

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
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Republican News

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WAR NEWS

RUC warned
'Keep a dignified distance'

SEE PAGE 2



Take cover!

BRITISH SOLDIERS and RUC personnel had to dive for cover when an IRA bomb exploded at the new Smithfield Market in Belfast on Friday, March 13th. One RUC man was injured in the blast which caused extensive damage and for which a warning had been given to ensure the safety of civilians. As such IRA attacks have shown, the crown forces can expect to have to dive for cover at any time and any place.

INSIDE: Strip-search reports — see page 4 'Let us bury our dead in peace' — see pages 8 & 9 Reviews — see page 13

WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS...



• The scene of the IRA car-bomb explosion outside the gates of Roselawn Cemetery, Belfast

RUC warned

'Keep a dignified distance'

THE WEEK'S EVENTS in the North have been dominated by the IRA bomb at Roselawn Cemetery last Friday, March 13th. Over an hour before the funeral of an RUC man (killed in an IRA ambush in Ardoyne three days earlier) was due to take place, the IRA's Belfast Brigade detonated a 100lb bomb outside the gates of Roselawn Cemetery in East Belfast.

The bomb, which was in a car parked outside a gate lodge, exploded shortly after 10am. A warning had been phoned 50 minutes earlier. Four RUC men were injured in the blast, one seriously.

Claiming responsibility, the IRA issued a clear warning to the crown forces:

"This morning's Belfast Brigade action at Roselawn Cemetery was a warning to the British government and the RUC of the nature of the reprisal the RUC's brutality at nationalist funerals can

provoke. For three years now mourners at republican funerals have had plastic bullets fired at them, been batoned into the ground and attacked within church grounds and at gravesides. To seize flags from coffins, the RUC has used wanton brutality and has desecrated the dead.

"These attacks have not just been limited to the funerals of active service Volunteers but have included the harassment of mourners at the funerals of veteran republicans and, just this week, the terrorising of women and

children at the funeral of Newry teenager Thomas Maguire.

"This violence is in direct contrast to the wide berth given to the paramilitary funeral of UVF leader John Bingham, for example. Furthermore, republicans have never exploited the opportunity to attack the heavy presence of senior RUC or British army officers at the paramilitary funerals of their fallen dead.

"Our message to the RUC is quite simple: if you want to bury your dead in peace then keep a dignified distance from the funerals of nationalists and republicans."

Signed P. O'Neill, Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin.

In a second statement a short time later, reacting to accusations by British Minister Nicholas Scott that the IRA had "plumbed new

depths" and that "even in war people are allowed to bury their dead in peace and dignity", the Belfast Brigade described Scott's comments as "the height of hypocrisy coming from the architect of ghouliness".

The IRA said:

"Between December 1983 and last Tuesday, the RUC attacked mourners at at least 25 funerals.

These were: Joe Craven, Richard Quigley, Kieran Fleming, Danny Doherty, Willie Fleming, Charles English, Tony Gough, Brendan Watters, Henry Hogan, Declan Martin, Sean McIlvenna, William Price, Charlie Breslin, Michael Devine, David Devine, Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Paul McCann, Jim McKernan, 'Spotter' Murphy, Thomas Power, John O'Reilly, Mary McGlinchey, Thomas Maguire, Tony McCloskey and Mickey Kearney.

"In 1981, the RUC seized the body of H-Block hunger-striker Francis Hughes.

"The IRA agrees that people should have the right to bury their dead in peace, and operations such as today's will not recur if the RUC respects nationalist and republican dead."

BOMB ATTACKS

Also on Friday morning, Belfast was brought to a standstill when IRA Volunteers placed two bombs at the new £1½ million Smithfield market in the city centre, and a third bomb in a shop on the city's Dublin Road. Over 30 hoax-bomb calls and commandeered vehicles brought city traffic to a halt and caused considerable difficulty for the crown forces.

The Smithfield Market, which was due to open shortly, was attacked early on Friday morning when two IRA Volunteers gained entry to the building, held up security staff and placed two bombs. Warnings were given and the bombs exploded a short time later, causing extensive damage. One RUC man was injured in the blast.

On the Dublin Road, a bomb exploded in a shop, causing extensive damage.

SOUTH DOWN SHOOTING

A County Down man, John Chambers, was mistakenly shot dead by IRA Volunteers on Friday afternoon, March 13th.

A house in Killowen, Rostrevor, was commandeered and an order for building blocks was tele-

phoned to J.S. Graham & Sons, builders' suppliers. The firm's lorry driver had been identified as a member of the UDR.

In a statement the IRA's South Down Command said:

"Unknown to the Volunteers, the UDR soldier had injured his hand the day before and had arranged for his father-in-law to drive the lorry."

DERRY BOMB

On Saturday night, IRA Volunteers in Derry breached security around a heavily-fortified permanent border checkpoint at Coshquin, outside Derry, and placed a bomb. To delay crown forces personnel reaching the scene, a bus was taken and used to block the Buncrana Road. The bomb caused damage to the base and injured one RUC man. Several civilians were treated for shock.

In Belfast, also on Saturday night, three IRA Volunteers using semi-automatic rifles fired over 40 shots at a mobile British army patrol on the Monagh by-pass in West Belfast.

On Monday night, March 16th, IRA Volunteers in Fermanagh placed a 100lb bomb outside the Golden Pheasant Restaurant in Lisnarrick, near Irvinestown. A warning was given and the area cleared before the bomb exploded, causing considerable damage. Claiming responsibility, the IRA described the restaurant as "a well-known recreation centre for the RUC and UDR".

NEW 'SECURITY WALLS' APPEAR

In response to determined IRA attacks against crown forces bases across the North, several have recently had additional walls built to prevent attack or, at best, limit damage.

In Strabane a "screening wall" and security sangars have been built which now restrict traffic outside the base to one lane. The wall has also enclosed a number of houses. Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr described how the home of one resident is now effectively inside the RUC base.

Overnight in Omagh, a 12-foot-high concrete wall sprang up around the RUC barracks on the Mountjoy Road. Work had continued throughout Monday night, March 9th, using heavy lifting equipment, to erect the wall which runs along the outside of the footpath. Pedestrians now have to walk on the road.

OPINION Reagan's rant

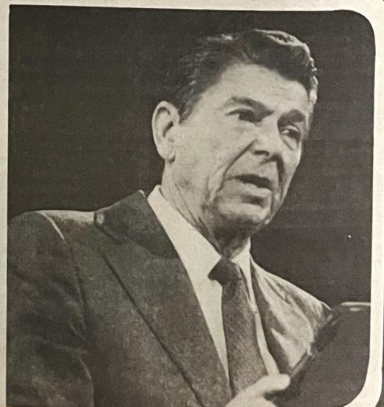
PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan, that discredited and now almost pathetic front-man for the military and business bosses who control the United States and are responsible for worldwide terrorism, launched an attack on Irish republicans on St Patrick's Day in Washington in the presence of John Hume, Charles Haughey and Garret FitzGerald.

If ever anyone was less qualified to lecture a struggling people about honesty, integrity and morality it is President Ronald Reagan, whose administration finances international terrorism and destabilises democratically-elected governments.

He has supplied satellite intelligence photographs to both sides in the Iran-Iraq war so that the bloody conflict that has cost millions of lives continues, and his CIA-financed and trained *contra* terrorists are butchering over 60 civilians a week in murderous attacks on the Nicaraguan people.

SDLP leader John Hume enthusiastically applauded Reagan's condemnation of armed struggle in Ireland. Did John Hume take the opportunity of telling Reagan what he thought of US bombings in Libya and Nicaragua? And if not, why not?

Will John Hume publicly state how much money his party has received in the past and will receive in the future from the National Democratic Institute, a body which has CIA connections?



BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

WITHIN the last month, members of the UDR have appeared in court for raiding the armoury of their own base in Coleraine and, more recently, for keeping an arsenal in an attic for Paisley's Third Force and being a party to one of the Shankill Butcher Lenny Murphy's murders. Nothing unusual for the UDR.

Given the RUC's bias towards their UDR comrades, those three cases are the tip of the iceberg. Given the courts' biased sentencing practices, recorded and suspended sentences are expected for these now 'ex' members of the UDR.

Last Friday, Gerry Adams called for the immediate and total disbandment of the UDR, whose collusion with loyalist murder gangs is as old as the regiment itself, set up in 1970 to replace the B-Specials.

In 1985, shortly before the Hillsborough Agreement was signed, SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon made a fiery speech demanding that the UDR be disbanded forthwith. Indeed, after the Agreement was signed, 'reforms' were promised. What they amounted to was a vague assurance that, where possible, a member of the sectarian RUC would accompany the sectarian UDR on patrol. Eighteen months later, this cosmetic measure has been dropped.

Since then the SDLP has remained strangely silent, particularly about the last two court cases. So have other self-styled spokespersons for the Northern nationalist community like Peter Barry and Garret FitzGerald. They are all presently otherwise engaged, either like Hume, Mallon and FitzGerald in milking the US lecture circuit or like Barry in jockeying for the Fine Gael leadership.

SCOTT

The failure to tackle the UDR, Adams said last Friday, was symptomatic of the overall failure of the Hillsborough Agreement to bring about the end of the nationalist nightmare.

Of course this was never the intended aim of the Agreement. Its aim was rather to smash Irish resistance both by repres-

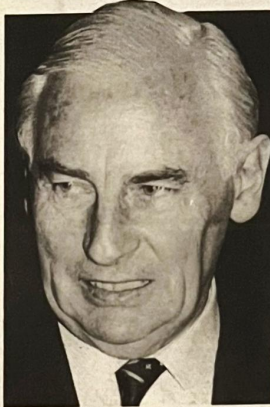
STRANGE SILENCE



● SEAMUS MALLON

on the ground allied to a careful propaganda drive in Britain and abroad which would stress that "responsible nationalists" now agree that Irish unity could only come about with unionist consent and the major obstacle to Irish unity is the IRA itself.

This theme has obviously found buyers and not just among local leader writers. It forms the conclusion of a book recently published by a French academic (Ireland — One or Two Nations?). The same line was peddled again in last Monday's *Guardian* by British direct-rule Minister Nicholas Scott. Among other bare-faced lies, Scott affirmed that the British government applied to its Six-County policy the principle of "self-



● PETER BARRY

determination". Were this true it would lead to a return to the old Stormont. Of course, self-determination makes no sense in the Six-County context.

LAGANSIDE

But Scott's words probably sounded reasonable enough to many *Guardian* readers. Plastering over the cracks and presenting a 'normal' image to the world has become the motto of British administrations in the North.

In their efforts to normalise Belfast the British government is encouraging the building of large commercial centres where rates are too high for the small businesses which it evicted. And last week a new scheme was unveiled which, if

implemented, will invest £240 million in building housing, leisure and commercial facilities on the banks of the Lagan.

This Lagan-side scheme was met with critical caution by Sinn Féin's Paddy McManus, who pointed out that since it was to be financed mostly by the private sector, in true Thatcherite fashion, "commercial considerations will outweigh all others".

The scheme is to include 1,000 new homes, 200,000 square feet of commercial space and 100,000 square feet for light industry.

McManus also pointed out that over a period of years the Clarendon dockside community had been "systematically dismantled, dispersed and destroyed" by Department of the Environment plans and replaced by car parks and a motor clearway. He called for an extra 500 homes to be built around the Clarendon area to make up for this. But the Lagan-side scheme seems unfortunately more like an attempt to extend the University area yuppie land to the river banks and is more likely to offer expensive accommodation than rented Housing Executive dwellings which can be afforded by the poor and the unemployed.

