

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

Sraith Nua Imi 9 Uimhir 10 Deardaoin 12 Márta Thursday 12th March 1987 (Britain 35p) Price 30p

No Loss



LESS THAN 24 HOURS after Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey took over as 26-County premier, Garret FitzGerald announced on Wednesday, March 11th, that he was resigning as leader of the Fine Gael party.

Welcoming FitzGerald's resignation, which he described as "his most positive contribution to Irish political life", Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams reflected the feelings of families on low-income in the 26 Counties and ordinary nationalists in the Six Counties who have been at the

receiving end of FitzGerald's right-wing and pro-British policies and who will agree that his departure is no loss.

A battle for the Fine Gael leadership is now certain. While outgoing Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry might have been considered the most likely contender given his high profile in implementing the Hillsborough Agreement, the other front-runners are the outgoing Finance Minister John Bruton and Justice Minister Alan Dukes, who is tipped to be the eventual winner.



REPRISAL RAIDS



A SERIES of British army raids in the Ardoyne and Bone areas of North Belfast on Tuesday night have been condemned by local Sinn Fein Councillor Gerard McGuigan who said they were a "deliberate and authorised" reprisal for an earlier IRA attack in which a member of the RUC was killed.

SEE PAGE 2



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - SEE CENTRE PAGES

OPINION

MOURNED BY FEW

GARRET FITZGERALD'S RESIGNATION as Fine Gael leader has brought to an end a long career in high political office where he was one of the most faithful friends of Ireland's enemies.

He crowned that career when he helped to engineer the Hillsborough Agreement with the British government. He was leader of the first 26-County government to formally recognise and accept in treaty form the British occupation and partition of Ireland. That is the hard reality behind all the empty verbalising of all his career. From the beginning he never sought anything but the maintenance of the status quo and stability within a partitioned and subservient country.

In 1969, the year when Civil Rights marchers were batoned and shot off the streets of the Six Counties by the forces of the Orange state, Garret FitzGerald became a deputy in Leinster House for the first time. As he boasted at his resignation press conference, he was one of those responsible for making formal recognition of the loyalist veto the cornerstone of Fine Gael policy on the Six Counties which was followed by a similar stand by Fianna Fail.

He was Minister for Foreign Affairs in the 1973-1977 Coalition government and took a leading part in the Sunningdale Agreement which sought to replace Stormont in the form of a power-sharing executive. Like the present Hillsborough Agreement, that British solution was designed to copper-fasten partition and smash the resistance of the nationalist people. The Cosgrave Coalition was equally infamous for its repressive measures in the 26 Counties.

The man who poses as a leading liberal and democrat was part of a government which launched unprecedented attacks on civil liberties, free speech and freedom of information. The era of Conor Cruise O'Brien's censorship regime and the Garda 'Heavy Gang' did not get a mention in the glowing tributes to FitzGerald which poured from political colleagues and correspondents this week.

As a prominent 'intellectual', FitzGerald was to the forefront in promoting the West British ethos which has dominated the 26-County establishment and particularly its mouthpiece, RTE, since the early '70s. He was also at one with the revisionist school of historians which has tried to turn attention away from the realities of life brought about by centuries of British oppression in Ireland.

In all of this, FitzGerald paraded his concern for the 'unionist tradition' which he did everything to accommodate. His disastrous approach helped to condemn all the Irish people - Catholic, Protestant, believer and non-believer - to further years of division, conflict and exploitation.

On the international stage, FitzGerald played the accommodating Irishman too. Any pretence of a neutral or non-aligned stance was abandoned in favour of compliance with the wishes of the Western bloc and the NATO-dominated EEC. As a member of the NATO think-tank, the Bilderberg Conference, FitzGerald shares his right-wing philosophy with top political, military and capitalist figures.

Far from being a bewildered academic with his head in the clouds, FitzGerald was shrewd enough to ensure the passage of two measures in particular which would form the cornerstones of his Ireland. One of these was the Hillsborough Agreement and the other was the Single European Act, which will tie the 26 Counties ever closer to its European partners, all NATO members.

The society he sought to build was one in which the wealthy were even freer to exploit the poor and where foreign multinationals could hold more Irish workers to ransom. A partitioned country with two satellite states was his vision of Ireland in Europe and the world.

Outside the corridors of power and privilege there are few who mourn his passing.



RUC man killed

A MARKED INCREASE in IRA activity in Belfast in recent months continued this week with two attacks in which one RUC man was killed and a British soldier seriously injured.

In the more serious of these attacks, on Tuesday night, March 10th, the IRA used a concealed anti-personnel mine to ambush an RUC patrol which arrived at shops on the junction of the Crumlin Road and Ardoyne to investigate a reported robbery.

The 5lb bomb was detonated shortly before 9pm, killing one member of the RUC patrol and slightly injuring several of his colleagues.

In a statement claiming responsibility for the attack, the IRA's Belfast Brigade pointed out that

its Volunteers only detonated the device when they "were absolutely sure that there was no risk to civilians in the vicinity. The fact that no civilians were injured bears this out and rebukes the political opportunism of pro-British politicians".

An immediate and intensive follow-up operation was mounted by the RUC and British army which lasted well into the following day.

CLONARD EXPLOSION

One British soldier was injured when he caught the full force of an anti-personnel mine detonated in Clonard Street, West Belfast, on Friday, March 6th.

The soldier, a member of the Royal Anglian Regiment, was part of a foot patrol which was making its way through the area early on Friday afternoon. As the patrol passed a derelict house in Clonard Street, an IRA Volunteer detonated the 5lb mine, blasting one soldier into the street. Eyewitnesses said it was several minutes before any of the other soldiers in the patrol would approach their colleague who was rolling around in the road, screaming and holding his face. He was eventually bundled into a jeep and driven away. In its statement claiming the attack, the IRA said: "Every care was taken to ensure that no civilians in the vicinity were injured."

Meanwhile, the RUC and British army set up roadblocks in the immediate area, stopping traffic and harassing pedestrians.

DERRY ATTACK

The Rosemount RUC Barracks in Derry, on the fringe of the city's Creggan Estate, was attacked last week by IRA Volunteers using high-velocity automatic rifles and grenade launchers.

The operation began shortly before 9pm on Thursday, March 5th. Two IRA Volunteers fired almost 80 rounds through the heavily-guarded gates of the barracks, at "identified targets inside", while another two Volunteers, under cover of their comrades, fired four grenades at the main building.

Two of the grenades exploded and some damage was caused to the base. The IRA dismissed RUC claims that civilians were at risk during its attack, pointing out that its fire was clearly directed at the barracks.

The British army succeeded in defusing an 800lb land-mine in Fermanagh on Thursday evening, March 5th. Once again the RUC claimed that civilians had been put at risk by the IRA, but the IRA's Fermanagh Brigade refuted the RUC claims and said:

"It was because of the presence of civilians in the area that our Volunteers didn't detonate the mine when enemy forces were in the immediate vicinity."

REPRISAL RAIDS

BY JANE PLUNKETT

BRITISH SOLDIERS smashed religious pictures and irreplaceable family mementoes during a series of vindictive raids in North Belfast on Tuesday night when at least 15 homes were singled out in the Ardoyne and Bone districts.

33-year-old widow Patricia McAllister was not at home when a large force of British soldiers arrived to raid her Ardoyne home. Though her daughter, mother-of-two Belle McAllister, who lives next door, offered to unlock the house, the soldiers refused and she watched helplessly as they started on a programme of destruction.

"They broke the front door in. They could have opened the inner living room door then, but they just put their rifles through that".

The hole which the British soldiers knocked in the unlocked door was four feet high.

They also smashed the back door and windows. "They were jumping in and out of them."

When Belle McAllister protested at this destruction, a British soldier claimed it was "orders".

One threatened to hit her with his rifle and she was subjected to obscene and racist abuse.

Inside the house, family heirlooms including photographs and old china were smashed, as was a religious picture on the bedroom wall.

They trailed clothes out of drawers and cupboards and smashed the toilet and piping, causing water to leak into the kitchen. On her return home, Mrs McAllister was extremely distressed and afraid to sleep in her uninhabitable house.

TROPHIES SMASHED

That same evening, British soldiers smashed several sports trophies, tore clothing and stole £60 in a raid on the Ardoyne home of former republican prisoner Sean Maguire.

A relative was refused admission

to the house and the Maguire's tiny baby had to be passed out of the house to be fed and changed.

In two other raids, pregnant women were pushed, threatened and verbally abused while in the same area, British soldiers smashed a window in a parked car.

Condemning what he described as "the arrogant and abusive behaviour of British troops", Sinn Féin Councillor Gerard McGuigan said:

"There is no doubt in my mind that the threatening and abusive behaviour of the British army and the RUC in Ardoyne was deliberate and authorised at senior level.

"The purpose of today's reprisal raids and the accompanying wanton destruction of property and personal belongings and threats and abuse directed at scores of people, including pregnant women, are intended by the crown forces to intimidate the nationalist community."



CHANGE OF MASTERS

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

ON THE FACE OF IT, the Fianna Fail government which took office this week is inherently unstable and has an uncertain period in office. But the make-up of Leinster House could give it considerable room to manoeuvre and a longer term than might be expected to implement economic policies, many of which will be supported by Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats.

The election of Independent Deputy Seán Treacy as Ceann Comhairle and the decision of another independent, Tony Gregory, to abstain on the Haughey vote ended speculation about another general election — for the time being at least.

Charles Haughey became 26-County premier on the casting vote of the Ceann Comhairle on Tuesday and heard a more cordial exchange of platitudes than usual from Garret FitzGerald before speeding off to get his seal of office from President Patrick Hillery.

FINE GAEL SUPPORT

FitzGerald pledged Fine Gael's

conditional support for the new government in economic decisions which "will not find favour with sections of the community". In his acceptance speech, Haughey replied that Fianna Fail would have to take "many difficult decisions which will have to be implemented with skill". In the political language of Leinster House, "difficult decisions" mean economic measures involving cuts in public spending which hit the mass of the electorate who are low paid and overtaxed or unemployed and dependent on social welfare. As Fianna Fail has more broad-based electoral support than Fine Gael, such decisions are more "difficult" for them.

The voting situation in Leinster House this time will have Fianna Fail thinking more of Fine Gael's attitude than that of the electorate. The bulk of the budget framed by Fine Gael will be put through by Haughey's government and with Fine Gael support should have no difficulty in passing through Leinster House.

THE LEFT

The 'left' bloc composed of Labour, the Workers' Party, Jim Kemmy and Tony Gregory showed its disunity on the vote for premier on Tuesday but will likely vote together against the budget and any other future punitive economic measures. At the same time, this bloc can be an advantage to Haughey in putting through measures which would not win Fine Gael/Progressive Democrats support.

In playing off the far right

against the left, this Fianna Fail government could last longer than anyone expects and, barring accidents, last its full term. But, of course, Haughey may decide to opt for an election in the near future to secure the safe majority which would free him from dependence on others.

In his speech to Haughey on the day before he stepped down as leader of Fine Gael, Garret FitzGerald also prominently featured the Hillsborough Agreement. As a major architect of the Agreement which institutionalises 26-County government collaboration with British rule in Ireland, FitzGerald was anxious to see that there was no threat from Fianna Fail to alter it.

He need not have worried.

LENIHAN

In an interview just a couple of hours before FitzGerald announced his departure, the new Foreign Minister and co-chair of the

London-Dublin Inter-Governmental Conference, Brian Lenihan, said that Fianna Fail would be examining the Agreement to see if changes were necessary and would not alter anything without consulting the British.

Fianna Fail talk of sell-outs to the British and the need for renegotiation of Hillsborough had evaporated long before the election campaign even began. Any changes would, said Lenihan, be introduced to "improve" the Agreement.

In the same interview, Lenihan confirmed that the poor and underprivileged would be early victims of the new administration: "Cut-backs will be necessary in the budget."

As for the rest of the newly-appointed Haughey Cabinet, there were no surprises there either. In the months, if not years ahead, the people of the 26 Counties will become all too familiar with their new masters.

Draconian bill passed

BY EAMON TRACEY

A DRACONIAN Public Order Bill for the Six Counties, first published in December, was hurriedly voted through in the British House of Commons on Tuesday night, March 10th. It is expected to be in place in time for the republican marches at Easter.

The new legislation includes:

- Seven days' notice to the RUC required for public processions.
- Increased powers for the RUC to reroute, stop or ban marches.
- The repeal of the Flags & Emblems Act.

POLICY UNCHANGED

It is these aspects of the legislation which have attracted most media and public attention, particularly the repeal of the Flags & Emblems Act, which has been presented by the SDLP and 26-County government as a major boost for nationalists in the North. In fact, the Act



● The Easter Rising Commemoration at Carrickmore last year

has only been used once in the entire 33 years it has been law. RUC prosecutions of nationalists flying the Tricolour have taken place under common law (as a breach of the peace) and direct-ruler King

made it clear last month that this policy remains unchanged.

GREATER THREAT

The greater threat from the Public

Order Bill comes from the sections dealing with "stirring up hatred or arousing fear". Under the existing legislation the state must prove an "intention" to incite hatred or fear.

An offence will now be committed under the new law if such fear or hatred is "likely". The publication or possession of material which similarly is "likely" to arouse fear or hatred will also be an offence.

