

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

Sraith Nua Im! 9 Uimhir 3 Deardaoin 22 Eanáir Thursday 22nd January 1987 (Britain 35p) Price 30p

(15th Anniversary)

Bloody Sunday

March & Rally DERRY

Sunday 25th January

Speaker: John Noonan
Assemble 2.30pm Creggan Shops
Rally at Free Derry Corner



GOOD RIDDANCE!

THE FOUR-YEAR RULE of one of the worst governments in the history of the 26-County state has at last ended and the unanimous verdict of the victims of their administration is a hearty, "Good riddance to bad rubbish!"

The Fine Gael/Labour Coalition broke up this week after failing to agree on a Budget containing yet more savage attacks on the poor, the unemployed, the sick and the elderly. Knowing full well that such a Budget would not be agreed with an election looming, the Coalition parties continued the charade up to the very last moment and spent probably the longest time of any government lingering on their death-bed.

In an exercise of the greatest cynicism and hypocrisy, the Labour ministers in government followed their leader Dick Spring out of the Coalition on Tuesday. They knew that an election was inevitable sooner or later because, even if the Budget was agreed by the Cabinet, it would not survive a vote in Leinster House. The Labour deputies used the opportunity to wave their tattered flag and masquerade as defenders of the very same low-income groups they have helped to cripple for the last four years.

An electorate which is sick of such posturing is now all the more likely to give the Labour Party the answer it deserves and banish it further into the political wilderness.

As for Fine Gael, they had the dubious distinction of forming the first all-Blueshirt government in the history of the 26 Counties when Garret Fitzgerald filled the Labour vacancies in his Cabinet with his own party colleagues. The next day he travelled to see Paddy Hillery (the highest-paid

(continued on next page)



OPINION

Revolutionary commitment

THE ELECTION announced last Tuesday cannot have come as a surprise to any of us.

The Coalition government has been hanging on by the skin of its teeth for months. There can be no excuse then for unpreparedness in any of the 24 constituencies where Sinn Fein is standing candidates.

Most Sinn Fein activists will have had at least some experience of previous election campaigns and should have already 'shown the ropes' to our newer members.

Election directorates are poised in every constituency to get into the work of canvassing, postering and publicity for Sinn Fein candidates.

This is not to say that Sinn Fein will run the slick, cynical, vote-catching campaign of the establishment parties. The very nature of our party, our politics and our candidates, makes that impossible.

We are not professional politicians. Our candidates and election workers are going into this election from a deep commitment to the ideals of the Republican Movement. We are not going into it for any personal gain or out of any political ambition — except the political ambition to break the stranglehold of jobbery, corruption, self-seeking and collaboration that has been the hallmark of 26-County governments for so long.

But let all of us, candidates, election workers and supporters alike, be constantly aware that, although we are not professional politicians, that does not mean being unprofessional in our attitude to our work.

Every task must be taken up not just with the enthusiasm that is typical of Sinn Fein members but with efficiency, care and attention to detail. This is what demonstrates real revolutionary commitment, the determination to do the job, and to do it right.

The decision taken at last year's Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis places a huge responsibility on all of us. This is the first time in Sinn Fein's history that we go into an election with the intention of taking seats in Leinster House. *And this election has come close on the heels of that decision — and close enough for it to be at the front of minds other than our own.*

Garret FitzGerald's call after that Ard-Fheis decision for all parties to unite against Sinn Fein is just one indication of the attention that will be paid to our performance.

There will be the usual attempts to misrepresent us and hinder our campaign. This can and will only be overcome by our hard work and determination to get our message across to the people.

Our success will not be measured by getting candidates elected but by breaking down the barriers that have been erected against us and the barriers that we surrounded ourselves with in the past.

If you can read, write, talk, paint, poster, drive, walk, climb a ladder, or fill envelopes, then you have a part to play in this election campaign.

"Everyone, republican or otherwise, has his or her own part to play. No part is too great or too small, no-one is too old or too young to do something."

— Bobby Sands

Bomb attacks

THREE BOMBS were detonated by the IRA in Derry city and Strabane on Tuesday afternoon, January 20th, causing damage to city centre commercial premises.

In Derry city, two bombs were placed by IRA Volunteers inside the offices of two building societies, the Anglia and the Alliance & Leicester, situated in the Diamond. Telephone warnings were given and the entire area was

cleared of civilians before the bombs exploded at around 3pm.

The third bomb, planted at the Bank of Ireland, in Strabane's Market Street, also caused damage to the premises and no injuries to civilians.



Extradition set-back

ROBERT RUSSELL'S long struggle against extradition received a further set-back on Monday, January 19th, when the Dublin High Court accepted the say-so of a Six-County justice of the peace (JP) as valid in the 26 Counties for extradition warrants.

A Six-County JP has no legal training and receives the position as part of a system of political patronage.

In Russell's case the JP was a greengrocer.

Russell escaped from the H-Blocks in the mass break-out of

September 1983 and was arrested in the 26 Counties in May 1984. With four other ex-H-Block escapees he was one of a 12-strong team which almost succeeded in escaping from Portlaoise in November 1985.

The judgement in his case

means a further adaptation of the 26-County legal system to the British law and loyalist order in the Six Counties. Judge Barr ruled that because the British Lord Chancellor could remove a JP from office, there was a safeguard from bias. In the week when attention focused on the Birmingham Six show-trial, such confidence might seem a little naive.

It is now expected that the case will be appealed to the Supreme Court.

GOOD RIDDANCE!

(continued from previous page)

rubber stamp in Ireland) and asked him to dissolve the 22nd Leinster House parliament. The 26-County general election was called for February 17th.

Even before the election campaign got underway, the lack of difference in policy between the main Leinster House parties was becoming glaringly obvious.

While Fine Gael under Garret FitzGerald and John Bruton, together with the Progressive Democrats, are the most zealous in their desire for cut-backs,

Fianna Fail and Labour share the same basic philosophy that balancing the books comes before protecting the livelihoods of the people.

SELF-SERVERS

All these parties have a long self-serving record in Leinster House and they cherish above all the perks of political office. They also fear anything which threatens to expose their shameful record, be it Fine Gael's long history of repression, the sham republicanism of Fianna Fail, the Thatcherism of the Progressive Democrats or the countless sell-outs of the working class by Labour and the Workers' Party.

Such fear is the basis of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act which the Coalition made sure to renew just days

before the general election was announced.

Sinn Fein is the target of Section 31 censorship and in this general election will be challenging the corrupt politics of the establishment parties on a 26-County-wide basis.

REAL VOICE FOR RADICAL CHANGE

There will be 27 Sinn Fein candidates offering the electorate the only real voice for radical change on February 17th. They will be clearly saying that, in the long-term, no real economic or social change can come about until the Irish people are united and free to determine their own future. None of the Leinster House parties has been prepared to face that fact and the entry

of Sinn Fein into the political contest will make national sovereignty an issue in the election for the first time since this phase of the freedom struggle began.

CONFRONTING MISMANAGEMENT

Sinn Fein representatives, by their entry into Leinster House, will not bring about dramatic changes but they will confront the self-servers who, time and again, have taken turns in mismanaging the 26 Counties with the same bankrupt policies.

Sinn Fein will put forward the policies vital to protect the people in the short-term and by challenging the corruption of the 26-County political and economic system, will bring closer the day of national freedom and justice.

Rumblings in DUP ranks

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE TRADITIONAL RIVALRY between James Molyneux's 'moderate' Official Unionists and the 'hardline' Democratic Unionists of Ian Paisley resurfaced again this week as the two parties fumble for an appropriate next move in their anti-Agreement campaign.

On Monday, assembled DUP councillors rejected a plan to replace their present tactics of adjournment of council meetings by a plan to have two yearly meetings at which all council business would be dealt with (two being the legal minimum).

But the plan which had been agreed by the two party leaders was widely accepted by OUP councillors, relieved to be offered a way out of further court cases and eventual fines and disqualifications from office. The DUP sees the new plan as a "climb-down" and many DUP councillors are threatening to resign their seats.

SELFISH AND SECTARIAN

The OUP's reservations are both sectarian and plain selfish: they are concerned that resignations or disqualifications will lead to by-elections in which nationalists may win seats and gain control of marginal unionist councils, such as Dungannon, Cookstown, Armagh or even Belfast. But, first and foremost, they do not want to pay the heavy fines



or suffer jail terms which the continued adjournment of council meetings would bring upon them if the recent High Court judgement in Belfast is repeated elsewhere.

Their reluctance to suffer for the cause is compounded by the fact that unionist MPs are in no danger of losing either their fat salaries or their freedom in spite of their very occasional attendance

at Westminster. The spectacle last week in Dublin of DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson baulking at a jail term in the 26 Counties and preferring to pay a heavy fine and a quick run back to the Orange state will hardly convince the reluctant councillors that the time has come to shed their own blood for the red, white and blue. All unionist eyes will

therefore be on Castlereagh Council this Thursday as it meets with Mayor Peter Robinson in the chair.

The friction between the two unionist parties will increase as a British general election becomes imminent. The DUP will naturally be tempted to capitalise on its greater militancy against the Hillsborough Agreement and earlier this month there were rumblings in DUP ranks about contesting some marginal OUP seats such as Roy Beggs' East Antrim or Cecil Walker's North Belfast seats. The DUP leadership quickly moved in to keep its members quiet with words of "unionist unity".

Meanwhile, and in spite of their rates boycott campaign last year, unionist councils have levied £272,000 of rates money to help finance a publicity campaign against the Agreement. This and the ongoing petition constitute the entire anti-agreement campaign at present. While the daily headlines in the *Irish News* promising a 'split' in the unionist ranks are exaggerated, tensions in the unionist camp will undoubtedly mount unless both parties finally agree on workable tactics.

Either way, whether out of frustration or renewed militancy, loyalists will turn to their usual scapegoats, and nationalists will once more have to pay for a treaty which provokes loyalists without making the slightest contribution to either dismantling partition or giving Irish people their right to self-determination.



SINN FEIN REGISTERS

SINN FEIN finally received notification last week that the organisation has been registered as a political party in Leinster House.

Notification came on Thursday, January 15th, from the Registrar of Political Parties saying that it had been accepted that Sinn Fein was a 'genuine political party' and as such could register. This means that the party's name will now appear on ballot papers beside its candidates in the 26-County general election.

Obviously confident that Sinn Fein would not be registered, the Coalition had passed laws on December 11th to prevent candidates including party names in their own names on ballot papers. The Registrar delayed the

issue as long as possible but after correspondence with Sinn Fein (during which spurious allegations were refuted) decided to accept the registration six weeks after the original application.

IDENTIFICATION

It remains to be seen how the other part of the Electoral Act will affect the election. This gave new powers to officials at polling stations to demand identification from 'certain' voters. If implemented as such, it would be used to discriminate against young people and working-class voters in particular.

26-COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION

WITH A GENERAL ELECTION taking place 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.)

SINN FEIN MEETS BRITISH LABOUR PARTY

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

FIVE SINN FEIN councillors met a high-ranking delegation from the British Labour Party in Belfast on Friday, January 16th. The delegation included spokespersons Peter Archer and Stuart Bell, and two other national executive members. Archer, Bell and party leader Neil Kinnock have visited the Six Counties in past years but had hitherto always refused to meet Sinn Fein, in spite of claims that they were prepared to speak to everyone.

Derry City Councillor Mitchel McLaughlin described the meeting as friendly but largely one-sided:

"They had their own agenda prepared, with items such as the administration of justice, unemployment and the economy, but we immediately pointed out that discussions on how best to improve the North's economy were

meaningless unless the British Labour Party first recognised Britain's negative role in Ireland and accepted the right to self-determination of the Irish people as the basis of any settlement.

"We discussed different aspects of repression here as well as unemployment and discrimination but we insisted that in order to bring the war to a speedy and

peaceful conclusion any British government must recognise our right to govern ourselves without foreign interference."

PRAISE

Sinn Fein praised Peter Archer for his support for the 'MacBride Principles' on the eradication of unfair employment practices, and noted that he described the Six Counties as a "colonial situation". They recognised, however, that it may be some time before the British Labour Party evolves a clear policy of disengagement from Ireland, and that this meeting will have served mainly to clarify Sinn Fein's negotiating position for the British Labour Party.