BUDGET

The British government's budget for 1987-88 was also in that money-pinching and monetarist line. British Chancellor Nigel Lawson showed his ability at balancing the books with an eye on Britain's borrowing figure and the other on the forthcoming general election.

People lucky enough to have jobs were placated with a 2% decrease in the basic rate of tax. The duties on alcohol cigarettes and petrol were left untouched. And the Thatcher government showed its concern about the large number of small businesses closing down by extending the VAT regulations from quarterly to annual returns.

But for the poor and the unemployed, there was little cheer in Lawson's 1987 budget. Thatcher's government decided that it could do without their vote as long as the majority of voters could see a tax rebate on their May and June pay slips.

And so onwards to a June election...

Bowing and scraping

BY MAIRÍN Mac DIARMADA

ONCE AGAIN, this year the leaders of so-called constitutional nationalism spent St Patrick's Day in Washington playing stage Irishmen to the dithering President Ronald Reagan. Charles Haughey, Garret FitzGerald and John Hume were together in the 26-County Embassy in the United States capital to hear Reagan reaffirm his support for the Hillsborough Agreement.

In his first trip abroad since being elected premier, Charles Haughey joined with Hume and FitzGerald in promoting the Agreement which he was initially so critical of. That criticism was quickly forgotten and is now confined to talk of 'reservations' about the constitutional implications of Hillsborough.

Speaking on American radio, Haughey said that he had reservations about the accord "so far as it would purport to give some sovereignty over part of Ireland to the British government — that I cannot accept".

He said that, despite this, he would work the Agreement with the British government.

The recognition of the British claim to sovereignty over the Six Counties is the very basis of the Hillsborough Agreement and this concession by the 26-County government has been trumpeted around the world by the British as justification for their regime here.

Fianna Fail verbalised about this major surrender at the time the pact was signed. Now their leader is part of the international propaganda effort to promote it. Charles Haughey's 'reservations' are worthless sops to please the more nationalist grassroots supporters of his own party.

His true role was seen in the Washington embassy when he



● ALAN DUKES

tugged his forelock before Reagan, who had earlier that day signed over 50 million dollars for the Hillsborough fund. This is supposedly to promote 'economic recovery' in the Six Counties and in border areas of the 26 Counties. Haughey said he hoped it would be used in border areas to "undo the appalling devastation caused by the violence".

CONSTITUTIONALISTS' FAILURE

The failure of constitutional politicians to face up to the violence of partition and the loyalist veto was on display for all to see in Washington this week. Equally obvious was their economic failure in the 26 Counties with-



● CHARLES HAUGHEY

Haughey calling for freer access for the victims of that failure — the thousands of young people emigrating and entering the US illegally.

While Garret FitzGerald was dining in Washington, at home the leadership battle in his Fine Gael party was continuing. The three main contenders — Peter Barry, Alan Dukes and John Bruton — all declared themselves candidates within days of FitzGerald's resignation.

Peter Barry's hat was the first in the ring and his own key role in implementing the Hillsborough Agreement figured prominently in his statements. He used the opportunity to chastise Foreign

Minister Brian Lenihan who, he thought, was not enthusiastic enough about the Agreement. On RTE's *This Week* radio programme on Sunday, Barry threatened that Fine Gael would vote against Fianna Fail, even on economic policies with which they agreed, if Fianna Fail wasn't implementing the Hillsborough Agreement.

Despite Barry's cynical use of this issue to promote his image in the party, there is no reason to believe he has any greater chance than the other contenders. While John Bruton is said to be popular within Fine Gael, the most likely winner is Alan Dukes.

His is a more 'saleable image' than Bruton's and he would be seen as the younger, more ruthless type needed to pull Fine Gael together following its disastrous election performance.

FAVOURSED

As far as the British government goes, Dukes is the favoured candidate. In his reply to an article by Gerry Adams in the *British Guardian* newspaper, Nicholas Scott of the Northern Ireland Office ended with a virulently anti-republican quote from "my friend and former colleague, Alan Dukes".

As Liam Mellows correctly predicted, the British use the arguments of Irish political leaders to support their continued occupation of our partitioned country.

CALL FOR ACTION ON STRIP-SEARCHING NEW GOVERNMENT CHALLENGED

THE NEW Fianna Fail government has been challenged to take action to secure an end to the strip-searching of women prisoners by the British, a practice which several party spokespersons have condemned and called for its cessation while in opposition.

The challenge to Fianna Fail has been made by the Stop the Strip-Searches Campaign, which pointed out that strip-searching continues unabated in Maghaberry Jail where the women were moved to Armagh last year. Also last year, the Leinster House Joint Committee on Women's Rights heard submissions from the Women Against Strip-Searching group. On the committee then was Mary O'Rourke, now Minister for Education in the Fianna Fail government.

While the Joint Committee said it was 'outside its scope' to take action on the issue, it reminded the group in a letter that "many deputies and senators, including members of the Joint Committee, have expressed their condemnation of strip-searching and called for its cessation".

The Stop the Strip-Searches Campaign said this week:

"We trust that this opposition to strip-searches on the part of Fianna Fail will continue in office and hope that definite action is taken to bring it to an end."

LONDON

In London, the Strategic Policy Committee which was set up in March 1986 to carry forward the

work of the abolished Greater London Council, has called for an end to all strip-searching in Britain and Ireland. Its Police Sub-Committee says that strip-searches are "degrading and inhumane, and that they are used by prison and police officers in a racist and sexist way".

The committee says that the practice should be stopped as there are now scientific methods of tracing drugs, explosives and metal objects.

In a detailed report on the issue, the Police Sub-Committee also points out:

"The fact that many of those regularly searched are Irish, black or those who have been involved in political protest also casts doubt on justification of the strip-searching as 'standard practice' or 'random security checks'."

BRITISH POA

Not surprisingly, a report on strip-searching published in January 1987 by the British Prison Officers' Association is defensive and dismissive of all criticism of the practice. It says that the issue had been raised "by terrorist prisoners and their ill-informed and subversive supporters". The most significant thing about the



report (which is similar to Strip-Searching - The Facts, the Northern Ireland Office's defence of naked torture) was that it has been produced at all, reflecting

the pressure on the British authorities and their servants who carry out strip-searching.

ENERGETIC PROTESTS

International Women's Day in

Mid-Tyrone was marked by energetic protests against strip-searching. The Carrickmore, Galbally and Loughmacrory areas were leafleted and petitioned by the Mid-Tyrone Anti-Strip-Search Committee in a bid to bring home to people the inhumanity of the practice. The treatment of local republican POW Pauline Quinn from Galbally originally brought the group together.

Church-gate meetings in half a dozen villages and townlands were addressed by members of the committee on Sunday, March 8th, before a delegation left to join protesters from all over Ireland at Maghaberry Jail. The committee was especially heartened that evening when 250 people attended an anti-strip-search meeting in Galbally Hall. The size of the gathering showed the strength of local opposition to the degrading treatment meted out to republican prisoners.

AMNESTY

Amnesty International, the British-based international human rights group, is concerned that strip-searching may entail "cruel inhuman or degrading" treatment. The organisation is not satisfied by British denials of cruelty and wrote to the British government in November urging it to reconsider its policy. Amnesty doubts British claims that strip-searching is a security measure.

Magilligan time-bomb

"THE Jail is at boiling point and if something is not done, lives will be lost," was the chilling warning given by a republican prisoner from Magilligan Prison who was freed for several days last week on parole.

The POW, who asked not to be identified because of the possibility of the prison administration imposing punishments when he returned to the prison, warned that the situation within the prison was getting "worse and worse".

Magilligan Prison, which holds short-term prisoners and prisoners nearing the end of their sentences, lies a few miles from Derry. It has three H-Blocks containing some 300 republican, loyalist and crim-

inal prisoners. For some time the British government has been imposing a policy of forced integration between republican and loyalist prisoners which has led to serious outbreaks of violence and injuries to prisoners.

Since December, republican and loyalist prisoners have been refusing visits in protest at a new system of open visits which have also been condemned by the Independent Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettl-

ement of Offenders, NIACRO described the open visit system as "offensive and intrusive".

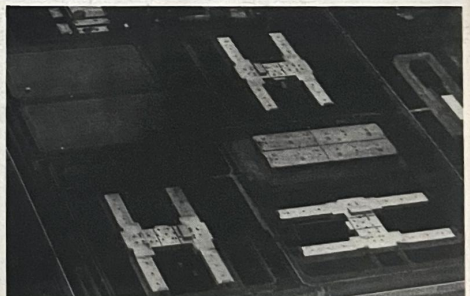
COULD EXPLODE ANY MINUTE

The paroled republican told journalists last week that the prison is "like a time-bomb which could explode at any minute". He referred to the disturbances the previous week when loyalist prisoners "smashed up washing and toilet facilities in nine of the prison's 12 wings".

The POW also criticised the behaviour of prison officers who, he explained, had complaint forms called "half sheets" on which they detail alleged complaints against prisoners. "Most of the time the prison officers just make up things which the prisoners are said to have committed."

He described the complaints procedure available to prisoners as a "complete joke".

"There's no use in complaining about the behaviour of the prison officers because the admin-



istration will punish the prisoner for raising the issue."

Jim McAllister, chairperson of Sinn Fein's Six-County executive, later revealed that since the previous week's loyalist riot, the 'long-term' republican prisoners have been moved to H1-Block in Magilligan, where they have been locked up for 24 hours a day and are denied basic washing and cleaning facilities:

"The food served is minimal and the prisoners have been told that these harsh conditions will remain until all trouble in the prison ceases.

"The NIO seems intent on trying to create 'blanket conditions' in Magilligan reminiscent of the days of the H-Block protest in Long Kesh. It hopes to break the prisoners' spirit and force them to accept integration."



VIGIL AT DURHAM

A GROUP of Irish women braved a night of heavy snow and freezing temperatures to mount an all-night vigil at Durham Prison from early evening on the eve of International Women's Day until the morning of Sunday, March 8th. The

women were expressing solidarity and sisterhood with two Irish women POWs, Martina Ni Andrea and Ella Ni Dhuibhir, both serving life sentences there.

The vigil followed a similar demonstra-

Highlight harassment

THE political harassment engaged in by the Garda Special Branch is seen in its most blatant form outside Sinn Fein's Head Office and the AP/RN premises at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

Seated in cars opposite the building, members of the Special Branch regularly stop and question callers. While known republicans and staff at Parnell Square are occasionally stopped, it is more often people not known to the Branch who are singled out, particularly young people and visitors to the Sinn Fein bookshop.

Coollock man Mark Byrne on Tuesday, March 10th, called to 44 Parnell Square to visit the bookshop and to hand in a letter to AP/RN for *Mala Poist*. On leaving the building he was watched by a Branch man in a car opposite, who then approached and questioned him. Byrne told AP/RN that the plainclothes garda did not show identification (as required by law).

Byrne was then taken to Store Street Garda Barracks. He was not formally arrested or charged with any offence but brought to an interrogation room. The Branch man then asked him what he was doing in 44 Parnell Square. Byrne said that he was visiting the bookshop, to which the garda replied:

"Fuck off now and don't go in there again."

In this case the Special Branch took advantage of the fact that the caller did not know his rights and used this to intimidate him. Remember:

- You are not required to answer questions to a plainclothes garda until they have properly identified themselves by showing an ID card.

- You are only required to give your name and address to the gardai. You are *not* required to give your date of birth or any other information except a vague account of your recent movements.

- The gardai must formally arrest you and state that you have been arrested before taking you to the barracks. Unless formally arrested do *not* go to the barracks.