Commenting on this aspect of the legislation, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said:

"The incitement to hatred section of the Public Order Bill is extremely wide-ranging and open to differing interpretations. Arguably, almost any legitimate comment could be viewed by one or other section of the population as a threat. The fact that a prosecution under this order will depend on the partisan judgement of the RUC and Director of Public Prosecutions must also give rise to serious concern.

"The attempt to portray the Public Order Bill as some sort of reform of the Six-County state will be quickly exposed as no more than an illusion. While this legislation will undoubtedly be used to remove the more embarrassing and unacceptable aspects of loyalist triumphalism, the principle target will be the nationalist community."

STRABANE INQUEST

FURTHER REVELATIONS

BY KEVIN McCOOL

THERE WERE further revelations this week of an RUC/British army contrived shoot-to-kill cover-up at the continuing Strabane inquest into the deaths of local IRA Volunteers Charles Breslin and Martin and David Devine.

On Monday, March 9th, an RUC member called Buchanan, of the Headquarters Mobile Support Unit (HMSU), gave evidence that, by some strange "coincidence" his entire 30 strong unit just happened to be on duty in Strabane Barracks on the night of the fatal shootings.

(The unit normally operates from Fort George army base in Derry and its members have been involved in other controversial shoot-to-kill incidents. They are also under the direct command of RUC Assistant Chief Constable James Crutchley who arrived in record time from Belfast on the morning of the shooting.)

Buchanan claimed that he and the rest of his unit were in the sleeping quarters of Strabane Barracks when they were awakened at 5.10am by loud banging in the corridors and someone shouting: "Charles Breslin is dead!" Solicitors were quick to note the time

and the glaring discrepancy between Buchanan's evidence and that of all previous crown forces witnesses who claimed that British soldiers firing into the field at the Volunteers did not cease fire until 5.15am.

According to the same witnesses it was several hours after the shooting before any of the bodies were positively identified, which suggests that there were those in the barracks aware of the shoot-to-kill operation underway that morning.

NEW FORENSICS REFUSED

Also on Monday, an RUC constable in charge of sealing off and securing the scene of the shooting until a forensic examination was carried out was asked to account for the 42 spent bullet cartridges which were never recovered from the scene (only 83 of the 115 rounds that were allegedly fired by British soldiers



● A Strabane eye-witness's view of the scene of the shoot-to-kill operation

have been recovered). The RUC man could offer no explanation other than that they had trampled them into the field themselves.

The following day, Tuesday, March 10th, a forensic scientist who examined the scene five days after the shooting told the inquest that as soon as he discovered that 42 cartridges were missing he asked the RUC to facilitate him by allowing him to re-examine the area. However, an RUC superintendent in charge of the investigation refused his request,

claiming that he could not do so for "operational reasons".

The forensic scientist stated that this was the first occasion in which he had ever been refused permission to carry out a thorough forensic examination.

Now adjourned until March 24th, the inquest shows no sign of an early outcome as family solicitors continue in their painstakingly slow, but so far successful, efforts to squeeze out the true circumstances of this crown forces shoot-to-kill operation.

BRADLEY INQUEST

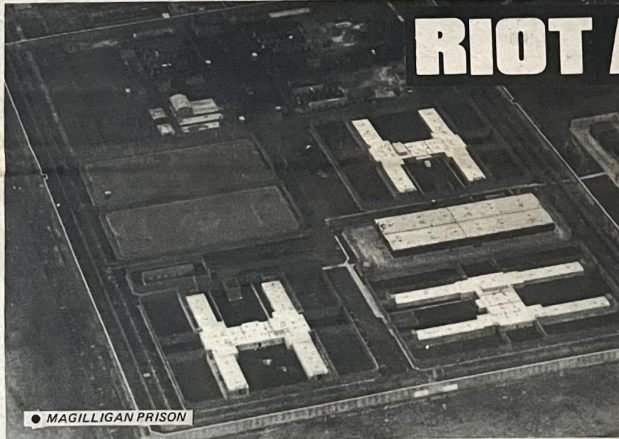
Meanwhile, the inquest ended last Thursday, March 5th, into the death of 20-year-old South Derry man Francis Bradley, who was shot dead by a British army unit in Toomebridge on February 18th 1986.

Because of the restricted verdicts allowed at inquests in the North, the jury merely found that Bradley, of Derrygrave Park, Castledawson, died as a result of the final burst of shots to his stomach. Two rifles were allegedly found at the scene.

After the shooting, the IRA said that Bradley was not one of its Volunteers. Furthermore, evidence given at the inquest that the British soldiers (operating from an unmarked car) had staked out the farmhouse and they had failed to shout a warning before opening fire supports the theory that Bradley was another victim of the British army's shoot-to-kill policy.

At the inquest, a state pathologist revealed that the last three shots which hit Bradley in the stomach were fired as he lay on the ground.

RIOT AT MAGILLIGAN



● MAGILLIGAN PRISON

IT HAS NOW emerged that, contrary to deliberately inaccurate reports produced by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and British Prisons Minister Nicholas Scott, republican POWs were not involved in disturbances on Thursday night, March 5th, in Magilligan Prison, County Derry.

Because no visits between relatives and prisoners are taking place due to a dispute over new prison visiting rules, there was initially some confusion about events and this was exploited by the NIO which put out false and misleading statements to the media.

The trouble began at a few minutes before 8pm when loyalist prisoners in nine of the 12 wings of the prison's three

H-Blocks simultaneously smashed furniture, light fittings, television, and other items.

The concentrated ten-minute protest was part of a prison campaign of opposition to the British government's policy of forced integration of republican and loyalist political prisoners.

NIO CLAIMS DISMISSED

Subsequent British claims of collusion between republican and loyalist prisoners were dismissed as rubbish by Sinn Fein. Martin McGuinness, who described the Magilligan Prison regime as "vindictive and harsh", warned that lives "could be lost or serious injury inflicted in continuing disturbances between various prisoners' groupings or with the prison administration".

Feud fatality

ONE MAN has been shot dead in the past week and another two were injured as part of the continuing feud between INLA factions.

On Sunday morning, March 8th, the body of Newry man Thomas Conor Maguire (19) was found near Forkhill, South Armagh.

There were conflicting claims about who was responsible but it appears certain that Maguire, who was recently released from jail, was the seventh fatality in the continuing feud.

In the early hours of Monday, March 9th, brothers Eamon McQuillan and IRSP spokesperson Kevin McQuillan, were shot



● A child is crushed as RUC men disrupt the funeral of Thomas Maguire at Monkshill Cemetery, Newry, on Tuesday and wounded at a house in Springfield Park, Belfast.

Responsibility for the shootings was claimed by the faction which calls itself the INLA Army

Council.

In last week's AP/RN, Garry Adams MP repeated Sinn Fein's call for the complete disbandment of both INLA factions.

SHORT STRAND BEATINGS

IN SEPARATE incidents last week, two East Belfast brothers were beaten and threatened by the crown forces.

Father-of-two Raymond Smyth (26), from the nationalist Short Strand area, was dragged into a Land Rover and viciously attacked by several RUC men in the early hours of Thursday, March 5th. While he was in the local Mountpottinger Barracks, Smyth was further beaten on the face and head and repeatedly kicked about the legs, causing severe bruising.

With blood pouring from cuts to his head and mouth, he was eventually transferred to Townhall Street RUC Barracks. There he was examined by a RUC doctor who instructed that he be taken to the City Hospital for X-rays. After medical treatment, Smyth

was brought back to Mountpottinger, where he was charged with disorderly behaviour and "attempting to disarm an RUC officer".

BROTHER THREATENED

Three days later, his elder brother, Kieran, was stopped and verbally abused by two RUC men who detained him in Clyde Street. When he made no response to the RUC's provocation, a rifle was shoved in Smyth's ear and another thrust against his neck. Both rifles were cocked and, Smyth told AP/RN:

"They said they'd get me some night and stiff me."

He was released after being held for ten minutes.

EDUCATION - a wasted resource

A FULL INVESTMENT by the state in third-level education is essential for any plans for the 26-County economy, said Union of Students in Ireland President Patricia Hegarty at a Dublin press conference on Monday, March 9th.

USI was launching a campaign aimed at reversing the erosion of the education system and was joined by several other education and social groups. Patricia Hegarty said that, in terms both of access to the third-level system and funding of the system itself, successive governments had failed to meet the needs of young people:

"High levels of education are increasingly becoming necessary in manufacturing and servicing industries yet high fees and the low levels of grants are preventing young people from entering the third-level system."

"Would it not be better to spend money on allowing young people to avail of educational opportunities than to leave them stagnating in the ever-lengthening dole queues? For too long the economic outlook of this country has been frustrated by political ideals that only the private sector can provide wealth or jobs."

FEES FREEZE

In its pre-budget submission to the Dublin government, the USI has called for a freeze in third-level fees, an immediate rise in student grant levels to allow young people

to enter college, and a stepping-up of the building schedules for the five new regional technical colleges.

A maximum student grant at present works out at £33.69 per week, much the same as the cost of paying the same person social welfare assistance for a week, yet, says the USI, the government prefers to keep people on the dole.

Amongst the other organisations supporting the USI campaign and represented at the press conference were Sinn Fein, the Association of Scientific Technical & Managerial Staffs and the Disability Awareness Movement.

ACCESS FOR DISABLED

On behalf of the disabled group, Paddy Doyle said that they were totally opposed to any cut-backs in education which would make access for disabled people even more difficult. He pointed out that the disabled are restricted in their choice of subject (when they do get to college) often simply because buildings or lecture halls are inaccessible to them:

"This, in effect, means that the curriculum is determined by the environment. Physical barriers



(steps, narrow corridors, etc) should not be a deterrent to the pursuit of further education by the disabled person.

"The elimination of such barriers will cost money. Modernisation of existing buildings, however, must continue; every point of every college must be made

accessible to the disabled student. There can be no justification for not proceeding with the government's commitment to fully-integrated education as outlined in the Green Paper on services for the disabled, Towards a Full Life."

CPAD arrests

IN EARLY-MORNING RAIDS last week, gardai arrested six people under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act for their part in the Concerned Parents Against Drugs vigil in Dublin's Weavers' Square.

The six were arrested at their homes on Thursday, March 5th, at around 7.15am. They were taken to the Bridewell Garda Barracks where they were charged with compelling Vianney Dunne to quit his residence in Weavers' Square in the Liberties. They later appeared in court and were each remanded on bail of £1,000 until April 2nd.

Over 100 people marched to Kevin Street Garda Barracks on Thursday evening to protest at the arrests.

DUNNE TO QUIT

Meanwhile, following a meeting between a local priest, the Dunes and the anti-drugs activists, the Concerned Parents agreed to call off the picket on the Dunes' home in Weavers' Square for a week. A guarantee was given by the Dunes that they would be gone by Friday, March 13th.



● Sinn Fein supporters picket Ballyfermot Garda Barracks in protest at the increased harassment of party members



THE SOLICITORS at the centre of the Birmingham Six appeal and the Guildford Four cases, Gareth Pearce and Alastair Logan, addressed a meeting in the Clarence Hotel, Dublin, on Tuesday, March 10th, when they called on 26-County Premier Charles Haughey to send a government representative to Britain as an observer when the cases come to court.

DUBLIN WEST HARASSMENT

DUBLIN WEST Sinn Fein members picketed two Garda barracks at the weekend in protest at increased harassment during the general election campaign which has intensified since the opening of a permanent advice centre in Ballyfermot.

Sinn Fein activists have been repeatedly stopped and searched over the past few weeks (even when they were taking down election posters) and the families of new members recruited during the election have been

visited at home by Special Branch officers issuing veiled threats.

Noel Kavanagh, the director of elections for Jimmy Delaney, caught one Branch man peering through his window with a torch at 7am

one morning.

Official complaints were lodged during the protests at Ballyfermot and Ronans-town Barracks on Saturday and Jimmy Delaney and John McCann (Clondalkin) have promised further pickets if the harassment continues.

ADVICE CENTRE

The Dublin West Sinn Fein Advice Centre at 47, Decies Road, Lower Ballyfermot is open on Saturdays (11am to 1pm) or Wednesday (7pm to 9pm), phone 261301.

The Sinn Fein advice caravan will be maintaining its regular schedule throughout the constituency as before.



NUJ MEMBERS and supporters of the Repeal Section 31 Committee picketed Leinster House before the first sitting of the new 26-County government on Tuesday, March 10th.

The protest at the continuation of TV and radio censorship called on the incoming government to repeal Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

ABSURD SENTENCE FOR DERRY MAN

A 19-YEAR-OLD South Derry nationalist received a savage four-year jail sentence for allegedly shouting threats at a UDR soldier.

In Belfast Court last Thursday, March 5th, the soldier claimed that he was sitting in his car in the centre of Maghera on June 21st last year when Damien Mulholland drove up alongside and shouted threats at him. Mulholland denied the allegations but Judge Roy Watt (who has a reputation for passing particularly harsh sentences on nationalists) accepted the UDR soldier's account. Mulholland was sentenced to four years in prison.

SECTARIAN BIAS

Local Sinn Féin Councillor John Davey described the sentence as "absurd" and said that in recent weeks the ingrained sectarian bias of the North's judicial system has become ever more glaring.

Councillor Davey pointed out that three County Down loyalists who were convicted the previous week of possession of weapons in an area where two Catholics were brutally gunned down last year were released with recorded sentences. On the same day that Damien Mulholland was sentenced to four years in prison, two loyalists, both members of the Territorial Army and the UDA, were released on bail on charges of petrol-bombing an RUC man's house.

