 Counties, the maintenance department is understaffed and needs to recruit new workers.

As well as the imminent danger of collapse of the roof of the flats, part of the building has been burnt out on numerous occasions and is in an extremely dangerous condition.

Local Sinn Fein community

worker Maurice Quinlivan has condemned suggestions by several councillors that the flats should be renovated and used to house 'unmarried mothers':

"Single parents should be fully integrated into the community and not isolated in a ghetto-type situation."

Pointing out that the flats were in a working-class area with a high level of unemployment, Quinlivan said that there was an urgent need for more housing and safe accommodation for tenants.

"The entire maintenance department is concerned solely with houses for purchase to the det-



● Ballynanty, Limerick

riement of ordinary tenants. The Ballynanty building has now become an eyesore and a danger to the residents in the area. Sinn

Fein demands that these flats be demolished and replaced with the accommodation suitable to the needs of the people."

DYING OF COLD

WITH MOST of Ireland and Europe shivering in the grip of one of the most severe winters in living memory, considerable concern has been expressed about the plight of the elderly and the risk to life from hypothermia and cold-related illnesses.

On Wednesday, January 14th, the Right to Fuel Group, a "lobby of concerned individuals, voluntary bodies and trade unions seeking to publicise the extent of fuel poverty" in the Six Counties, published an alarming and highly critical report on the extent of cold-related deaths and ill-health in the North entitled *Dying of the Cold: Fuel Poverty and Ill-health in Northern Ireland*.

The author, Les Allamby, points to the frightening figures in Britain which suggest that between one in ten and one in seven elderly people are at risk from hypothermia. In addition, a survey by the Royal College of Physicians in 1972 highlighted the fact that 54% of living-room temperatures were below the minimum standard set by the British government for shops and offices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report concludes by making a number of recommendations to tackle this serious problem, including "research into the extent of fuel poverty and cold-related ill-health". Among the recommendations are:



● GERRY ADAMS

- An end to disconnection of electricity without a court order.

- All householders on supplementary benefit to receive assistance with fuel during a period of exceptionally severe weather without having to make a claim.

- Legislation to place a statutory duty on Health & Social Services Boards to implement a programme of action to tackle fuel poverty.

Sinn Féin MP Gerry Adams, who represents West Belfast, an area with a high proportion of elderly people, welcomed the timely production of this report and called for its recommendations to be speedily implemented.



● The Mac Airt Naiscoil, Short Strand, Belfast, which is under attack from British direct-ruler Tom King

Community grant sabotaged

THE West Belfast MP, Gerry Adams, has pledged Sinn Féin opposition to British government plans to sabotage grant aid to the Mac Airt Community Centre in the Short Strand area of Belfast.

Adams said:

"Tom King's threats are grossly impertinent and arrogant. On the basis of a secret political decision, grant aid to a commu-

nity centre is to be stopped. Among other projects, the fate of the Mac Airt Naiscoil Association will be of particular importance to the Short Strand

community in particular, and to the Irish-speaking community in general."

MEETING

Gerry Adams had a meeting with the committee of the naiscoil on Tuesday, January 13th. Afterwards, he said:

"This naiscoil has done a tremendous job in promoting the Irish language, culture, music and dancing to children of pre-school age. It is a voluntary project and will lose three ACE workers as a result of Tom King's dictate.

"All those involved in the ACE-funded schemes or in cultural and educational projects should support the right of the Short Strand community to these worthwhile projects without British government intimidation."

Tacaíocht tréan ó IDATU

A UNIQUE display of trade union solidarity with the Irish-language movement was seen in Belfast last week when the Irish Distributive & Administrative Trade Union (IDATU) presented £200 to Belfast's newest Irish-language nursery school.

John Mitchell, general secretary of the Dublin-based union, made the donation to Mairín McGuinness, a teacher at the Ballymurphy naíona. Explained Mitchell:

"All the teachers in the



● Mairín McGuinness receives a cheque for £200 from John Mitchell of IDATU

Irish nursery schools in Belfast are members of IDATU and we thought this would be a suitable way for us to show our support for the work they are doing."

JOIN SINN FÉIN



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

There are Sinn Féin cumainn throughout the thirty-two counties and a number of areas have established supporters' groups.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin, or find out more about our activities and policies, fill in the form below and send it to: Sinn Féin Head Office, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Ainm
Seoladh

Campaign to defend clinics



AN INITIATIVE by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) has resulted in the closure of one Dublin women's clinic and threatens another.

A decision in the case taken by SPUC in the Dublin High Court means that pregnancy counselling services in the 26 Counties which gave any advice on abortion had to close by Monday, January 12th. SPUC is also seeking to inflict the high legal costs of the case on the clinics, endangering Dublin's Well Woman Centre, which offers a wide range of counselling and medical services to women.

On Sunday, in advance of the decision, 60 people gathered outside Dublin's Four Courts to protest against SPUC's attempts to close the clinics. Anne Conway, spokesperson for the group, said: "We will certainly be looking for a commitment from the various political parties to defend the clinics."

Support of the clinics has been so overwhelming that many supporters had to be turned away



● MARY HOLLAND from a packed 200-strong meeting in Liberty Hall the following Monday. The meeting was addressed by journalists Mary Holland and Nell McCafferty, Kader Asmal (Irish Council for Civil Liberties), and Ivor Browne, a psychiatrist with the Eastern Health Board.

INFORMATION ON AIDS

THE DEATH at the end of last year of a prisoner in Mountjoy Jail from AIDS has shown the totally inadequate response of the Dublin government and its various agencies both to that disease and to the drugs epidemic.

Several years ago, when the heroin epidemic was beginning to claim young lives in Dublin, action to rid communities of the drugs menace was left to local people. The victims of drugs — the addicts, their families and neighbours — were left with little help

from the state agencies charged with guarding public health (although the Concerned Parents Against Drugs movement, even with its limited resources, tried to provide back-up services wherever possible). The reason for official inaction was that successive governments had denied the seriousness of the problem until it was almost out of control. The response to AIDS has been similar.

The Mountjoy prisoner died because he used a dirty needle to inject himself with drugs. At a press conference in Dublin last month it was pointed out that the

first that many drug-users knew of dirty needles carrying the risk of AIDS infection was when they received test results showing that they had the disease.

Gay Health Action held the press conference to launch an information pack and booklet on AIDS. For the past two years the group has been providing essential information on the disease without any help from the Dublin government which has only in the past few weeks finally decided to take some action.

REPORTING

As well as medical facts and health advice the pack contains the National Union of Journalists' guidelines on the reporting of AIDS — guidelines that have been breached by the sensational reporting of the disease. In the case of the Mountjoy prisoner, his name and family background were publicised without any regard for his relatives.

The *AIDS Information Booklet* is available in bookshops (price £1.50) and the information pack is available from: Gay Health Action, PO Box 1890, Dublin 1.

INFORMATION AIDS BOOKLET

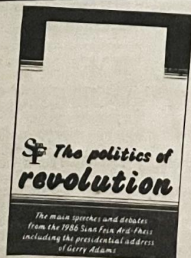
The Politics of Revolution

REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS has produced a 48-page illustrated book on the 1986 Ard-Fheis — *The Politics of Revolution*.

The book contains most of the major speeches from the abstentionist debate at the Ard-Fheis, including the text of speeches by Pat Doherty (proposing the Ard Chomhairle motion), John Joe McGill, Joe Cahill and Martin McGuinness.