BY TOM O'DWYER

MACHO MANAGEMENT was in style this week as the 26 Counties prepared for a general election and the unemployment figures continued to rise all over Ireland.

"Union-busting techniques" were criticised by workers at Packard Electric, Tallaght, where management used a helicopter and large squads of gardai to breach the 24-hour picket-line imposed by the ITGWU and ATGWU members. "We made this job and they're ruining it," said one picketer, frustrated by management imposed by the US multinational, General Motors.

At 3am on Sunday, January 11th, a 95-strong troop of gardai blocked roads leading to the Airton Road plant so that management could ship out a consignment of car wiring for Austin Rover abroad. This was followed on Thursday, January 15th, by a helicopter air-lift of the remaining wiring which occurred while 800 workers were receiving their final pay cheque.

The following day, a convoy of trucks, accompanied by 50 gardai, continued to strip the plant.

This hard-nosed management approach was led by Hartmunt Hengwerth, chief executive officer and Niall Saul, personnel manager, whose previous task was union-busting at Chadwicks. The company is drawing up a list of workers' names for "disciplinary action" including those of strike leaders.

"This dispute", says Eddie McEllone, chief shop-steward, "is another major show of how multinational managements are attempting to break trade unions worldwide."

The 960 workers are depending for their jobs on the solidarity of their fellow trade unionists in Germany and Great Britain to boycott the Irish products. But the workers are standing firm. "We may never go back," says McEllone, "but if we do, it will be under a decent negotiated system, not an imposed one."

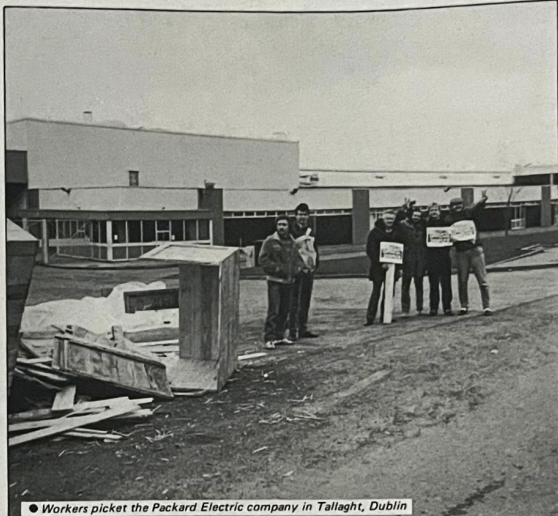
"Take it or leave it" style negotiation is also being used by Memorex, in Clondalkin, County Dublin, where 200 redundancies have been announced and a 17-point unnegotiable plan was put before the 293 workers on Friday, January 9th.

The plan includes the right of supervisors to sack on the spot and cuts in shift rates. Severance terms for the 200 redundant workers are also extremely meagre.

B+1 sacked 1,000 of its 1,490 workers on Tuesday, January 20th, one of the biggest lay-offs in the history of the 26-County state.

Management is committed to cutting

UNION-BUSTING



Workers picket the Packard Electric company in Tallaght, Dublin

£11 million costs this year and has clearly made the work force its prime target. But this attitude hasn't been taken into the boardroom, where Alex Spain is paid £80,000 per year for a post combining the roles of chief executive and managing director.

Figures on unemployment for the Six Counties issued this week were attacked by the Derry Unemployed Centre as a gross underestimation. The "seasonally-adjusted figures" from the Department of Economic Development were 127,600, but the Unemployed Centre put the figure at 146,000. The figure for Derry city went up by 140 to 9,917. But all was not gloom — Strabane male unemployment actually fell by a staggering 0.4% to 50.6%!

The Limerick firm Analog Devices has removed pregnant women from its microchip production lines after a University of Massachusetts report showed a miscarriage rate of 39% among such workers in the US.

While the 26-County Coalition considers £300 million spending cuts and Fianna

Fail promises to keep expenditure at 1986 levels (which means exactly the same) tax evasion by the rich remains a scandal.

The Revenue Commissioners sought £530 million in back taxes in 1984 while the rate of money actually collected dropped from 13.3% in 1980 to 6% in 1984. Yet this figure alone is only part of the 'black hole' into which the 26-County governments have thrown the earnings of workers and small farmers.

Over 400 people joined the dole queues in Wexford over the New Year. The County Wexford unemployment total is now 8,185 (2,199 more than when the Coalition came to office. This figure was increased by another ten people when the Wexford Agricultural Machinery Company closed in New Ross last week after 30 years in operation.

In nearby Wexford, Alpine Refrigeration was liquidated on Friday, January 16th, making 15 people redundant.

The Letterkenny Unemployed Action Group last week condemned the increase in unemployment in the county over the last year, pointing out that this problem

is a massive drain on the state's resources. The Donegal jobs total showed an increase of 679 to 12,485.

Another aspect of multinational exploitation was seen in Navan where the Finnish state company, Outokumpu, which controls Tara Mines threatened 100 redundancies and a wage freeze until 1988.

Outokumpu also wants control of the nearby Bula mine which has incurred a £12 million debt before one sod has been turned and in spite of an additional £11 million given by Leinster House for a mere 25% share in the company.

Joe Reilly, the Meath Sinn Fein election candidate, has condemned the "rip-off of the Irish people" involved in the Tara/Bula story.

In ten years' operations Tara paid no tax to the 26-County government. Irish ore was shipped out to European smelters rather than being processed here, thus wiping out potential Irish jobs. When its Canadian bosses went last year, Tara went over the heads of Leinster House politicians to sell to Outokumpu. By the end of the year, the Finns will be able to take the Navan ore to Finland for smelting.

Because the same company owns both the mine and the smelter, it can charge a 'price' for this 'export' which will avoid tax. Joe Reilly has slammed such multinational companies which "trade our resources and our jobs to their advantage and our poverty".

Outokumpu's demand for redundancies and a wage-freeze (which with 3% inflation effectively means a wage cut) will add to rocketing Meath unemployment figures and will cost Navan £35,000 per week in lost wages. The number on the dole in Navan, Kells and Trim has grown by 83% on the 1982 figure.

The argument put forward by employers that workers are 'striking themselves out of jobs' has been disproved by last year's 26-County strike figures.

While the unemployment figures were going through the ceiling, ending the year at over a quarter of a million, the number of days lost through strikes fell drastically. The 1986 unemployment average for the whole of 1986 showed an increase of 6,000 on the previous year while strike figures for the same time fell by over a third, according to figures from the Dublin Department of Labour.

Over two thirds of the 315,500 days lost were due to the teachers' and the corporation workers' strikes, both provoked by the Labour/Fine Gael government.

The number of strikes was the lowest for four years.

Students put FG out of office

THE LAUNCH of the Fine Gael election campaign was disrupted by students on Wednesday, January 21st, when the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) launched its own campaign for a freeze in college fees and improvements in grants and facilities by occupying the Fine Gael headquarters. Fine Gael was forced to move its press conference to a room in the Burlington Hotel, Leeson Street, Dublin. In order to show the non-party character of their campaign, the students also occupied the nearby Fianna Fail head office.

Students saw the occupations as "a springboard" for their campaign to make education an election issue. They have set February 13th as a deadline for the parties to respond to their demands. USI President Patricia Hegarty says:

"Fine Gael and Labour are responsible for the most vicious fee increases we have ever experienced, edging many low and middle-income groups out of third-level education."

Meanwhile, Fianna Fail has "still made no commitment to a fees freeze and a grant increase".

SUPPORT

Sinn Fein education spokesperson Aengus O Snodaigh, the Sinn Fein candidate for Dublin South-East, welcomed "the direct action taken by USI".

"Sinn Fein supports the students' demands for a fees freeze, increased grants and improved college facilities as basic education rights for Ireland's youth."



Censorship stays as Coalition goes

BY MAIRTIN MAC DIARMADA

THREE DAYS before it called a general election, the Coalition government renewed Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act and ensured that RTE's election coverage will be under the blanket of censorship in the weeks ahead.

Communications Minister Jim Mitchell arrogantly dismissed opinion polls and widespread protests and he renewed the order on Monday, January 19th. In the previous week, anti-censorship protesters disrupted Mitchell's own constituency clinics in Ballyfermot and Clonsilla on Thursday and Friday. The clinics of deputies Enda Kenny and Denis Gallagher were also picketed at Mulranney and Ballycroy, in Mayo, a week earlier.

Mitchell failed to respond to challenges from protesters at the clinics but when he reimposed the ban he was not lost for words to defend his government's South African-style censorship.

Mitchell said it was his 'duty' to prevent access to the airwaves for 'subversive organisations'. He would not concede that Sinn Fein was a legitimate political organisation despite the fact that the party had been recognised as such and registered by the Registrar of Political Parties in Leinster House only days before.

PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS

Sinn Fein will not now have access to RTE airwaves during the coming election campaign and will be denied the right to party political broadcasts.

The ban on Sinn Fein broadcasts was not originally part of the Section 31 order but was imposed following a High Court ruling against the party when an action was taken to compel the minister to allow broadcasts during the 1982 general election.

On Friday, January 19th, five Repeal Section 31 campaigners

climbed onto the balcony of the Department of Communications in Kildare Street, Dublin, and unfurled a banner. Despite attempts by gardai to dissuade them (including an unnecessary call to the Dublin Fire Brigade) the protesters remained for over an hour and attracted much attention from passers-by.

On Saturday, over 100 people took part in a picket outside Leinster House to call on the Coalition not to renew Section 31. On the day of the renewal, many RTE journalists picketed Leinster House and expressed their frustration at the censorship laws. There was a marked contrast between RTE radio and television coverage of this protest. It was carried as the first item on radio bulletins with journalists who took part being interviewed, while on the TV news it was one of the last items and there were no interviews.

This was despite the fact that Section 31 had become a station issue from the week before.

FIANNA FAIL

Fianna Fail's Terry Laydon said that Section 31 should be ended and was quickly copied on the frontlines by party headquarters, which said the 'official' policy would be given by Charles Haughey in a radio interview.

Haughey's comments were characteristically vague, he said that conditions and limited representations should be allowed a-s-i-m-e, but when pressed as to what he would do in office he made no comment and said that he would have to take advice from "those concerned with security".

Meanwhile, Des O'Malley of the



Below: Anti-Section 31 protesters at the Department of Communications and (below) at Leinster House



Progressive Democrats dropped his 'liberal' mask and defended the censorship law first introduced in 1972 when he was Justice Minister in Jack Lynch's Fianna Fail Cabinet. O'Malley also used the occasion to launch a vitriolic attack on Sinn Fein.

The renewal of Section 31 coincided with the visit to Ireland of two observers from the Federal

Commission of Journalists. They are now to observe restrictions on journalists and Section 31 is sure to figure prominently in their report.

PROTESTS TO BE STEPPED UP

Commenting on the renewal, Nicky Kelly of the Repeal Section 31 Committee said that anti-censorship protests would be stepped up during the election campaign.

"We want to ensure that censorship is an election issue. This will include lobbying candidates and political parties, and protesting where the electoral process is being distorted by Section 31. When it is exposed internationally, it will be quite embarrassing for our so-called democrats."

BITTER-SWEET NEWS FOR BIRMINGHAM SIX

BY JANE FLINNETT

AFTER YEARS of mounting pressure from relatives and concerned individuals, the British Appeal Court is to reopen the case of the six men jailed for life for the November 1974 Birmingham pub bombings.

However, British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd revealed when making this announcement on Tuesday that he has refused to reopen the cases of the Guildford Four and the Maguire family.

The Birmingham Six, all Irishmen living in Birmingham, have consistently denied any involvement in the charges against them. Hurd referred the case of the Birmingham Six to the Appeal Court after the only forensic evidence produced at the trial was discredited by independent scientists, and after a televised statement last December from a former Police Commissioner Clarke that letters signed by their alleged 'confessors' the defendants had been threatened with gains, because of police custody end kept without food and drink.

The only forensic evidence produced at their trial, based on the so-called 'Green Ties', was said to reveal traces of explosives on the hands of two of the defendants. But it has

this and the Guildford case.