Councillor John Davey said: "Despite claims from the SDLP and Peter Barry that the judicial system is somehow becoming more acceptable for nationalists like Damien Mulholland and the sectarian partiality of the judiciary is as strong as ever. Cases such as this expose the narrow-minded intolerance of the judiciary and illustrate its role in protecting British interests in the North."



● JOHN DAVEY

Torthaí crannchur

North, South and East Belfast Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair Building Funds: £100: Michael Maguire, Ardoyne; £50: K. Dobbin, Markets; £25: P. Hughes, Newtownabbey. Tom Smith Band, Dublin March 9th. £30: Paul McGrath; £10: Eamonn O'Duignan; £10: Dave & Mark; £5: "Squire" Maguire.

RUC threat exposed

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A NATIONALIST MAN from Armagh city has disclosed that the RUC attempted to pressurise him into infiltrating the IRA as an informer.

At a press briefing held in the city on Monday, March 9th, former republican prisoner Freddie Toal outlined how he was detained by Scottish police in Stranraer for two days and interrogated by two RUC men. Toal, released from prison in December 1986 following a 16-year sentence, had been among a group of local soccer supporters who travelled to Manchester on Friday, February 27th, to a match. Their coach was stopped in Stranraer when the ferry landed and the names of all the passengers were noted by police. The coach was then allowed to proceed.

However, on Monday morning's return journey, Scottish police boarded the coach in Cairnryan and Toal was singled out by name and arrested under Section 11 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In Stranraer Police Station he was subjected to anti-Irish insults and was repeatedly accused of being in Britain to pinpoint targets for the IRA.

During two interrogation periods that day, detectives threatened that he would be served with an exclusion order. They questioned him about the IRA and INLA and told him that the RUC was coming to Stranraer to question him further.

"I told them I wasn't worried for I'd nothing to hide. Two RUC men arrived the next day and one of them, Cyril Armstrong from Armagh, I recognised from '73, '75 and '77 when he interrogated me."

'A WEE FAVOUR'

The RUC questioned him about his political views at first and then

gradually implied that if they were able to have the exclusion order dropped they would in turn be "looking a wee favour" from him. He told AP/RN:

"Because there was a lot of anti-Irish feeling directed at me by the Scottish police, I later agreed to co-operate with the RUC. It wasn't so much the exclusion order I was worried about but I reckoned they could put a conspiracy charge on me because of my record, and that's a hard charge to disprove. I really thought they were trying to frame me so I agreed to co-operate simply in order to get out of the barracks but I never had any intention of doing so."

During the RUC's interrogation sessions on Tuesday, March 3rd, Detective Constable Armstrong instructed Toal to supply them with "low-level information" about the activities of Sinn Féin personnel in Armagh including Councillor Tommy Carroll and then gradually infiltrate the IRA structure in the city. Toal recalls:

"They said that because I'd spent so long in jail, I'd be held in high esteem in republican circles and could do this with very little effort on my part."

If he succeeded in infiltrating the IRA and supplying the RUC with information, he was assured that any problems, whether financial or in terms of getting employment, would be "taken care of". According to Toal, Armstrong took out a "bundle of notes of between £20 and £30 and pushed it across the table to me but I pushed it back".

Believing Toal had agreed to work for them, the RUC arranged



● FREDDIE TOAL

to meet him at 11am today (Thursday, March 12th) at the Navan Fort Road in Armagh. There he was to be given a contact telephone number and he was to supply them with the name of the person or persons who, in the RUC's words, would approach him and "debrief" him about his arrest in Stranraer.

RUC officers told him that they would protect Toal's reputation as a republican by arresting him about once every month "to give people the impression that I was being hounded by the RUC".

Toal was released from Stranraer Police Station on Wednesday, March 4th, and immediately contacted Sinn Féin Councillor Tommy Carroll on his return to Armagh that night because "I believe if I hadn't come forward the RUC would've kept on hounding me and, when it was finished with me, would've set me up for assassination as an informer".

Commenting on the case, Tommy Carroll said:

"Anyone who has been pressurised into working for the RUC should come forward and not continue to live in that type of situation. They can be absolutely assured that they will come to no harm."

Beaten men dumped in Shankill

TWO West Belfast men had a frightening experience on Friday afternoon, March 6th, when they were arrested, taken to the loyalist Shankill Road, beaten by British soldiers and then left outside a UDA club.

The two, Brian McKee (21) and John Cunningham (35) had just left McKee's brother's house at around 2.15pm when they were stopped in Odessa Street by British soldiers taking part in a follow-up search following an IRA bomb attack in nearby Clonard Street. According to McKee:

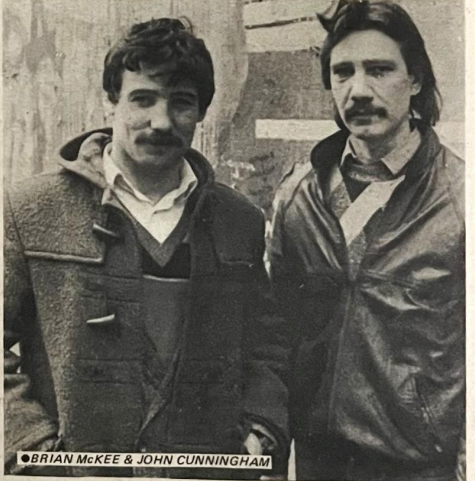
"We didn't know there had been an explosion. The Brits stopped us and started asking questions. I told them we would only speak to the RUC."

For the next hour and a half

the two were forced to stand while the soldiers, members of the Royal Anglian Regiment, kept up a constant stream of verbal abuse.

SOMETHING WRONG

Shortly before 4pm, the men were arrested and put into the first of two Saracens. After a ten-minute drive the vehicles stopped and the men were told to get out. McKee immediately realised something was wrong as they were not in any barracks but parked in a street. Before he or Cunningham



● BRIAN MCKEE & JOHN CUNNINGHAM

could say or do anything, the British troops began beating them about the head and body with rifle butts, knocking both men to the ground.

Several of the soldiers then shouted towards a nearby UDA club: "Here's some Fenian bastards for you! Here's some IRA scum!" They then left both men lying on

the ground and drove off.

McKee and Cunningham discovered that they were in Olive Street on the Shankill and quickly made their way back to nationalist West Belfast. Both received hospital treatment and McKee needed five stitches to a head wound and treatment for a cracked rib.

Adams at Oxford



ALMOST 800 students packed into the Oxford Debating Hall on Thursday, March 5th, to hear Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams oppose the motion: "That IRA violence is not justified and can never lead to a satisfactory political solution in Ireland."

Adams' visit to Britain and the surrounding controversy, had ensured a full attendance. For over two hours, hundreds queued in drizzling rain to undergo strict security checks before being admitted to the hall. According to one Six-County student who was present:

"There was a heavy and oppressive police presence with riot units, mounted police and sniffer dogs. They had even brought in the armed Diplomatic Protection Group from Thames Valley police headquarters."

'MORAL COWARDS'

Despite this, a demonstration in support of Adams was held behind the police lines and as he arrived he was enthusiastically cheered. Inside the hall he was warmly greeted as he negotiated his way through dozens of students forced to sit on the floor to hear the debate.

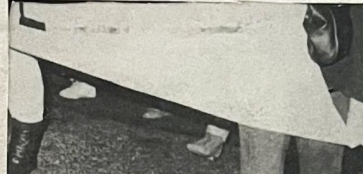
Most of the original speakers had withdrawn because of Adams' participation and in his opening remarks he described them as "moral cowards". Replacement speakers had been found by the Oxford Union and for two hours each side argued its case.

In the course of his address, Gerry Adams said:

I have heard motions like this debated in many forums. Tonight, in keeping with the debating history of this union, I thought I might have heard something original and inspiring, something which may have led to the IRA laying down its weapons and embracing British imperialism. I am disappointed.

All this trouble and all we heard was the same old rhetoric: "IRA violence is wrong because we say so." An awkward word 'violence', especially when it is necessary to be precise about the language we use - violence has many manifestations - the violence of physical force, the violence of imprisonment, the violence of institutionalised discrimination, the violence of deprivation, the violence of dispossession, the violence of state repression. Strange that only the IRA is described by such a word - the British? Oh the British are involved in peace-keeping! But then this abuse of language is nothing new. The IRA is always referred to as terrorist, the occupying army as the 'security forces'. Repression is 'the restoration of law and order', British soldiers 'kill', IRA Volunteers 'murder'. The British never kill or injure civilians - their victims are always gunmen or rioters. They are terrorists after all and that's what terrorists do, isn't it?

The republicans have kangaroo courts, the British have a judicial system - no jury, a British judge and strange rules for the admissibility of evidence but not a kangaroo in sight.



Women's Day activities in Belfast over the winter were treated to a colourful spectacle on the streets with women carrying torches, placards and banners against male sexual violence.



I almost forgot to mention morality. A most important ingredient in denying the right of a people to freedom or to recourse to armed struggle as a means of resistance. Only it's not morality at all. It is merely a political code disguised as a moral code. If violence is wrong morally then all violence is wrong. But of course we are never told that. It is only the violence of the oppressed, I mean the terrorist, which is wrong and the violence of the oppressor is never even questioned because the oppressor is really the peace-keeper and peace-keepers never use violence.

St Ronnie Reagan of Tripoli or St Margaret Thatcher of the Malvinas have morality on their side. And at gunpoint they tell us it is immoral to use force.

In this century they and their predecessors have killed 60 million people in wars caused by imperialism. One hundred and ten million have been crippled, tens of additional millions have died from disease, all resulting from imperialist wars. Eleven million have been murdered in gas chambers, shot or hanged. At least three million have been slaughtered by air raids - by napalm bombs. Aggression is a way of life for imperialism. And so it is in Ireland where, as in other colonial situations, those wishing to oppose imperialism have little choice but to use force.

And those who use force to put us down or who ignore this dimension of violence tell us that a legitimate resistance army like the IRA is not justified in using force, unless it's the ANC of course or any other liberation movement - as long as it's far away. Most long-distance liberals or long-distance Christians in this country have little problem with far-distant struggles, necklace executions and all. It's called expediency, but that's another story.

Imagine, my friends, if you will, that a foreign power had succeeded in occupying this country in the last war. Imagine they secured, through a system of patronage and privilege, the support of a section of your fellow citizens. Imagine that they were forced to withdraw their military establishment out of most of this country except that part occupied by their loyalists. Imagine they partitioned this

ON THE Falls Road on Friday night, men took part in a torchlight vigil searching, defying the bitter cold, for the fiery force of RUC presence.



country and claimed ownership and sovereignty over that part of this land on the pretext that a majority in the partitioned area wished it so. Would disloyal citizens entrapped within the partitioned area or other patriots outside that area be morally justified in using force to rectify that situation? Of course they would! And so it is in my country.

And if you doubt the accuracy of the scenario I have outlined, you know nothing of the history of the conquest of Ireland or of the barbaric methods used to subvert the Irish right to national self-determination or to civil and religious liberties or of the partition of Ireland by the British against the wishes of all the Irish people, loyalists and nationalists alike.

And when we look at the history of British colonialism - from the invention of the concentration camp during the Boer War, to the massacre in India, to the Hola Prison deaths in Kenya, to the indictment on torture charges before the European Court, to Bloody Sunday in Ireland - and when we note British withdrawal from the majority of her overseas possessions, we realise that tonight's motion should more accurately read: "That British violence is not justified and can never lead to a satisfactory political solution in Ireland."

The armed struggle in the Six Counties stems directly from the disastrous history of British involvement in my country, where the North now represents the shrinking foothold of British imperialism. The North is not a democratic entity, never was, and never will be. It is inherently unstable and is being maintained on a life support unit of British military might. The military spill-over has also affected the British public in terms of not just IRA activity but of the stockpiling of plastic bullets for use here, the perfecting of population-control techniques, and the corruption within the police which saw a conspiracy against John Stalker over his thoroughness at investigating RUC/MIS murders and conspiracy to murder.

This motion tells us that IRA resistance will never lead to a satisfactory political solution in Ireland - a most arrogant

assumption. Of course that depends upon what is meant by a satisfactory political solution. Most thinking people and all democrats will concede that such a solution would involve conditions upon which a peaceful, united and just society would be established by the people who live in Ireland, by the Irish people. They would also concede that this is a matter for the Irish people and not the business of the British government.

Furthermore, most honest people will concede that British involvement in Ireland has never led to a satisfactory political solution for the people of Ireland, or for the people of Britain either. Logic dictates that the removal of British involvement is a prerequisite for a satisfactory political solution. The IRA's energies are geared towards the removal of that presence. Can anyone here say with any certainty that they will never be successful in attaining that objective? The history of British colonialism shows that they will be successful and that the British government will be forced, as it has been elsewhere, to withdraw from Ireland. Within the new situation created by this democratic measure it would then be a matter of business-like negotiations between representatives of all the Irish people to set the constitutional, economic, social and political arrangements for a new Irish state.

As you ponder tonight's proposition consider the words of a certain Lord Lloyd speaking to the Aden Legislative Council in May 1956. He told the natives:

"The importance of Aden both strategically and economically... is such that [the government] cannot foresee the possibility of any fundamental relaxation of their responsibilities for the colony."

He meant Britain was never going to leave Aden.

Eleven years later, in November 1967, Britain left.