The Politics of Revolution also includes the full text of Sean McManus' address and Gerry Adams' presidential address. All of these important speeches were previously unpublished.

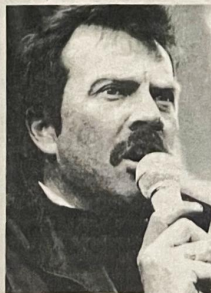
This historic document is available from Republican Publications at the price of £1.50. It can be obtained from the



usual republican outlets including:

Republican Publications
51/55 Falls Road
Belfast
or
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1.

CPAD ACTION



● KEVIN FITZPATRICK

A MAN who is believed to be one of the main heroin pushers in Dublin was given 48 hours to leave his Dun Laoghaire home on Wednesday evening, January 7th, by members of Dun Laoghaire Concerned Parents Against Drugs committee when they marched on his home. He left the following day.

Joe Donnelly, a native of Belfast, was living in a rented house in Abbey Road and had been under observation by members of the CPAD for months. Kevin Fitzpatrick, chairperson

of the CPAD central committee, said:

"We have definite proof that this man has been pushing drugs, something he has admitted himself. He has been told that neither his activities nor his presence in the area will be tolerated any longer."

Donnelly was interned in Long Kesh in the early '70s but his connections with the Republican Movement were severed even before his release and he has had no connection since then. He has since been in jail several times in the 26 Counties for criminal activities.

IMEAGHTAÍ

REPEAL SECTION 31 PICKET
5pm to 6pm Every Friday
O'Connell Street Bridge
DUBLIN

ANTI-APARTHEID PLANNING MEETING FOR ANC 75th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
7.30pm Thursday 15th January
Bunratty Hotel
Molesworth Street
DUBLIN

CAVAN SINN FEIN ELECTION WORKERS MEETINGS
West Cavan area
9pm Friday 16th January
Welcome Inn
SWANLINBAR

WELCOME HOME DANCE FOR BILLY KELLY (Ex-Portlaoise POW)
Friday 16th January
Benna's Hotel
TRALEE
County Kerry

FUND-RAISING
Guest artists
Friday 16th January
No.5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Taillie £1
Organised by the
Tom Smith Republican Band

ANTI-SECTION 31 PICKET
2.30pm Saturday 17th January
Leinster House
DUBLIN
Organised by the
Repeal Section 31 Committee

TABLE QUIZ & SOCIAL
(Normal quiz rules)
Guest artists
8pm Saturday 17th January
West County Hotel
CHAPELIZOD
County DuBlín
Subscription £3
Proceeds to Birmingham Six Cttee

KEVIN COEN COMMEMORATION
11.30am Sunday 18th January
Assemble Sodey Church
SOEY
County Sligo
Organised by Sinn Fein

DUBLIN NORTH-EAST SINN FEIN ELECTION WORKERS & SUPPORTERS MEETING
4pm Sunday 18th January
Camelot Hotel
Malahide Road
DUBLIN

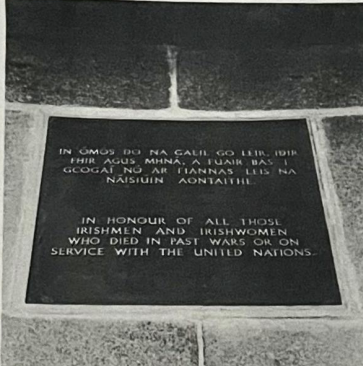
WELSH THEATRE FORTNIGHT
January 19th to 21st
18961: *Caneuon Galar a Gobaith*
(18961: *Songs of Grief and Hope*)
About Latin America's 'disappeared'
January 22nd to 24th
Ymfudry (Emigrants)
The hopes, fears and dreams of Welsh emigrants awaiting entry into the USA
Daw Dydd (When the Day Comes)
Peacock Theatre
DUBLIN
Taillie £5 (£3 group bookings)

NORTH MUNSTER SINN FEIN COMHAIRLE LIMISTEAR
8pm Wednesday 21st January
Gaelic League Hall
LIMERICK
All officers and comhairle limistear delegates to attend

KERRY SINN FEIN SOCIAL
Speaker: Gerry Adams
Music by Dan Paddy Andy
Bar extension
9pm Friday 23rd January
Earl of Desmond Hotel
TRALEE
County Kerry
Tickets £3
From Tralee Sinn Fein or your local cumann

Mála Poist

AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



NEW UNIONISTS

A Chairde,
Since the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement, a new unionism has been unveiled in Ireland. Its principle architects are John Hume, Garret FitzGerald and Peter Barry, and the Hillsborough Agreement may be seen as their manifesto.

During the past year, in statements issued by its prime movers, the new unionism has declared that partition must continue, that Britain is not even a party to the conflict in Ireland (much less the cause of it), and that the IRA is responsible for repression, unemployment and emigration. Popular resistance to British rule has now been identified as the only obstacle to peace and prosperity. By declaring the defeat of such resistance its first priority, the Dublin government has made a clear declaration of its intent to accommodate and perpetuate the British presence.

It has been justifiably said that the present administration in Leinster House behaves more in the manner of the pre-1916 Irish Parliamentary Party than a sovereign government. It can be seen that the new unionists have worked patiently and steadily through inter-governmental meetings, academic conferences, media conditioning and so on, to reduce Irish nationalism to an empty provincialism easily accommodated within a wider British ethos.

Thus while the Easter Rising is not officially marked, Free State ministers scurry to attend British Legion commemoration ceremonies their slavishness has led to the desecration of the Dublin Garden of Remembrance with a plaque in honour of those who sought to deny Ireland's national rights.

It goes without saying that the ideals which motivated the men and women of 1916 no longer even merit the occasional lip-service paid to the restoration of the Irish language.

Although Irish citizens languish as political hostages in English jails, and Sellafield's pollution of our environment continues to go unchecked, constant references to "the people of these islands" and "the common aims of Dublin and London" are intended to promote the idea of the Irish and British peoples as members of a single political, cul-

tural and economic unit. Examples of new unionist betrayals of sovereignty make a long and depressing list which culminated in the undignified scramble to force the Single European Act and the Extradition Bill through Leinster House.

It must be assumed that those who formulate the policies and finance the activities of the new unionism have a clearly-defined objective which will remain in place no matter which right-wing party may be in power in the 26-Counties.

In any case, despite the overblown rhetoric which it adopts in opposition, Fianna Fail's past record leaves no doubt as to the attitude it will assume in office.

However, Ireland's fundamental right to freedom, sovereignty and unity rests with the Irish people and that right cannot be bartered or negotiated away to further any sectional interest. As the new unionists attempt to deliver a 'solution' by pretending that British interference is not the problem, it is important that the demand for full national and cultural independence is presented in a relevant and accessible manner.

A socialist republic will not fall from the sky when Britain withdraws. Only by making republicanism a vibrant and tangible force in Irish life can the conditions which will force a British withdrawal be created. While this is obviously a sizeable task, it is nonetheless, one in which everybody can and must develop a role.

Pol O Lochlann,
Doire.



VICTIMS

A Chairde,
So much for the state's idea of equal rights for women! The manner in which Gemma

Hussey has chosen to implement the EC directive on equality in social welfare is a good example of the particular brutality, ruthlessness and totally uncaring attitude which the Dublin government shows to those of us forced to depend on social welfare for an income.