On Tuesday, the Home Secretary also announced that the Devon Constabulary is to invest quite the evidence that the men were beaten during police interrogation.

REFUSED

Hurd refused to reopen the case of the Guildford Four (Patrick Armstrong, Gerard Connor, Paul Hill and Corrie Richardson) who were convicted on the sole basis of signed 'confessions' which they later retracted.

The four are said to be serving the longest sentences of any prisoners in Britain. At the end of their five-week trial, Judge Donaldson recommended that Hill should never be released, that Armstrong should serve at least 26 years, and Connor at least 20 years. They remain in jail, after more than 12 years, despite the fact that their alleged confessions are said to contain more than 100 contradictions. During their interrogation, Richardson (who had an alibi) and Armstrong were suffering from amphetamines and barbiturates, despite which their questioning included long spells in isolation without legal advice.



● The Birmingham Six: (clockwise from top right) Hugh Callaghan, Bill Power, Gerry Hunter, John Walker, Dick McKenny and Paddy Hill

This interrogation took place according to procedures which are no longer legal in Britain.

The fact most clearly establishing their innocence is that three members of the IRA unit arrested after the Balcombe Street siege in London claimed responsibility for the Guildford and Woolwich attacks and provided a detailed and accurate account of how they carried

out years for the families of the Guildford defendants. Among those strongly critical of Hurd was author Robert Kee to campaign for the Maguire and the Guildford Four who described Hurd's decision to reopen only the Birmingham case as "hypocritical" adding:

"It's about British justice being made to look very ugly."

Sinn Fein's Danny Morrison said that the news was "undoubtedly some relief to the six victims and their families" but added that it "fell far short of people's expectations" in ignoring the cases of the Guildford Four and the Maguire family.

Morrison added: "These three cases, along with that of Judith Ward [who was wrongly convicted of the 1972 coach bomb in 1974] epitomise the travesties of justice in British courts that followed a wave of hysterical anti-Irish racism in the 1970s."

"The fact I would now hold is that the reopening of the Birmingham Six case is intended to offset the accumulation of pressure being put on the British government to free all the victims of their miscarriages of justice."

Even at the stage the Appeal Court could reject the men's appeal, and at best they face many months longer in jail. In this respect too, Hurd's false claim during questioning from reporters that he was unable to give the men an immediate pardon was cynical. As author Chris Mullin pointed out:

"Politics stopped Hurd from granting a pardon."

JOY AND TEARS

Hurd's announcement on Tuesday brought joy to the relatives of the Birmingham Six.

Short Strand targeted

BY JANE PLUNKETT

SINN FEIN has strongly condemned the upsurge of harassment by the RUC in the Short Strand area of East Belfast.

In recent weeks, numerous local men have been assaulted by the RUC and then threatened with trumped-up charges, and several face RUC death threats. Two young men have recently reported attempts by the RUC to blackmail them into working as informers, offering that petty charges would be dropped.

Residents of the tiny nationalist ghetto face regular harassment on the streets. Sinn Fein's local spokesperson, Joe O'Donnell, points out:

"This form of martial law is compounded by the fact that the area is sealed off every weekend by UDR roadblocks on both bridges leading into the area."

One of those assaulted by the RUC was local Sinn Fein member Dominic McNulty (27), who was arrested on Thompson Street last Tuesday night, January 13th, shortly after midnight, thrown into a jeep and taken to nearby Mountpottinger Road Barracks. There he was grabbed by the throat, slapped around the head and kicked. An RUC sergeant threatened to "stiff" him "one dark night". McNulty was held for about 80 minutes but he was not for-

mally charged, though the RUC made him pay £50 'RUC bail' as a condition of his release.

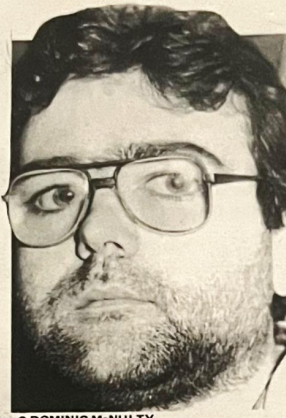
Thompson Street resident father-of-two Danny Gartland (35) witnessed the RUC arresting McNulty. Five days later, on Sunday evening, January 18th, an RUC patrol called at his home and ordered him to the barracks, where he was told he had "pushed" an RUC man during the previous incident. Gartland was held for 30 minutes, cautioned and ordered to report to the barracks on Wednesday (January 21st).

'STAY OUT'

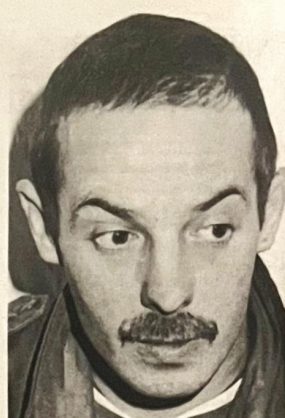
On Friday, the RUC stopped two young men from the nearby Markets area, Sam Caskey (24) and Martin Clinton (22), on the Albert Bridge and told them to "stay out" of the Short Strand. Sam Caskey was told that if any crown forces were injured in the area "I would be found floating up the Lagan".

Later on Friday night, Caskey was arrested in a local club on the pretext that he had "pushed" an RUC man. Caskey was held in the local barracks, where he was slapped and threatened with a pistol before being released without charge after 20 minutes.

Many Short Strand residents complain of distasteful abuse from RUC patrols on the streets. Mother-of-two Ann Cunningham, of Altcar Street, told AP/RN that



● DOMINIC McNULTY



● DANNY GARTLAND

every time she goes out she suffers verbal abuse from RUC squads.

Residents are increasingly being stopped after dark. At around 10pm last Friday night, Mrs Cunningham's brother-in-law Peter was stopped at the corner of Harper Street. Following some trivial verbal exchanges, he was headbutted by an RUC man and punched in the ribs several times.

YOUTH WORKER

Also last Friday night, local Sinn Fein member Danny Devenny was stopped by the RUC in Madrid Street as he returned home from a local youth disco which he helps to organise.

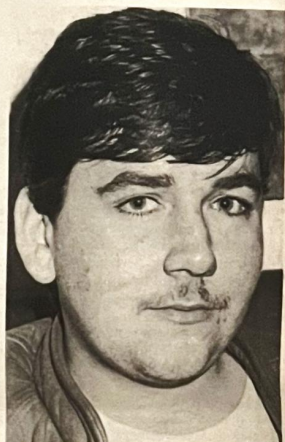
Devenny was manhandled and kicked and taken to Mountpottinger Barracks, where an RUC Sergeant Templeton told him:

"We're in charge here and you have no rights."

Devenny was taken to a small room where he was punched in the back and kneed in the groin. After 1½ hours he was released on RUC bail. When he made a formal complaint about his arrest and ill-treatment, he was again hurled across the room by Sergeant Templeton.

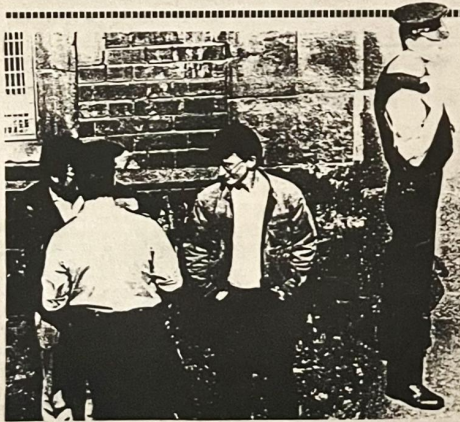
On Tuesday, the RUC formally laid the ludicrous charge of 'behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace' against him.

And in yet another attack last Friday night, 20-year-old James Cormican was



● JAMES CORMICAN

beaten by the RUC in Chemical Street, suffering bruises to his arms and hands, as well as an injury to his ear which required treatment. Cormican was then arrested and told he would be charged with four assaults and disorderly behaviour.



RUC INTIMIDATION

BY EAMONN TRACEY

ONGOING RUC efforts to intimidate nationalists into acting as informers have again come to light in the Short Strand area of East Belfast.

Twice in recent weeks RUC men have arrested and harassed 23-year-old Frankie McDonnell, from Austin Street, demanding that he supply them with information about local republicans.

Two days before Christmas, McDonnell and a friend were returning home from a local club when they were stopped by the RUC in the Mountforde Estate and McDonnell, who objected to

the manner in which one RUC man was searching him, was arrested, then punched and dragged into an armoured jeep. During interrogation in Mountpottinger Barracks, the RUC threatened to charge him with assault, disorderly behaviour and obstruction.

In return for his release he was asked to find out who was in the IRA and where weapons were held. Although frightened, Mc-

Donnell refused to co-operate and was eventually released.

CHASED

Last week, as he was driving home from work he was chased by a mobile RUC patrol and forced off the road on the loyalist side of the Newtownards Road. The RUC searched the car and made several threatening comments.

McDonnell told Sinn Fein that he is "extremely worried". Local representative Joe McDonnell appealed to anyone suffering similar threats to contact Sinn Fein and "help expose this sordid tactic".

bullet when he was 16.) When it was Deery's turn to visit his brother, the RUC man, goaded on by the others, intimidatingly followed him to the visiting room. There he glared at Deery from behind a desk then pulled out his revolver and pointed it straight at him. Deery told AP/RN:

"The RUC man leaned forward and put the gun to my head but put it away again when the jailer arrived with my brother. However, before leaving the visiting room he again produced the revolver and 'promised' that it was definitely for me."

Derry man threatened

BY KEVIN McCOOL

A RECENTLY-RELEASED victim of paid perjurer Robert Quigley has suffered further humiliation and harassment at the hands of the RUC in Derry.

Patrick Deery, of Glenowen Park, was imprisoned on the uncorroborated word of Quigley in June 1986 after he and Seamus Mahon had been illegally handed across the Donegal border to

waiting RUC men by local gardai. Following the collapse of the Quigley show-trial he returned to Derry.

On Sunday afternoon, January 18th, Deery, accompanied by his

sister-in-law Ann, went to visit his brother John who was being held in Strand Road RUC Barracks for non-payment of fines. There were about 12 RUC men in the hall who recognised Deery and began to taunt him. One of the hostile RUC men told him that he had been "dared" by the others to blow Deery's head off and then said:



● PATRICK DEERY

"I wish I had a few spare rounds because you, you one-eyed bastard, are first preference for them!" (Deery lost an eye when he was hit by a rubber

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

IRREFUTABLE evidence has been uncovered which proves that applicants for jobs in a Board of Works drainage scheme in County Monaghan were vetted for political approval by a Coalition government minister.

Documents from within the Department of Finance confirm revelations made by Sinn Fein councillors last year that the scheme was rife with political jobbery.

In September, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael councillors joined forces on Monaghan County Council to defeat a Sinn Fein motion which called for a public inquiry into the vetting of applicants for work in the Blackwater Drainage Scheme. At that time, Sinn Fein Councillors Caoimhghin O Caolain and Pat Treanor revealed that lists of applicants for the jobs had been submitted for approval to the Garda Special Branch and that those for whom "representations" had been made by Fine Gael and Fianna Fail politicians got preference for the positions.

DOCUMENTS

Documents obtained by Sinn Fein now show that the jobbery scandal went as high as the ministerial desk in the Department of Finance in Dublin. On September 12th, a note was sent from a county official in Monaghan to the Department with a list of 15 successful applicants to be submitted for approval by Minister of State Avril Doyle.

A personnel officer in the Department attached a cover note before passing on the list to the minister's secretary, saying that the county official "has requested early approval to recruit the 15 men listed as labourers".

DAMNING EVIDENCE

The most damning evidence is contained in a note back from the Minister of State's secretary listing those who "should be offered employment". It goes on:

"The Minister of State has indicated that the remaining vacancies should be filled following interviews of attending candidates on whose behalf representations have been made and who direct applicants."

"A panel of successful candidates following these interviews should be submitted for ministerial approval before any appointments are made."

This clearly shows that not only have applicants for labouring jobs in the drainage scheme been politically vetted but that those with friends in political office have been preferred for posts and this jobbery practice is accepted as normal by Dublin government ministers.