Earlier in 1954, Henry Hopkinson, a Colonial Office Minister of State, was more forthright in regard to Cyprus:

"It has always been understood and agreed that there are certain territories in the Commonwealth which, owing to their particular circumstances, can never expect to be independent."

Cyprus became independent in August 1960.

And, incidentally, the freedom forces, I mean the terrorists, in both these countries used violence. Totally unjustified of course!

THE VOTE

At the conclusion of his address, Adams asked that those voting consider the arguments carefully and not simply accept the "arrogant, elitist, ignorant and one-sided view of the war in Ireland". He reminded them of the predictably ill-informed arguments they had heard from those proposing the motion and asked that if they couldn't reject the motion because they felt it supported the IRA, then they could abstain.

In the event, almost half did abstain, with 348 voting for the motion, 47 rejecting it, and 305 abstaining.

Simon Stephens, the Oxford Union president, commenting on the number of abstentions said:

"The members obviously feel it is a more complex issue than the national press makes out."

Gerry Adams said he was pleased with the outcome of the debate and delighted at the success of the two-day visit, which had also included meetings with representatives of the Irish and black communities.

Danny Morrison pointed out that, despite media hysteria and opposition from the Conservative Party, the numbers who abstained at the end of the debate were very high and this demonstrated an acceptance by many of Adams' argument that the motion was too one-sided.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY '87

Mag

BY JANE PLUNKET

BRAND-NEW barbed-wire coils barrier which surrounds Maghaberry grey day like last Sunday, the barbed

the winter mist, as far as the eye can see. Barbed wire, high concrete walls, steel-mesh fencing within steel mesh, surveillance cameras and watchtowers — this is the grim vista you see at the gate of Britain's newest Irish jail.

Maghaberry is also possibly the most escape-proof prison in Europe. And for more than 300 women and men who picketed the jail on Sunday afternoon, the paraphernalia of repression on display underlined another fact: that the strip-searching policy of the British prison authorities is, in 'security' terms, absolutely unnecessary and is carried out purely to degrade and intimidate the women prisoners.

Sunday's protest, the first International Women's Day picket to be held outside Maghaberry, following seven at the now-closed Armagh Jail in support of the women republican prisoners, was attended by women from solidarity groups in at least 15 British towns and cities, including Brighton, Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Norwich, Oxford, Sheffield and Cardiff.

Women and men had also come from many parts of Ireland, in particular Dublin, Derry and Belfast, to show their solidarity.

GRIM

The new jail at Maghaberry is quite different, though of course no improvement, from the grim Victorian penal institution at Armagh which it replaced a year ago.

The village of Maghaberry itself, set in the unexciting unionist farmland of County Antrim, was probably once quite pretty. Now it has been overwhelmed by the new prison's many acres of concrete and steel, and by the regimented new housing estates knocked up to accommodate the

ed by two RUC men, released from prison in 1986 following a 16-ence, had been among a local soccer supporters relled to Manchester on February 27th, to a their coach was stopped ar when the ferry landed names of all the passengers ad by police. The coach allowed to proceed.

ver, on Monday morning's ourney, Scottish police the coach in Cairnryan was singled out by name sted under Section 11 of ntion of Terrorism Act. er Police Station he was to anti-Irish insults and tedly accused of being in a pinpoint targets for the

the Scottish police, I later agreed to co-operate with the RUC. It wasn't so much the exclusion order I was worried about but I reckoned they could put a conspiracy charge on me because of my record, and that's a hard charge to disprove. I really thought they were trying to frame me so I agreed to co-operate simply in order to get out of the barracks but I never had any intention of doing so."

During the RUC's interrogation sessions on Tuesday, March 3rd, Detective Constable Armstrong instructed Toal to supply them with "low-level information" about the activities of Sinn Fein personnel in Armagh including Councillor Tommy Carroll and then gradually infiltrate the IRA



picket



prison warders — lines of tight-packed bungalows each surrounded by a scant metre of grass, reminiscent of any army camp in any country of the world, and, further on, pretentious 'neo-Georgian' red-brick villas boasting ostentatiously white portals and mock pillars.

So much, once again, for Britain's civilising role in Ireland!

The prison is set in a bleak 'no-man's-land', and with RUC and prison warders as Sunday's only onlookers, marchers bearing five large "Stop strip searches" banners led the ten-minute march from the car park to the prison gate.

There, under the surveillance of electronic cameras and the RUC, the rally was begun by Sinn Fein's Maura McCrory who, on behalf of the crowd, extended "solidarity and support to all progressive women, especially political prisoners throughout the world".

A special International Women's Day statement from the republican women in Maghaberry was then read out by Belfast woman Geraldine Crawford, who has completed two sentences totalling eight years as a republican prisoner in British jails.

ENGLAND

The next speaker was Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Dodie McGuinness, who stressed that the purpose of strip-searching is to "use a woman's own body to degrade and humiliate her". She pointed out:

"In Durham Prison, Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson are held in a purpose-built, self-contained unit which they do not have to leave as they have their visits there.

"It contains a medical unit, church and gym, so they have no contact with anyone — they

are watched 24 hours per day.

"Yet they are still strip-searched an average of four times monthly, they receive six body-searches daily, two or three cell searches weekly — all this supposedly for 'security'."

Chris Curran of Birmingham, who spoke on behalf of the Women & Ireland Network delegation thanked people in the North for "introducing us into their homes and into their struggle", she reaffirmed the delegation's "commitment to fighting British injustice in Ireland, to show solidarity with our Irish sisters in struggle... and to try to see this oppression is ended".

Among the groups represented on the march or who sent solidarity greetings were numerous miners' support groups in South Wales, Yorkshire, North

Derbyshire and Kent; black women's groups; women's centres; trades councils; London, Vauxhall, Brighton and Sheffield Labour Parties; branches of the trade unions NUPE and Iron & Steel Trades Confederation; Nicaraguan, Namibian and Chilean solidarity groups; Iraqi, Turkish and Iranian women's groups; the women's newspaper *Outwrite*; several students' unions; the South Wales New Communist Party; Irish solidarity groups; the Ligue Communiste (France); the Pit Prop Theatre Group, and a black woman threatened with deportation under Britain's racist immigration laws.

MAIREAD FARRELL

The main speaker was former prisoner Mairead Farrell, who spent over ten years in Armagh and Maghaberry Prisons, was one of the first wom-

en to go on the 'no-work/no-wash' protest, and was one of the three women who went on hunger-strike in autumn 1980.

Mairead explained that throughout years of protests by the women prisoners, strip-searching was never used in Armagh, but was introduced only in November 1982 as a new tactic.

"Strip-searching was introduced in November 1982 when we had decided to see if we could change the system by working with the system — it was then that the prison administration also changed its tactics. It was a political decision. Up until then it had used isolation, loss of remission, loss of visits. It had nothing else left except strip-searching."

After giving a very vivid account of the degrading procedure of strip-searching, Mairead

Farrell admitted that she herself had found it impossible to appreciate the full horror of strip-searching until she experienced it herself when she was strip-searched on the day of her release last September — "the final insult".

"It's difficult to understand. But I've watched the remand prisoners going out to court every week and I saw the way they reacted afterwards. I saw the way they were before. They started to look weight. Many of them stopped menstruating completely because, coming up to this time, the fear of having their periods, of having to go through all this, was too much to bear. Their bodies reacted."

She ended by appealing to everyone present:

"Do your utmost to help end this... because the women inside do as much as possible but that's very little — they are incarcerated and it's the people outside who are going to have to do something about it."

A WOMEN'S ISSUE

The final speaker was Kate McDermott, of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions, who described strip-searching as a "humanitarian and a women's issue" and "a form of torture against women". She appealed to the public to oppose strip-searching "unconditionally". "People should not, she warned, let their opposition be weakened, diluted or diverted" by the issue of the political views of the women prisoners.

"For the sake of the women involved, for the sake of all women, let us keep our individual personal prejudices out of the debate. Let us unite to campaign for the removal of one more layer of feudal oppression against women."

The picket ended with the crowds shouting individual messages of support to each of the 15 republican prisoners in Maghaberry, in the slight hope that, far away in the vast prison complex, they might be heard.



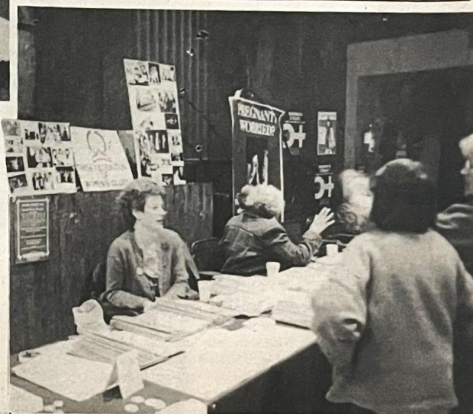
IN THE FIRST of a series of International Women's Day activities in Belfast over the weekend, late-night shoppers in the city centre were treated to a colourful spectacle on Thursday, March 5th, when several hundred women carrying torches, placards and balloons took part in a march against male sexual violence.



ON THE Falls Road on Friday night, over 100 women and men took part in a torchlight march and rally against strip-searching, defying the bitter cold and a large and intimidatory force of RUC personnel and British soldiers.



ON SATURDAY, a 70-strong delegation of women from England, Scotland and Wales visiting the Six Counties for the International Women's Day picket of Maghaberry attended workshops with local women in a West Belfast community centre. Topics covered included Divis Flats and women's health, social welfare benefits, women and trade unions, culture, Rape Crisis Centre, the Defend the Clinics campaign, plastic bullets, prisoners, strip-searching, and women and Sinn Fein.



WOMEN'S GROUPS held a day-long exhibition at Dublin's SFX Hall on Saturday. Among the organisations with stalls were Sinn Fein (the only political party there), Women Against Strip-Searches, Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Defend the Clinics, Rape Crisis Centre, Cherish, AIMS and the Employment Equality Agency. In the evening, some 60 women attended a rally at the GPO and a social was held that night.

STATEMENT FROM THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN PRISONERS IN MAGHABERRY

'WE CAN ONLY GAIN'

Sisters,
International Women's Day is of great significance to us all as it brings us the opportunity to reaffirm our solidarity and commitment to each other in continuing to further the women's cause.

It is both sad and shameful that in 1987, within a supposedly advanced society, the female remains the subordinate of man. We remain victims of the rapist, the wife-batterer, discrimination and state establishments intent on protecting men's rights but reluctant in extending those rights to women.

In sanctioning the male authoritative role, government, church, state forces and many educational and welfare bodies are encouraging the divisions and inequality which exist between women and men in our society. Within those structures our future is dictated — it is within those structures we must

exert our energies if we are to eliminate the stereotyping process.

We are regarded as individuals in theory, yet in practice are denied the right of individuality. We voice our disapproval at such hypocrisy and demand equal recognition and respect, only to be portrayed as a 'threatening force' to the man's world. Many of our male counterparts would continue to hold the view that we should be seen, not heard!

For centuries we have been considered the weaker sex — a myth for the male ego. Down through the decades we have eradicated this myth through our persistence to win emancipation. Like a dispossessed people, we can only gain.

It is on that point that we confront the state standards imposed on the women in this jail. Our own bodies are being used as weapons against us through the implementation of the strip-search policy in November 1982.

It is a grossly demoralising and demeaning practice — a policy which proves nothing short of legalised rape of mind and body. Young and old are compelled to strip naked entering and leaving the prison for any reason. Refusal to strip is met with the forcible stripping of the women. During menstruation the woman is forced to remove her sanitary protection and hand it over for inspection — she remains totally naked and 'unprotected' until the visual body inspection and search of her clothing is completed — only then is her sanitary protection returned.

It is impossible to describe adequately how one feels during a strip-search. You are within a hostile atmosphere and at the mercy of hostile prison warders who add to the humiliation you are already experiencing through expressing snide remarks on your body shape or any distinguishing marks you may bear. Psychologically it can have far-reaching effects. Women, particularly republican remand prisoners who may be obliged to appear at weekly court hearings for months, have suffered weight loss, the menstrual cycle stopping for indefinite periods of time and immense stress.

'Security', which is used to justify this malpractice, is a groundless excuse — the strip-search policy was deliberately designed to quell our resistance to the criminalisation policy.

Sisters, while our situations are different, we have a mutual cause — to defeat the oppression of women in whatever form it may take. We appreciate the concern and support which is demonstrated by your presence here today and we would hope that the commitment which has brought us so far will prevail.

Our support we give to you unequivocally. May our efforts as sisters in the struggle gain us our just deserts.

In solidarity and sisterhood.
Women republican prisoners of war,
Maghaberry Prison,
County Antrim.

A CURIOUS DEVELOPMENT

Z. HAMMETT'S series on economics and Ireland continues with this review of the concept of *development*, and what it means for Ireland. Does development simply mean more exports, new jobs and a higher GNP? Or are the IDA-style development policies simply a 'quick fix'?

LAST WEEK, I reviewed the economics of income distribution. One way the upper classes avoid the redistribution of income is by insisting that they can make a 'bigger pie' for us all, if only they are allowed to make sufficient profits. In Ireland, this argument has been used to devastating effect and the distribution of incomes has become more and more uneven.

But has the creation of profits created a 'bigger pie'? And even if it has, is a bigger GNP all there is to *development*? Many people throughout the world - and especially the less-developed countries - are beginning to question the way we think about 'economic development'. They are beginning to change their definition of 'development' from *growth* to providing their populations with their *basic needs*.