For a more detailed breakdown of your rights contact Sinn Fein.

Anyone who is stopped, questioned or arrested by the political police should report this immediately to Sinn Fein and ensure that harassment by the Special Branch is highlighted.

SIGNIFICANT VICTORY

BY MAIRTIN MacDIARMADA

THE PEOPLE of the Liberties in Dublin achieved another success last week in ridding their area of the scourge of drug-pushing when Vianney 'Boyo' Dunne and his family finally left their home in Weavers' Square.

The long vigil at the house of the man the Concerned Parents Against Drugs say is one of the city's main suppliers of heroin, ended on Friday, March 6th, when Dunne gave an undertaking that he would leave by the following Friday. The Dunes left during the next week.

Local people said that the profit made by the Dunes from their lucrative trade was much in evidence when they were moving out their expensive furniture and household items from the large house.

LOCAL DETERMINATION

CPAD activists have described the removal of Dunne from Weavers' Square as "a very significant victory, the first time a major supplier was forced out of a private house".

They also pointed to the determination of local people, including elderly people, children and young mothers, who maintained the vigil on the house at all hours and ensured the removal of the pushers.



● Local CPAD activists confront Vianney 'Boyo' Dunne on his doorstep as part of their campaign to rid their area of the scourge of drug-pushers



'AN ACT OF BLATANT PROVOCATION'

ANOTHER INCURSION

AN INCURSION by British soldiers in the Swanlinbar area of County Cavan has been described as "an act of blatant provocation" by Sinn Fein County Councillor Caoimhghin O Caolain.

The incursion occurred shortly after midday on St Patrick's Day when at least four British soldiers crossed the border at the townland of Drumcondra and began to patrol an area up to half a mile into County Cavan.

A farmer out foddering cattle met the British soldiers (two of whom wore red armbands which suggests that they were Military Police) and reported the incursion to the Garda. A Garda patrol arrived on the scene shortly afterwards but the British soldiers

were, by then, crossing fields towards the Swanlinbar/Enniskillen Road which marks the border with County Fermanagh.

Coming within days of a Westminster statement by British direct-ruler Tom King who admitted that there were 16 cross-border incursions in the past three months, Councillor O Caolain called on the Fianna Fail government to make its position clear by prosecuting the British soldiers responsible for the St Patrick's Day incident.

tion last year outside Brixton Prison on International Women's Day. At that time, Martina and Ella were remand prisoners, suffering an appalling degree of torture, including sleep deprivation, constant body-searches, cell-searches and cell changes and a staggering 691 strip-searches between detention on July 1st 1985 and the end of their trial on June 8th 1986. Their courage both then and now is an inspiration to all women and men in struggle.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Those present received greetings from Martina and Ella in a letter which thank-

ed all who have demonstrated support for them since being arrested. Martina and Ella wrote of their current conditions of imprisonment. The reduced number of strip-searches (four per month) make it no less a form of psychological rape which cannot be justified on security grounds within the high surveillance regime of H-Wing.

In addition, Ella and Martina each endure, on average, 168 body-searches per month. There are no toilet facilities in their cells and no natural light enters their part of the wing. Exercise is restricted to a mere half an hour per day on weekdays in a small yard. The wing, having been closed some years ago as

unfit for men was reopened to accommodate 'high security' women prisoners. The only alterations were the addition of surveillance equipment.

Ella and Martina concluded their message by discussing the changing and central role of women in struggle:

"Without women there can be no revolution."

MESSAGES

Messages of solidarity were relayed, by megaphone, to Martina and Ella inside. A salutation from those assembled was followed by greetings, including those from the Irish POW Campaign, Birmingham Women & Ireland, the Irish Hunger-

Strike Commemoration Committee (Birmingham), Birmingham Black Sisters, Pakistani Workers' Association, Britain, and the Birmingham Centre for the Unemployed.

Ella Ni Dhuibhir and Martina Ni Andreas are currently the only two Irish women POWs held in jail in England. It is only fitting that Irish women and other women living in England who support the cause of Irish freedom dedicate International Women's Day to these two heroic sisters.

Letters and cards can be sent to: Ella O'Dwyer D25135, Martina Anderson D25134, HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

INLA feud continues

**TWO KILLED
IN BELFAST**

TWO WEST BELFAST men were shot dead at the weekend in the continuing feud between INLA factions.

At around midnight on Saturday, March 14th, Gerard Steenson (29) and Anthony McCarthy (31) were returning to McCarthy's mother-in-law's home to collect his three sons. It is believed that three gunmen belonging to the faction opposing the dissolution of the INLA and styling itself the 'INLA GHQ Staff' opened fire on the car from a nearby alley.

According to local people, over 20 shots were fired and the vehicle crashed into wooden railings. Both men died almost instantly.

At Steenson's funeral on Tuesday morning, the small number of mourners were vastly outnumbered by the RUC and British army. Despite assurances by the dead man's family that it was a purely family funeral more than 50 RUC men and

40 British soldiers surrounded the hearse and mourners. Almost two dozen RUC and British army Land Rovers drove in front and behind the cortege while dozens more blocked side streets off the Falls Road.

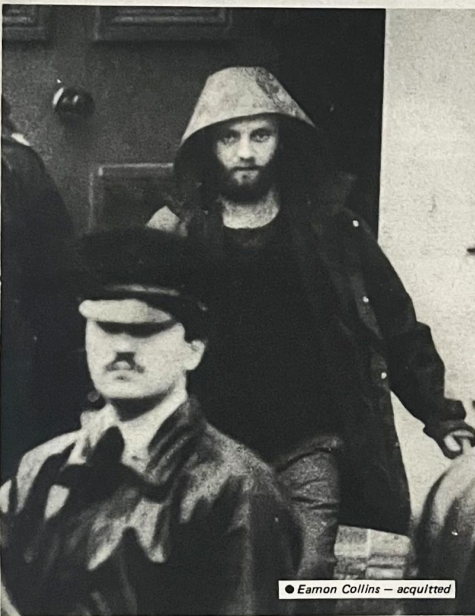
INFORMER CLAIM

Also on Saturday, the body of a Newry man, Fergus Conlon (35), was found on the Fairyhill Road at Clontigora outside the town. Conlon had been shot in the head and his killing was later claimed by the same group responsible for the deaths of Steenson and McCarthy. In a statement it was claimed that Conlon had been an INLA informer.

Sinn Fein has reiterated its earlier call for the complete disbandment of both INLA factions.



● The funeral of Gerard Steenson



● Eamon Collins - acquitted

NEWRY MAN FREED

BY JANE PLUNKETT

NEWRY MAN Eamon Collins walked free from a Belfast court on Wednesday morning after his alleged confessions were dismissed by a judge.

The acquittal has again highlighted the RUC's sordid paid-perjurer system and its use of physical ill-treatment to imprison nationalists.

During the three-month trial, customs officer Eamon Collins (33) faced 50 charges including IRA membership and five killings. He pleaded not guilty on the grounds that he had signed statements of admission only after he had been beaten in RUC custody in a way amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Judge Higgins freed Collins from Belfast Crown Court after saying that the crown had failed to disprove Collins' account.

However, the full significance of his ruling is unclear since the judge delayed giving his reasons until a later date.

ARRESTED

Collins, a member of Newry Sinn Fein, was one of the several local men arrested on February 28th 1985, hours after a devastating IRA mortar attack on a Newry Barracks.

The RUC, seeking convictions

to mend their dented morale, needed to create a new paid-perjurer, someone they could pressurise into accusing others to save his own skin. In accordance with this strategy, in the days which followed the RUC subjected the men to intense physical and psychological abuse.

Under this RUC pressure, Collins signed statements incriminating himself and others, and on March 14th, 12 men appeared at Belfast Magistrates Court facing murder and other charges, for the most part solely on his word.

Within a week, however, the discredited paid-perjurer strategy was discredited still further when Collins retracted his statements, signing an affidavit that they were false. Seven of the defendants were freed, but charges remained against five others who themselves had been beaten or intimidated into signing statements.

Three of these have since had the charges against them reduced after plea-bargaining. But two are still on trial and, like Collins, are contesting their statements on the grounds that they were the result of physical ill-treatment by the RUC.



RUC GRIP BROKEN

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

THE VULNERABILITY of young nationalists to RUC pressure and intimidation was illustrated in Strabane last week when a local youth agreed to work for the RUC under the threat of six years' imprisonment.

Tony Finlay (17), from Casement Place in

Strabane, was arrested by the RUC at 6.30am on Thursday, March 12th. Under severe psychological pressure in Strand Road RUC Barracks, Finlay implicated himself in alleged petrol-bombing incidents and signed a written statement. Finlay's interrogators told him he would spend the next six years in Hydebank Detention centre.

An hour later, however, the same two interrogators offered to drop all charges and release Finlay if he would agree to supply them with information on republicans. With his interrogators reassuring him that there were many other Strabane youths in a similar situation already working for the RUC, the terrified youth agreed.

PHONE NUMBER

Finlay was given specific instructions by his RUC 'handlers'. He was handed a phone number (extension 42) in Strabane Barracks and told to ask for Paddy or Robert Burns. He was warned that if he went to the press or Sinn Fein he would be immediately rearrested and charged on the basis of his signed, written statement. He was then released.

On Friday, he contacted Strabane Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr.

EASTER SPEAKERS

Requests for Speakers
at Easter commemorations to
The Secretary
Republican Commemoration
Committee
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1

Dungannon man framed

BY JANE PLUNKETT

A YOUNG Dungannon mother-of-five has accused the RUC of framing and holding her husband on trumped-up charges.

Her husband, 33-year-old Sean O'Hagan, a well-known local republican activist who played a prominent role in the recent election campaigns, has been a victim of persistent crown forces harassment over the years. He was arrested on Monday week, March 9th, in Dungannon town centre and taken to Gough Interrogation Centre, Armagh. Two days later he appeared in court on a charge of possessing a small metal bracket, allegedly part of a mortar unit.

In fact, Sean's wife, Roisin O'Hagan, explained to AP/RN, the charge against her husband is "ludicrous". The bracket in question, which is only a few inches long, is a common general-purpose household item and she points out that it was actually

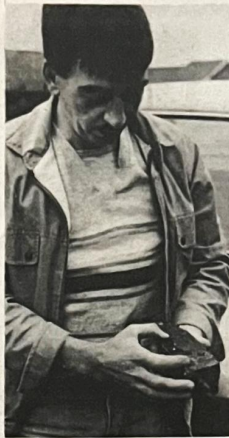
found by the RUC the previous Sunday during a routine search of her husband's car.

But at that stage the RUC evidently accepted that the bracket was entirely trivial and made no attempt to arrest him.

ALONE

Roisin O'Hagan, who is now having to cope alone with five children under the age of 13, says her husband's arrest is the latest incident in a campaign against him.

In October 1983, O'Hagan was released after 21 months of 'interment by remand', held on the basis of statements allegedly signed by Dungannon man Patrick McGurk. After the crown dropped all charges, McGurk himself reveal-



● Sean O'Hagan displays the tracking device which he discovered attached to his car in July 1985

ed that a year earlier he had told the authorities that he would not testify.

The following spring, Sean O'Hagan was arrested and, without any evidence against him, charged in connection with a premature bomb explosion several months earlier. Sean spent six weeks in detention before the charges were dropped, exposing the frame-up.

There was no let-up in the harassment and in July 1985 O'Hagan noticed that he was

being stopped even more frequently than usual by crown forces and discovered a sophisticated tracking device fixed underneath his car (see AP/RN, August 1st 1985).