When the question of recruitment was

MINISTER IMPLICATED

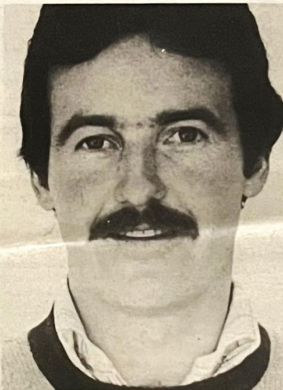
Jobbery exposed



● Work being carried out on the Blackwater Drainage Scheme, County Monaghan



● CAOIMHGHIN O CAOLAIN



● PAT TREANOR

first raised by Sinn Fein Councillor Pat Treanor at the Monaghan County Committee of Agriculture, the Office of Public Works said that appointments were made only on the basis of interviews from applicants who came to them directly or from the local Manpower office.

Fein for 'threatening' the drainage scheme. Fianna Fail Councillor Jimmy Leonard admitted that he had "recommended" people for jobs.

Commenting on the revelations, Sinn Fein Councillor Caoimhghin O Caolain, who is a candidate in the Cavan/Monaghan constituency in the forthcoming general election, said:

"Despite the pressures and the doubts cast on our claims at the September meeting of Monaghan County Council we continued to amass the information necessary to prove that our local deputies — in particular John Francis Conlon (Fine Gael) and Jimmy Leonard (Fianna Fail) — along with several councillors of both parties in the Clones and North Monaghan electoral areas, were knowingly involved in the despicable practice of jobbery."

"In conjunction with Minister Avril Doyle, they have wilfully prevented seven men from securing employment as labourers, jobs they had been adjudged suitable for and capable of."

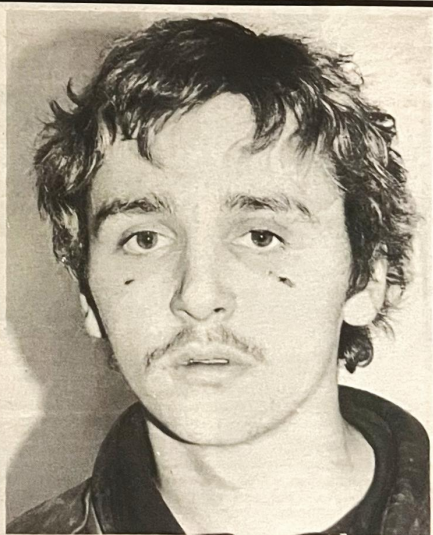
"This is neither an attack on the drainage scheme in question nor indeed those who secured work with the board. Rather it is aimed at the corruption which exists at all levels of the establishment political process in this state."

● Peter Nalty — a victim of the Garda Crime Task Force

parents' flat on Saturday night, January 4th. Such behaviour is a regular occurrence in the area and Nalty ignored it.

Gardai Ian Ferris and Eugene Collins then left the car, dragged Nalty down South Cumberland Street and hit him with batons, breaking his nose in two places. At Pearse Street Garda Barracks, he was charged with assault, breach of the peace and drunk and disorderly behaviour, although he had not been drinking. In custody he was refused a doctor and later lost his job because of problems of concentration due to the beating.

O Snodaigh, a local community worker, said: "The gardai in this unit have become a law unto themselves. The continued harassment of youth in the area is not going to solve crime: it will serve to increase it."



Youth's nose broken

"BRUTAL and unnecessary" action by the Garda Crime Task Force in the Pearse Street/Ringsend area has been condemned by local Sinn Fein candidate Aengus O Snodaigh.

Peter Nalty (16), of Andrew's by two Task Force members in an Court, Fenian Street, was taunted unmarked car as he left his

CAVAN/MONAGHAN



CAOIMHGHIN O CAOILAIN (33) is a member of Monaghan County Council and is married with one child.

A native of Monaghan town, where he has long been involved in Irish language and other cultural activities, Caoimhghin is a full-time voluntary community worker with Sinn Fein and is party organiser for Counties Cavan and Monaghan.

Since his election to Monaghan County Council in June 1985, Caoimhghin has gained a reputation as a hard-working councillor and as a first-class public representative, raising issues of both local and national importance.

CORK EAST



KIERAN MCCARTHY is married with two children and he operates a coal road in the town of Cobh.

Joining Sinn Fein after the H-Block/Armagh campaign, he quickly became involved in many local issues. In his first time out in the 1985 local elections, he polled well and beat several sitting councillors.

Kieran has worked to expose racketeering landlords in Cobh and is active in the Anti-Service Charge Campaign, the Cobh Ambulance Committee, and the committee of the new Gaelscoil.

CORK NORTH-CENTRAL



DON O'LEARY (29) is married with two children and lives in Fairhill. He is a full-time voluntary community worker for Sinn Fein in the North Cork area.

Don joined the Republican Movement in 1975 and is a founder member of the Countess Markievicz Sinn Fein Cumann. He has served on the executive of the Cork Comhairle Ceantair and on the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein.

In June 1985, he stood as a local government election candidate in the Cork North-Central ward.

DONEGAL NORTH-EAST



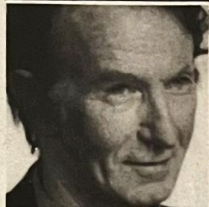
EDDIE FULLERTON (51) lives in Buncrana with his wife and six children. A builder by trade, he

devotes most of his energies to his work as a Sinn Fein elected representative on Buncrana UDA and Donegal County Council.

As a member of Sinn Fein since 1968, Eddie has been a tireless campaigner on the political and social issues which affect the people of Donegal. He has led the campaign of opposition to gaming machines in the county and has opposed the imposition of water rates.

Eddie is a member of Donegal County Health Committee, the Housing & Planning Committee and General Purposes Committee.

DONEGAL SOUTH-WEST



EAMONN MONAGHAN is a small farmer from Mounthcharles with a long record of involvement in republican and community politics. He has represented Sinn Fein in local elections in the past and was actively involved in the South-West Donegal Hospital Campaign and in opposition to the EEC.

From a strong republican background, Eamonn's father fought in the Tan War and in the Civil War, during which the family home was burned down by the Staters. His father stood as a Sinn Fein candidate in the constituency while a prisoner in Mountjoy Jail in 1923. In more recent times, his mother died after a Garda raid on the family home in 1977.

DUBLIN CENTRAL

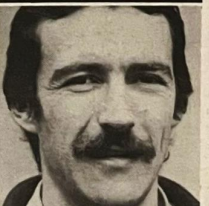


PAMELA KANE is the Sinn Fein candidate for the Dublin North-East constituency. She lives in Baldoyle and is 22.

Pamela is secretary and youth officer of Dublin Sinn Fein. As an activist in the organisation for the past six years, she has been involved on a Dublin-wide basis in the campaigns against local authority service charges, social welfare cut-backs, the drugs menace, and the anti-working-class policies of successive 26-County governments.

- The Concerned Parents Against Drugs campaign.
- Opposition to water rates and rent increases.
- The demand for housing with amenities for young and old.

DUBLIN NORTH-CENTRAL



CIARAN MAC CORMAIC (25) has lived in Kilmore for 18 years.

He has been a member of Sinn Fein for five years and is active in his area on issues such as the water rates campaign, social welfare benefit rights, and the setting up of a community advice centre.

He is a telephone technician with Telecom Eireann and is a member of the branch committee of the Communications Union of Ireland.

DUBLIN SOUTH-CENTRAL



MICHEAL O MUIREAGAIN is a full-time Sinn Fein community worker and is also the Sinn Fein organiser for Dublin South-Central.

Along with the Sinn Fein team in the area, he has been involved in protests and campaigns dealing with such matters as water rates, maintenance of Corporation dwellings and drug abuse. He works from the advice centre at 60 The Coombe, Dublin 8.

Micheal is 28 years old and has been a member of the Republican Movement since 1972. He is an ex-POW having served six years in Portlaoise Prison for republican activities. His interests include the restoration of the Irish language and culture.

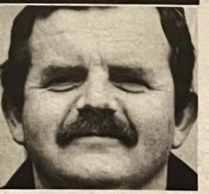
DUBLIN NORTH-EAST



CHRISTY DUNNE (44) is married with three children and lives in Clondalkin. He is an active trade unionist and has served as ITGWU shop-steward in Semperit, the tyre company, for the past 14 years.

He is a member of the Dublin district council of the ITGWU and of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions. Christy joined Sinn Fein in 1982 and each Saturday he operates the Sinn Fein Community Information Centre in Bawnogone.

DUBLIN NORTH-WEST



NIALL DONNELLY (35) is a full-time voluntary worker and lives in the Wadell area of Ballymun with his wife and two children. He runs the Sinn Fein advice centre in the area and has been active in organising a local branch of the Unemployed Alliance.

A former member of the National Busworkers' Union, Niall is a regular contributor to the local *Ballymun Bulletin* news-sheet and also edits *Unemployed News*, both of which are produced by Sinn Fein. He has a solid record as an activist in many groups including the Dublin Housing Action & Resources Campaign, the Dublin Corporation & Tenants' Group, the anti-EEC campaign and CREST (opposing the Single European Act).



JOHN NOONAN (33) is an unemployed lorry driver living in the Fettercairn area of Tallaght with his wife and six children. He joined the Republican Movement in 1969 and has spent time as a republican POW in Long Kesh.

For several years, John has campaigned on a variety of local issues including unemployment, drug abuse, maintenance of housing in the area and opposition to water rates, social welfare cuts and rent increases.

John represented Sinn Fein in the EEC elections in 1984 and in the local government elections the following year, polling well on both occasions.

in Finglas where he lives with his wife and three children. Harry is a former shop-steward in the ITGWU and he led the long struggle against the closure of the Ranks Flour Mill in Phibsboro in 1983-1984.

Harry runs the Sinn Fein advice centre in Finglas and has been involved in many local campaigns including the anti-water rates campaign, opposition to toxic waste dumping in the area, and in the campaign to rid the area of heroin pushers.

He is active in various local groups and clubs including the Workers' Rights Association and the Mellows Football Club.

DUBLIN SOUTH-EAST



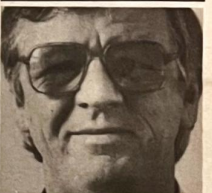
AENGUS O SNODAIGH is a 22-year-old unemployed teacher from Sandymount.

He is a full-time community worker with Sinn Fein and has been active in a wide range of national and local issues, ranging from support for Irish-language rights to the campaign against water rates and social welfare cuts.

Besides his involvement in Sinn Fein, Aengus is a member of various other organisations, including Conradh na Gaeilge, the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, IDATU's unemployed branch, and the Clana Gael/Fontenoy's GAA club. He is also editor of the quarterly Irish-language magazine, *Saoirse*.

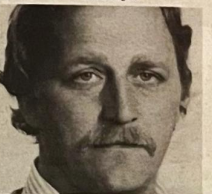
Mar Gaeilgeoir ó dhúchas cuirfidh Aengus an teanga chun cinn ar gach áicid ar féidir.

DUBLIN SOUTH-WEST



CHRISTY DUNNE (44) is married with three children and lives in Clondalkin. He is an active trade unionist and has served as ITGWU shop-steward in Semperit, the tyre company, for the past 14 years.

He is a member of the Dublin district council of the ITGWU and of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions. Christy joined Sinn Fein in 1982 and each Saturday he operates the Sinn Fein Community Information Centre in Bawnogone.



JOHN NOONAN (33) is an unemployed lorry driver living in the Fettercairn area of Tallaght with his wife and six children. He joined the Republican Movement in 1969 and has spent time as a republican POW in Long Kesh.

For several years, John has campaigned on a variety of local issues including unemployment, drug abuse, maintenance of housing in the area and opposition to water rates, social welfare cuts and rent increases.

John represented Sinn Fein in the EEC elections in 1984 and in the local government elections the following year, polling well on both occasions.

Vote Sinn Fein

Sinn Fein is standing 27 candidates in the 26-County general election.

Sinn Fein is contesting the elections which present an alternative to the policies of the establishment which have plunged people in the 26 Counties into the depths of despair and have kept the youth with only emigration to look forward to.