GROWTH OF THE GNP

The mid-1950s in Ireland, North and South, was a time of severe economic depression, when thousands of young people were emigrating each year, unemployment was rising, and the GNP was stagnating. The trade deficit, particularly with the US, was sky-rocketing. Sound familiar? Certainly.

At the time, the economic pundits argued that we needed industrial growth if there was to be development.

Economists appeared from Belfast to write articles with names like *The Irish Economy: A View From Without*. A budding young Dublin economist called Garret FitzGerald wrote articles in the *Irish Times*.

The pundits and the bureaucrats finally agreed on one thing. The quickest way to 'develop' was to invite as many multinational corporations to the country as would come. They would bring with them their machines, their jobs, their exports to pay for our dollar debt and, most of all *economic growth*. We couldn't *help* but develop. Heroin addicts call this a 'quick fix'.

Throughout the 32 Counties, the multinational companies were offered the most generous hand-outs in the world if they would only locate in Ireland. 'Industrial Development Authority' and 'Northern Ireland Development Board' were set up, to hand out the grants to all the foreign capitalists who would come.

Many came.

What followed was a period of moderate success, in traditional terms of 'economic development'. The GNP grew in the 1960s and 1970s by about 3% per year. We were getting our 'quick fix'.

But even in the 'good old days' of the 1960s, the Irish economy was growing at a slower rate than the European average. It was also growing at a slower rate than the average Third World economy. The experts and the politicians kidded us all, and themselves, by pretending that this was the beginning of a 'modern Ireland'.

A DISTORTED ECONOMY

In reality, the Irish economy during the 1960s was being distorted in very



and many more...

basic ways. Conditions were being created that would ensure the country's economic decline in the 1980s.

• We became entirely dependent on new multinational companies for new jobs. The multinationals were coming to Ireland. But once they set up, they weren't expanding. Therefore, in order to create more jobs and a higher GNP, the IDA had to bring in more and more foreign companies. Like the heroin addict, the IDA kept coming back for *bigger and bigger* fixes. And also like the junkie, the IDA had to pay more and more for each fix. From grants and tax breaks to generous depreci-

ation allowances, the costs grew and grew.

• The new industrial companies that set up after 1960 used more and more machines, and fewer and fewer workers. They produced more and more but used fewer people to produce it. The GNP rose, but employment rose at a slower rate. Jobs were replaced by machines. Ireland became a giant Wapping.

• The multinationals were an economy onto themselves. They did not use Irish raw materials. They did not even produce things that Irish people needed.

Instead, they imported a lot of mach-

ines and computer chips and widgets. A few Irish workers put the pieces together to make computers and other things. Then the computers and other things were exported to Europe. Then the multinationals took the profits home to America or Germany or Holland.

Apart from the few jobs that these companies created, they could have been set up anywhere, from Rangoon to Timbuktoo, for all the good it did the Irish economy.

• In order to get the multinationals to come to Ireland, we had to become part of 'Europe', where their markets are. In order to be 'European', we had to agree with 'free trade'.

Free trade meant that the Dublin government could not impose trade restrictions in order to protect Irish products in the Irish market. As soon as the trade restrictions ended, European and American products flooded into Ireland.

We began eating Danish bacon and Cypriot potatoes. We stopped wearing Irish clothes. Irish companies began to close. The dole queues began growing.

After the 26 Counties joined the EEC, the number of jobs in Irish-owned companies that produced clothing and textiles fell by over half. The number of jobs in the food sector fell by over a quarter. The decline of food industries was particularly damaging because they used a lot of local raw materials and resources. Their decline rebounded through other sectors of the economy such as agriculture.

THE CRUNCH

At first, the Irish bureaucrats and economists hoped that the Irish capitalists would survive under free trade and foreign competition. But the Irish capitalists were not equal to the task.

For a time, foreign companies replaced most of the jobs that were lost in Irish industry. But the foreign capitalists used IDA grants to buy machines instead of workers. By the late 1970s, the multinationals were unable to provide enough jobs and unemployment sky-rocketed.

By 1980, the IDA began running out of new multinationals. IDA officials could be seen jettisoning off to all corners of the world, looking for another 'quick fix'.

The GNP stopped growing and the number of new jobs declined. Ireland stopped 'developing'. Cold turkey.

The politicians were shocked. The IDA heads were shocked. The economists were shocked. Trade unionists were shocked.

Any schoolkid in Latin America could have told them it would happen. But we were 'European'. We were 'different'. We were 'modern'.

WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?

From the creation of the 26-County state, Dublin governments have equated 'development' with the growth of GNP. In the 1930s, the Fianna Fail governments encouraged *growth* through the creation of Irish-owned industry. The GNP grew, but most of the new incomes flowed to Irish capitalists.

Under the new system, in the 1950s and 1960s, the GNP was simply transferred from Irish capitalists to foreign ones. For a time the GNP even grew. But everyone ignored the dangers of free trade, of industry that used machines instead of workers, and used foreign materials instead of Irish materials. They were content with a 'quick fix' of a few jobs and GNP growth.

Where have we gone wrong? Why were so many 'experts' throughout Ireland unable to recognise the inevitable results of the economic policies of the past 30 years?

The answer lies in our very definition of 'economic development'. Like the upper classes even socialists equated *development* with the number of new (unionised) jobs each year, the growth of GNP, and the creation of industry. Some trade unions were happy enough so long as they were given exclusive rights to organise the workforce in the new multinational companies. They failed to take a longer view.

If *development* is to mean anything, it must first of all be tied to the basic needs of the Irish people. It must be aimed at eradicating poverty. But above that, it must be aimed to create a better style of living for all Irish people. To do this, growth and jobs will be necessary. But growth and jobs *alone* will not achieve the goal of fulfilling the basic needs of the population.

DEVELOPMENT FOR BASIC NEEDS

How can we achieve development for *people* instead of growth for growth's sake?

Firstly, wealth and income must be redistributed — immediately. We cannot wait until our GNP gets 'big enough' for us to afford redistribution. It will never be 'big enough', because the rich and powerful sections of our society *refuse* to raise people's share of the national income. The growth of our GNP and the redistribution of incomes to the poorer sections of society must go hand in hand.

Secondly, our technologies of production and the very products we produce must be reoriented. They must serve the people. If the IDA was truly a *development* authority, it would *insist* that companies replace machines with workers. Instead, it pays capitalists to buy machines *instead* of workers.

Development should mean that we produce more of what our people *really* need and desire. The Irish industrialisation policy has concentrated on producing computers and chemicals for export. Instead, development policy should concentrate first on producing the goods and services that Irish people need.

If export products are produced — and they will inevitably be necessary because this island cannot be totally self-sufficient — they should be produced in order to provide our people with the means to acquire their basic needs abroad and to provide the means for future growth. In the past, exports have been produced simply for the sake of producing exports. Our export revenues have been frittered away to pay for the imports that are used to make the exports and to line some capitalist's pockets.

MEETING IRISH NEEDS

Above all we should create industries and services that can rely on Irish labour and Irish materials, and which meet Irish needs. The industry which has been introduced to Ireland over the past 30 years relies on foreign machines and foreign materials, and meets the needs of foreign companies and rich foreign consumers.

Development means the creation of a system in Ireland that serves the needs of the people. It does not just mean the growth of GNP or even the creation of jobs. But *development for popular needs* is not a system that can be easily won. It will be hard to achieve primarily because of the powerful interests who insist that economic growth and *development* are the same thing. These powerful interests receive the benefits of the present system of inequality. They receive profits and rents. They buy the luxury goods that are produced in place of the things the rest of us need. They will not give up these benefits easily. They must be taken.

That is why *development* is not merely an economic issue, as we read in the newspapers. It is an issue of the distribution of power in society. The identification of development with economic growth only confuses the issue.



● Leinster Paper Mills, Clondalkin

Clondalkin Co-op?

BY TOM O'DWYER

WHEN the Canadian shareholders pulled out of Leinster Paper Mills (LPM) in Clondalkin at the weekend they threw a further shadow over the 240 jobs at the plant, first threatened on January 9th when Standard Chartered Bank imposed a receiver on the company.

Employees are considering setting up a workers' co-operative but this will require consistent state support. Comparisons with British-based firms have shown that the Clondalkin plant, though starved of funds by private industry, is perfectly viable.

Even if it costs £12 million (the most pessimistic figure put forward by the 26-County authorities) to get LPM working again, this would be considerably cheaper than putting 240 workers on the dole for a number of years.

In the background stands the Jefferson Smurfit Group — Ireland's first billion-pound company and the workers' competitor for the ownership of the plant. Smurfit is licking his lips at the prospect, raised by some politicians, of taking over the Clondalkin firm while the state pays the debts.

While the negotiations were continuing, the workers 'worked for no wages', keeping a guard on the machinery and making sure the 'creditors' couldn't make off with it. Their determination to save their jobs is likely to face further tests over the coming weeks.

Dirty linen at Muckamore

IQ tests for management at Muckamore Abbey Hospital, County Antrim, were demanded by Lily Kerr, official of the National Union of Public Employees, when two laundry workers at the hospital were dismissed for failing literacy tests. Ancillary workers at Muckamore are striking against the dismissals.

A serious outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting which had broken out was

ing section with 106 redundancies.

Management at the packaging plant has imposed major redundancies on the workforce eight times in its 14-year history. At its height, the firm (previously known as Goodbody's) employed 800 workers but now only the 107 processing workers remain.

26-County government and EEC policies which permit low-cost imports were blamed for the closure and reports that management was already attempting to remove and sell off machinery further angered the workers.

Low paid under threat

The North's Department of Economic Development has published proposed legislation which will involve major changes in the laws governing low pay. In particular, the power of wages councils, established to set minimum wages for low-paid workers, will be severely restricted.

The proposals include:

- Wages council orders will no longer apply to workers under 21 years of age.

- Wages councils will have to consider the impact on employment of the rates they set.

- Wages councils will be limited to setting one basic hourly rate of pay, an overtime rate, and a limit to the amount which may be charged for accommodation.

- Existing wages councils and existing enforcement provisions will be retained but there will be a simplified procedure for reviewing and amending the scope of councils or abolishing them.

Condemning these proposals, Sinn Féin Councillor Pat Rice pointed out:

"In the North, we have an unusually high proportion of employees on low incomes — a fact reflected in the depressing level of poverty.

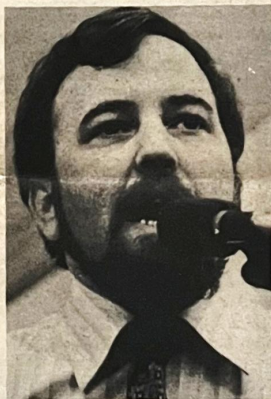
"The introduction of this order will inevitably result in an increase in the number of workers forced to live on low incomes and seriously affect working conditions as well as severely limit what little legal protection the low paid presently have."

Flexible principles

Few trade union leaders display the skill in juggling contradictions shown by Terry Carlin, general secretary of the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), on the issue of strip-searching women prisoners. ICTU policy, decided in 1985, is to "condemn the degrading practice of strip-searching in jails which serves no security purpose and to campaign for its immediate abolition".

But the Six Counties' Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, of which Terry Carlin is a member, doesn't agree with this. This 'human rights body' thinks trial by jury isn't "feasible" in the Six Counties and says that strip-searching is "necessary" for security reasons (something every other human rights body has rejected). Its main worry seems to be that Britain isn't presenting its case well on the issue. But any surprise at these conclusions vanishes when it turns out that every single member of the commission is selected by the British government! Far from defending human rights, the commission is a fig-leaf trying to cover British human rights violations.

What makes Terry Carlin unique is that he finds no problem at all in being a member of the commission which accepts strip-searching (although it advocates "greater selectivity" in its use) while being paid by the ICTU, which rejects it totally! Searching for an excuse to remain on the commission, Carlin has even suggested that his presence has reduced the numbers of strip-searches performed by the authorities, a claim about which the women prisoners in Maghaberry and their supporters who've been fighting on the issue for years might well have something to say.



● TERRY CARLIN

dennied by management last week but reduced laundry facilities clearly caused concern and a settlement was reached on Wednesday, March 11th.

Bleeding schools

Teachers in the Six Counties hit out on Saturday, March 7th, at school reorganisation plans for West Belfast which mean the closure of four secondary schools and their amalgamation in a single school.

The Down and Connor diocese was criticised by members of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation during their annual Northern conference. (The union, which represents only national school teachers in the 26 Counties, also recruits secondary teachers North of the border.)

The teachers were angered that the diocese was creating teacher redundancies rather than improving the pupil/teacher ratio at St Peter's, St Paul's, St Thomas's and Gortnamona secondary schools. Feargas O'Heather, a teacher at one of the schools, said:

"The authorities stopped schools bleeding to death by shooting them in the head."