We are not responsible for the economic mess this country is in - rather we are victims of it. We have been further victimised in the present round of cut-backs and forced to pay for the mess that those in power have created while, at the same time, top executives retire on a pension of £500 per week!

To cap it all, our Christmas 'bonus' has also been slashed - meaning for many people a particularly penniless, cold and hungry Christmas.

The penny-catching attitude of the state is evident elsewhere. While in the past years payments from Health Boards such as the fuel scheme and shoe vouchers have been sent out in October, this year we in the Southern Health Board area were kept waiting (without any explanation) till mid-November for our fuel cheques, and until December for shoe vouchers for our children, whose summer 'runners' have long since run out.

As the state gets itself deeper and deeper into debt, it becomes less and less able to function as before and provide public services previously taken for granted. It thus begins - along with social welfare, health and education cuts - to hand over some of its functions to the private sector and to individual entrepreneurs. For these entrepreneurs profit comes before providing a service to the people. Here again the poorest are hit the hardest.

Thus it is with An Post and Telecom Eireann. For those of us not wealthy enough to have a private phone, operators have now been told not to put anyone through on a public phone that is out of order and which has gobbled up the money, but to make us pay again - as if 20p is not enough money to pay in the first place.

And they are trying to force us to pay for water and refuse collection as well!

Their callous and uncaring actions of Gemma Hussey and her Cabinet buddies are forcing us to either emigration or illegality in order to survive. They will increase the numbers forced into 'foxers' on the black economy and into robbing in order that we and our children might not go hungry.

All we can conclude is that the new prison being opened will become the work-houses of tomorrow, filled with the poverty-stricken classes, while the real criminals - Gemma Hussey and those who feel they can condemn thousands to a life before the bread-line at the stroke of a pen - walk free with impunity.

Eleanor Lamb,
Elizabeth Kavanagh,
James Duggan,
Middleton Single
Parents Group,
Middleton,
Co. Cork.

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

A Chairde,
The authorities in Magilligan Prison have introduced many tactics to intimidate and harass the prisoners. The campaign of harassment against the prisoners has continued in spite of protests.

The most recent tactic to be introduced is that of open visiting which means there is no privacy at all during visits. As a result, the prisoners

have stopped taking visits since December 27th 1986. These tactics by the prison authorities are causing great distress both to the prisoners and their loved ones. Could I ask the authorities to show a bit of humanity as we begin a New Year and ask them to stop abusing these prisoners' rights?

Joe McVeigh,
Irvinstown,
County Fermanagh.

THANKS

A Chairde,
Just a few words to all those who supported us in our recent fight against extradition from Holland.

It would be an almost impossible task to list all those groupings and individuals who gave of their time and effort on our behalf so we hope we will be forgiven for using this letter to thank them all. Rest assured that our appreciation goes to each and every individual involved.

We wish to send our deepest thanks to everyone at home and abroad whether they organised petitions or signed them, organised demonstrations of solidarity or participated, collected money, or contributed, sponsored or ran in events, organised social functions or attended them, wrote letters or were in any way involved in the myriad of activities surrounding the case. Each and every action helped and was most welcome.

Although we have been extradited we would like also to state that none of this effort was wasted. If it was a small victory for the British, it was a hollow and costly one for them. Once again their brutal colonial policies in Ireland were on trial and under close inspection internationally. Once again they were forced to try to defend the indefensible with propagandist lies, and each time their policies and actions are studied they lose support while the oppressed Irish people gain friends and supporters.

Finally, we would like to wish all those same people happiness in the New Year. Your solidarity feeds and nurtures the spirit of imprisoned and active republicans.

Together we will break the British stranglehold on Ireland.

Bigé cinnte go dtíocfaidh ar la.

Gerry Kelly
(Crumlin Road Jail),
Bik McFarlane
(H-Blocks, Long Kesh).



JOE DOHERTY

A Chairde,
We were anguished to hear of the extradition of Brendan McFarlane and Gerry Kelly, extraordinary men whose courage inspired us.

Their valiant battle in the Dutch courts is one we watched closely and with great concern; the thousands of miles between them and us did not distance them from our minds or hearts. We cannot fathom, therefore, why your praiseworthy editorial on the extradition of republicans saluted Gerry, Brendan and those who face extradition from the South, but failed to mention Joseph Doherty, who has just spent another Christmas in a US prison.

Prison authorities recently moved Joe to an isolated prison far from his lawyers and put him in solitary confinement. He is locked down for all but a few hours per week and is subject to extremely punitive conditions of confinement. (Joe's new address, incidentally, is 07792054, Holdover Unit, PO Box 1000, FCI Otisville, Otisville, New York, 10963, USA.)

Joe, with his unflinching spirit and commitment, his integrity and selflessness, embodies for us the most cherished principles of all those who struggle for freedom. Please do not forget him. We never do, nor ever will.

Irish Northern Aid,
Hartford,
Connecticut,
USA.



SECTION 31

A Chairde,
The general membership of Queen's University Students' Union wish, through your paper, to condemn Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. At a recent general meeting, students voted clearly in favour of repealing Section 31.

This union feels that this section of the Broadcasting Act is nothing more than political censorship and it infringes on the right of the people to access to views and opinions in our society.

This union gives total support to the 'Repeal Section 31' campaign and it urges the general public to lobby their elected representatives so that this repressive legislation can be repealed.

Liam Dean,
Students' Union,
Queen's University,
Belfast.

ALL LETTERS should be clearly written or typed, double-spaced (one line of space between each line of writing), and on one side of the paper only.
Please try and keep your letters as short as possible.
Names and addresses must be included, even when not for publication.

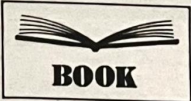
REVIEWS

Paisley - a profit

BY DANNY MORRISON

HALF-WAY through this book, I said to myself that it is only when you actually read such a comprehensive account of Paisley's life that you realise what sort of a witch-doctor he is. Then I thought how unjust I was being. Witch-doctors can be decent, honest people but this man is a charlatan, a fake and a blusterer. However, he is also a dangerous man, a man who has wrecked many lives and who bears a heavy responsibility for gratuitously initiating much ugly sectarianism over and above the inherent sectarianism of the unionist system of government.

Ed Moloney and Andy Pollak have written a valuable book whose authority has not been diminished by the refusal of our hero to accede to the requests for interviews. The reason is simple. His whole past is shameful episode after even more despicable episode of trampling over friends and colleagues, exploiting people's weaknesses, seeking out splits in other congregations to exploit for his own Free Presbyterian Church, and using sexual scandals and marital divisions to trail of destruction from Mount Street in 1945, to Cookstown, Derrymacash and Dungiven in the '50s, to Divis Street and Cromac Street and Armagh in the '60s, to the 1977 strike when he was in cahoots with the UDA, right through to 'Portadown last year. He was linked - if not proven directly, at least inspirationally - to the UVF killings in 1966 and the bombing campaign which led to the downfall of O'Neill in 1969.



over the cudgel of Free Presbyterian bigotry and superstition.

Paisley's trouble-maker record spans the decades, well before the anti-Hillsborough protests or the Third Force rallies of the '80s. There is a consistent trail of destruction from Mount Street in 1945, to Cookstown, Derrymacash and Dungiven in the '50s, to Divis Street and Cromac Street and Armagh in the '60s, to the 1977 strike when he was in cahoots with the UDA, right through to 'Portadown last year. He was linked - if not proven directly, at least inspirationally - to the UVF killings in 1966 and the bombing campaign which led to the downfall of O'Neill in 1969.