Real change - and not simply the change of management which is all that the parties in Leinster House can offer - is what is needed and Sinn Fein can provide that.

Sinn Fein is fighting for a real and better society.

Sinn Fein believes that:
 ■ A united and independent Ireland is vital to the social, economic and cultural development of the Irish people.
 ■ The answer to unemployment is

DUBLIN WEST

JIMMY DELANEY is a 28-year-old unemployed welder from Ballyfermot. For the past four years he has been a full-time voluntary worker and has operated in Sinn Fein's mobile advice centre in Dublin West.

Jimmy has been involved in a wide range of campaigns and community activities including:

- The Concerned Parents Against Drugs Campaign.
- Ballyfermot Community Association.
- The campaign against water rates.
- Summer projects for youth.
- The Chapelizod By-pass Action Committee.



n Féin REAL CHANGE

dates in 24
general elect-
ction on polie-
to the bank-
ment parties,
e 26 Counties
have left our
look forward
ly the change
the present
ffer - that is
an respond to
real change in
Ireland is
and political
ant and emig-

ration lies in productive investment and job creation in the construction industry, food and timber processing, marketing and communications.

Employment in the public sector and in semi-state industries must be protected and expanded.

The money needed for job creation must come from reform of the tax system and an end to the waste of resources in areas such as cross-border collaboration.

The persecution of the PAYE sector must end and other sectors, including big business, large farmers, banks and the wealthy must be made to pay their fair share of taxes.

Cuts in spending on health, education and social welfare are no solution to the economic crisis. Sinn Féin TDs will vigorously oppose any cuts in these areas.

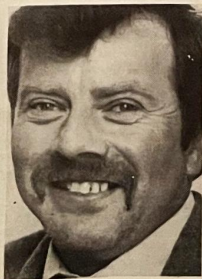
Neutrality is worth defending. The Single European Act, which undermines neutrality, must be rejected.

DUN LAOGHAIRE

KEVIN FITZPATRICK (39) is a native of Sallynoggin and now lives in Ballybrack with his wife and family. He is well-known throughout the Dun Laoghaire area, where he has worked as a milkman for over 20 years.

An activist in the campaign to end the heroin scourge, Kevin was the main instigator of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs (CPAD) movement in Dun Laoghaire and is currently chairperson of the CPAD in the area.

Apart from the drugs issue, Kevin is concerned with the plight of the elderly in the borough and the impact of health and social service cut-backs.

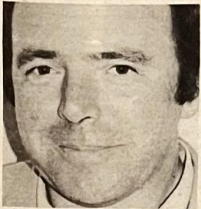


KERRY NORTH



DECLAN FINUCANE is a farmer in Moyvane. Aged 28, he is a nephew of Paddy Finucane, a former internee and Independent deputy for Kerry North.

Declan is an active GAA member and plays Gaelic football with the Clounmacon team.

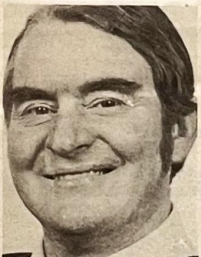


BILLY LEEN is a married man with three children.

He hails originally from Ballymacollig and now lives in Tralee, where he runs a public house and a building firm.

Billy has been an active and hard-working member of Tralee Urban District Council for almost a year.

KILDARE



PADDY WRIGHT is a native of Athy where he is employed as a cemetery caretaker. He has been a member of Athy UDC since 1979, topping the poll in that election and in the local government election in 1985. He was also elected to Kildare County Council in the 1985 election.

Paddy joined Sinn Féin in 1959 and has constantly campaigned for the political, social and economic demands of Irish republicanism. He is active in various social and cultural groups including Clonmullen Community Association and the GAA.

As a Sinn Féin councillor he has opposed the imposition of water rates and the spread of gaming machines as well as calling for the demolition of sub-standard council housing in the county.

LAOIS/OFFALY



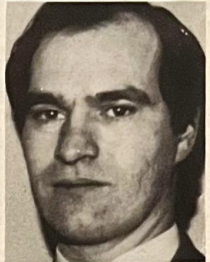
JOHN CARROLL is a married man age 33. He is a member of Birr

Urban District Council and was the Sinn Féin candidate in Leinster in the 1984 Euro elections.

John spent six years as a republican prisoner in Portlaoise.

He earns his living as a farmer and as well as his republican involvement is a member of the GAA. He is a fluent Irish speaker.

LIMERICK EAST

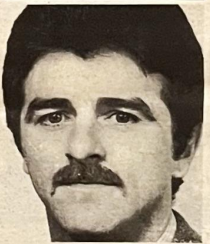


PADRAIG MALONE is a 29-year-old married catering worker from Prospect. He has lived in Limerick for most of his life, has been a member of Sinn Féin since 1974 and has held positions in the party including Munster organiser (he is currently a member of the Ard Chomhairle).

Padraig is the Limerick city organiser of Sinn Féin and chairperson of the North Munster Comhairle Ceantair.

He is an active trade unionist, being a shop-steward and a member of the Limerick No.1 branch committee of the ITGWU. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions.

LOUTH



ARTHUR MORGAN (32) is a native of Omagh where he works in the family fishmongering business. He has been a member of the Republican Movement since 1972 and is a former Long Kesh POW.

Since his release in 1984, Arthur has been an active member of the Peter Cleary Sinn Féin Cumann, working on political and community issues in the North Louth area.

In 1985, he stood as a Sinn Féin candidate in the local government elections in the Carlingford area and although he topped the poll he narrowly missed election.

MAYO EAST



JOE McHALE, a well-known local republican has served two prison terms for his beliefs. Upon his release in 1983, Joe was elected to the Sraid Community Council and is currently its PRO.

A keen GAA enthusiast, Joe takes a deep interest in Irish history. He is vice-chairperson of the Michael Davitt National Memorial Committee. He was Sinn Féin candidate for Swinford in the 1985 local elections.

MEATH



JOE REILLY (36) lives in Commons Road, Navan and is a Sinn Féin organiser.

He is active on several local issues and is PRO of the Meath Anti-Service Charges Campaign.

Joe is an active trade unionist, being a member of the ITGWU branch committee and of Meath Trades Council.

Joe Reilly was imprisoned in Portlaoise for ten years for republican activities.

SLIGO/LEITRIM



JOHN JOE MCGIRL has been vice-president of Sinn Féin since 1983. He is married and has five children. He was born at Aughasheen, Ballinamore, and still lives in Ballinamore.

John Joe has been a life-long member of the Republican Movement and has spent ten years in prison all over the 32 Counties, including the Curragh and Long Kesh Concentration Camps. He is the only prisoner to have been in both Long Kesh and the Curragh Camps when they were burned down.

John Joe has served on Leitrim County Council for 20 years and was elected a Sinn Féin TD for Sligo/Leitrim in 1957.

TIPPERARY NORTH



JIMMY NOLAN is a native of Nenagh where he has been a member of the UDC since the 1985 local government elections.

From a strong republican background, he spent six years in Portlaoise Jail for his beliefs, during which he spent 47 days on hunger-strike against poor conditions.

A fluent Irish speaker, Jimmy has an active interest in local music and culture.

WATERFORD



NOEL RYAN (31), a life-long republican and active trade unionist, is a full-time voluntary community worker living in Waterford city.

Noel is a former shop-steward at the Siemens factory in Waterford but has been unemployed since the factory closed without warning in August 1981. A footsore Noel also took part in the 1982 Waterford to Dublin 'People's March for Decent Jobs'.

SDLP in lignite controversy

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AN SDLP councillor in County Tyrone has been accused of undermining a local community's opposition to the development of lignite by multinationals and the building of a power station along the shores of Lough Neagh.

The appearance of a leading article and a half-page statement in the local paper, *The Democrat*, on January 8th, from SDLP man Paddy Duffy, a councillor in the Ardboe area, urged farmers to allow the drilling of exploratory boreholes on their land and reap the financial benefits of up to £1,000 compensation from BP Coal, who have the lignite exploration licence.

Duffy did an excellent PR job for the mining company, repeatedly labouring the point that his motive was purely to get all available information "out into the open" in order to "end the uncertainty" for local people. On the one hand he claimed his interest in the exploration of lignite was to "maximise every possible potential" which exists in the Ardboe area which would benefit the people, yet on the other hand said that if exploration and a public enquiry showed that lignite development would be to the disadvantage of all, then he would become "totally opposed" to the idea.

SHOCK

The people of the Moortown/Ballin-

derry area were shocked to learn from Duffy's statement that he had been officially involved in talks with the Department of the Environment in examining the lignite position since 1981. This was four years before local people were aware of the pending threat to their community and the formation of Lignite Action in January 1985, a group formed to campaign against open-cast lignite mining.

Lignite Action quickly challenged Duffy to explain why he had "kept people in the dark for so many years". They dismissed his insinuations that they had intimidated farmers from having their land bored. In a statement replying to Duffy, they said his allegations "had absolutely no foundation in fact and did the greatest disservice to Lignite Action and all the people who have supported us for the past two years."

CHALLENGE

The group went on to challenge Duffy's arrogant remarks that the extraction of lignite would not affect fishing on Lough Neagh and called on him to provide the "scientific proof" of this and to "share this information with us and the fishing families".

For someone who claimed, as Duffy had, to have spent a considerable time over the past five years examining the lignite position, "the writer demonstrates a poor grasp of open-cast lignite mining and the effects of a power station sitting beside Lough Neagh", they added. In answer to



● LOUGH NEAGH

his suggestion that the erection of a power station would initially provide 2,000 jobs in the first two years, then between 200 and 300 in the next 30 years, Lignite Action stressed:

"Such jobs are specialised and highly technical. The truth is there would be £1,000 compensation for a few people, construction work for a few years and the cost would be the loss of a community and a way of life."

ATMOSPHERE

Local Sinn Fein Councillors Pearse McAleer and Francis McNally said that Duffy, who has met BP Coal on at least one occasion and whose law firm has under-

taken to research for the mining company, was trying to create an atmosphere in which lignite mining could be facilitated without opposition from people in the area.

Any attempt by Duffy to weaken the campaign of Lignite Action they said was "playing into the hands of those advocating lignite mining". Multinationals like BP Coal had an infamous record of acting irresponsibly when it came to community interests and Lignite Action called on the SDLP to end speculation that any of their elected representatives were "involved with BP Coal with regard to their exploration activities in the area, especially in a legal capacity".

STRABANE SCANDAL DEEPENS

BY EAMONN TRACEY

REVELATIONS in a local government auditor's report of gross mismanagement and corruption in Strabane Council (unearthed by Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr) have been highlighted again with the publication last weekend of a letter from the North's Department of the Environment which criticises the previous council and council officials.

The lengthy letter from the assistant secretary of the department, Nigel Hamilton, pointed out that the DOE "is seriously concerned about the procedures and systems of internal control within your council which have given rise to the matters outlined in detail in the auditor's report".

Hamilton went on to say that he corresponded in November 1982 with the then SDLP chairperson of the council, John Gallagher, and the town clerk, Mr McMorrán, on "a number of unsatisfactory financial procedures which had been identified at that time".

The DOE, Hamilton commented, viewed with "the utmost

seriousness" the fact that last November's auditor's report (four years later!) confirmed that the financial issues raised, such as the chairperson's allowance and works contracts, had continued "in a most unsatisfactory manner".

EXPLANATION DEMANDED

The DOE has now demanded, under the Local Government Act 1972, "a detailed memorandum on all the issues raised in the local government auditor's report by February 13th 1987" and "explanations on a number of other issues listed by the DOE. These include the council's failure to keep within budgets and estimates

and excessive charges for medical fees".

In the face of tremendous opposition from other councillors, Ivan Barr and his two Sinn Fein colleagues - who forced the council last December to agree to the establishment of a "committee of inquiry" - welcome the DOE's comments. Barr said:

"The department's letter would appear to indicate that the previous council as a whole, together with certain council officials, were responsible for failing to take corrective measures.

"I now understand why present councillors who were in council in the past had done all in their power to prevent the financial dealings from being exposed.