Not only Sean O'Hagan, but his wife and children have also suffered continual petty harassment. Roisin told AP/RN:

"Since the supergrass business, we wouldn't have a week when he wasn't stopped or harassed in some way. It's continuous. You're just waiting for an escort when you go anywhere. It got that the children wouldn't even go into the car with us, especially the wee ones. It's a terrible strain to be living under."

Roisin O'Hagan estimates that the house has been raided "maybe 20 times" in the past 7 years.

"He couldn't walk up the street without them stopping him. There's been various times when they assaulted him but he was brought up on charges."

Roisin calculated that her husband, who is unemployed, has been fined at least six times on such trumped-up charges of disorderly behaviour, obstruction, assault, etc, with further charges pending.

On February 11th, charges against him of assaulting several UDR men were dismissed in court. (This followed an incident a year ago when a UDR patrol stopped Sean as he was driving with two of his young children. When Sean tried to go into the

back of the car to comfort his 17-month-old son, Sean Og, he was beaten by several UDR men, suffering a black eye, cuts and bruises.

The dropping of these charges, which means that O'Hagan could apply for compensation, marked the start of the latest, vindictive bout of harassment by the crown forces against the O'Hagan family.

HOME RAIDED

On February 17th, six days after the charges were dropped, O'Hagan was assaulted by an RUC sergeant on the Lisnahull Road in broad daylight in front of witnesses. £20 of his money was stolen.

The following day February 18th, the RUC once again raided the O'Hagan home in the Lisnahull Estate.

Just one week later, on February 25th, the RUC raided their home again.

And two days later, it was again raided and Sean O'Hagan was held in Gough Interrogation Centre, Armagh for five days.

On March 9th, six days after his release, he was again arrested and is now being held in Crumlin Road Jail on the latest trumped-up charges.

His wife Roisin is upset and angry:

"This is another frame-up, it's a farce. They've actually told him in Gough Barracks that he won't be sentenced on it, but if they can hold him for 12 months they'll be quite satisfied."

RUC PRESSURE TACTICS EXPOSED

AN 18-YEAR-OLD Dungannon youth has revealed how he was pressurised into agreeing to work for the RUC.

Joseph 'Jodie' Corrigan, who is unemployed, was arrested from his Donaghmore Road home in late November and taken to Dungannon RUC Barracks. There, he was questioned briefly about an incident in the town. The RUC claimed that he would be "financially better off" if he agreed to work for them and asked him to provide information on a number of local people they named. The RUC threatened him with continual rearrest if he refused.

After six hours, Corrigan was released, but in mid-December he was rearrested and again offered money and asked for information on the same individuals. After being subjected to considerable abuse, Corrigan felt, he says, "under pressure" and foolishly agreed to work for the RUC. If he wanted to contact his handlers

he was told to "phone the barracks and ask for CID".

He agreed to meet an RUC man named Don Smith and another plainclothes RUC man at 7pm on the following Thursday night behind a doctor's surgery in Dungannon. According to Corrigan, they again questioned him but he received no money from them.

REARRESTED

Corrigan was rearrested during the first week in January and again held for six hours, offered money and questioned. Scared and once more 'feeling under pressure', immediately after his release Corrigan fled to Derry, where he stayed for nearly two months.

On Tuesday, March 10th, just five days after his return, Corrigan was again arrested by the RUC, who demanded information and for the first time accused him of involvement in IRA activities.

By now very worried and confused, the youth at last contacted Sinn Fein.

Dungannon Sinn Fein this week condemned "the RUC's cynical targeting of weak and vulnerable individuals who they then attempt to bribe, threaten or blackmail into working for them".

Sinn Fein repeated that anyone who is approached by the RUC or who agrees to work for them should come forward to Sinn Fein or a solicitor to publicly expose the RUC's sordid methods.



● JOSEPH CORRIGAN



Short Strand harassment

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

RUC HARASSMENT in the Short Strand area of East Belfast has reached such a level that residents picketed Mountpottinger Barracks in protest a few weeks ago. The victimisation of local people has not ended, however.

Gary Carlisle (26) was walking along Clay Place with three of his

friends on Friday night, March 13th, when they were ordered to halt by the RUC. All four were told to open their coats and then ordered to spread their arms and legs to be searched.

KICKED

Carlisle told AP/RN: "As soon as I did this an RUC man kicked me between the legs and I went down onto my hands

and knees." Although the RUC released Carlisle's friends, one of them, Paul Bowen, tried to help him as he lay on the ground. Bowen was immediately struck in the stomach with a baton.

The RUC threatened to charge Carlisle with assault then bundled him into a jeep and took him to the nearby Mountpottinger Barracks. He was released more than an hour later without charge.

Let us bury our dead

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ON FRIDAY MARCH 13th, the IRA claimed responsibility for placing a car-bomb outside a cemetery which injured four members of the RUC.

A 50-minute telephone warning had been given about the 100lb bomb which exploded at the gates of Roselawn Cemetery around 10am, more than an hour before the burial was due to take place of an RUC man killed in an IRA attack the previous Tuesday night.

In a statement, the IRA issued a clear message to the British government and RUC: "If you want to bury your dead in peace, then keep a dignified distance from the funerals of nationalists and republicans."

It was a warning, the IRA continued, of "the nature of the reprisal the RUC's brutality at nationalist funerals can provoke".

REACTION

Predictably, unionist and pro-British nationalist politicians - those whose silence is deafening when nationalist and republican funerals are attacked - rushed to condemn the IRA action.

British Minister Nicholas Scott said that the IRA had "plumbed new depths", adding that "even in war people are allowed to bury their dead in peace and dignity". Coming from Scott, who as a senior minister played a major role in sanctioning the heavy-handed activities of the crown forces at funerals, such cynicism has angered the thousands of mourners who have experienced at first-hand RUC brutality at funerals. Equally, the bereaved families will be asking why their dead were not afforded the same consideration by Scott and his armed servants of the crown. In reply to Scott, the IRA said he was "correct in describing the Six-County conflict as a war situation. However, to accuse the IRA of plumbing new depths is the height of hypocrisy coming from the architect of ghouliness".

At the funeral of Joseph Craven, an INLA member murdered by loyalists in December 1983, the RUC attacked mourners and snatched a beret and gloves from Craven's coffin.

Since then the crown forces have invariably maintained either a heavy and threatening presence at funerals or used the opportunity to attack mourners.

Republicans have always said that no-one has a monopoly on grief and suffering, but Scott's remarks after last Friday's IRA operation underlines his government's contempt for the suffering of the nationalist community. It is an attitude which further reveals their view that funerals are but a further opportunity for the state forces to 'put the boot' in. Evidently the British government's tactic of saturating funerals with large numbers of RUC personnel and British soldiers is both to intimidate nationalists from attending funerals and provoke clashes with mourners.

RUC BRUTALITY

There are many examples of RUC brutality. It has hijacked the remains of Newry IRA Volunteer Brendan Watters in August 1984 when it rerouted the hearse through a loyalist area and away from waiting crowds in Newry town centre. RUC members kicked and battered mourners while trying to remove a Tricolour from the coffin and men, women and children were crushed in skirmishes along the route to the cemetery. The RUC's attempted hijacking of remains of Volunteers is not unusual; they did this in 1981 with H-Block hunger-striker Francis



● STRABANE: The massive RUC presence at Volunteer Charles Breslin's funeral on February 26th 1985

Hughes and attempted to do the same in April 1986 with the remains of Volunteer Seamus McElwain.

At the funeral of IRA Volunteer Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde in Magherafelt on December 4th 1984, a large force of RUC surged forward in an attempt to seize the Tricolour as the remains left the family home. Mourners were punched and kicked but they thwarted the RUC's attempt. However, as the cortege moved off, there were further clashes as the RUC insisted on

positioning Land Rovers in the centre of the cortege. An RUC Land Rover then rammed the family car in order to get directly behind the hearse. After further attempts to disrupt the funeral, the Mac Giolla Bhrighde family stopped the funeral until they secured a guarantee from the RUC that the Land Rovers would be withdrawn.

In Strabane, massed forces of the RUC surrounded the home of Volunteer Charles Breslin before dawn on the morning of his funeral, February 26th 1985. The family

issued a statement saying that the cortege would not proceed unless they were allowed to bury their son in dignity and without the risk of mourners being killed or injured. Assurances to this effect were given by the RUC but, within seconds of the Tricolour draped-coffin leaving the house, they attempted to box in the mourners. When the cortege finally got underway, the RUC halted the funeral and insisted that Volunteer Breslin's beret and gloves be removed from the coffin. During the 45-minute delay



● DERRY Volunteers 1984 are the Flamm

Dead in peace'

CLEAR WARNING TO RUC GHOULS



● BELFAST: The funeral cortege of Volunteer Jim McKernan at Milltown Cemetery on September 16th 1986

edly baton-charged. Side roads were blocked by RUC Land Rovers and at one point RUC men blocking the main funeral route fired one live round and at least four lethally-aimed plastic bullets into the terrified crowd — several people were injured, one seriously.

In Dunloy, County Antrim, the RUC actually tried to forcibly enter the home of dead Volunteer Henry Hogan before the funeral. A large force of RUC personnel and British troops also invaded the graveyard but the Hogan family refused to continue with the burial until the crown forces withdrew.

But crown forces provocation is not by any means confined to the day of the funeral.

Families of IRA Volunteers have often deliberately not been informed of deaths for hours and access to the bodies has been denied for long periods. Family homes are often kept under 24-hour surveillance and mourners going to pay their last respects are stopped, searched and otherwise harassed.

For two days the family of Belfast Volunteer Jim McKernan were subjected to taunts and jibes by crown forces patrols speeding up and down outside the house. In Dunloy, County Antrim, the family home of Volunteer Henry Hogan was raided and ransacked by a large force of RUC personnel only four days after his burial.

The RUC has frequently and callously ignored the feelings of the bereaved, even when they were well aware in advance that a funeral would be strictly private. At the recent funerals of nationalists killed in the ongoing INLA feud, the crown forces presence has often outnumbered mourners.

At the funeral of mother-of-two Mary McGlinchey recently, mourners were again savagely attacked by an intimidating and unnecessary show of force. More recently, relatives of Newry man Thomas Maguire were pushed away from the side of the hearse by the RUC and teenagers and young children were crushed.

DIGNITY

Without doubt, only the sheer self-discipline and dignity of the mourners have prevented more serious confrontations with the crown forces.

At the funeral in Belfast last September of Volunteer Jim McKernan, mourners were enraged because the RUC would not move back to allow the coffin to be placed in the hearse. Family members who attempted to defuse the explosive situation were pushed around by the RUC, and all along the route to Milltown Cemetery, hundreds of RUC men encircled the cortege. In the cemetery, the RUC trampled over graves and stood within feet of the McKernan graveside, callously infringing on the grief of the family.

As last Friday's IRA statement said, referring to RUC violence at Volunteer McKernan's funeral and the funerals of veteran republicans:

"This violence is in direct contrast to the wide berth given to the paramilitary funeral of UVF leader John Bingham. (Bingham was buried on the same day as Volunteer McKernan).

"Furthermore, republicans have never exploited the opportunity to attack the heavy presence of senior RUC or British army officers at the paramilitary funerals of their fallen dead.

"The IRA agrees that people should have the right to bury their dead in peace and operations such as today's [at Roselawn Cemetery] will not re-occur if the RUC respects nationalist and republican dead."