Offaly closure

Synthetic Industries, the biggest employer in Clara, County Offaly, announced last week the closure of its manufactur-

Imeachtaí

**SOUTH AFRICA
PUBLIC MEETING**
Speaker: Zola Zembe
(SA Congress of Trade Unions)
8pm Thursday 12th March
Beckett Theatre
Arts Building
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Organised by TCD Anti-Apartheid

**REPEAL SECTION 31
PICKET**
5pm to 9pm Every Friday
O'Connell Street Bridge
DUBLIN

**FEILE AN EARRAIGH
AN IRISH CELEBRATION**
8pm Saturday 14th March
Nettleford Hall
1 Norwood High Street
LAMBETH
7.30pm Sunday 15th March
Greenford Hall
Ruidlip Road
EALING
Details and prices from
Maggie Cronin (phone 633 3657)
Organised by the
London Strategic Policy Unit

BALLAD SESSION
Music by The Jolly Beggarmen
8pm Monday 16th March
Camelot Hotel
Malahide Road
DUBLIN
Taillie £2
Proceeds to Republican Prisoners'
Relatives' Transport Committee

**EASTER COMMEMORATION
MEETING**
9pm Monday 16th March
Imperial Hotel
CAVAN
Organised by Sinn Fein

**VOL TOM SMITH
COMMEMORATION**
Speaker: Johnny Johnson
(ex-Portlaoise POW)
11.45am Tuesday 17th March
Berkeley Road Church
to Glasnevin Cemetery
DUBLIN

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring The Rake & Ramblers
8pm Friday 20th March
Pike Inn
Mulgrave Street
LIMERICK
Taillie £2
Organised by Sinn Fein

**A CELEBRATION OF
MIRIAM JAMES' LIFE**
8pm Saturday 21st March
Tabernaacle Community Centre
Powis Square
LONDON W11

FUND-RAISING SOCIAL
Music by Santanna
8pm Sunday 22nd March
Flynn's Lounge
ARIGNA
County Leitrim
Admission by donation
Organised by Sinn Fein

**PALESTINIAN REFUGEE
CAMPS BENEFIT**
Featuring The Fleadh Cowboys,
Sackville String Band
and Major Minor
Monday 23rd March
Tudor Rooms
Barry's Hotel
Denmark Street
DUBLIN
Taillie £5 inc Palestinian meal
Tickets from Barry's Hotel or
John Hedges, 44 Parnell Square
Organised by
Medical Aid for Palestinians

**SUPPORT PATRICK McINTYRE
ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET**
10.30am Wednesday 25th March
Bridewell Court No.4
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein

**WELCOME HOME SOCIAL
FOR MICKY BURNS**
(Ex-Portlaoise POW)
Saturday 28th March
Castle Inn
Christchurch Place
DUBLIN
Taillie £2



● Unity Flats, Belfast

DEMOLISH UNITY FLATS

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

CONSTRUCTED as part of a major redevelopment programme in the mid-60s when high-rise homes were sold to the public as a 'thrilling adventure', West Belfast's Unity Flats complex has proved to be as huge a disaster as its Divis, Moyard and Ross-ville counterparts.

After more than two decades of being cooped up in Unity's badly designed, damp and under-heated maisonettes, residents recently decided that they had had enough of Housing Executive neglect and demanded total demolition of the complex and its replacement with traditional two-storey dwellings. Unity Flats are in every way as bad, if not in a worse state of deterioration than

the universally-condemned Divis Flats, and the residents' demand for demolition follows years of frustrated attempts by residents and countless battles with the Housing Executive to improve conditions. And while the Executive, the health authorities and the Department of the Environment all agree that conditions in Unity are intolerable, nothing has been done to alleviate the situation. Indeed, a Housing Executive survey in 1982 identified problems such as leaking flat roofs (which resulted in excessive dampness in the maisonettes), inadequate heating, a decaying and outmoded infrastructure, and many other physical problems. The survey consequently designated the complex as a priority estate. Their concern remained on paper only.

Over the past four years, Sinn Fein and the tenants' associ-

ation have been involved in exhaustive negotiations in an attempt to convince the Executive of the urgent need for substantial work to upgrade the 272 maisonettes.

They suggested the flat roofs be replaced with pitched roofs to try and prevent dampness and called for solid fuel central heating to be installed as this form of heating had the support of the majority of the residents because it was one of the cheaper forms of heating. Dogmatic as ever, the Executive rejected their preference and opted instead for the more expensive Economy 7 (electric) heating, which, because of the high level of unemployment in the complex, caused great concern among residents who feared they would be sucked into great debt or have their supply disconnected altogether.

As the stalemate developed, the Executive vindictively cancelled all major work schemes, leaving residents with no alternative but to call for total demolition as the only viable option open to them.

SURVEY

A survey was undertaken by the tenants' association on 238

households between last October and November, confirming that 97% of tenants fully supported the demolition demand. The survey logged an alarming catalogue of structural and health-related problems because the flats have been allowed to fall into a state of total disrepair. Rising damp, saturated walls and ceilings were reported to affect 75% of households, water penetration affected 47% and 80% of residents suffered from persistent head and chest colds. Mal ventilation is causing growing concern with 56% reporting that they had a problem of this nature.

A majority of residents also complained of nervous tension, again as a direct consequence of their depressing environmental conditions.

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams expressed Sinn Fein's full support for the residents and pointed out: "Despite protracted resistance from the statutory authorities, the inevitability of demolition was finally accepted to be the only solution to the problems of Divis and Moyard. One would hope that there is not the same unnecessary resistance to the powerful arguments for the demolition of Unity."

AN PHOBLACHT
Republican News

BRITISH SPIES

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Daily against 6p1p: Searching
Dun Sweeney for March
FRAGG BERRY 341
Clonagh Ardara

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS - SEE PAGE 11

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY

**AN PHOBLACHT
Republican News**

SUBSCRIBE NOW

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

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

REVIEWS

Bigots on the box

BY BRENDAN KERR

INCESTUOUS isn't the word for the Democratic Unionist Party's *Saturday Live* show on RTE 1 last week hosted by Rhonda Paisley.

With two out of four of the DUP Lady Mayoresse of Belfast's guests being her DUP sidekicks, Lord Mayor Sammy 'The Weasel' Wilson, and her DUP and family boss, 'Papa Doc' Ian Paisley, to entertain her loyal and carefully-selected audience, she had to be on a winner.

And RTE was taking no chances on anyone upsetting the live broadcast of the DUP family outing so the Paisleyites were given free rein to say and do as they pleased for over an hour on prime-time TV. The whole exercise, masterminded by Joe Mulholland, was to show, in the words of RTE newscaster Hugh Moran "the acceptable and humorous face of unionism".

RADIO & TELEVISION

Sammy had the audience eating out of his hand — not surprising really when you remember that the audience was hand-picked by Rhonda and the chief cheer leader was a braying jackass who roared at the drop of a hat because he's a Belfast City Council flunkey by day.

Apart from his passable impression of Ian Paisley (the reason for his being on the show), Brendan Grace was about as much crack as a night in the Bridewell so I was relieved when we came to the biggie — the 'Big Man' himself.

LOOMED LARGE

The Rev Dr Ian Kyle Paisley loomed large on the stage and went through the motions of giving his daughter a peck on the cheek but it looked to me more like he stuck his nose in her face (no lascivious displays of over-affection for the heretics in RTE land tonight).

Setting down on the sofa, the Big Man quickly relaxed and recounted his various sorties all points South to places such as Dublin Castle and the GPO.

"We're now in the RTE studios — I don't know where we'll go the next time."



"The Dall?" quips Sammy quick as a (rehearsed?) flash.

REASON AND CHARM

Oozing reason and charm, Ian Paisley gave some of his views on his personal involvement in politics. ("I don't have any political ambition") and his religious beliefs ("I enjoy sweet and blessed peace with God... Some people think I hate Roman Catholics"), but the irony in his heart-style chat was naturally ignored by his less-than-impartial interviewer.

"The old story is that

your home is your castle and when you close the door you have peace of mind," intoned Daddy Paisley philosophically.

One could have mistaken the light in his eyes for the flames of the fireside in the family home which he tried to conjure up — the images that came to my mind were the burned-out family homes of the thousands of Catholics who have suffered the Paisley-inflamed loyalist back-lash against the Hillsborough Agreement and the thousands of Catholics who still

don't have 'peace of mind' when they close their doors at night.

'EXPERTS'

'Experts' know it all. They're great for telling you where other people go wrong but rarely themselves. John Bowman's *Day by Day* on RTE Radio 1 on Monday gave us such an 'expert'.

Bowman talked about the Zeebrugge ferry disaster with Patrick Martin, a chief naval architect who had even designed roll-on roll-off ships for Irish companies very similar to the *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

Patrick Martin is an 'expert'.

'Could the vehicle hold doors have been open?' asks Bowman.

'Oh yes,' replies Mr Martin. 'A ship was lost off the New Zealand coast several years ago because its doors were open while at sea, and when I was on holiday once the ferry sailed into port with its doors open before docking.'

'But this is against all the rules isn't it?'

'Oh yes.'

'So what did you do?'

'Did you complain? After all, you knew it was wrong to do this.'

'I didn't do anything — it wasn't my job to run the ship.'

No, Mr Martin, it wasn't your job to run the ship, but if you'd bothered your arse during your holiday to bring your 'expert' knowledge to bear then instead of now, then maybe — just maybe — the Zeebrugge disaster might not have happened.

HIGHLIGHT

It was left to Gaybo to produce the highlight of last week's viewing with a first-class episode of the *Late Late Show* celebrating the 25th anniversary of The Dubliners.

With music to beat the band from a wide variety of artists including The Pogues and Christy Moore, neither the politicking of Garret FitzGerald (who sent a telegram of congratulations) nor Charles Haughey (who arrived in person to stick out like a sore thumb) could dampen the enthusiasm of the show.

A video recording of the late Luke Kelly singing *Scorn Not His Simplicity* and the live performances of individual members of The Dubliners and guest artists were supplemented by tales of busking in England and the fleadhanna trail of the 1960s to give viewers a real night to remember.

Now that's what I call show-biz folks!

Shining bright

BY MAIRI'N Mac DIARMADA

DUBLIN CORPORATION'S road-widening spree has lost much of Patrick Street standing, but the name of that once populous thoroughfare has risen phoenix-like in the form of a new Irish folk group.

Maybe new is the wrong word to use because the members of Patrick Street are veterans of the folk and traditional music scene. Between the four of them they have been through groups like Sweeney's Men, Planxty, the Bothy Band and De Danann as well as making names for themselves individually as leading musicians and masters of their instruments. Now Andy Irvine, Jackie Daly, Kevin Burke and Arty McGlynn have joined forces and produced an album that has all the best of their individual talents and a collective sound that is vibrant and exciting.

RECORD

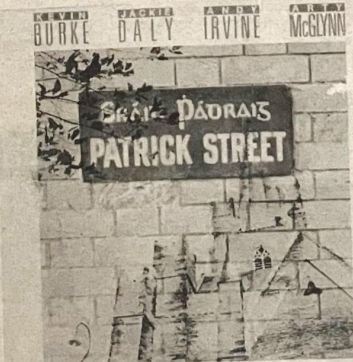
about an emigrant returning from America.

It is the instrumental tracks that shine brightest on this record and the combination of Jackie Daly on accordion, Kevin Burke on fiddle and Arty McGlynn on guitar gives a new twist to familiar jigs and reels. A real gem is the French Canadian set *La Cardeuse*, which I played repeatedly and never tired of hearing.

CAPTAIN OF MUSIC

That captain of Irish music, Donal Lunny, was at the helm again and produced and engineered Patrick Street's first outing on record. With the members of the group he has produced a sound that we will hopefully be hearing a lot more of.

After the experiment of the last 'super-group', Moving Hearts, Patrick Street moves



back closer to the well-spring of traditional music and keeps it flowing all the way.

WELLS

Incidentally, speaking of wells, the real Patrick Street and St Patrick's Cathedral itself are built near the site of a well where the bold St Pat was supposed to have done his first preaching to the pagan Dubs.

More recently, the area was famous for other watering holes — the four pubs at the junction of Patrick Street, New Street, Dean Street and Kevin Street which were known as the 'Four Corners of Hell'.

● Patrick Street, released on the Green Linnet label, is available on record, cassette and compact disc. Price £6.99.

Hearts and minds

ANAM AGUS INTINN is a new photo-text exhibition produced by the London Strategic Policy Unit Recreation & Arts Groups in conjunction with format photographers which looks at the wide range of Irish cultural life in London.

As well as the obvious areas of dancing and traditional music, photographer Joanne O'Brien and writer Jack O'Keefe have covered other less-obvious activities which the Irish community favours. For instance, the panels cover country & western music, and sections of the community who are all too often left out — the travellers, young punks, feminists and other groups who don't fit into the British stereotype of the Irish community.

LAUNCH

The launch of *Anam agus Intinn* at London's Camden Irish Centre last week was attended by a number of community representatives, local councillors, council officers and Arts Council representatives.

The exhibition will be seen very widely in most Inner London libraries. Community projects, colleges, the Arts Council and other agencies have all

EXHIBITION



requested the chance to use it in their foyers, courses or staff training.

Overall, *Anam agus Intinn* is an unusually successful attempt to reflect a positive image of Irish cultural life to Irish and non-Irish Londoners. For further details or to book *Anam agus Intinn*, contact Claire Keating at London 633 1245.

TEN TRACKS

There are ten tracks in all on the new release. Four of these are songs sung by Andy Irvine, who also plays bouzouki, mandolin and harmonica on other tracks. All are enjoyable and particularly *Indiana* which, unusually in these times, is a song

Solidarity with Chile

BY TOM O'DWYER

"WITHOUT the help and solidarity of the working class of the world, many more will die at the hands of the Pinochet regime's 'September 11th' death-squads," Chilean trade union leader Alejandro Olivares told a Dublin meeting on Wednesday, March 4th.

Olivares' own house was recently visited by one of these gangs but he was out at the time. After complaining to the authorities he was granted 30 days' police protection! "It was a case of sending the mice to look after the cheese," said Olivares.