"I fail to see how any of those particular councillors could now participate in a committee of inquiry into the contents of the auditor's report and consider possible disciplinary action against certain council officials in view



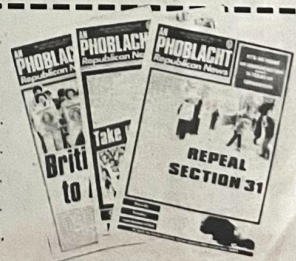
● AN PHOBLAcht/REPUBLICAN NEWS, December 4th, 1986

their own obvious negligence in failing to correct the situation after it had been brought to their attention in 1982."

AN PHOBLAcht/REPUBLICAN NEWS SUBSCRIBE NOW

- Ireland Ir£25
- Britain Stg£25
- Europe Surface Stg£30
- Europe Airmail Stg£45
- USA US\$60
- Canada Can\$65
- Australia Aust\$65
- Elsewhere Stg£40/Ir£45

Name
 Address
 Send to AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.



SECRET COMMITTEE EXPOSED

Councils round-up

BY EAMONN TRACEY

THERE WAS UPROAR at the Strabane District Council meeting on Tuesday night, January 20th, when Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr and his two colleagues, Charlie McHugh and Thomas McNamee, proposed a number of motions aimed at exposing the work of the council's secret RUC Liaison Committee, and revealed the contents of a confidential letter from the Northern Ireland Office outlining the true role of such bodies.

Barr challenged the right of the committee to meet secretly on council property, or for the minutes of its meetings to be kept from other councillors, and he demanded that all councillors "be furnished with details of the time, date and venue of all future meetings", and that all councillors should have access to the minutes of all meetings of the committee.

DECEPTION

The three Sinn Fein councillors vigorously disputed the public perception, or NIO description, of such committees as merely a public relations exercise. Quoting from a confidential letter sent by the then Labour minister, Don Concannon, in June 1977 to all councils in the North, and recently acquired by Sinn Fein, Barr revealed the true purpose behind the establishment of liaison committees.

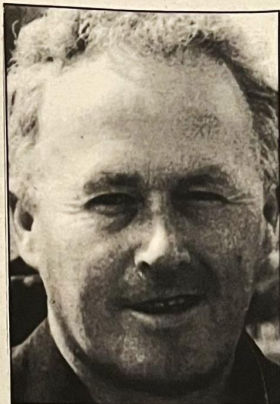
According to Concannon:

"The purpose of the committees remains the same as ever — to provide the security forces with a channel for receiving local information of relevance to the security situation."

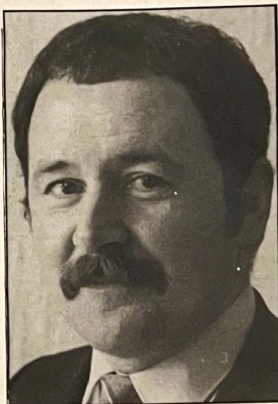
In addition, the letter underpins the importance of the counter-insurgency role of such committees in winning the 'hearts and minds' of the local population. The letter says:

"The need to promote these objectives is certainly as great as it has ever been. An understanding amongst the community of what the security forces are doing is crucial to their success."

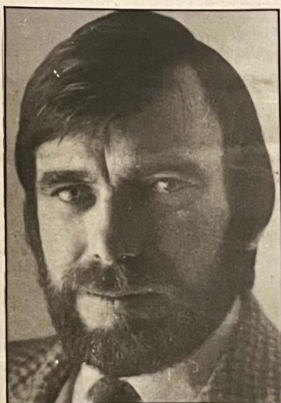
In the vote which followed the furore generated by these motions, the two SDLP councillors and two Independent nation-



● IVAN BARR



● CHARLIE MCHUGH



● THOMAS McNAMEE



● CORMAC McALEER

alist councillors abstained, allowing the seven Unionist councillors to out-vote and defeat the three Sinn Fein councillors.

Ivan Barr told AP/RN:

"We weren't surprised by the actions of

the other nationalist councillors, particularly the SDLP. Since the liaison committee was first established ten years ago, the SDLP have played an active role in it. SDLP Councillor John Gallagher, who is

a former chairperson of the council, joined the liaison committee in August 1982 and remains a member. Former SDLP Councillor Mary McCrea still retains her membership also."

CASH NEED FOR FARMERS

At Omagh District Council, Sinn Fein Councillor Cormac McAleer proposed a motion calling for special consideration to be given to small farmers from less-favoured areas. He said that small farmers would be "drastically affected" by the new EEC measures allegedly designed to reduce surpluses.

McAleer, warning that some farmers "will go to the wall", pointed out:

"It is very important that this council passes this motion and shows that we care about the small farmers in our area who will be adversely hit by the attempts to resolve this problem."

EXTRADITION

Meanwhile, both Omagh and Fermanagh District Councils passed Sinn Fein motions opposing the present extradition agreement between the 26 Counties and Britain. Confusion within the SDLP was evident when SDLP councillors in Omagh supported the motion while their colleagues in Fermanagh abstained.

LEITRIM

At the January meeting of Leitrim County Council, the massive rent rises for council houses was slammed. Motions against the rises — in some cases up from £4 to £14 — came from Sinn Fein Councillors John Joe McGill and Mel Farrell. McGill said:

"There is no way we can go along with this grasping rise when people are trying to make ends meet."

TRALEE

Tralee's Sinn Fein Councillor Billy Leen proposed a motion at the last council meeting in support of Raymond Crotty's High Court action against ratification of the Single European Act. He first raised the issue at the council last May, proposing opposition to the signing of the Act, but the council deferred any decision "until it was too late", commented Leen.

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's 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
51/53 Falls Road or 44 Parnell Square
Belfast or Dublin 1.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining your copy, contact your local AP/RN seller or Sinn Fein cummann.

Keep up with republican debate, get *The Politics of Revolution*.



The Politics of Revolution

BREITHLÁ SHONA

NUACHT FEIRSTE, the weekly all-Irish newspaper produced by Sinn Fein, celebrates its first year of publication this week.

Its combination of news, reviews, prison seal and a weekly column by Deasun Breatnach has made *Nuacht Feirste* essential reading for all republican Gaeilgeoiri.

Readers can make a practical contribution to *Nuacht Feirste*'s first birthday celebrations by taking out a subscription (€6 for six months or €12 for a year).

Orders should be sent to: An t-Eagarthoir, 147 Bothar Bhaile Ardarsan, Beal Feirste 11.

Repair delays cause hardship

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

HOUSING EXECUTIVE tenants in a Magherafelt, County Derry, estate are "at the end of their tether" over delays in repair work on their homes.

Twelve families from Mullaghboy Crescent moved out last September in the first phase of a major refurbishment scheme for the 40-year-old estate of 70 houses. The work, including the installation of central heating and rewiring, was supposed to take six weeks. Three months later, the work has still not been completed.

Eight families originally moved into caravans, but five families could not cope in the cramped conditions and obtained accommodation with relatives or friends.

Geraldine Hughes, who has three children, has been in a caravan for nine weeks. The children have all had chest infections because of the damp and, in the recent bad weather, really severe problems were caused when the water pipes froze.

The caravan tenants were moved

into bed and breakfast accommodation for five days during the worst of the bad weather, but had to spend the day-time in the caravans, Geraldine Hughes says:

"When I got the two eldest out to school, Nicole and I had to come back here and we just walked from one neighbour to another."

DAMP

Although work on her house is still not completed, Geraldine Hughes was told to move into it on Monday, January 19th.

"The walls are soaking and ceilings in the house are damp or not even finished," she told AP/RN.

"Both Gary, my seven-year-old son and I are asthmatics and I don't want to move from one bad situation into another."

Sinn Féin activist Damien McBride, who has been involved with



● Two-year-old Nicole Hughes and her mother Geraldine

the tenants' association in protests about the long delays in completing this phase of the scheme, said:

"The Housing Executive must ensure that work is carried out quickly and professionally so that further phases of the scheme do not cause such inconvenience and hardship."



● Bairbre de Brun (standing) addresses Irish-language learners in Newry



● A member of Tallaght Sinn Féin collects signatures for a petition against social welfare cuts

IRISH LANGUAGE PRESENTATIONS

BELFAST Irish language activist and Sinn Féin cultural officer, Bairbre de Brun, visited Newry on Friday night, January 16th, to present certificates to 17 people from the Newry area and to give a lecture on *Dul Chun Cinn na Gaeilge*.

The lecture and presentation ceremony was organised by the Newry branch of Conradh na Gaeilge, which has been running successful classes based on everyday conversation.

De Brun, an active member of Conradh na Gaeilge in Belfast, is currently engaged on their behalf in an evaluation of the needs of Irish language learners and teachers.

After the presentation of the Comhaltas Uladh certificates, de

Brun praised the work of Irish-language activists in Newry and congratulated Conradh na Gaeilge for its pioneering work in getting the support of local councillors for the language. She warned local Gaeilgeoiri against accepting half-measures from local councils and encouraged them to work alongside locally-based language organisations to ensure the full implementation of their demands.

She went on to speak of the difficulties of adult learners of the language and praised the

sterling work of those who set up the Scoil Ghaelach Bheal Feirste and the six naionra in the Belfast area. She also denounced the threat to remove the ACE grants from Nai-scoil Mhic Airt in East Belfast and castigated those who had initiated the withdrawal on political grounds of grant aid from community and educational projects.

In conclusion, de Brun expressed her delight at witnessing thriving classes in Newry and said that there was a new awareness throughout the country, but particularly in the Six Counties, of the importance of our national culture.

New welfare campaign

THE GROWING THREATS to the already inadequate social welfare system in the 26 Counties are to be met with a National Campaign for Welfare Reform (NCWR) which was launched at a press conference in Dublin on Monday, January 19th.

Those involved in the new group came together following the publication of the Report of the Commission on Social Welfare in August last year when a response was sent to the Minister for Social Welfare, Gemma Hussey. The campaign set out a set of basic demands to defend social welfare recipients and carry out reform.

The NCWR points out that the Coalition was never interested in social welfare reform and that no public response was issued by them to the Commission report, even though they promised to respond by the end of 1986.

Fianna Fail also failed to respond and there was no debate in Leinster House on the issue. In fact, in the wake of the social welfare 'equality' cut, the Christmas

'bonus' cut, and the food subsidy cut, the two main Leinster House parties are entering the general election campaign competing with each other as to which is going to make the *most* cuts in the future. This is despite the fact that over one third of the 26-County population live on social welfare.

ELECTION CHALLENGE

At its press conference on Monday, the NCWR announced that it would be challenging all candidates in the general election on their policies with regard to social welfare.

Sinn Féin has already come out in support of the broad demands of the campaign and Dublin Sinn Féin has already protested about welfare cuts in a widespread campaign just before Christmas.

REVIEWS

Ireland - earthquake country

NOT JUST another book review! Z. Hammett returns with a look at a book on the state of the 26 Counties, the majority of whose contributors are part of the system which is responsible for the state the 26 Counties are in.

STRANGE as it seems, this is a book that I've been awaiting for a long time — ever since the lectures in the book were broadcast on RTE. It was during the terrible winter of last year and the programmes were in the series of *Thomas Davis Lectures*, that RTE runs annually.

According to RTE, these lectures are supposed to represent "the best in contemporary Irish scholarship". I remember all of this because the lectures I heard on the radio were about the only thing more terrible than the cold weather outside.

Obviously it was prime material for a book!

In honour of the 25th anniversary of Dublin's Economic & Social Research Institute (ERSI), the lectures were about the social and economic changes that have occurred over the past 25 years. Of course with typical partitionist mentality, the lectures are exclusively about the 26 Counties, with only the odd reference to 'the North'. There isn't even a chapter on the North, which is astounding since it is one of the major 'problems' of the past 25 years.

So here we are in another cold grey winter. And here are these lectures back to haunt us.

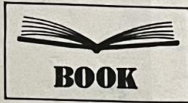
TRANSITION TO WHAT?

The first thing that is wrong about *Ireland in Transition* is its title. It begs the question: "In transition from what?" and "to what?". Usually when bourgeois social scientists use phrases like this, they are talking about the so-called transition from "traditional" to "modern" society. This implies that Ireland is unstopably on its way to modernism, European/US style, as long as we all act like good capitalists and follow the example of our betters. The only question is how long it will take us to get there.