● DERRY: Mourners attending the funeral of Volunteer Kieran Fleming on December 23rd 1984 are baton-charged by the RUC outside the Fleming home in the Gobnascale area

"If you want to bury your dead in peace, then keep a dignified distance from the funerals of nationalists and republicans."

which followed, the dead Volunteer's father, Joe Breslin, collapsed from the stress and was carried into a nearby house.

Over the years some of the more violent RUC-provoked confrontations have led to injuries.

At the republican funeral of Derry IRA Volunteer Kieran Fleming on December 23rd 1984, the RUC baton-charged mourners outside the Fleming home. After considerable delays, a human barrier of mourners surrounded the coffin as people were repeat-

JOB DISCRIMINATION — NO CHANGE

BY JANE FLUNKETT

THE GULF between unemployment rates for Catholics and Protestants in the Six Counties is "as wide as in 1971", according to the latest report from the Fair Employment Agency (FEA).

The report, which is based mainly on an analysis of the 1981 census figures, plus more recent surveys by the FEA and other bodies, concludes that recent "fairly limited" Catholic advances in employment amount to little when set against the continuing major differences in unemployment rates.

In the first decade of direct rule, the report says, there has been a "small" increase in the numbers of Catholics in positions of some authority, such as foremen, supervisors, etc. But even so, in management, for example, Catholics tend to be confined to the lower-status jobs, and overall, "the position of Protestant advantage remains".

Many of the report's findings show the fundamentally sectarian and discriminatory nature of the Northern statelet. For example, most Protestants are non-manual workers (45.6%) whereas the largest group of Catholics are manual workers. And there's little sign of improvement. The gap between the proportion of Protestant and Catholic men in non-manual jobs, for example, actually increased over the decade.

Protestant male workers, the report observes, are particularly dependent on British-government sponsored employment, in the crown forces, the civil service, and in the heavily-subsidised Harland & Wolff and Shorts plants.

Over the decade, the considerable expansion of the RUC, UDR and civilian security personnel (which reached 23,000 in 1981) offset the effects on Protestants of the collapse of manufacturing industry.

In the '70s, some Catholics did benefit from the general expansion of professional jobs in health, welfare and education, typically as nurses and teachers. But Catholics remained under-represented in the higher-status occupations such as



doctors, dentists, further-education lecturers, etc.

In the '80s, there is little ground for optimism: as the report points out, most of the professional occupations where Catholics have done well are "very vulnerable" to changes in British government policy on public spending.

Of course still, "Catholics are under-represented" in the key occupations of the statelet (civil service and local government administrators, senior private and public sector managers, etc.). For example, in the electricity service in 1980,

some 96% of senior management were Protestants.

'PATCHY'

Improvements in the position of Catholics in employment have been "patchy", the report concludes (and, more realistic than some recent SDLP pronouncements, it acknowledges that "equality of opportunity" still does not exist). However, the difference in unemployment levels between Protestants and Catholics remains huge.

"Unemployment pervades the Catholic community," the report finds. "13.1% of

Protestant males were unemployed compared to 31.4% of Catholic males, a difference of 18.3%." It adds this pessimistic note:

"The fairly limited extent of Catholic advance in employment seems to contract into a very modest advance indeed when set against the continuing major differences in unemployment."

The report also rebuts the view fashionable in the late '70s that growing unemployment was bringing about an "equality of misery" between Catholics and Protestants. This view was fostered in the late '70s by the British government and taken up by many commentators.

Far from it. The difference in unemployment rates now is "as wide as in 1971", the report concludes. The most extreme cases were Craigavon and Cookstown. According to the 1981 census, in Cookstown the unemployment rate among Catholic men (43.3%) is more than triple that among Protestants.

A frequent excuse for the privileged position of Protestants has often been the claim that Catholics lack qualifications. Yet the report finds that a Catholic with a similar qualification to a Protestant is more likely to be out of work for each level of qualification and whatever the subject.

SECTARIAN HEAD-COUNT

Commenting on this latest report at a meeting of Sinn Fein constituency workers, Lisburn Sinn Fein Councillor Pat Rice said:

"The Six-County state was founded on a sectarian head-count and with the promise of employment for the Protestant working class provided it continued to support unionism. In recent years, while there has been a marked increase in unemployment, the sectarian bias inherent in the state has ensured that the nationalist working class has borne the brunt of this burden."

"While writing reports, the Fair Employment Agency has not even used its limited powers to redress the massive imbalance between nationalist and unionist workers."

"Sinn Fein supports the implementation of the positive discrimination in favour of nationalists contained in the MacBride principles."

Belfast committee gerrymandered

AFTER a heated debate at Monday night's special meeting of Belfast City Council, unionist councillors succeeded in dramatically changing the council's committee structure, effectively giving them control of all the committees.

The proposal to restructure the committees was first raised last June following the council's AGM. In a determined effort to exclude Sinn Fein councillors and disrupt council business in protest at the Hillsborough Agreement, the unionist majority successfully voted through a motion scrapping all but the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Unionists also demanded a report from the town clerk on committee structures in councils in Britain.

After months of delay a special meeting was called for last Monday night at which the unionists proposed two fundamental changes:

increase from 13 to 17.

● A quorum for a committee to meet to be raised from three to eight.

ANGRY EXCHANGE

There was a lengthy and angry exchange with Sinn Fein, Alliance and SDLP councillors all accusing the unionists of seeking to destroy the committee system. Sinn Fein Councillor Alex Maskey pointed out that "even if unionist councillors are prepared to work for new committees — which is extremely unlikely given their commitment to disrupt council business — the record of attendance at previous committees by many councillors means that it is equally unlikely that the new



● (Above) The EECO industrial plant, Dundalk; (Inset) Fra Browne

quorum will ever be reached".

The motion was eventually passed by 23 votes to 18. The plan must now go to the regular monthly meeting in April but is expected to be in place by May.

DUNDALK DUST FEAR

Sinn Fein Dundalk Urban District Councillor Fra Browne has said that new development at

the ECCO industrial plant should not be allowed to go ahead until a proper analysis has been carried out on emissions from the factory.

ECCO are seeking planning permission to retain and extend storage facilities for powder used in the factory. Fra Browne told the UDC meeting on Tuesday, March 10th, that dust emissions

from the plant were very high and yet it was not known if the dust was toxic:

"You can go to the Redeemer School and scrape off the deposits that lie there. I am not saying that they are toxic but we want to know what they are. The plant should not be allowed to start up until these elements are properly analysed."

● The size of committees to

EEC = lay-offs

BY TOM O'DWYER

FOR 12 WEEKS the EEC has kept 100 Drogheda workers out of their jobs in an action which further erodes Irish sovereignty already compromised by Leinster House.

An order banning the use of Tegral pipes on Dundalk's water scheme was continued by the Luxembourg-based European Court on Monday, February 9th. The ban was requested by the EEC commissioners on the grounds that the Dundalk councillors were discriminating in favour of Tegral. The decision has meant 100 lay-offs at the Tegral plant in Greenhills, Drogheda.

After advice from the Dublin Institute for Industrial Research and Standards, Dundalk Urban Council decided to follow the high Irish standards for such pipes which require bitumen coating. While the Tegral products meet these standards, foreign pipes do not but cost 11% less.

Dundalk Sinn Fein Councillor Fra Browne said:

"The right of Irish local authorities to choose whichever materials they consider to be the best seems to be a thing of the past and it's now illegal to protect Irish jobs."

Reverend shop-stewards

An unwritten rule of Irish trade unionism forbids lay shop-stewards from ordaining Catholic priests or saying Mass, but recently members of the Irish Catholic hierarchy have started acting as trade union officials.

Bishop Thomas Flynn, of Achonry, felt that his flock needed some industrial advice when the American company, Travenol Laboratories announced 250 redundancies in his County Mayo diocese. Rather than attacking Travenol's hit-and-run tactics, he chose to warn the remaining 250 workers in Travenol's Swinford branch that "no problems should arise between them and the management". Whatever the good bishop's intentions may be, his words will be used to blame workers for industrial disputes.

Bishop Comiskey, auxiliary bishop of Dublin, showed a similar bias when he told Irish service workers to shape up or face redundancies:

"People won't come to Ireland," he said at a dinner of the Irish Institute of Chartered Management Accountants, "if they can get better service in the Canary Islands."

Advice on these subjects comes best from the workers' representatives themselves. Clerical redundancies are, after all, fairly unusual.

White collar

Irish unions are weathering the recession and are adapting to changes in employment, according to figures released by the College of Industrial Relations in Dublin this week. While union membership in Britain has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years and membership is falling in unions throughout Europe, there are nearly 100,000 more trade unionists in Ireland than in 1975. White-collar unions have grown substantially.

The recession has, of course, meant large changes with heavy job losses in manufacturing industry. The ITGWU has lost 25,000 members and the National Engineering & Electrical Trade Union lost 7,000 of its 17,000 members during the 1980s. Increased membership of public service unions have offset this fall, leaving an overall drop since 1982 of only 9,000 despite a rocketing unemployment total. The Local Government & Public Services Union shot from a membership of 12,000 to 18,000 in the period and teachers' unions also grew.

Not so lucky for some

It was a star-studded occasion. Everyone who was anyone came to the Royal Hospital in Kilmalsham, Dublin, on Sunday, March 15th, to launch the 26 Counties' 'National Lottery'. Leinster House expects to make at least a cool £13 million in the first year of the lottery's operation.

While the champagne was being passed around among the glitterati inside the building, a picket was mounted outside by the 60 former workers of the Irish Hospital's Sweepstake (which the lottery has replaced) in protest against the miserly redundancy terms. The workers, mostly women FWUI members, have spent up to 40 years' service with the Hospitals Sweep but received minimum redundancy pay.

The 26-County exchequer stands to make £10 million out of the sale of the Hospitals Trust site in Ballsbridge.

More jobless?

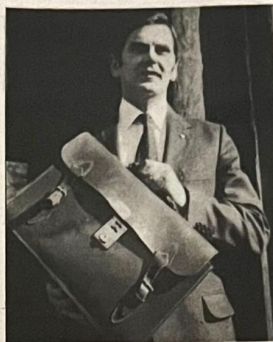
Despite government predictions that unemployment will fall now that Charlie Haughey is in charge, the bosses' organisation believes it's going to grow.

The Confederation of Irish Industry's latest monthly survey shows an increase in the number of firms which expected the unemployment figure to rise. Under capitalism, companies need the confidence of banks and other firms to remain in business. If 'business confidence' drops it can act like a self-fulfilling prophecy, creating unemployment.

Whatever weight you put on bosses' predictions, things don't look good.

Promises, promises

Ray MacSharry, Dublin's new Finance Minister, had hardly begun to warm his



● RAY MacSHARRY

ministerial seat when he started breaking promises. The Fianna Fail minister threatened on Saturday, March 14th, to put off a public service pay increase of 2% promised under last year's pay round.

Members of the Local Government & Public Service Union and the Union of Professional and Technical Civil Servants have threatened to strike if MacSharry reneges on the deal. Phil Flynn, leader of the LGPSU has called on Fianna Fail to "honour commitments made in good faith or face the consequences".

The South's 130,000 public servants have submitted a 10% pay claim for this year.

10% poorer

Workers involved in wage negotiations may be interested to know that the average worker is 10% poorer than in December 1979 according to a report from the ITGWU this week.

Industry is producing 20% less than seven years ago, while unemployment has trebled. When the average male industrial wage is measured against inflation a severe drop in living standards is shown.

During the Haughey government of December 1979 to June 1981, a family with two children suffered a 4.9% drop in its real income; under the FitzGerald government which followed, the drop was 9.8%. Take-home pay for the average male industrial worker under the last government was £157.76.