One Free Presbyterian said that after hearing Paisley preach at the Ulster Hall rallies he came out and could have killed the first Catholic he saw.

Here's the demagogue speaking at an open air-rally in Percy Street, Belfast, in 1959.

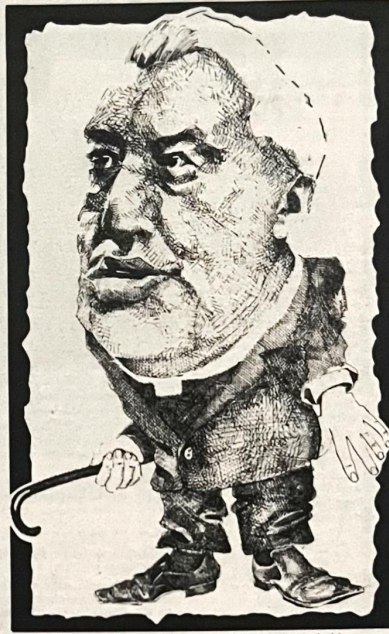
"You people of the Shankill Road, what's wrong with you? Number 425 Shankill Road - do you know who lives there? Pope's men, that's who! Forte's ice-cream shop, Italian Papists on the Shankill Road! How about 55 Aden Street? For 97 years a Protestant lived in that house and now there's a Papisher in it. Crimea Street, number 38! Twenty-five years that house has been up, 24 years a Protestant lived there but there's a Papisher there now."

Catholic homes were attacked.

FETISH

Paisley is fascinated by titles and has a fetish for adding letters after his name. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Bob Jones University in the United States in recognition of his prison martyrdom. (In actual fact he wore his 'Jammies' the whole time and played sick to avoid work.)

In the early days the Orange Order, Presbyterians in the Apprentice Boys, the Ulster Unionist Party, respectable Protestants and moderates viewed Paisley as an oaf. They ridiculed and dismissed him, to their cost. Every split and division,



every fear he exploited and manipulated, and in the European elections of 1979 he took a staggering 230,000 first-preference votes. It is still the prime objective of the DUP, despite the present loyalist pact, to overtake the OUP.

And what about this statement from the author's: "For most of his career, Paisley has been more concerned about destroying his rivals than combating his enemies."

Is that true? Given his track record, given the reality of the suffering he has unquestionably brought down on the head of many innocent Catholics, why hasn't the IRA simply shot him?

I think the answer is that asses are really only dangerous if they can organise a drove. Whilst Paisley strikes genuine terror into many nationalists and has provoked violence he has, on the other hand, undermined the loyalist cause internationally and destroyed much of the goodwill (which is little enough) that exists in Britain for the Union. He is no republican but recruiting sergeants but he has undoubtedly sickened many British people of their government's involvement in Ireland. That is the real reason why the IRA has never attempted to kill him.

IMMORAL EARNINGS

An Official Unionist quoted towards the end of the book - and one should remember how wrong the Official Unionists have been in their judgement - says:

"He's not going to open up any new ground in his lifetime. You have seen all there is to see of him. There are no surprises left."

Well, if that is true then, after enjoying a comfortable, untrammelled life on immoral earnings, he can die peacefully in his bed in the democratic, socialist republic of Ireland, if a massive coronary doesn't take him first.

If I have one criticism of this book it is that it is too extensive, somewhat repetitious and could have perhaps done with some firmer editing. Otherwise the style is excellent. The book is compulsory reading for an understanding of what makes loyalists tick and is the perfect companion to Michael Farrell's *The Orange State*. Buy it.

● Paisley, by Ed Moloney and Andy Pollak, published by Poolbeg Press. Ir £6.50, Stg £5.95.

The red rose and the shamrock

BY PAUL SALVESON

THE RECENT commemoration of the Manchester Martyrs recalled the very close relationship between Ireland and Lancashire in the 19th Century. As well as having the largest Irish population in any county of Britain, there were strong political and cultural ties between Lancashire and Ireland.

In the later years of the 19th Century, a number of working-class Lancashire writers, often using their native dialect, drew attention to British oppression of Ireland and helped build support for Irish freedom. This article aims to show that there is a history of British working-class support for Irish liberation and that the violent racism of some deluded people was far from being universal.

Perhaps the most famous Lancashire dialect writer was Edwin Waugh (1817-1890) of Rochdale. He was particularly interested in Irish history and culture, and his book, *Irish Sketches and Miscellany*, shows him to be well versed in the old songs and poetry of Ireland. One of his most lovely songs written in 'standard English' was *Old Ireland Shall Blossom Again*, sung to the tune of *The Valley Lay Smiling Before Me*. It has remarkable similarities to that moving song, *Only Our Rivers Run Free*: As I mused upon Ireland's dark story, "Mong homesteads and altars despoiled, Through the ruined walls, weed-grown and hoary, The wind sang its requiem wild; But there rose from the heart of its wailing This low-chanted cheerful refrain, Over all its wild sadness prevailing,



"Old Ireland shall blossom again!"

Waugh wrote this at the time of the Land League struggles, when a section of the more radical English Liberals were pushing for Irish Home Rule and for an end to landlords. Samuel Laycock (1826-1893), of Stalybridge, a cotton weaver and radical Liberal, shared Waugh's love of Ireland and his hatred of English imperialism. His *John Bull An' His Tricks*, written in dialect, is a pointed attack on Britain's 'civilising mission': Oh, forshame on thee, John! Forshame on thee John! The murderin' owd thief 'at theaw art; Tha'rt a burnin' disgrace to humanity, mon. Tho' theaw thinks thiseel clever 'n' smart, Tha'rt a beggar for semdinaawt Bibles an' beer, An' callin' it 'civilisation'; While thee an' th' dear Christian countrymen here, Are chettin' an' lyin' like station.

WORKING-CLASS SOLIDARITY

In a couple of dialect poems, Laycock turned his fire directly

on England's oppression of Ireland. *Cheer Up, Irish Brothers* is a fine example of English working-class solidarity: *Cheer up a bit, poor Irish brethren, Tho' it's hard work to do so awm sure;*

One's surpris'd yo'n kept up as yo' 'ave done, What wi' th' hardships yo'n had to endure, What wi' soldiers, police an' coercion, Imprisonment, buckshot an' fines; An' land agents sneak in araaww yo',

*Yo'n certainly very hard lines, Laycock goes on to give encouragement, showing that people in England are 'feighin' yo'r battles' and that soon Ireland will be a free, and friendly, neighbour. In *Ireland's Vice-Royalty Underpaid* he uses his talent for satire to ridicule the claims of the Viceroy that he is underpaid:*

Well, it's shameful to ha sich a salary as that! It isn't enuff to provide for a cat! Of course, this affair is noa business o'mine, If it wur aw should throw up th' job an' resign. To 'nitich did yo' say? Why, surely yo' joks; Twenty theawsand for mindin' five million o'foalk! Just think o' th' big meetin' he has to disperse; An' then look at th' numbers he has to coerce!

Laycock and Waugh were part of that honourable Lancashire working-class tradition of independent-minded radicalism within which the young Michael Davitt was reared. Neither had any Irish family connections;

they simply saw the Irish issue as the most urgent political and moral issue facing England in the 1880s. Thomas Newbigging, a friend of Davitt, Waugh and Laycock, commented that a reading of Irish history would "make even a heart of stone bleed".