If this way of thinking is correct, then we can jump to the conclusion that success is unavoidable, even if it takes a while. All of our present troubles, our unemployment and our poverty, are but rough bumps along the way. Nothing is basically wrong with the system and there is therefore no need for revolutionary changes.

Now for those of us who have not been a part of the system, it is easy to be critical. We can say that the system is corrupt and unworkable; that we need some basic, revolutionary changes in the economic and social system if we hope to achieve any meaningful development; that we need a government of and for the working class of the whole of Ireland, not of and for the large farmers, the professionals and the multinational corporations.

But many of the people who contribute to this book, including the legendary T.K. Whitaker are part and parcel of our present system. So if it's revolution you're looking for, don't look to this book.



BOOK

Still, one would hope that the articles in a book of this sort would be at least critical of the system, or at the very least descriptive. But while a few chapters are mildly critical, a great deal of *Ireland in Transition* is an apology for the regime. It avoids many of our social and economic problems. And where it recognises problems, it lays the blame somewhere else, outside the system.

THE ECONOMY

This is especially true of the articles about the economy. According to experts like Whitaker and Trinity College Dublin Professor Dermot McAleese, the system isn't to blame for those quarters of a million unemployed. Oh, dearie, no! No, you can blame those problems on the oil crises. The "big oil crisis" of 1974 and the "mini oil crisis" of 1979. Yes, we were doing great until those Arabs stepped in and messed up our economic progress.

Now, when I hear this sort of thing my stomach turns. It's like a contractor who builds a skyscraper in earthquake country but doesn't bother to make it earthquake-proof. Fifty years ago we might have let him away with it because earthquake-proof buildings were not available. But today, when it is possible to make earthquake-proof buildings, we'd have to consider that man a murderer when the big tremor comes along and his building falls to the ground in a heap of rubble.

The world economy is earthquake country. Depressions, oil crises and severe price movements are common there. And these are economic tremors that will bring a small economy tumbling down if it is inadequately protected. Indeed, they've brought down many a developing economy that was protected.


In the past 30 years T.K. Whitaker (who is now complaining so loudly about oil crises) along with successive Dublin governments, have been responsible for building our economic structure in earthquake country. They purposefully made us dependent on free trade, foreign investment, EEC policies, trade in cattle, and the whims of private industry. And in order to make sure that the multinationals would come to Ireland in droves, they made sure that there would be no controls over the behaviour of private ind-

IRELAND IN TRANSITION TRANSITION TRANSITION

Economic and Social Change Since 1960

Edited by

Kieran A. Kennedy

The Thomas Davis Lecture Series 

ustry. In other words they failed to make our economy earthquake-proof.

So the earthquakes came. First, Irish industry collapsed following our accession to the EEC, the removal of protection and the inflow of foreign products (and not because of the oil crisis, which, coincidentally, happened at the same time). Then the multinationals either started closing down or they repatriated so much of their profits that they left us without investment capital. And they didn't even leave behind all of the new technology and orders for Irish goods that the experts had been promising for so long.

Then even Irish agriculture began to collapse due to the sector's reliance on EEC price supports and other forms of free money. Small farmers were driven off their land through debt, and agriculture became the sole domain of the corporate farmers and the speculators.

Now, like the fly-by-night building contractors, the experts are trying to duck their responsibility, along with the multinationals and private industry, for our unprecedented unemployment, poverty and general economic collapse. Such is the nature of the first four chapters of *Ireland in Transition*.

In fairness, the chapter by

Kieran Kennedy, head of the ERSI, does admit many of the mistakes of the past, particularly in relation to the effects of free trade. Kennedy also maintains a slightly more critical eye than the others about our continuing dependence on foreign electronics and pharmaceutical firms. But even Kennedy lapses into the same old assumptions that the problems may be solved by reforms that would encourage technology and marketing skills among private Irish companies and their employees. In other words, he still seems to think that we can rely on a private enterprise system where the government provides money for training and investment to the private sector and we all sit around waiting for "development" to occur.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Two of the chapters of *Ireland in Transition*, however, are both critical and informative. They stand apart from the rest, which are either unimpressive or downright bad. One is Robert O'Connor's review of *Agricultural and Other Natural Resources*. The other is Peter Casella's analysis of changes in living standards since 1960.

The strength of O'Connor's short chapter lies not so much in the in-depth analysis of natural resources, nor in its pre-

scriptions for resource policy. Rather, it is a straightforward, succinct and understandable review of where Ireland stands in terms of its natural resources, and the shortcomings of our past resource policies. He also pays careful attention to the effects of EEC membership on Irish resource use.

A consistent theme of O'Connor's analysis is the lack of downstream processing industry for Irish resources. Our farm produce and fish, in particular, are exported in raw form. The processing industries, which would not only provide employment but which are also more profitable in the long run than fishing and farming, are virtually non-existent for most natural products.

Unfortunately, O'Connor stops short of reaching the unavoidable conclusion about how to get such downstream industries going. After 30 years of industrial incentives it is obvious that the private sector is not up to the job. It is imperative that state companies be established in this vital area. The same is true for the harvesting and processing of timber, areas which have been left in private hands to disastrous effect.

LIVING STANDARDS

Peter Casella's chapter on living standards is the other high-

light of the book, particularly as it comes directly after Brendan Walsh's chapter on the growth of the government. Walsh's analysis is another of those neo-conservative, anti-big government statements that have swamped our papers and books so recently. Of course, the Dublin government's level of indebtedness is the highest in the world, so it is obvious that something must be done to cut wasteful spending. But the Des O'Malleys and their ilk have used this fact to launch an all out attack which blames social welfare programmes and the poor for all of our present ills.

Casella, on the other hand, argues forcefully that the standard of living for the poor and the working class has fallen far behind the rich over the past 25 years. We all know that the poor and the middle-income earners pay more than their share of taxes. Wage earners pay out ridiculous sums in income taxes and PRSI contributions. And the poor pay outrageous amounts in VAT and excise taxes.

But Casella makes it very clear that the poorer sections of society are not receiving their fair share of the benefits of government spending. Indeed, the rich have had their living standards improved more than proportionately by many government spending programmes. University education is a prime example. Three quarters of the sons and daughters of doctors, solicitors, large farmers and employers receive a university education. Yet five times fewer sons and daughters of unskilled workers get a university education than the number that end up in psychiatric hospitals!

The same inequality occurs in government spending on health, housing subsidies and so on. Not to mention all of the grants to the corporations. And, as Casella shows, the poor's share of public spending has not risen over the past 25 years, during the period that the conservatives and the neo-conservatives lament the sky-rocket of government spending.

One wonders if the rich would be willing to take their share of the spending cuts that they were so quick to recommend. Obviously, from the statements of the Des O'Malleys and most of the contributors to this volume, they would not.

GO TO THE LIBRARY

There are several other chapters in this volume, on topics ranging from the family and religion to crime. While many of these are less objectionable than the economic chapters that begin the book, they are not really very informative or satisfying. Even the better chapters are too short and general to really be of use. And one chapter, Michael Fogarty's review of industrial relations, is so poorly written and superficial that it reads like one of those discourses on Irish society that we hear from some pub philosopher after his 15th pint at the local.

In short, don't spend your £7.95 on this book. If you are interested, go to your local library and read O'Connor and Casella's chapters, and maybe Christopher Whelan's chapter on class and social mobility. For many of the other topics, far better work is available elsewhere, including some of the publications of the ERSI. It is a pity that the editors of *Ireland in Transition* do not stand up to these other works.

●*Ireland in Transition*, edited by Kieran A. Kennedy, is published by Mercier Press, price £7.95.

IMEACHTAÍ

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

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

WELSH THEATRE FORTNIGHT
January 22nd to 24th
Ymfudyr (Emigrants)
The hopes, fears and dreams of Welsh emigrants awaiting entry into the USA
January 26th to 31st
Daw Dydd (When the Day Comes)
Peacock Theatre
DUBLIN
Taille €5 (£3 group bookings)

KERRY SINN FEIN SOCIAL
Music by Dan Paddy Andy
Bar extension
9pm Friday 22nd January
Earl of Desmond Hotel
TRALEE
County Kerry
Tickets €9
From Tralee Sinn Fein or your local cumann

VOL MICK TIMOTHY COMMEMORATION
Assemble Palmerstown Cemetery gates
11am Saturday 24th January
PALMERSTOWN
County Dublin

DUBLIN BUSES TO BLOODY SUNDAY RALLY
Leave at 1pm
Saturday 24th January
5 Blessington Street
Returning Monday morning
Billets provided:
bring sleeping bags
€10 return

VOL PETER McNULTY COMMEMORATION
Prominent speaker
12 noon Sunday 25th January
BRYANSFORD
County Down
Organised by Sinn Fein

WELCOME HOME SOCIAL JOHNNY JOHNSON
Music by Gypsy Lacey
8pm to 12 midnight
Friday 30th January
Camelot Hotel
DUBLIN
Taille €2

DANCE
Music by White Lightning
10pm to 2am Friday 30th January
Milford Hotel
MILFORD
County Donegal
Proceeds to republican POWs
Organised by Sinn Fein

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION
1pm Saturday 31st January
Carlisle Street
Rally at City Hall
SHEFFIELD
Called for by TOM, LCI, IBRG,
Women & Ireland Network

DUBLIN SOUTH-CENTRAL ELECTION FUND SOCIAL
Featuring guest artists
8pm Saturday 31st January
Val Hatton's Pub
Drumagh Road
WALKINSTOWN
Dublin

FINGLAS PUB QUIZ
8pm Tuesday 3rd February
Fingal House
Ballygall
FINGLAS
Dublin
Taille €10 per table
1st prize €50
Spot prizes
Organised by Sinn Fein



Mála Poist
AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



● A delegation from the St Michael's Estate Tenants' Association outside the Dublin Corporation Housing Department in October 1985

GAS FEARS

A Chairde,

We have written to your paper as far back as September 1985 regarding our fears in relation to the installation of natural gas to our system-built flats complex.

We asked Dublin Corporation specific questions regarding the structure of our flats with particular reference to their capacity to withstand explosions. To date, Dublin

Corporation has refused to give us the relevant answers.

In October 1985, we had a meeting with the Dublin Corporation officials and engineers, Dublin Gas representatives, elected representatives Jim Mitchell and Tomas Mac Giolla. When we left that meeting we were given an assurance that the information we asked for would be given to us by Mr Beatty, head of maintenance in Dublin Corporation. It is now a year and a quarter later and we have still not received this information.

On Thursday, January 8th 1987, three members of our



● LONG LARTIN PRISON

ENGLISH VISITS

A Chairde,

I wish to draw the attention of your readers to a situation arising in Long Lartin Prison, England, whereby the governor, in conjunction with the Home Office, is going to implement a booking system

for visits. This will affect all the POWs in this prison.

The bottom line is that, in the event of more than two visits occurring in this prison at the same time, the possibility is that they will not allow any other visits on that day. This situation will place even more pressure on prisoners' families who already suffer because the British government forces us to travel hundreds of miles to visit our loved ones. Now the families will be told

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.

association attempted to see Mr Beatty in Jarvis Street, but we were told that he was unavailable. We then contacted the offices of Jim Mitchell, who also attempted to arrange a meeting between us but was told by Mr Beatty that there would be 'no purpose served by another meeting'. We cannot accept this. This attitude has been displayed by both the Dublin Corporation and New Dublin Gas throughout our campaign to ensure our safety in this estate.

After the Ronan Point explosion in England in 1968, where people lost their lives, a firm known as J.A.Kenny International carried out a structural survey on Ballymun flats complex in 1974. The results of the 'Kenny Report' are known to Dublin Corporation but they have refused to allow us access to it.

Events in England show that gas has been removed from industrially-built complexes all over England. In June 1986, a tenants' association in Camden, North London, succeeded in having their block evacuated prior to demolition because they made similar demands to ours. Our system is the 'Balency' system and is under investigation in England.

We reiterate our stance. We do not believe our flats or other flats like them can withstand even a minor explosion, and nothing has been done by the Department of Environment, Dublin Corporation or New Dublin Gas to alleviate our fears in this regard.