A share in the future

A workers' co-operative tannery in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary, is appealing for financial support. An Irish Productivity Centre feasibility study has backed the project which needs £1½ million financial support. Promises by the state and the banks to lend £½ million each depend, however, on the workers being able to raise the rest through a nationwide share sales campaign which was launched at a public meeting in Carrick on March 9th. A door-to-door appeal is being carried out in the town

where 1,300 out of a population of 5,800 are unemployed.

The Carrick-on-Suir Tanners Co-operative is supported by former workers of the Plunder & Pollak, once a world-famous tannery. Each of them is investing £2,000 and the remaining £400,000 will be raised by sales of £5 shares. These will be tax-deductible and dividends will be paid on them. The co-op's prospectus says:

"We will welcome the person who buys one share as much as the person who buys 100."

The project has the support of the trade union movement and share application forms can be obtained from Godfrey Fitzsimons, Mothel House, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary (phone 051-46035).



● BEN DUNNE

Dunnes' Stores robbery

Dunnes' Stores, the supermarket chain which undercuts everybody, has beaten them all once again. The store that caused Ireland's most famous strike since 1913 is legendary for its meanness but recent events in Portmarnock, County Dublin, have meant that Ben Dunne, boss of the family firm, has increased even his reputation as a Scrooge.

On February 5th, armed raiders held up Dunnes' Portmarnock branch, assaulting two part-time workers. One woman was hit with a base-ball bat and another was grabbed by the hair while a gun was held to her throat. Management sent the two, both fairly distraught by the experience, home early, an hour and 40 minutes before the store's 10pm closing time. But in case such boundless generosity should give the staff ideas above their station, the bosses docked an hour and 40 minutes from their pay packets.

Officials of the women's union, the Irish Distributive & Administrative Trade Union, have succeeded after six weeks in getting the money repaid to the women. Brendan Archbold, an IDATU official, told AP/RR:

"You keep thinking Ben Dunne can't get any lower ... and then he does!"

LEFT NOT RIGHT?

BY TOM O'DWYER

THE RECENT Galway conference on the problems of the left demonstrated most of the problems but failed to provide solutions. Sheer ignorance of conditions in the Six Counties and the role of imperialism in Ireland among many of those who call themselves 'left-wing' meant a hopeless confusion of ideas. When Michael D. Higgins said that it was necessary to "understand why people turned to the IRA" he received a torrent of abuse for supporting 'terrorism'.

Revisionism - the pro-imperialist re-writing of Irish history - has deeply affected the left, leading it to accept partition as an accomplished fact. It didn't seem to occur to the organisers, Galway University Labour Party, that republicanism was a part of the left. The Saturday afternoon session on the North, 'originally

titled *A Problem Without a Solution for the Left*, was changed at the last minute to *A Problem With a Solution* but no-one thought to invite Sinn Fein and most of those present didn't have any answers.

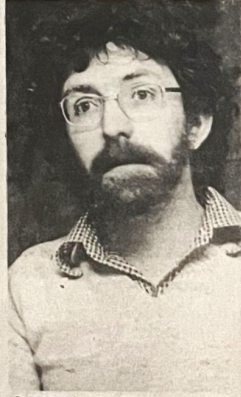
Fergus O'Hare, ex-Belfast city councillor, provoked a storm of outrage when he called on the

conference to come to terms with the military struggle and to adopt an anti-imperialist stance. Most speakers in the discussion which followed were unaware that discrimination against nationalists is just as bad as it was 16 years ago.

As long as the left remains restricted to the reformist and partitionist ideas of the Workers' Party, the Democratic Socialist Party and Labour (all of whom actually were invited to the conference) Irish workers can have little trust in it.



● MICHAEL D. HIGGINS



● FERGUS O'HARE

Imeachtaí

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

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring The Rake & Ramblers
8pm Friday 20th March
Pike Inn
Mulgrave Street
LIMERICK
Taille E2
Organised by Sinn Fein

ANTI-APARTHEID PUBLIC MEETING
Women in the struggle in South Africa
Speaker: Shirley Mashiane (ANC)
8pm Friday 20th March
ATGWU Hall
55 Middle Abbey Street
DUBLIN
Organised by Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement

IRISH FOLK NIGHT
Friday 20th March
Central Bar
CUSHENDALL
County Antrim
Taille E2

CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK '87
Saturday 21st March to Sunday 29th March
DUBLIN
Details page 14

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

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

BALLAD SESSION
8pm to 10pm Sunday 22nd March
Killinarden Inn
TALLAGHT
County Dublin
Taille £1.50

SUPPORT ROBERT RUSSELL ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET
10.30am Monday 23rd March
High Court
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein

PHILIPPINES PUBLIC MEETING
Speaker: Jose Maria Sison (Philippines People's Party)
8pm Monday 23rd March
Samuel Beckett Hall
Trinity College
DUBLIN
Organised by the Irish-Filipino Solidarity Group

PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS BENEFIT
8.30pm to 2am
Monday 23rd March
DUBLIN
Details page 14

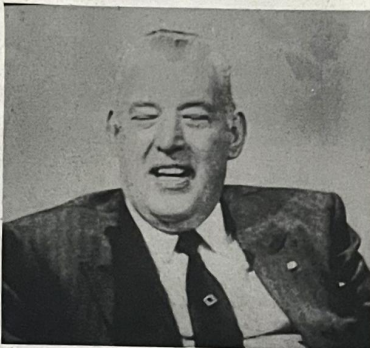
SUPPORT PATRICK McINTYRE ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET
10.30am Wednesday 25th March
Bridewell Court No.4
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein

SINN FEIN FUNCTION
Music by Na Lads
Friday 27th March
Slabh an Iarrain Hotel
BALLINAMORE
County Leitrim

WELCOME HOME SOCIAL FOR MICKY BURNS (Ex-Portlaoise POW)
Saturday 28th March
Castle Inn
Christchurch Place
DUBLIN
Taille E2

Mála Poist

AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



RTE Disgrace

A Chairde,
After watching 'Saturday Live' on March 7th, I feel that RTE is an absolute disgrace to this nation. To think that hundreds of Irish people have been brought to court and heavily fined for not paying TV licence fees.
Paisley ran down through the times he has been to Dublin (as we all know, he sneaked in and out) and said he had come to preach, RTE handed him another preaching trip on a plate.
Speaking on the Hillsborough Agreement, Paisley asked if the people of the 26 Counties would allow the British government to come over here and run the state with Thatcher as joint taoiseach.
Well, Dr Paisley, the Dublin government is not running the Six Counties and, if anything, Garret FitzGerald in signing the Agreement has signed over more rights to the RUC, the British army and Orange bigotry.
How many people have been extradited from the Six Counties to the 26 Counties in connection with loyalist bombings in Dublin?

As for RTE, I wonder if we will have another surprise family introducing TV chat shows. Or perhaps I can make another suggestion to RTE. How about a remake of the Rioridans with the royal family as the cast?
Mark Byrne,
Coolock,
Dublin.

Band Banned

A Chairde,
I am writing on behalf of the Billy Reid Republican Flute Band, Glasgow.
Recently our band has found itself in the position that it has been refused permission by the RUC to take part in the annual Easter commemoration in Belfast or indeed anywhere in the occupied Six Counties.
As the band has already made plans to travel to Ireland, we would be willing to take part in any Easter commemoration parade in the 26 Counties.
Anyone interested can contact the band through Sinn Fein Head Office at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.
Thomas Boylan,
Billy Reid Republican Flute Band,
Glasgow.

Pleasant Surprise

A Chairde,
I am an Irishman who has been living in Britain for 26 years and last year I had the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union and China.
What a pleasant surprise both countries were, having an abundance of parks, open spaces and leisure areas (even in city centres) and the people were terribly friendly (and

very knowledgeable about Ireland).
Most of all, there is work and a home for everyone. China can still manage this despite having a third of the world's population - and the people I met seemed to be more 'Christian' than those who usually style themselves as such at home.
Please don't take my word for it - go and see for yourselves.
It makes one think that Ireland could support its own people properly and there'd be no need for emigration if there weren't so many greedy people (many of whom call themselves 'Christians') about.
S. Meegan,
London.



allowed to deter us from reaching the socialist objective of bringing about a situation where women are recognised as people in their own right.
However, one obstacle stands in the way of my taking part in discussions on women's issues - I'm a man. I go along to meetings and exhibitions (such as that held at the SFX Hall in Dublin for International Women's Day) only to find that I am barred from learning more about discrimination against women and the problems they face because the events are for 'women only'.
By excluding men from the debate on women's oppression, organisers of 'women only' events are alienating those who wish to learn. We're not just brothers and sisters - we're comrades.
Sean Ryan,
Ballybough,
Dublin.

Election Fund

A Chairde,
I should like to thank all those who so generously contributed to the Sinn Fein Election Fund recently. A special word of thanks to the republican prisoners in Long Lartin and Sean Hayes in Albany.
Anyone still wishing to contribute to the fund is most welcome to do so and all donations will be gratefully received.
Monica Broly,
Sinn Fein Head Office,
44 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

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

Vol Tom Smith commemoration

REPUBLICANS must ensure that Charles Haughey and Fianna Fáil's claims to republican ideals and principles are exposed for what they are.

This was the call made by recently-released Portlaoise POW Johnny Johnson when he addressed the annual Volunteer Tom Smith commemoration in Dublin on St Patrick's Day.
Johnny Johnson pointed out that on the issue of extradition and Section 31 censorship, Fianna Fáil leadership figures had made strong statements while in opposition and must now be called to account. Over 100 people were present at the graveside ceremony in Glasnevin Cemetery on Tuesday, March 17th. Led by Fianna Éireann and the Tom Smith Republican Band the parade had marched from Berkeley Road Church to the resting place of Tom Smith, who was shot dead by Free State soldiers in Portlaoise Prison during an escape attempt on St Patrick's Day 1975.

Smith were as determined as ever in their harassment and suppression of republicanism.
Before the main oration, wreaths were laid by members of Tom Smith's family, Sinn Fein Councillor Christy Burke on behalf of the Republican Movement, and by Harry Fleming on behalf of the Clarke/Smith Sinn Fein Cumann, Finglas.

ORATION

In his oration, Johnny Johnson said that, in the 12 years since Tom Smith's death, the Volunteers of Ogligh na hÉireann have been "relentless in their pursuit of the enemy and have at times pushed the British to the point of collapse, sapping their morale and resolve and with operations like Mountbatten, and the Brighton hotel bombing of Thatcher and her Cabinet have shaken the British establishment itself to its roots".
He said that Sinn Fein had also shaken the establishment:

"However, despite our successes and the commitment of active members and supporters alike, a lot still remains to be done, as was shown in the recent general election - but it can be done and it will be done."
"We said before the election that there were no easy victories and we recognised that there are no short-cuts to achieving our goals. Short-cuts and trickery are for the con-men and women of Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil and their ilk. If the Haugheys and FitzGeralds are so confident of the people's rejection of our policies, then why do they need Section 31?"

FINANCING COLLABORATION

Chairing the ceremony, Niall Donnelly of Ballymun Sinn Fein said that working people in the 26 Counties were being penalised to finance collaboration with the British by the Free State army and the Garda. Those forces responsible for the death of Tom



● Niall Donnelly chairing the ceremony in Glasnevin Cemetery; (Inset) Johnny Johnson

Johnson said that Fianna Fáil's pre-election posturings on Section 31 must not be forgotten and that party must be forced to repeal the censorship law.