ALLEN CLARKE

The last Lancashire writer I would mention is Allen Clarke (1863-1935), the Bolton socialist and dialect writer who started work at the age of 11 in the mills. His father was from Ballinasloe, County Galway, and family tradition has it that the Clarkes were descended from the marriage of Rouget de L'Isle, composer of the *Marseillaise* and French Jacobin, to an Irish girl who had connections with the United Irishmen.

Certainly, Clarke's father was a Fenian sympathiser, and one of the earliest memories of Allen Clarke was being shown 'The Fenian Arch' in Manchester, where the famous attack on the prison van took place.

Clarke was a frequent attendee at his father's trade union meetings, and the subsequent blacklisting of his father for these activities left a deep mark on him. His poem, *Rebels*, remains a telling commentary on the fate of revolutionaries to day: *The world loves rebels - every land Admires all rebels but its own, because they are the souls that stand 'gainst tyranny on bench and throne.*

Clarke was tremendously popular as a dialect writer in Lancashire, using the pseudonym of 'Teddy Ashton'. One of his regular 'characters' was a

Bolton Irishman rejoicing in the name of 'Patsy Filligan'. Though he might seem a bit green round the edges, Patsy always managed to get the better of landlords, bosses and politicians by a combination of wit, charm and bravado.

Clarke died in December 1935 with his revolutionary ideals intact. One of the last articles he wrote, entitled *Rebels and Revolution* pays tribute to the memory of James Connolly: "James Connolly was a man of ideas and ideals... all for his fellow men. My sympathy is with him, and against such governments that put men like him to death."

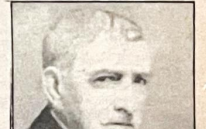
EMBARRASSMENT

The contribution made by these Lancashire working-class writers to the cause of Ireland has been forgotten - or ignored. Their espousal of Irish freedom is an embarrassment to the people who like to see Lancashire dialect writing as quaint, nostalgic and non-controversial. Their achievement in popularising the anti-colonial struggle amongst English workers is a task that urgently needs taking up today, despite all the difficulties that exist.

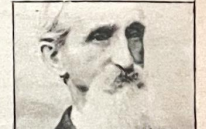
When Waugh and Laycock were writing their poetry, Ireland was overwhelmingly rural, whereas Lancashire was a thriving industrial region. Today, the similarities between unemployment-racked West Belfast and Derry with Lancashire towns like Bolton and Rochdale are clear for all to see. 'Ulster methods' have already been adopted during the miners' strike by the state forces and the riots of 1981 will certainly not be the last.



● EDWIN WAUGH



● ALLEN CLARKE



● SAMUEL LAYCOCK

Arguably, the 'two nations' situation within England has reached the stage where workers in the North of England should be thinking seriously about autonomy from the Tory heartlands of Thatcher's Southern England. In the writings of Laycock, Waugh and Allen Clarke they will be able to draw on a strong Northern radical tradition which may yet enable them to join hands with a free and democratic Ireland.



WORLD REVIEW 86

1986 WAS designated the 'International Year of Peace'; January 1st 1987 was 'International Day of World Peace'. Big deal!

The people who dream up these grand charades are as in touch with reality as those who believe that the earth is flat.

The only people who are in touch with reality are the oppressed peoples of the world, fighting for dignity, justice, freedom and a real and lasting peace.

What does peace mean to the murdered, imprisoned and tortured children of South Africa, to the Sandinistas defending their homeland of Nicaragua against US aggression?

What price peace to the murdered political prisoners in Peru, to the 'missing' in Chile and to the starving and dying in Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Mozambique?

And where is there peace for the Palestinians abandoned and betrayed, attacked and murdered by 'friends' and 'foes alike'?

1986 witnessed no let-up in imperialist and fascist attempts to enforce their will on peoples throughout the world. The US and President Reagan dominated the world stage with his mad campaigns against Libya, Nicaragua, Angola and anyone else that "threatened the security of the United States".

In South Africa, Botha finalised his plans for all-out war against black Africa. In the Philippines, the despot Marcos was at last removed and Cory Aquino took over the reins.

In Lebanon and occupied Palestine, the Palestinians came under vicious attacks from the Israeli, the Lebanese army, the Islamic militias, the Christian militias and disaffected factions of the Palestinian movement. In Iceland, Reagan met Gorbachev at the 'summit or other'. The results were like the temperature - zero.

There is no indication that 1987 will be any different from other years of struggle - just the hope and determination that victory against oppression will see the light somewhere in the world this year. And it will be well to reflect that 1987 is the 70th anniversary of one of the most important events to occur this century, an event that shaped the destinies of much of this world - the October 1917 Russian Revolution.

JANUARY

"Reagan must take action stimulating Gaddafi's fall" - CIA report on Libya.

Reagan opened up 1986 with a vitriolic attack on Libya, calling for sanctions and threatening 'other' actions against Muammar Gaddafi and his people. A warning of events to come!

The Nicaraguans geared themselves for war as Reagan demanded 100 million dollars open military aid for the *contras* from the US Congress.

Reagan also demanded 'moral' support for the counter-revolutionary Angolan forces of UNITA. UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, was feted in Washington and went home with his bag stuffed with 'moral' support - 27 million dollars overt cash, 15 million covert, and a parcel of missiles.

In Guatemala the military junta stepped down, but not before they granted themselves a full official pardon for all their crimes. Between 1982-1986, 10,000 people were murdered.

In El Salvador, the FMLN guerrillas stepped up their war against the US-sponsored Duarte regime. The FMLN took the town of Juayua, only 35 miles from the capital San Salvador. In reply, Duarte began bombing

civilians from the air with nine A37 US jets.

FEBRUARY

"I know there are things in the Philippines that are not quite right" - Reagan.

February was dominated by the Philippines election (which Marcos 'won') and Marcos's ignominious departure for sunnier climes. Marcos 'won' the election by telling the National Assembly that he had a winning margin of 1 1/2 million votes. Mind you, 800,000 dead people voted, some a number of times, five million live voters were disenfranchised, and 100 Aquino supporters were murdered.

But the chickens came home to roost on February 22nd when a majority of the country's armed forces went over to Aquino. This ended Reagan's pipe-dream that there was "evidence of a strong two-party system" in the Philippines. And that was the end of the brutal Marcos regime.

MARCH

"Nicaragua is a country where criminals and lunatics now camp out on the US doorstep" - Reagan.

(Well it takes one to know one.)

Reagan's mad drive against Nicaragua was momentarily halted when three committees out of four in the US House of Representatives rejected his demands for 100 million dollars' aid to the *contras*. Reagan was furious. Secretary of State George Shultz read the riot act.

"We must consider many options, some so stern we hope never to resort to them."

Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger added his two cents' worth. There are only two options, he declared:

"The US can step aside and watch the Warsaw Pact roll up Central America - or we send in the Marines."

APRIL

"Mr Reagan has clearly exposed himself as a national war-monger" - Gerry Adams.