Finally, we wish to express our sympathy to the families of those lost in the Ballsbridge tragedy and to those made homeless.

Tragically, if those responsible had listened to our demands in March 1985, then an event such as the Raglan House disaster might have been averted.

Georgina Core,
Secretary,
St Michael's Estate
Tenants' Association,
Inchicore,
Dublin.

WOMEN'S STORY COMPETITION

A Chairde,

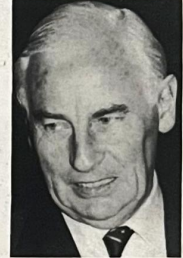
As part of the events being organised by the International Women's Day 1987 Co-ordinating Committee in Belfast, there will be a short story competition for women.

The competition is for stories of not more than 4,000 words and the closing date will be February 15th 1987. Women can send their entries, on any subject, to:

Short Story Competition,
Women's News Collective,
c/o 7 Winetavern Street,
Belfast.

The winning entry will be printed in the centre pages of *Women's News*. Additional prizes will be announced later.

J. Muller,
Belfast Sinn Fein,
Women's Department.



BARRY'S LIES

A Chairde,

The situation of Northern nationalists has been misrepresented by many spokespersons in the past, but none has done so much to misrepresent their plight as Peter Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Coalition government.

Since the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement in November 1985, Mr Barry has been claiming that the situation of Northern nationalists has improved, that the RUC has proved itself to be an impartial force and therefore Catholics should now have no problem about joining.

The reality is that nothing has improved for the nationalists since the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement. In fact, the harassment of the nationalist people has increased in places like Strabane, Castlebridge, Newry, Bogside, Ballymurphy and other nationalist areas; house raids on nationalists at dawn have increased; men and women are dragged away to the various interrogation centres in information-gathering exercises; the degrading strip-searching of women in Maghaberry continues. All the other methods of repression are in existence and are practised on one section of the population - the nationalist section.

The truth is that Mr Barry has shown no concern whatsoever for the many victims of British repression resulting from British colonial rule in our country. His words of regret for those killed and injured are hypocritical and his comments about the situation are dishonest.

Mr Barry has been using the situation here for his own political ends, just as many other politicians in the South have done in the past. His real aim is to give the impression that he and his government are doing something to bring 'peace'. He also hopes to impress the British government and other foreign governments with an interest in Ireland by his ritualistic condemnations of the IRA as 'terrorists'.

Mr Barry has failed not only to represent the interests of the people of his own constituency and jurisdiction but has tried to demoralise the nationalist people of the Six Counties and has joined forces with the British government to undermine their struggle for justice, freedom and peace at the precise moment in history when that struggle is gaining new momentum and recognition throughout the world.

I hope the electorate takes this into account when he looks for votes at the forthcoming general election in the 26 Counties.

Joseph McVeigh,
Irvestown,
County Fermanagh.



ROBINSON

A Chairde,

Although the 'hard man' of the DUP, Peter Robinson, refused to drink Barry's tea, it would appear that he was ready and willing to gobble up Garret's deal.

The acceptance of the pleading deal by Robinson (a system that is widely used by both the British and Free State authorities) was a great relief to the Free State establishment. It gave them the opportunity to impose a menial £15,000 fine (menial when you think that the final bill for the Robinson fiasco cost the taxpayer in the 26 Counties in excess of half a million pounds!)

The ten-year term for which Robinson has been bound to the peace is only a clumsy attempt by the authorities to give credibility to the deal handed to Robinson.

Robinson's slogans in Clontarf read 'Ulster has awakened' - 'I think it is time the 26 Counties awakened.'

Vincent McKenna,
Monaghan.

THANKS

A Chairde,

I would appreciate a few lines to offer a word of thanks on behalf of the republican POWs in the H-Blocks to all those who have worked so hard for our welfare during the past year.

We offer our sincere gratitude firstly to the PDF, Green Cross and Sinn Fein POW Department workers whose tireless effort week in and week out for the past 15 years is an inspiration in itself. To our comrades in the IRA and Sinn Fein, we also offer thanks and encouragement for the year ahead. To all our supporters, friends and the unsung heroes who helped out, and to all other POWs in Ireland, England and the USA, we send solidarity greetings for 1987.

Finally to our families and the families of fallen comrades, a special word of thanks and a wish for justice, freedom and peace for you all in the year ahead.

Go raibh maith agabhairt uilig.

OC/PRO,
Republican POWs,
H-Blocks.



THE FLYING COLUMN

IF A STRANGE clicking noise is disturbing your Northern nationalist nightmare, don't worry about it. One of my Intelligence units in Sweden reports a new departure in IRA fund-raising activities.

Featured in an eye-catching advertisement for the Garderoben company in Stockholm's *Aftonbladet* newspaper is the IRA huva ny, svart stickad.

The what? The new, knitted IRA balaclava (in black, of course), and at a very reasonable price. Now we know how Volunteers while away those long winter nights on stand-by - they knit!

Solidaité, a chairde.

IF AN IRA-balaclava-wearing Swede had struck in Stockholm recently, Mairtin O Muilleoir, joint editor of *Nuacht Feirste*, Belfast Sinn Fein's Irish-lang uage weekly newspaper, might not have received any Christmas cards at all!

A card from Cardiff, Wales, addressed to Mairtin at Beal Feirste, Iwerddor (Welsh for Ireland) has just arrived on his doorstep after being misdirected to Stockholm. Although Beal Feirste is recognised by the International Post Office Federation, it is obviously *not* recognised by the idiot British.

The hard-working staff of *Nuacht Feirste* will be celebrating their first anniversary this week - breithla shona doibh!

A CANADIAN RADIO station phoned Nicky Kelly of the Repeal Section 31 Committee last week to learn more about the 26 Counties' South African-style state censorship.

Recording the interview for broadcasting later, an incredulous Canadian journalist began with the question:

"Are they really organised labour, the people who operate Section 31?"

Good question. Over to you, RTE journalists.

POLICEMEN at the British police training college in Hendon, North London, are

MILTÄRKLÄDER

Beställ 86-års Kalendry!

Skicka frimärken (förfranskade värde 8:-) i ett kuvert där du också lägger ett C5 kuvert med ditt namn och din adress.

ISRAELISKA

COMMANDO-LÄNGA NY 528-

En svart läderskinn som är väldigt lätt - används för som FN-Kängon 25 cm långa shorts kraftiga sulor ST:13-16

7/54-43

ARMÉ

SLJORTA 25-

Grön kraftigt byå knä med 2-bröst fickor. Rvtinge stl: 44-54

WATCH CAP NY 20-

Svart el. Grön el. Svartad. En stl.

IRA HUVA NY 40-

Svart Stickad.

COMMANDO HUVA NY 40-

Svart grön Stickad.

Då ermet ej anses är varerna benägenade å avsejersade. För utlös stl. Ring. Färdorder 100:-full returadd inom 10 dagar-förskott betalning av kunden. Posta å Postförskott-avgift kommer alltid.

Garderoben

BUTIKEN AN ÖPPNEN HÄNDAG-FREDAG 11-18 LÖRDAG 10-13:30

Dennkyrkogatan 1b 722 18 Västerås Tel. 021 12 33 28

on a new course to combat international racketeers which involves them learning all the intricacies of gambling and roulette.

RUC personnel, however, will not be allowed anywhere near the course - they've already taken to 'Russian Roulette' with a vengeance.

THE WEATHER conditions made travelling very difficult last week and Peter Robinson's party (little 'p'), made up of himself, his wife, Ian Paisley (big 'P') and A.N. Other, was forced to stay at a Southern hostelry, the Berkeley Court Hotel in Dublin.

When they ordered their evening meal, the kitchen staff decided that the occasion should be graced by some sort of political statement hitherto lacking. They

served up a vegetable platter of broccoli, cauliflower and carrots. The Tricolour theme was kept up at breakfast with beautifully-arranged servings of slices of Kiwi fruit, apples and oranges. Paisley was heard to pontificate at length on the "scrumptiousness" of this Fenian collation.

INEVITABLY, Monday's *News Letter* carried an advert appealing for donations for the 'Peter Robinson Freedom Fund' to cover his "£15,000 fine and £12,500 costs".

Hold on a minute, I thought, the costs were reported in the press as being £2,588.40. Who is getting the extra ten thousand? Then I read the fund's address: "c/o Dr Ian Paisley, Albertbridge Road, Belfast."

RUAIRI QUINN, former Coalition minister, launched his election campaign to save the Labour Party's sinking fortunes last Saturday, January 17th, at the commencement of work on the Poolbeg Yacht and Boat Club in Dublin South-East.

After his wealth of experience of doing the dirt on people, Quinn was the natural choice for someone to 'turn the first sod' on the site - as well as the fact that the one to plunge a £40,000 government grant into the project before he abandoned the sinking Coalition ship was Ruairi Rat himself.

And obviously not a believer in the saying, "Money can't buy you love", Ruairi Rat threw £300 across the counter in Ringsend's Yacht Bar for drinks for the assembled punters.

ANTI-SECTION 31 protesters picketing Labour & Education Junior Minister Enda Kenny's constituency clinic in Mullranny, County Mayo, made the front page of the best-selling Mayo newspaper *Western People*, last week.

But what is interesting is that the *Western People* scribe thought that the fact that "there were no scuffles" between picketers and the gardai was newsworthy (there were also no outbreaks of cholera, belly-dancing, people putting

ferrets down their trousers, volcanoes erupting or Martians landing at Knock Airport, but this wasn't thought worthy of comment).

Another interesting point raised by the *Western People's* less than complimentary report is that the premises where the 'clinic' was held was owned by one Seamus Daly. The *Western People* has a reporter named Denis Daly.

No connection surely?

THE REV MARTIN SMYTH, Official Unionist MP for South Belfast, has told the British *Guardian* newspaper that "the unionists could approach Moscow for their protection if the link with Britain is cut".

Does this make the usually colourless Grand Master of the Orange Order a red Orangeman preferring to take Moscow gold to save the "blue skies of Ulster" from becoming the "grey skies of an Irish republic"?

NOEL RYAN, Sinn Fein's candidate in Waterford, has a director of elections who's certainly thinking ahead - he's already got the booze in for the post-election festivities (and it's none of your rubbish either!).

Irial Mac Murchadha, the Sinn Fein brain of An Rinn, landed himself a case of Lanson Black Label champagne for winning the *Magill Annual Political Quiz* and, being the good party head that he is, he'll be donating the champers for a good party to the best party.

So don't say you haven't been told: there's an added incentive (if ever you needed one) to get out now and work for Noel Ryan and Waterford Sinn Fein.

DUIRT SIAD

The essential compassion for the underprivileged and vision for the future which was in evidence in earlier years was regrettably lacking on this occasion...

Notwithstanding the internal difficulties within our government in recent months, I believe that the record of our achievements over the four years in office will have made a major contribution to the development of our country's economic, social and political future.

- Labour Health Minister Barry Desmond's resignation letter.

Now the directive [Section 31] has been renewed for another year, RTE journalists are keeping their fingers crossed and hoping that the first mother to give birth to test-tube triplets in the Rotunda Hospital is not a member of Sinn Fein.

- Michael Farrell, Irish Press.

In the past we have been inhibited by the possibility that civilians might be injured as a result of an attack on a military target, and we are becoming less and less inhibited by that factor.

In other words, we are not allowing the presence of civilians in the vicinity necessarily to prevent us from embarking on an action against a genuine military installation or against a target (including economic targets) which it is legitimate for us to attack as an armed force of a liberation movement.

- African National Congress executive member Joe Slovo.

Notes

©CORMAC



I'm going to sing you a song about my hero - Peter Robinson!

Wise up!

Here's to you, Peter Robinson. We all love you when you're doing time... for your crime!

Time for a swift pint of "insider dealing"....

"Doing Time", indeed! All the little creep did was pay good British money into the Free State coffers and - what?!"

FREE STATE GOVT FALLS

There couldn't be a connection, could there? They fine Robinson a few quid and - hey presto! - there's a budget crisis!

So here's to you, Peter Robinson... You might be just a pompous little toad to some but, let's face it, you're good for a giggle!