PORTLAOISE NOW

On the present situation in Portlaoise, he said that there are 12 men serving life sentences with no prospect of release. Some of these are into their 12th year and Michael Fox, who was sentenced to life imprisonment along with Tom Smith, is now into his 14th year.

"The Republican Movement calls

for the release of Michael Fox and release dates for all others serving life at present."

Johnson said that Fianna Fáil must also be brought to account on the issue of extradition:

"Robert Russell and Patrick McIntyre (both of whom are fighting extradition to the Six Counties) are not silver spoons to be wrapped and presented to Maggie Thatcher as a gesture of appeasement to the aggressor."

After the oration the commemoration ended with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by the Tom Smith Band,

REVIEWS

No option but the mill

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE LINEN INDUSTRY and shipbuilding provided the basis of the Northern economy for hundreds of years. At the height of linen production in the 18th Century it was said that enough linen thread was spun in Ulster, before lunchtime any day, to encircle the world.

Flax with Flair (BBC1, Tuesday, March 17th) was a documentary not just about the making of linen but about how it dominated the lives of entire communities and made fortunes for the mill owners.

Whole towns were built round the mills and it provided most of the employment. Workers were totally dependent on the mill, not only for a job but for housing as well.

A film from the '30s was shown in clips during the programme, a romantic portrayal of the industry from the happy peasants on the land growing and harvesting the flax to the "cheerful, winsome Irish girls making the cloth". Tuesday night's film showed the harsh working conditions in the mills and the miserable housing built by the mill owners. Spinners and weavers were interviewed and they talked about the long hours working barefoot and the terror of losing their jobs:

"There was no other option but the mill."
And that was only up to 30 or 40 years ago.

COLLAPSED

The industry collapsed in the

be made to support its production. It can create many jobs. But this time around, strong unions and modern techniques must make sure that the bare feet and bleeding hands of mill workers and flax pullers are bad memories.

A HANDY MACHINE

A video recorder is a handy machine, as I found out on St Patrick's Day when the various networks pulled the usual stunt of screening their films in or about the same time as one another. With the help of the video I was able to catch two of them: *The Women of Willmar* (Channel 4) and *Gorky Park* (RTE 1).

Based on a true story, *The Women of Willmar* was a film-documentary describing the heroic struggle waged by eight women for employment equality. Back in the 1970s, the women worked in a bastion of conservatism — a bank — in the equally conservative US mid-West town of Willmar.

As with women bank clerks throughout the world, they suffered years of ingrained chauvinism which kept them at the bottom of the promotion ladder while male clerks (whom they trained) were far better paid and quickly promoted.

Enough was enough and when the women discovered the extent of the bias against them they went to an employment equality appeals tribunal and onto the picket-line. The strike

right to employment equality for women had been firmly established.

For an Irish audience watching the courage and perseverance of the Willmar Eight it was impossible to forget the equally courageous struggle of the Dunnes' Stores strikers.

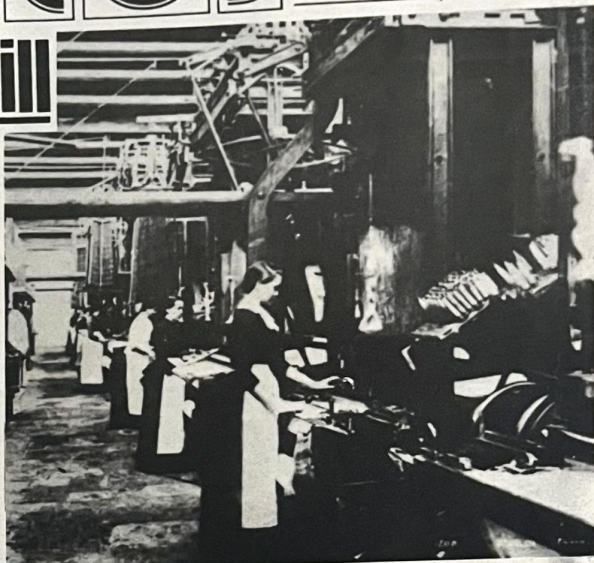
TAME STUFF

After the women of Willmar I must admit that I found *Gorky Park* fairly tame stuff (not to

mention fairly long-winded).

The discovery of three mutilated bodies buried in Moscow's Gorky Park leads to a major 'who dunnit?' which includes every stereotype under the sun.

When this yarn first appeared in book form it was a best-seller and I felt a bit guilty that I hadn't read it — now I'm glad. It's a watchable tale with nearly four hours viewing, but I don't think I could stand reading about it for weeks on end.



● Women linen workers in a mill in Belfast's York Street in 1890



TELEVISION

70s. The introduction of cheap man-made fibre in the '50s had started the industry's decline and there was no attempt by the governments of the time to save it, which was surprising since the mills were exclusively owned by rich Protestants, the descendants of planters of the 17th century and upholders of unionism.

The linen industry is recovering. Linen has been 'rediscovered' as a high-fashion fabric and top designers are now using it. A group of young designers were shown in Belfast, graduates from Belfast's Art College. Their obvious enthusiasm for using linen, a natural, home-produced material, should ensure the increasing popularity of the fabric. The linen industry will never again employ whole towns or make huge fortunes for mill owners, but every effort should

'If you didn't laugh you'd cry'

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IF YOU Didn't Laugh You'd Cry is the title of a new video, the first to be produced by a group of women from the nationalist Lower Ormeau district in South Belfast.

Through a series of interviews, local women reveal the brutal nature of British repression and loyalist sectarianism while still showing they can see the humorous side of events in the North. Hence the title, and as one of the women says:

"You either laugh or you cry, so you may as well laugh."

One of the most striking merits of the video is the sheer down-to-earthness which exudes from the women who come across as though they were chatting to you in your own living-room. You can immediately identify with the characters and, more importantly, with their day-to-day problems living in an area with few social amenities and which is vulnerable to loyalist and crown force repression.

The tiny nationalist Lower Ormeau area is a relatively new community. It was entirely Protestant until the loyalist pogroms of 1969 which resulted in drastic overcrowding in nationalist areas in other parts of Belfast. The Protestants in the Lower Ormeau gradually moved out, not through intimidation but to what they considered safer Protestant areas. Their houses were soon filled by nationalists.

Visuals of children playing alongside the heavily-polluted River Lagan and women with children precariously crossing the main Ormeau Road, a main arterial route through Belfast,



VIDEO

very effectively show some of the problems confronting local residents. Coupled with this, the district is surrounded by loyalist areas and is regularly patrolled by the crown forces.

STORMONT'S ATTITUDE

As one of the women explains, when the Protestants moved out, the attitude of Stormont and the crown forces changed, searches and raids began but the Lower Ormeau was far from being regarded as strongly republican. Fifty nationalists from the district have been shot in loyalist attacks. Describing one of these terrifying incidents, Marie McManus recalls that she had to laugh at a woman in front of her who tried to shield herself from the bullets "with an umbrella". To protect another woman, Marie jumped up and struck her "a big dig" and put her on the ground.

"She crawled into the hall of the bakery shouting, 'I'm hit! We examined her but there was no blood. There wasn't a mark on her — it was just me punch-



ing her on the mouth, but I kept saying to the Peeler, 'Oh mister, she's shot and her ma'll kill her!'"

Another woman, Geraldine Fitzpatrick, described a lengthy raid on her home by British soldiers. She was pregnant and in the house with her two young children. Both had to be

lifted from their sleep. The camera switches to the children — a nice touch. You can almost see their mother wakening them and understand her frustration. The commanding officer orders a soldier to search the ashes in the fire. Turning to him, Geraldine retorts in the only way she can:

"That's good, he can light it while he's at it."

"He wasn't too pleased," she smiles at it.

'THE LITTLE PEOPLE'

Then there's the one of British soldiers breaking into Daisy Clifton's house, allegedly in hot pursuit of 'a man'. They

searched clothes, drawers and even put their hands into a pair of boxing gloves looking for "him". Daisy's husband, Jimmy, mused:

"He must've been a queer small man when they were looking in the boxing gloves for him. Maybe he was one of the little people."

While it wasn't funny at the time, Daisy says:

"It'd make you wonder is it the English who are stupid or are we — which way is it?"

The video is riddled with such gems, so more subtle than others but always entertaining and with a lesson to be learnt in them all.

Between the interviews, political events move fast with some excellent footage of women protesting from the Civil Rights days to women participating in the armed struggle. Other issues, such as the cold-blooded shooting by the RUC of local youth Michael McCartan in 1980, the hunger-strike, provocative loyalist marches and the Hillsborough Agreement all gel together and leave us in no doubt that the women in the area gained a lot of their political awareness through hard experiences.

There are striking scenes of the women protesting and being attacked by the crown forces when they blocked roads in protest at young McCartan's death. Dolores Rea, one of those who organised the protests, points out that the RUC man who shot him was praised while "peaceful protestors were dragged off the streets like bags of coal".

One of this video's strongest merits is that women are speaking out and doing so with a natural confidence about things that are relevant to their lives and their community — and they have a lot to say so don't miss out.

If You Didn't Laugh You'd Cry. All enquiries for copies to Just Books, 7 Wipe-in hot pursuit of 'a man'. They

Palestinian refugees' benefit

AN ALL-STAR LINE-UP will be staging a benefit concert in Dublin's Barry's Hotel next Monday night to raise funds for the Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) organisation for relief work in the besieged refugee camps in Beirut.

Although international pressure has forced the Lebanese militias besieging the camps to allow some food in, the 35,000 inhabitants of Bourj al-Barajneh and Shatila are still suffering from malnutrition. In February, refugees in Bourj al-Barajneh decided that one member of each family would fast to the death so that the others would survive a little longer. Initially, 400 Palestinians took the decision to starve but the number grew to 1,500.

CONDITIONS

Dr Swee Ang, a Hong Kong-born orthopaedic surgeon and a MAP team



leader in the camps, told a London press conference three weeks ago of conditions there:

"There was water and electricity, but when the siege began the water was

switched off and the electricity was cut."

Cold weather and the continuing siege took a tremendous toll on the people. Cats and dogs had to be killed for food and then the rats that infested the rubbish dumps littering the streets became the staple diet.

Over 100 cases of typhoid have been diagnosed at the Shatila camp and bronchial pneumonia, chest infections and skin diseases are rife. Children are naturally bearing the brunt of the suffering, diarrhoea and violent vomiting becoming commonplace.

Palestinian babies are barely surviving on tea and water. Pregnant mothers are also suffering malnutrition and there's a high rate of ante-natal haemorrhage.

MAP says that its London office has had reports of death through starvation

and cholera may have broken out but medical workers there don't possess the necessary equipment to diagnose such an illness.

LINE-UP

Monday's benefit stars The Fleadh Cowboys, Sackville String Band, Scullion, Mic to Minor, Kieran Halpin, The Dickeyman, Joan McDermott, Mary and Dermott Stokes and Oisín. Compete for the night is Eamonn McCann and tickets cost £5 (£3 unwaged) which includes a Palestinian meal.

Tickets are available from the venue itself, Barry's Hotel, Great Denmark Street, Dublin; the Palestine Information Office, 79 Merrion Square (phone 762959); or John Hedges, Sinn Fein, 44 Parnell Square (phone 733441/747611).

8.30 to 2am Monday 23rd March
Tudor Rooms
Barry's Hotel
Great Denmark Street
Dublin
Taille £5 (£3 unwaged)

SF trade unionist in Scotland

SCOTTISH Labour Party and trade union activists gave Dublin Sinn Fein trade unionist Niall Donnelly a warm reception when he addressed a fringe meeting at the Scottish Labour Party Conference in Perth last week.