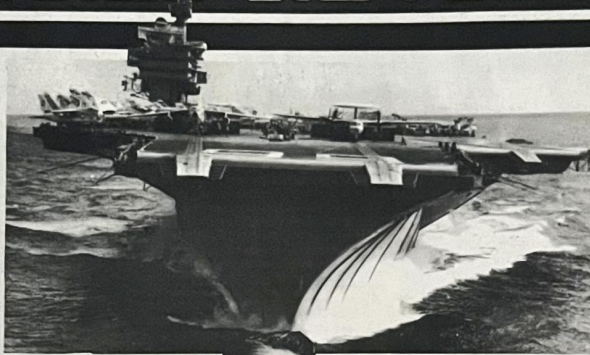
Ronald Reagan's January threats against Libya became reality when, at 1am on Tuesday, April 15th, 18 F111 bombers based in England, and 15 A6 and A7 fighter-bombers of the US Sixth Fleet hit targets in Libya. Reagan justified his criminal act of war by declaring:

"This mission, violent though it was, will bring closer a safer and more peaceful world..."

"We Americans are a peaceful nation. We tried quiet diplomacy... but to no avail."

Reagan's 'quiet diplomacy' included describing Muammar Gaddafi as "this mad dog of the Middle East".

April also revealed that Thatcher's government is pro-



ding training facilities for the repressive Chilean military. At a question and answer session in the British House of Commons on April 9th, Foreign Office Minister Timothy Eggar admitted:

"We do provide some training for the Chilean armed forces."

MAY

"You'll always be family to us" - Reagan.

May exposed that the US administration had been using the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific as guinea pigs in a massive experiment to discover the effects of radiation on humans and their habitat. After 39 years and 66 atomic explosions, the Americans handed the islands back to the grateful population.

Meanwhile, in Japan, Reagan and Thatcher narrowly missed getting the message when left-wing activists fired a salvo of rockets at the summit headquarters in Tokyo. The rockets landed just short of their target, hitting the Canadian and Chinese embassies instead.

In Chile, the Pinochet regime rounded up 2,000 people and detained them in a number of sports stadiums, echoing the days of the 1973 coup.

JUNE

"We should have killed 1,600 or 10,000 if it would have stopped the violence at the very beginning" - Colonel Swanepoel (officer in charge at Soweto 1976).

On June 16th, millions of black South Africans staged a general strike to mark the tenth anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising. The strike, which was 90% successful, was staged despite Botha's declaration of a nationwide 'state of emergency'.

Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, said:

"The only language the Boer will understand is the language of the gun. A bullet for a bullet."

In Peru, the armed forces massacred 290 political prisoners. The prisoners, members of the Maoist Sendero Luminoso



● REAGAN

guerrilla movement, were murdered at two prisons on June 18th and 19th whilst the Socialist International Congress was meeting in Peru's capital, Lima. Peru's ruling Socialist Party was playing host to the British, French and 26-County Labour Parties, none of whom condemned the Peruvians for this criminal act.

JULY

"Defend national unity and the sovereignty and independence of Nicaragua" - President Daniel Ortega.

July marked the seventh anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution, and the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War.

The Nicaraguans' defence of their sovereignty against US aggression has the potential of mirroring the Spanish War, given that the forces of imperialism and those of socialism and democracy are heading towards direct confrontation over Nicaragua. A number of international volunteers have already been murdered by *contra* forces, but more and more people from different countries are volunteering to defend the Sandinista government. If the US invades Nicaragua then the world will see a true international conflict between socialism and capitalism.

AUGUST

"We confirm our traditional policy of friendship and solidarity with the Palestinian people" - Spanish government statement on PLO.

On August 14th, Spain became the third West European country to grant official recognition to the PLO. The Israelis were furious, launching a blistering attack on Spain, accusing the Spanish government of "encouraging terrorist elements".

The British Secret Service and CIA were exposed by the *New York Times* as working closely with the South African Secret Service. One result of this co-operation was the arrest and imprisonment of Nelson Mandela. It was also revealed that both the CIA and British Secret Service have detailed profiles on ANC personalities.

Also in the US, the Socialist Workers' Party was awarded 264,000 dollars in damages against the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI had

carried out an "illegal" campaign of harassment against the SWP for 35 years.

SEPTEMBER

"Elections are impractical" - Pinochet.

Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet survived an attempt on his life on September 7th. The attack was allegedly carried out by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, but this is open to debate. After the ambush a 90-day 'state of siege' was declared. Pinochet celebrated his 'escape' from the jaws of death by allowing the Chilean people the privilege of voting for a package of more stringent anti-terrorism laws.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, 80% of Palestinians supported the use of armed struggle and 71% supported PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

OCTOBER

"I accuse them [South Africa] openly of involvement in the death of President Machel" - Kenneth Kaunda.

Mozambique's President Samora Machel was killed in an air crash half a mile inside South Africa on October 19th. The first and overwhelming reaction was that Machel was murdered by the South African regime - and nothing has been revealed to counter that first reaction.

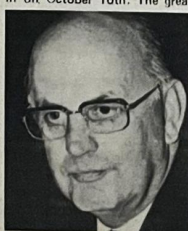
Before Machel was killed he had hosted a meeting of the 'Front Line states' in the capital, Maputo, at the end of which a joint declaration was issued:

"Pretoria has unleashed an incessant and hysterical campaign of accusations and threats against Mozambique. South Africa has already embarked on the road of factum and war against the peoples of South Africa."

In Nicaragua, a US C135 transport plane was shot down. Three of the crew were killed, two Americans and a Cuban dissident. One crew member was captured, CIA agent Eugene Hasenfus. Reagan's first reaction was predictable:

"I don't know what's going on." Hasenfus admitted he worked for the CIA, was put on public trial, sentenced to jail, and released two months later as a Christmas gesture of goodwill by the Sandinistas.

Reagan arrived in Iceland on October 9th; Gorbachev strolled in on October 10th. The great



● BOTHA

'summit or other' was on. Reagan had absolutely no proposals for arms control with him. He was, in his own words, "a little bit upset". Gorbachev had a folio of proposals. "The Russians are trying to bury us," cried Reagan's arms negotiator Richard Perle. And that was the end of that.

October turned up some cracking quotes. Here are two of *World View's* favourites.

"If I were the leader of the South of Ireland I would consider that the North is colonised and I would fight to liberate that part of Ireland" - Muammar Gaddafi.

"What's happening in South Africa is repellent to me, but I cannot understand where the brutal distinction lies between the ANC and what they're doing out there, and what the IRA are doing in Belfast" - Tim Pat Coogan, Irish Press editor.

NOVEMBER

"None of us thinks that Aquino is a communist herself. What we want to do is bring out those forces that are behind her, identify them and eliminate them" - Philippines military supporter of Juan Ponce Enrile.

And that's just what they did in November eliminating a number of people including Rolando Olalia, leader of the country's largest trade union KMMU, and founder of the radical Partido ng Bayan. But his brutal murder led to the downfall of Defence Minister Enrile and a number of cronies, and opened up the road to a ceasefire with the New People's Army.

Earlier during the month, on November 4th, the United Nations General Assembly called on the US government to comply with an earlier International Court of Justice ruling banning support for the Nicaraguan *contras*. Washington, of course, ignored both the ICJ and the UN.

Meanwhile, Reagan was up to his ears in 'irangate' with revelations that the US had been supplying arms to Iran and the sending the cash to the *contras*. Four other countries were also involved: Israel, who acted as go-between; Italy and Denmark, who shipped the arms; and Saudi Arabia, who supplied extra cash and arms with US approval.

In Lebanon, the PLO came under attack from the Druze and Shi'ite Amal militia, backed up by the Lebanese army. The Israelis carried out continuous bombing raids against Palestinian refugee camps, whilst the Jordanians once again expelled the PLO, closing down their offices. Jordan also closed a deal with the Israelis, promising to inject 1.2 billion dollars into the West Bank and Gaza coupled with recognition of the Israeli occupation.