The FESIT union leader has been visiting seven European countries and he addressed the Ireland-Chile Support Group meeting at the end of his stay in this country. While in Ireland he spoke with Sinn Fein and a number of trade union bodies, including IDATU, which organised the trip.

THE POOREST

His members are among the poorest in Chile. FESIT organises the unemployed and those who work on the regime's face-saving 'employment schemes' where workers are paid £13 per month, barely enough to pay a family's bread bill for a week. Alejandro Olivares says:

"These workers are a very explosive sector as they are in the front line of opposition to the regime. They may have taken our work from us but they can't take our sense of organisation."

Organising legal unions under the Pinochet dictatorship has meant keeping the broadest possible unity of all forces, from the revolutionary left to the Christian Democrats. The union suffered immense repression in 1983 when six of its members were murdered by the military.

Alejandro Olivares pays special

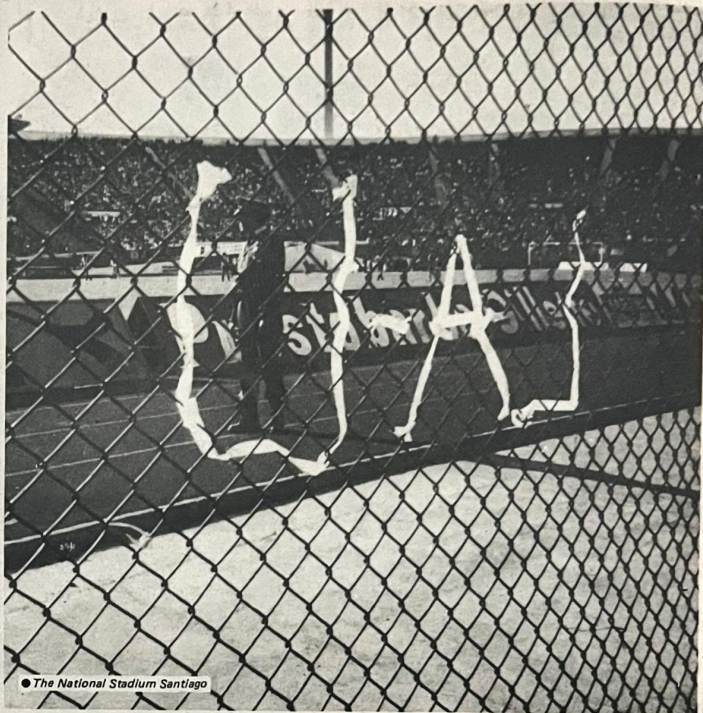


tribute to one of those killed, union leader Marin Novoa, whom he described as "a hero of the struggle". He notes:

"The farther you are to the left in Chile, the bigger blows you receive from the regime."

This hasn't meant that the opposition is bitter. "We're not seeking revenge," he says. "We're just looking for social justice." But it hasn't intimidated them either: "We will use all forms of struggle — we make no exceptions."

Alejandro Olivares made a special tribute during his speech at the support group meeting to the heroes of the 1916 Easter Rising, pointing to the historical similarities between the Irish and Chilean struggles.



Pope to help junta?

POPE JOHN PAUL's proposed visit to Chile on April 1st when he intends to celebrate Mass in the very stadium where thousands were murdered during the Pinochet coup in September 1973 has angered Chilean trade unionists and the many Chilean exiles in Ireland who believe that Pinochet will use the visit to try to boost his image abroad.

The Chilean opposition is calling on the Pope to publicly condemn the regime during the Mass.

Following the CIA-organised coup which overthrew the democratically-elected socialist, Salvador Allende, in 1973, General Pinochet's regime implemented a reign of terror, butchering its opponents. Santiago's national football stadium, where the Mass is to be celebrated, was filled with detainees who were systematically murdered. Their bodies were secretly disposed of, depriving relatives and friends of the right to bury their loved ones and hiding evidence of the murders. Over 30,000 people were killed

and murder at will.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva has catalogued 25,000 human rights violations, most of them occurring in this period.

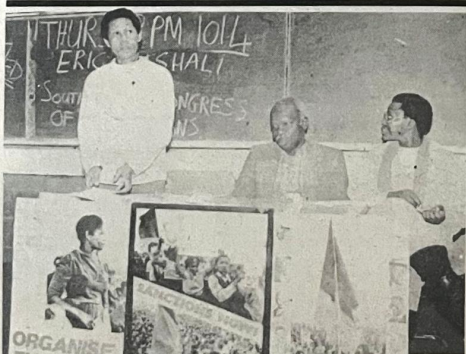
The Pinochet dictatorship has also introduced monetarist economic policies which have naturally hit the poor very hard, creating mass unemployment. Of the four-million strong working class, one million are unemployed. Twenty thousand people have recently lost their jobs in the educational sector and all secondary schools have been privatised.

The Ireland-Chile Support Group was founded in 1983 and is supported by the Chilean refugees who arrived in this country in 1976 and human rights activists in Ireland. If you want to give assistance to the Chilean people contact the group at St Francis Xavier Church, Dublin 1.

GENERAL STRIKE

A National Civic Assembly of all the democratic forces was held in April 1986 and protests built up to a one-day general strike in July when 90% of Chilean workers downed tools.

Pinochet then used an attempt on his life in September 1986 as an excuse to introduce a 'state of siege' (martial law) which lasted until January. During this time the military was allowed to arrest



GEORE JOHANNES, leader of the African National Congress's Youth Section, addressing a meeting in Trinity College Dublin during a week of anti-apartheid activities in the college. Seated are Eric Mtshali, representing the South African Congress of Trade Unions and the national executive of the ANC, and Thobeka Mjola who chaired the meeting.

Essex meeting success

EFFORTS by the Essex University Conservative Association to disrupt a public meeting on the Irish struggle failed to stop more than 100 people turning up at the Colchester-based university on Thursday, March 5th, to hear Sinn Fein speaker Aengus O Snodaigh outline the republican case for a British withdrawal and self-determination for the Irish people.

In advance of the meeting, which was organised by the Essex University Students' Union as part of an *Anti-Imperialist Week* and included Palestinian and ANC speakers, the Conserv-

ative Association distributed leaflets attacking Sinn Fein.

GARRISON TOWN

Despite the Tory campaign and the fact that Colchester is a large British army garrison town, O Snodaigh received a warm welcome from the mainly student audience for a wide-ranging address on the historical background to the Irish struggle against British imperialism and the struggle to build a socialist future in Ireland.

Referring to sections of the British left who continually attack the Irish struggle, he said:

"All that we ask is that people in Britain educate themselves and others about the



● AENGUS O SNODAIGH

struggle in Ireland and that they stop telling us how to run our revolution. All that we are asking is that they organise, highlight and support the demand for British withdrawal."

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Brian O'Higgins

BY PETER O'ROURKE

BRIAN O'HIGGINS, republican, soldier, journalist, author and poet, was born in Glen na Mona, Kells, County Meath, in July 1882.

Educated at Kilsyre National School, at the age of 14 he went to serve his time in a relative's shop in Clonmellon on the Meath/Westmeath border. There he began writing poetry and was encouraged in his writing by Tom Daly, editor of the *Meath Chronicle* in Kells.

In 1901, O'Higgins moved to Dublin and joined the O'Growney branch of the Gaelic League, where one of his Irish teachers was Michael Cusack, founder of the GAA.

Three years later, due to poor health, he was forced to return to his native Glen na Mona where he continued to write and became a regular contributor to the *Meath Chronicle*, the *Leinster Leader*, and *The Peasant*.

In 1912, he was busy trying to counteract British propaganda and, during the following three years, through his writings in many nationalist papers such as *Sinn Féin*, *Irish Freedom* and *Nationality*, he tirelessly campaigned against conscription and recruitment into the British army.

O'Higgins fought in the GPO during the Easter Week 1916 and

following the surrender, was imprisoned in Stafford Jail in England and later Frongoch Internment Camp in Wales, where he was held until February 1917.

He was again arrested during the so-called 'German Plot' round-up of republicans in May 1918 and imprisoned in Birmingham. While in prison he was elected to represent West Clare in the First Dail.

Released in the spring of 1919, O'Higgins returned to West Clare where he became a justice in the Dail courts. He opposed the Treaty of December 1921 and took the republican side during the Civil War during which he was arrested in February 1923 and interned in the Curragh.

On his release he continued his involvement with the Republican Movement and, in 1932, he published the first Wolfe Tone Annual, which he continued to produce until 1962.

JOE CLARKE

In September 1937, with the active assistance of Joe Clarke, he began publishing *The Wolfe Tone Weekly*. The paper continued in existence until



It was suppressed by the Fianna Fail government.

During the 1940s and 1950s he published many books and pamphlets on Irish history together with numerous songs and poems using the pen-name of Brian na Bamban. No-one did more to educate a generation in the history of Irish republicanism during those decades than O'Higgins.

Aged 80, Brian O'Higgins died in Dublin on March 10th 1963, 24 years ago this week.

Mála (maluh) — Eyebrow
Fabhra (fowruh) — Eyelash
Dall (dow) — Blind
Bodhar (bowur) — Deaf
Balbh (boluh) — Dumb
Mionghaire (myungairuh) — Smile
Ag gaire (eg gairuh) — Laughing
Tá hata ar bharr a dhinn (tah hataw er vorr uh cheen) — There is a hat on top of his head
An bhfuil scórnach tinn agat? (un will skornuch teenn agat) — Do you have a sore throat?
Tá scairf timpéall a muinteal (tah scarf tpeemul a mwinaw) — There is a scarf around her neck
Bearbóir (barbore) — Barber
Fiacéir (fiackeire) — Dentist
Grim (grime) — Bite
Bhain sé grim as an aran (bhain shey grim oss un arawn) — He took a bite from the bread

Fiaicéil (fiakuil) — Tooth
Fiacia (fiackuh) — Teeth
Gruag (groog) — Hair
Ribe graisge (ribuh grooguh) — Hair (single)
Gruag fionn (groog fyun) — Fair hair
Gruag dubh (groog duw) — Black hair
Gruag donn (groog doon) — Brown hair
Gruag rus (groog ruuh) — Red hair
Tá a dhúnta (tah a hoo-luh duunta) — His eyes are closed
Caipín síille (kapeen soo-iluh) — Eyelid

Cann (kyown) — Head
Cioigeann (kilgun) — Head
Aghaidh (ague) — Face
Suil (soo-ill) — Eye
Súile (soo-ill) — Eyes
Srán (shrone) — Nose
Béal (bay-ull) — Mouth
Cluas (kloo-ush) — Ear
Cluas (kloo-ush) — Ears
Smig (smig) — Chin
Muinteal (mwinaw) — Neck
Soirnach (skorn-uch) — Throat
Beola (byoluh) — Lips

IN THE MIDDLE

COLLINS, John (10th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother Vol Johnny Collins, National Graves Association, who died on March 15th, 1977. RIP. St Patrick, pray for him. Always remembered by his brother Michael, sister-in-law Maureen and nephews and nieces.

CREANE, John; HOGAN, Patti; PARLE, James (84th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Creane, Pat Hogan, and James Parle, who were executed by the Free Staters in Wexford Jail on March 13th 1923. Fuair siad bás ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by An-toim Mac Uaid and family.

CROSSAN, Gerard; JOHNSON, Sean; LEWIS, Tony; McCANN, Tom (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Gerard Crossan, Sean Johnson, Tony Lewis and Tom McCann, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who were killed when a bomb exploded prematurely in Clonard Street on March 9th 1972. "As long as Ireland is unfree, the only honourable attitude for Irish men and Irish women is an attitude of revolt." I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

CROSSAN, Gerard; JOHNSON, John; LEWIS, Tony; McCANN, Tom (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear young friends, Tony, Tom, Gerard and John, who died on March 9th 1972. Their memory we will always treasure. Our Lady, Queen of the Gael, pray for them, and always remembered by the Murray family.

CROSSAN, Gerard; JOHNSON, John; LEWIS, Tony; McCANN, Tom (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friends and comrades Vol's Tony Lewis, Tom McCann, Gerard and John Johnson, 'C' Company, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who died on active service on March 9th 1972. Their memories we will always cherish and their sacrifice will perpetuate our resolve to establish the socialist republic for which they fought and died. Always remembered by Sean (Long Kesh) and Pat (Portlaoise).

CROSSAN, Gerard; JOHNSON, Sean; LEWIS, Tony; McCANN, Tom (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol's Gerard Crossan, Sean Johnson, Tony Lewis and Tom McCann, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who died on active service on March 9th 1972. Thus siad a raibh ac ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFáil.

HUGHES, Charlie (16th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Charlie Hughes, 2nd Battalion Belfast Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was murdered by renegade Irishmen on March 15th 1974. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé. Remembered always by the Lower Falls commemorative committee.