Up to 100 people attended the Labour Committee on Ireland meeting which was held in Perth Town Hall on Saturday, March

14th. It was chaired by Councillor Jim MacKeshnie of the Labour Party. Another councillor, Les Robertson of the Scottish Exec-



● NIALL DONNELLY

utive, and Margaret Stewart of the Scottish Campaign Against Strip-Searches was also on the platform.

On the Hillsborough Agreement, Niall Donnelly told his audience that all it had brought to nationalists was "death at

the hands of sectarian loyalist killers, destruction and the intimidation of hundreds from their homes.

"The Hillsborough Agreement's alleged benefits represent nothing more than crumbs from the imperialist table."

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination and harassment at work was also a major theme of the meeting. Stressing the need for British withdrawal to be raised within British trade unions, Donnelly said:

"Discrimination in jobs is rooted in the British presence and will only be finally eradicated when national democracy is restored."

"The McBride Principles on fair employment when applied

to workplaces in the Six Counties expose the sectarian nature of that state."

Questioned on the position of the Workers' Party, Donnelly said that they had long abandoned opposition to imperialism and betrayed Irish workers by promising the false concept of 'democracy' within the irreformable Six-County state.

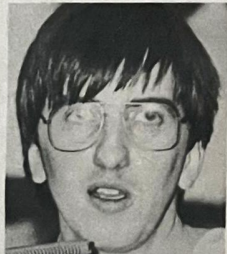
On trade unions in the North, Donnelly said that the conservative nature of many of them reflected their membership and the loyalist domination of the shop floors where they organised.

Niall Donnelly's address was very well received and he felt that the meeting had been a positive contribution to the ongoing movement towards British Labour Party support for withdrawal.

US university meetings

SPEAKING at the prestigious Duke University, North Carolina, on St Patrick's Day, Sinn Fein cultural spokesperson Mairtin O Muilleoir said that all Irish-Americans should be outraged at Garret FitzGerald's claim that the unification of Ireland was the business of future generations.

By stating clearly that the Hillsborough Agreement is not designed to achieve Irish unity, Garret FitzGerald has helped dispel some of the myths spun around the Agreement by the SDLP that the Hillsborough Agreement is the first step on the road to Irish unity. O Muilleoir told an audience of 350 students and lecturers at the university:



● MAIRTIN O MUILLEOIR

idea of abandoning the work of the Irish revival."

FIRST IN YEARS

O Muilleoir is the first Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle member to have addressed American audiences in recent years. Later this week he will speak at meetings at two other universities in North Carolina and at Georgetown University in Washington DC. As well as speaking on the politics of Sinn Fein, O Muilleoir, an executive member of Conradh na Gaeilge, will be raising funds for Irish-language nurseries in Belfast.

"Could anyone imagine George Washington in 1774 telling John Paul Jones or Samuel Adams that they should forget about the American War of Independence for a hundred years or so? If Garret FitzGerald's political antecedents had adopted the same stance there would have been no withdrawal by Britain from 26 of Ireland's 32 counties in 1921."

"And what of the Irish language? If we leave the revival of the Irish identity and culture to future generations' the language will be dead. Such a prospect obviously causes no concern to Garret FitzGerald. Northern nationalists who, like Pearse, believe the successful restoration of the language can only be accomplished in a free Ireland, balk at the

CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK 87



MARCH 21-29

Saturday 21st March	Thursday 26th March
11 a.m. "Launching of Central America Week" Street Activities	11 a.m. Videos and Exhibition on Central American Countries.
	8 p.m. "Overview on Honduras" Speaker: Cathiona Ruane, Trócaire.
Sunday 22nd March	8 p.m. "Guatemala" Speaker: Sr. Joanna O'Connor.
4 p.m. "Opening of Exhibition on Central America"	
4.30 p.m. "Poetry, Short Stories and Impressions" by Kieran Furey	Friday 27th March
6 p.m. "Introduction to Central America" Speaker: Pat Hudson, OFM.	11 a.m. Videos and Exhibition
	5 p.m. "Life in Solaniname" Speaker: Pat Ruane. Afternoon open until 5 p.m.
Monday 23rd March	8.30 p.m. Central American Party. Food, drinks and a lot of music (Salsa and Cumbas)
11 a.m. Videos and Exhibition on Central American Countries	
8 p.m. Slideshow "El Salvador and Nicaragua — A Comparison" Speaker: Mark Turpin, Oxfam.	Saturday 28th March
8 p.m. "Innocent Blood" Talk on Nicaragua by Michael Bowler. Journalist recently returned from Nicaragua	A workshop will be held on the work of the Sanctuary Movement. Guest Speaker: Sr. Darlene Nicgoriski from the USA. The workshop will be held on different premises. Please contact: Debbie Donaldson, Tel: 331 1685 from the Irish El Salvador Support Committee.
Tuesday 24th March	
11 a.m. Videos and Exhibition on Central American Countries.	Sunday 29th March
1 p.m. "El Salvador" Video and Talk by the Irish El Salvador Support Committee.	A peace-rally to commemorate the 7th Anniversary of Archbishop Romero's Assassination will be held at the US-Embassy at 3.30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Sr. Darlene Nicgoriski, a founder member of the Sanctuary Movement. * The Sanctuary Movement is organized by church and lay people to give sanctuary to refugees fleeing from the war situations in Central America. Most of these refugees are from El Salvador.
8 p.m. Mass To commemorate the 7th Anniversary of Archbishop Romero's Assassination. St. Clare's Convent, Harold's Cross, Dublin 8. Sr. Margaret McGill will give an address on her recent visit to El Salvador	
Wednesday 25th March	
11 a.m. Videos and Exhibition on Central American Countries.	
1 p.m. Nicaragua — Returned workers talk on coffee brigades.	

Sandwiches and Coffee will be available at Luncheon. All activities will take place at 29 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 763695



THE FLYING COLUMN

THE FERMANAGH HERALD provided an interesting contrast last month.

On February 7th, the *Herald* ran a story at the top of page 2 headlined "Murderers 'stooped to level of beasts' - coroner" which reported the inquest into the death of 24-year-old Edward Love.

Love was shot five times in Ennis-killen in a sectarian attack by Mark Trotter and Robert Kenny, who were given life sentences on September 26th 1986 for the murder, among other offences.

Mark Trotter was a member of the British army's Royal Engineers at the time of the murder; Robert Kenny was a member of the UDR.

Immediately beneath the inquest report, taking up almost half a page, is a recruiting ad for the UDR headed: "The two faces of responsibility."

AND LAST WEEK, UDR soldier Cyril Rainey, of Moorlands Road, Ballymena, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of a 33-year-old barman, James Galway, in September 1982.

According to Rainey, he met Lenny Murphy (the notorious UVF 'Shankill Butcher') at a Shankill Road social club. Murphy asked him if he knew anywhere he could 'dump' something. Later that night, the UDR man met Murphy and two others (one of them the victim) and took them to a building site in Boughshane, near Ballymena, where he worked.

As they walked along, Murphy pulled out a gun and shot Galway in the head at point-blank range. The body was then buried at the building site.

Rainey had been the O/C and weapons officer of 'D' Company of the UDR in the Ballymena area. He also pleaded guilty to other offences including robbery, having guns and training others to use them, and unlawfully collecting from UDR files the names, addresses and photographs of 'republican sympathisers'.

THE TWO FACES OF RESPONSIBILITY



SECRET DOCUMENTS collected by a former British Intelligence corporal on suspected republican activists while he served in the Six Counties but handed to a 'Walter Mitty' friend to impress him ended with the not-so-intelligent corporal being jailed for a year last week under the Official Secrets Act.

Mark Jackson (30), of Rockwell Green, Wellington, Somerset (formerly of British Military Intelligence, the Royal Military Police, the UDR in Dungannon and Armagh, the Avon & Somerset Police, and the RUC) pleaded guilty to two charges of unlawfully retaining and communicating intelligence documents to Julian Ritchie (formerly of the racist Rhodesian army and Rhodesia's British South Africa Police), who was described in court as "simple and inadequate".

The documents were discovered by panic-stricken police and Intelligence officers after a drunken Ritchie phoned the local Peplers, claiming that he was an ex-SAS man who had been fired at in his home by a gunman. The attention-seeking Ritchie soon sobered up under the bright lights of the local nick and squealed on his source, Jackson, who was serving with the RUC in Belfast at the time, was immediately flown back to face the music.

The crown prosecutor is understood to have been most concerned that if the documents had found their way

into the hands of the IRA then informers' lives could be endangered.

The original documents are in the hands of British Intelligence. Aren't photocopiers wonderful machines?

TWO SCOTTISH LOYALISTS who financed a gun-running operation from the profits of massive heroin deals were jailed at the Old Bailey in London last Friday, March 13th.

James Norwood (38), of Hackney, East London, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for offences including possessing firearms (an SLR rifle, two Magnum revolvers and a sawn-off, pump-action shotgun), ammunition and £20,000 of heroin with intent to supply. (In 1974, Norwood was jailed for five years for petrol-bombing a Catholic school in Glasgow and daubing it with the initials of the Ulster Freedom Fighters.)

David Percy (37), a flute player in a Scots Orange lodge band, of Shettleston, Glasgow, was jailed for four years after pleading guilty to firearm offences.

William McLeish, a "prominent Scottish loyalist" who had met the two men before they were arrested, was released when he "refused to answer questions and police could find no evidence against him".

"The UDA's former 'supreme commander' in Scotland, Roderick MacDonald,

was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment last July for possession of heroin.)

EX-PRISON OFFICER Emmanuel Ian Fisher (34) has returned to his former environment and once more donned a prison uniform - but this time he won't be going home for the evenings or weekends for a couple of years at least.

Fisher, of Boomhill, Drumahunchoon, Portadown, was jailed for 3½ years at Armagh Crown Court last week for killing a 23-year-old man in a car crash on the main Armagh-Portadown road last June while he was drunk. The judge told Fisher - who had been a prison officer for 12 years - that "the court's sense of outrage is increased by the accused having two previous convictions for drunken driving in the six years prior to the accident".

He was given a concurrent two-year sentence for drunken driving and disqualified for 20 years.

DÉJÀ VU?

Picking up a copy of the *Irish Times* last week I read:

"With the election moving into its closing stages during the weekend, there still is no evidence that the public welcomes the task of having to make a difficult choice, the more difficult because of the absence of any real political issues between the main parties."

"In the Fianna Fail camp, optimism is being tempered by the hope that the party may be able to resume power with the assistance of some Independents."

The report was dated May 26th 1951.



Economically and politically, Ireland is becoming barren, like a bogside with its turf banks long stripped...

The Dublin government, resigned to domination by Britain and lacking the energy to carry on the drive for unification that is the core of Irish patriotism, might as well be an annexe of the British Embassy.

- Colman McCarthy, Washington Post.



One would think that planting the bombs that killed people in Dublin might concern the government or even call for action. Instead they turned their deafest ears to the confession of Captain Holroyd that M16 instigated the terrorist killings, armed the UVF hit-men, and ran agents in key positions South of the border.

The outgoing Justice Minister [Alan Dukes] dismisses Captain Holroyd's evidence, saying he has no proof. He has got the information handed to him on a plate; it's up to him, and his successor [Gerry Collins], to take it up if he really wants proof or disavowal.

The British government denies being involved. That reminds you of the Prof-umo-Christine (or was it Mandy?) affair; when the minister denied knowing the lady she replied:

"Well he would, wouldn't he?" - George Rice, Kerry's Eye.



My friend and former colleague, Alan Dukes.

- British Minister Nicholas Scott, writing in *The Guardian*.