DECEMBER

"He knows all about the IRA and would like to visit Bobby Sands' grave" - author Mary Russell talking about Polisario guerrilla fighter Bashir.

December gave us the shocking report that, since June 12th, the South Africans had jailed 8,500 children. Many of these have been brutally tortured and mistreated. The South Africans had also virtually banned all news coverage of political events in that country, expelling a number of foreign journalists.

South Africa is now totally at war with the black population, and the ANC is girding itself for what could be the final phase in their long struggle for freedom.

Happy 75th anniversary greetings to the ANC!



● Sandinista troops at Los Planes in northern Nicaragua, ready to confront any counter-revolutionary attack from Honduras

OBITUARY

JUDITH DUFFY

THE DEATH took place on Saturday, January 10th, of Judith Duffy, a dedicated, lifelong Dundalk republican. She was in her early 70s.

Born into the staunchly republican Cahbrach family in Dundalk, County Louth, she joined Cumann an mBan in 1935, thus beginning a lifetime of service to the Republican Movement.

During the interment years 1940-1945, following the start of the IRA's bombing campaign in English cities, Judith became involved in the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund, working on behalf of the prisoners and their dependants during the 1940s and later during the 1956-62 Border Campaign.

Her brother, Willie Gaughran, went to England in 1938 in preparation for the bombing campaign. He was arrested in March 1939 and was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. While in prison he contracted TB due to the terrible conditions and three years before the end of his sentence he was released to die. After two years in several hospitals, he died in March 1947.

In 1948, Judith married the well-known Dundalk republican Paddy Duffy, who had been interned in the Curragh from 1941 to 1945. Paddy died on March 1st 1978.

HOSPITALITY

When the present phase of the struggle for freedom began in 1969,

Judith Duffy wholeheartedly supported the beleaguered nationalist population in the Six Counties. Her hospitality was known to republicans throughout Ireland and many were warmly welcomed into her home at Demense Nurseries in Dundalk town.

She was a founder member of An Cumann Cahbrach in Dundalk in 1974 and was an active worker on behalf of the prisoners and their dependants until her death.

The funeral of Judith Duffy took place from her home, escorted by a number of veteran republicans of the 40s and 50s era and attended by about 50 local republicans, to St Patrick's Cemetery. The Tricolour-draped coffin was met at the cemetery gate by a lone Piper, Donal Duffy, who played a lament as her remains were carried to their last resting place.

Shortly before the funeral, a large number of Garda and Armed Special Branch detectives took over her home and surrounded the area as her son, Patrick, who is currently serving a 12-year sentence in Portlaoise Prison, was brought to the house, handcuffed to a policeman. He was taken back to Portlaoise immediately after the funeral.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK CARROLL

CONTINGENTS from Dublin Sinn Fein attended the annual Frank Carroll commemoration at Walsh Island, County Offaly, on Sunday, January 4th.

The parade to the graveside of the Sinn Fein activist who died in 1979 at the early age of 31 was attended by members of Inchicore and Cabra Sinn Fein where cumann are named in Frank Carroll's honour.

The ceremony was chaired by Fergus McCann, Michael O Muiragain paid tribute to Frank's dedication and organisational skills which contributed to the rise of Dublin Sinn Fein.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the two cumann by Mick Finnegan.

REMEMBERING THE PAST



Escapes hold a press conference in Dublin

The Magnificent Seven

BY PETER O'ROURKE

THE ESCAPE of the 'Magnificent Seven' from the Maidstone prison ship in January 1972 was the most unusual of all the escapes by IRA Volunteers since the beginning of the present phase of the struggle in the North.

The 226 men detained following the introduction of internment in August 1971, 124 were initially held in Cummin Road Jail while the remainder were held on the Maidstone, a prison ship moored at the coalwharf in Belfast docks.

The Maidstone, used as an emergency billet for British troops who arrived in 1969, was totally unsuitable as a prison. The ship was cramped, stuffy and overcrowded. The prison staff was at the stern below the deck which was used twice a day for exercise.

On January 16th 1972, 50 men were transferred from the ship to the new camp at Magilligan. This sudden move spurred on internees who were planning to escape.

The next day, seven of them, James Emerson Bryson, Tommy 'Toder' Toan, Thomas 'Tucker' Kane, Tommy Gorman, Peter Rodgers, Martin Taylor and Sean Convery escaped.

One of the group had spotted a seal slip through a gap in the barbed wire draped around the ship and it was decided that if the seal could come in then they could go out. Camouflaged with black boot polish and smeared in butter to keep out the cold, they cut through a bar in a porthole and slipped through.

MARKETS

During the journey the bus was spotted by a British Army Land Rover, but the soldiers refused to pursue it into the staunchly republican Markets area. British troops immediately surrounded the area, but not before the 'Magnificent Seven', as they were instantly nicknamed, had escaped to a completely different area of Belfast.

The 'Magnificent Seven' escaped from the Maidstone prison ship on January 17th 1972, 15 years ago this week.

Theresa, pray for him. Will those who think of him today a little prayer to Jesus say. Always remembered and missed by his sister Kitty, sadly missed by his sister Mary and family.

DELANEY, Kevin (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed in an accidental explosion while on active service on January 17th 1980. St Patrick's, Belfast. Always remembered and missed by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann.

BLEAKLEY, Rosemary (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear sister Rosemary Bleakley, Cumann an mBan, who was killed in action on January 13th 1976. Always remembered by her brother-in-law and comrades in the Dublin Brigade.

DELANEY, Kevin (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed as a result of an accidental explosion on January 17th 1980. I measc laochra na nGael go raib se. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

DELANEY, Kevin (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on January 17th 1980. He died as he lived, for his mother and father, and brothers Bryan and Kieran.

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DELANEY, Kevin (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on January 17th 1980. Always remembered by his loving sister Elaine and brother-in-law Frankie Shortt and family.

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DEASY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Dan Deasy on the death of his mother. From the North Tipperary Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair.

DUFFY, The Haensy/Duffy Sinn Fein Cumann, Mid-Louth, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Judith Duffy, Dundalk.

DUFFY, The Duffy/Downey Sinn Fein Cumann, Dundalk, extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the late Judith Duffy, a dedicated republican who will be sadly missed by all.

DUFFY, The Louth Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends

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Beannachtai na hArbhbhliana

Jim, Paul, Ann, Deborah, Patrick, Michael, Geraldine, Kathy and Anthony are all members of the BILLY REID FLUTE BAND, and Eileen and all your friends in Clones.

CONNOLLY, Seamus (H-Block). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Seamus Connolly, Tipperary Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceantair.

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COMHBHRON

of the late Judith Duffy of Dundalk, County Louth.

DUFFY, An Cumann Cahbrach, Dundalk, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Judith Duffy, Dundalk.

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ADMHAIL

COLLINS, I wish to express my gratitude to prisoners in Cummin Road Jail who sympathised with and shared the traditions of resistance with my father Brian Collins. Their comradeship was a great strength to me. Always remembered by my father Brian Collins (A-Wing, Cummin Road).