KEENAN, Colin; MCGILLAN, Eugene (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear comrades Eugene Keenan and Eugene McGillan, Derry Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who were shot by the British army while on active service on March 14th 1972. "He springs from death, and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations." Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear son Vol Tony Lewis, who died on active service on March 9th 1972. RIP. St Martin pray for him. We will name you with the soldiers who for Irish freedom died, and through all generations we will think of you with pride. Your heart was filled with loyalty to Ireland's ancient cause. No crime was yours save hatred of oppression and its laws. We will follow you without faltering on the road that you have trodden. God rest you Tony in the holy peace of God. Will always be loved and never forgotten by his father, mother, brothers and sisters.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Tony Lewis, who died while on active service on March 9th 1972. St Anthony pray for him. My heart feels only sadness when someone speaks your name, because I'll never see your loving smile or hear your voice again; but dear God I shall love you for ever and ever. He loved his God, he loved his land, he served the cause of right. He took his stand to wage the fight; a martyr gone for Ireland. So young but very brave, his spirit will live forever. Although his body lies beneath the soil he will never be forgotten by his brother Ray, Phyllis and kids.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Tony Lewis, who was killed while on active service on March 9th 1972. RIP. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. In a near and silent graveyard, where the trees their branches wave, sleeps a kind and loving brother in a cold and silent tomb. He died on March 9th last farewell, he raised his hand to none; his spirit flew before we knew that from us he had gone. Will always be remembered by his brother-in-law brother-in-law Gary and family.

MC DONALD, Patrick; MURRAY, Kevin (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol's Patrick McDonald and Kevin Murray, O'galgh na hÉireann, who were killed in an explosion while on active service on March 15th 1974. Fuair siad bás ag tróid ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in O'galgh na hÉireann, Dunganonn.

MC DONALD, Patrick (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick McDonald, Tyrone Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on March 15th 1974. Always remembered by South Tyrone Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

MC DONALD, Patrick (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick McDonald, Tyrone Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was killed while on active service on March 15th 1974. Always remembered by Dunganonn Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann.

MC DONALD, Patrick (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patrick McDonald, who died on active service on March 15th 1974. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé. Always remembered by the McCaughy family, Dunganonn.

MURRAY, Kevin (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Murray, Tyrone Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on March 15th 1974. Always remembered by South Tyrone Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

MURRAY, Kevin (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Murray, Tyrone Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on March 15th 1974. Always remembered by Dunganonn Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann.

MURRAY, Kevin (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Murray, Tyrone Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on March 15th 1974. Always remembered by Dunganonn Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann.

MURRAY, Kevin (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Murray, Tyrone Brigade, O'galgh na hÉireann, who was killed on active service on March 15th 1974. Always remembered by Dunganonn Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann.

CUIMHNI BREITHLAE

BURNS, Sean. Birthday memories of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

DELANEY, Kevin. Birthday memories of our dear son Kevin 'Dae' Delaney, who was killed on active service on March 10th. St Patrick, pray for him. A little tribute, true and tender, just to show we still remember. Still sadly missed and loved by his mother and father, and the family circle.

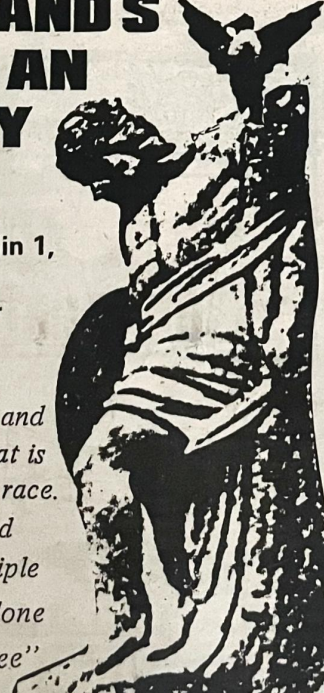
LEWIS, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend Sean Burns, who was active service by the RIC on November 11th 1982 and whose birthday would have occurred on March 8th. Always remembered by Mr and Mrs Toman and family, and Colette.

HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD, WEAR AN EASTER LILLY

Easter lilies are available from 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, at £15 per 1,000. Cumainn should get their lilies now.

"The republic stands for truth and honour, for all that is noblest in our race. By truth and honour, principle and sacrifice alone will Ireland be free"

— Liam Mellows



COMHBHRON

CARLISLE, Baile Dáin Fhinn Sinn Féin Cumann, Andersonstown, extends deepest sympathy to our comrade Tony on the death of his grandfather.

McCANN, Our deepest sympathy to the McCann family and friends on the sad death of their mother, Mary

BEANNACHTAI

DOUGLAS, David (Portlaoise), Birthday greetings David. From all the lads in Bohemians supporters club.

JACKMAN, Niall (Long Kesh), Here's wishing you a very happy 21st. God bless. From Francis, Marjolite and family. xxx

ODWYER, Ella (Durham), Very best wishes on your birthday. Regards to all POWs. From the McDaid/Gauguin/McLoughlin Sinn Féin Cumann, Buncrana, County Donegal.

ODWYER, Ella (Durham), Happy birthday Ella and also greetings to your friend Martina. Keep your spirits up. Love from Pat, Martin, Ardee, County Louth.

ODWYER, Ella (Durham), All the very best wishes on your birthday. Regards to the POWs with you. From Mary and Patrick, Buncrana, County Donegal.

ONEILL, Raymond (Magilligan), Happy Birthday, Raymond. Lots of love. From Mother.

ONEILL, Raymond (Magilligan), Happy birthday greetings. From sister Annie and Francis.

ONEILL, Raymond (Magilligan), Happy Birthday, Raymond. From Declan, Siobhán and Peter.

SMYTH, Paul (Magilligan), Wishing you many happy returns on your 19th birthday, son. God bless. From Mum, Dad, brothers and sister. xxx

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), Love and best wishes on your birthday. From Irene and Johnnie.

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), All the best on your birthday. Love Pa and Kathleen.

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), Many happy returns. From Laila and Pat.

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), Happy birthday Peter. Love Mike.

SULLIVAN, Anthony, Happy returns on your birthday. From the Holly family.

ONEILL, Raymond (Magilligan), Happy Birthday, Raymond. Lots of love. From Mother.

ONEILL, Raymond (Magilligan), Happy birthday greetings. From sister Annie and Francis.

ONEILL, Raymond (Magilligan), Happy Birthday, Raymond. From Declan, Siobhán and Peter.

SMYTH, Paul (Magilligan), Wishing you many happy returns on your 19th birthday, son. God bless. From Mum, Dad, brothers and sister. xxx

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), Love and best wishes on your birthday. From Irene and Johnnie.

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), All the best on your birthday. Love Pa and Kathleen.

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), Many happy returns. From Laila and Pat.

SUGRUE, Peter (Portlaoise), Happy birthday Peter. Love Mike.

SULLIVAN, Anthony, Happy returns on your birthday. From the Holly family.



THE FLYING COLUMN

THE KNIFING to death of three students in their Preston, Lancashire, lodgings last week and the killer's attempts to conceal the crime by burning the bodies led Chief Superintendent Norman Finnerty, head of the murder hunt, to announce:

"There was a lot of force used. It strikes us that someone with the mentality of a soldier or marine did this."

Despite Mr Finnerty's expert assessment of the criminal mentality of such crazed killers, it is thought unlikely that the 11,000 soldiers and Royal Marines currently occupying the Six Counties will be recalled to Britain for psychiatric treatment.



● McCartney the Worker

STICKY PAT McCARTAN must be breathing a sigh of relief that the media didn't take more interest in him prior to polling day. If they did then perhaps he wouldn't have taken a Dublin North-East seat for the Yuppie Workers' Party by a handful of votes.

Writing in the *Sunday Press*, Colman Cassidy said:

"McCARTAN was somewhat mortified when it leaked out that he had applied to become a member of the prestigious Dun Laoghaire yacht club, the Royal St George. The club has a four-year waiting list and won't take just anybody."

"Then the selection committee of what is thought to be Ireland's most exclusive boating fraternity compounded the felony by electing him as a member of the Royal St George — in the week of the election. Fortunately, it didn't leak out in time for polling day."

(It was actually reported by both *Phoenix* and *AP/RN* before the day of the vote but the establishment press failed to publicise these embarrassing facts.)

Colm Toibin of *In Dublin* wrote: *"He wasn't a Dublin working-class candidate; there were people in the Workers' Party who resented a rich solicitor trying to represent the working*

class. Some people would have been quite happy had he lost the seat..."

"The yuppies who voted for Neil Holman (Progressive Democrats) saw fit to transfer to McCartney rather than Sean Haughey. One observer called it The Pink Elephant Factor."

LAST WEEK, Belfast Court heard that among a loyalist arms cache found at the farm of David Crawford at Clougher Road, Ballymena, were three Styer rifles, four Martini rifles, an SLR, a .303 rifle, a sawn-off automatic shotgun, a single-barrelled shotgun, a home-made sub-machinegun, four revolvers, several pistols, an air pistol and rifle, a quantity of gun barrels and magazines, and more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

Crawford, a former member of the B-Specials and the UDR, admitted storing the weapons for another Ballymena man, John Pattison of Barra Drive. Describing himself as a "dedicated Christian", Pattison said that he had collected the guns while a member of several loyalist paramilitary organisations including the UDA, Tara and the Third Force. They were only to be used in a "civil war situation", he said.

Both men will be sentenced this week. Watch this space.

THE FORCES of the crown were thrown into confusion on International Women's Day when they discovered that fiendish terrorists, using the anti-strip-search rally as a cover, had planted a bomb at the front gates of Maghaberry Prison.

As sirens screamed and the panicked RUC dashed to and fro, into the midst of all the mayhem strolled Belfast woman Maura McCrory and two of her 'sisters'. "I'm always leaving this behind me," says Maura unapologetically and, picking up the suspect device (her hand-bag) the trio strolled off to join their comrades, chanting, "One! Two! Three! Four! Open up Maghaberry's door!" as they went.

FERMANAGH COUNCIL Chairperson Paul Corrigan (Sinn Fein) literally had the book thrown at him last Monday week when Official Unionist Cecil Noble lost his head during a council debate.

Cecil the Ignoble and his unionist playmates were badly in need of some extra weight behind their arguments to have council business adjourned (in protest against the Hillsborough Agreement), so he reached for the council minutes book and lobbied it at Paul Corrigan, who deflected the 'minute missile' with his cheek to cheers from nationalist supporters and chants of, "Come on! Come on!"

Incensed, Psycho Cecil then grabbed a heavy glass ashtray but was restrained by his less-loony loyalist colleagues before the men in white coats arrived.

Cecil & Co lost the vote and council business continued while they went home.

NEVIN WOODS appeared in Enniskillen Court last month for allegedly threatening RUC men.

Damien Mulholland appeared in Belfast Court last week for allegedly threatening a UDR man.

Mr Woods is a former member of the British crown forces — he received a six-month prison sentence (suspended).

Mr Mulholland is not a former member of the British crown forces — he received a four-year prison sentence (not suspended).

THREE NUNS, three priests and three monks were among 44 people arrested and dragged along the street by police during an anti-nuclear protest in a capital city on Ash Wednesday last week.

Where? Which city's police would behave in such a way to peace protesters?

- Moscow's?
- Beijing's?
- Santiago's?
- East Berlin's?
- No — try London's.

JUST FOR THE RECORD.

The death has occurred of John Warden Brooke, the second Lord Brookeborough, whose father was Stormont premier for 20 years.

Brooke was formerly a captain in the 10th Royal Hussars and aide-de-camp to Field Marshal Alexander, to General Sir Brian Robertson and to the Viceroy of India, Field Marshal Lord Wavell. In 1968 he was elected Stormont MP for Lisnakea. He became Assembly member for North Down in 1973 and, in the same year, took his seat in the House of Lords when he inherited his father's title.

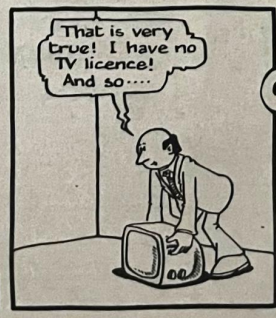
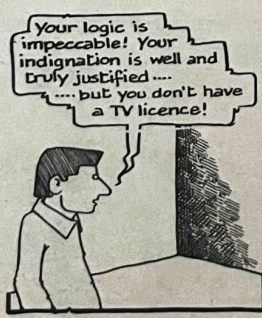
In last week's *AP/RN*, *The Flying Column* carried a photograph of Brooke together with a brief report of his illness. At 7.30pm on Thursday, March 5th, some eight hours after the printing of our illustrious organ, Lord Brookeborough of the Second died in the Ulster Clinic, Belfast.

No connection, surely?

THE RECEIPT of wrongly-addressed mail is quite common at the Falls Road Sinn Fein Centre and this week was no exception. A letter arrived for the "Sinn Fein Advance Centre". Someone knows which way the wind is blowing, politically speaking.

I'M TOLD that one wee West Belfast pensioner adamantly refused to accept her EEC hand-out of butter, cheese and meat.

"I don't want any of it!" she snapped at an astonished community worker. "All that stuff is rotten. It's been lying for years up some ol' mountain."



DUIRT SIAD

The only pressure the British government bows to is that of the bomb and bullet of the IRA.

- Ian Paisley.
- I am in revolt [against] the British parliament.
- Harold McClusker, deputy leader of the Official Unionist Party.

I don't have any political ambition.

- Ian Paisley on RTE's *Saturday Live*.

I am not a member of a right-wing party... and I don't consider myself a right-wing person.

- Gemma Hussey, former Fine Gael Minister for Slashing Social Welfare, an admirer of Margaret Thatcher and monetarism.

In what way would it have been to the benefit of left-wing politics in Ireland if Mark Killilea [Fianna Fail] had been elected to serve on behalf of Galway West rather than Michael D. [Higgins]?

- In Dublin challenge to Workers' Party boss Tomas Mac Giolla on his call for Galway West voters not to transfer to the Labour Party left-winger.