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An Cumann Cahbrach

The organisation is totally dependent on your donations. If you wish to help the POWs' dependants send all donations to: An Cumann Cahbrach, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

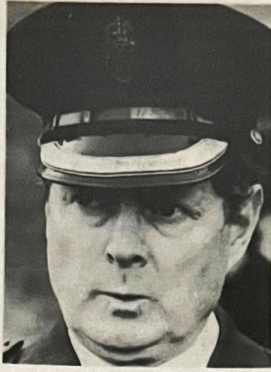
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IN A LETTER to the *Irish News*, a Catholic, Cathal Ramsey, has called on his co-religionists to join the RUC — “a decent and honourable calling”. Which is not what I would call it but then, unlike Ramsey, I’m not an RUC assistant chief constable.

Among Ramsey’s ‘decent and honourable’ cronies is another assistant chief constable, James Crutchley.

In 1974, Crutchley was awarded the Queen’s Police Medal and, three years later made a Member of the British Empire.

On July 8th 1981, the day Joe McDonnell died on hunger-strike, Belfast woman Nora McCabe was struck and fatally injured by a plastic bullet fired from an RUC Land Rover travelling along the Falls Road. Mrs McCabe had just left her sister’s house in Linden Street to buy cigarettes and was shot as she reached the



● Assistant chief constable James Crutchley MBE, OBE and LIAR

DERRY MAGISTRATE Dan MacLaughlin tried to effectively deport an unemployed young Derry man from the Six Counties

This un-armoured person carried his broken heart through closed army garage doors at Osnabruck Barracks, West Germany, along a two-mile stretch of public road and into five cars before spurring his Spartan into 17-year-old Angelina Beschetti’s home.

Robinson, of the Royal Engineers, had to be arrested at gunpoint by West German police and is now in British military custody, where he is also being held for questioning about a mugging offence.

...

JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, I reported how one of Margaret Thatcher’s councillors advocated putting AIDS victims in gas chambers. Now another closet nazi has come out into the open.

Conservative MP Geoffrey Lawler chose a nazi marching song amongst 30 of his favourites on a BBC Radio Leeds programme. Outraged listeners were later told by an unrepentant Lawler that he chose the nazi song for “its catchy tune, not the lyrics”.

A STICKY END?

In response to the first instalment of the recent *Sunday Tribune* exposé of the links between the Workers’ Party and its allegedly non-existent disciplinary and fund-raising wing, party general secretary Sean Garland wrote to WP members on December 20th/21st, telling them:

“We will be considering all other appropriate ways [aside from legal action] of defending the party’s name.”

On December 24th, BBC Radio 4’s evening schedule told of things to come: “7.20 Letter from the Sticks.”

“7.30 Murder for Christmas.” A cryptic warning from former Six-County direct-ruler James Prior’s favourite Irish party? ...

BRITT THE BRIT didn’t enjoy his Christmas this year — and he probably won’t enjoy his next one.

Staff-sergeant Anthony Britt, an ammunitions technician and instructor, was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment at



THE FLYING COLUMN

corner of Linden Street and the Falls Road. At the subsequent inquest, Crutchley, then a chief superintendent, who was a front-seat passenger in the Land Rover, claimed under oath that he had ordered one plastic bullet to be fired at “two youths running from the direction of Clonard Street [20 to 30 yards below Linden Street]. What I do know is that no baton rounds were fired after we passed Clonard Street and I am definite that none were fired either into Linden Street or at the junction of Linden Street/Falls Road.”

However, unknown to Crutchley, a Canadian TV crew had filmed the events before, during and after the firing of the fatal shot. The film clearly shows the Land Rover stopping and firing down Linden Street, which, like the Falls Road and the surrounding side streets, was almost deserted. The next year, 1982, Crutchley was promoted to assistant chief constable.

In this year’s New Year’s Honours List, the ‘honourable’ Crutchley was again ‘honoured’, this time with an Order of the British Empire.

...

THE RUC’s hi-tech data-storing, information-collating computer system, coupled with intensive on-the-ground surveillance over many years, have finally produced results.

Following the IRA bombings in Dungannon and Cookstown during Christmas week, the RUC categorically stated that it had conclusive and irrefutable evidence that “the IRA possess a stockpile of explosives”.

Gracious me!

...

FORMER BRITISH SOLDIER Andrew Leighton (28), who “only left the army because, while serving in Northern Ireland, his life was twice threatened by the IRA”, was jailed for five years by Edinburgh High Court in December for inflicting “appalling injuries” on two young boys by cutting their penises with a knife.

Leighton (who had the inevitable “exemplary” British army record) and his girlfriend, Elizabeth Bodle, of Rannoch Road, Perth, Scotland, were both jailed for the assaults on Bodle’s 20-month-old and three-year-old sons in what was described by the sheriff at an earlier hearing at Perth Sheriff’s Court as “the most despicable and revolting example of inhumanity I have encountered in my experience on the bench”.

to the 26 Counties when he found him guilty of assaulting RUC men and being drunk and disorderly on November 29th.

After being taken to Strand Road Barracks Michael O’Hagan (20) allegedly spat at the RUC men, kicked one, ripped the shirt off another, hit yet another over the head with a chair, and ended the round by head-butting one more.

Imposing a four-month sentence on each of three assault charges and a £50 fine, Magistrate MacLaughlin said that the only concession he was prepared to make was to allow O’Hagan “three hours to get out of the jurisdiction”.

“We have the benefit of an international frontier nearby, let’s make use of it,” said MacLaughlin.

O’Hagan is now on bail pending an appeal.

...

BRITISH SOLDIER Christopher Robinson couldn’t handle it when his girlfriend said ‘no’ so he stormed into her house — in a Spartan armoured personnel carrier.

Tell that to the survivors of Belsen Dachau and Auschwitz, Mr Lawler.

...

TWO BRITISH SOLDIERS who shot and wounded a young recruit after ordering him to hold a tin can in a William Tell-style target practice at Albemarle Barracks, Ouston, England, in April are to be dismissed from the British army.

Corporal George Christian, an arms instructor and regimental policeman with the King’s Regiment, and Lance-Corporal Frank Thompson, of the Royal Scots, obviously couldn’t wait to get back to the Six Counties and practice on the natives there.

...

AND NO SOONER had I written the piece above than a communique from The Flying Column’s Liverpool unit arrived in my dug-out to inform me that the King’s Regiment is to return to Omagh, County Tyrone, next May for its seventh tour of duty.

I wish they didn’t have to (William) Tell me that.

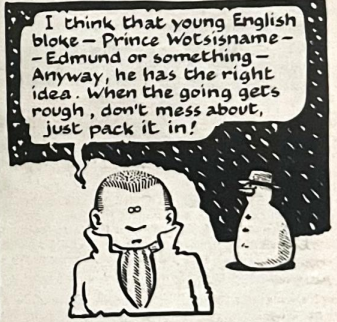
Warwick Crown Court on December 19th. He had admitted blasting Women’s Royal Army Corps Driver Mandy Jane Inman with a sawn-off single-barrel shotgun after a dance at Kineton army base last August.

Britt told the court that on the night he went bushwhacking he had recklessly drunk 12 pints of beer followed by “an unknown number of ‘Jelly Beans’ cocktails”. (My esteemed colleague Maeve Armstrong, who knows about things alcoholic, informs me that two of the essential ingredients for a ‘Jelly Beans’ are vodka and Pernod, in ample measure.)

Maeve really enjoyed her Christmas — I hope you did too. Happy New Year. Colm.

PS: A word of thanks to my friends and comrades in that ever-widening network of intelligence unit personnel who have kept *The Flying Column* so well informed in 1986. Keep up the good work in ‘87.

NOTES



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