

AN  
**PHOBLACHT**  
 Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
 POLITICAL WEEKLY



**Wolfe Tone**  
 COMMEMORATION  
**Bodenstown**

**Sunday**  
**21st June**

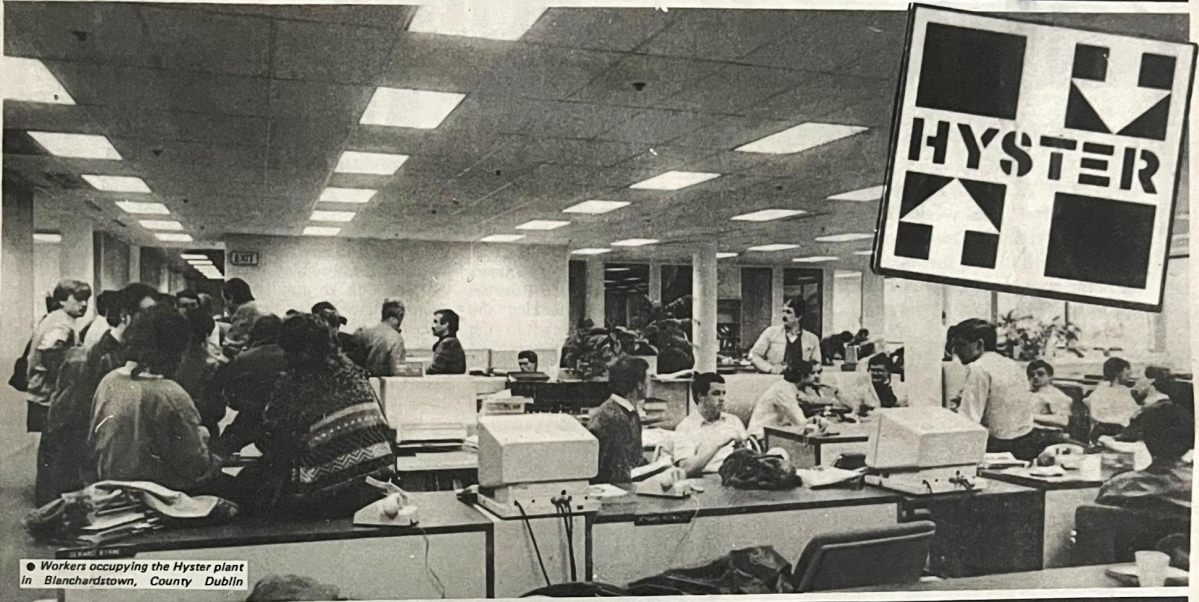


Assemble 2pm

SALLINS Co. KILDARE

MAIN SPEAKER: RITA O'HARE

Sraith Nua Im! 9 Uimhir 23 Deardeoin 11 Meitheamh Thursday 11th June 1987 (Britain 35p) Price 30p



Workers occupying the Hyster plant in Blanchardstown, County Dublin

# MULTINATIONAL SCRAP-HEAP

**MORE IRISH workers were this week thrown on the multinational scrap-heap when another foreign company packed its bags and its profits and left our shores.**

A blunt announcement greeted over 240 workers at the Hyster factory in Dublin when they turned up for work on Wednesday morning. The multinational bosses told them their

services were no longer required and they were laid off pending the complete closedown of the factory. The Hyster honeymoon was over. It had begun in 1982 when the plant opened in Blanchardstown. It was funded to the tune of £17 million by the Industrial Development Authority — taxpayers' money handed with no strings attached into the multinational coffers.

Five years later, the company has decided to pull out and dump its workers on the dole queue. The shocked workforce staged a sit-in at the multi-million pound plant, holding out

for increased redundancy payments which are the only comeback they, have from the bosses who ditched them.

#### TYPICAL

The Hyster company is typical of the high-technology multinationals on which the Dublin government relies almost totally for its employment policies.

It was a company which refused to allow trade unions to organise on its shopfloor, its US management controlling 'works committees' which are now increasingly used to reduce

workers' powers within the multinationals.

The story of Hyster is the story of many another fly-by-night multinational, North and South, that has pulled out after creaming off profits at the expense of Irish workers. In fact, Hyster itself has a plant in Craigavon, County Armagh.

Successive Dublin governments have poured millions upon millions into the pockets of foreign companies through the IDA. Their disastrous industrial policies have served to boost unemployment and waste money which should have been

used to create permanent jobs through native industry. In the Six Counties, multinationals have been used by the British government to maintain the facade of the artificial colonial economy. Workers there have also been victims of this policy of reliance on multinationals, a policy which the SDLP supports.

For the workers in Hyster there was no consolation this week from the IDA (which was "surprised" at the closure) or from the Fianna Fail government which remains committed to letting the multinational rip-off go on.

DUBLIN AP/RN PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

THE 747611 number for AP/RN's Dublin office will be changed on either June 13th or 14th to 726100.

# OPINION



## WOMEN ON TRIAL

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding the trial and acquittal two weeks ago of the man accused of raping a Cavan woman last December has centred on the fact that the senior barrister appointed to prosecute the case was not in court for most of the trial.

The Bar Council, the representative body for barristers, reacted to the public outcry at the conduct of the case and held an inquiry into it. Predictably, the barrister at the centre of the row was cleared by them of any negligence. And the media, fearful of litigation already instituted by the barrister, Paul Carney, against two newspapers, quickly backpedalled on any criticism.

But what is at issue here is not just one barristers' performance in this particularly horrific rape case, or just a particular judge's summing up. The real issue is the attitude taken by the whole panoply of the law, including the legal system, to rape and to violence against women.

*Women, particularly poor women, and even more particularly 'deserted wives' and 'unmarried mothers', are not important in the eyes of the state. They have no clout and no power, therefore they have no protection.*

*As was obvious from this trial and hundreds of others before it, they are also left open to the insinuation that they 'asked for it'. It is the victim who is on trial.*

The ordeal for that Cavan woman has not ended. She has had to leave her home, afraid to live there any more.

*Until the system changes, the only protection she and all the other women at risk have is from their community. The law cannot protect her because it is not designed to protect her and her right to live without fear of attack and the perverted and violent abuse of rape. The courts are not designed to redress any wrong done to her.*

*The whole system must be changed.*



# British soldier killed

A BRITISH SOLDIER was shot and killed by the IRA in a sniper attack in Belfast on Thursday morning, June 4th. He was the second member of the Queen's Lancers Regiment to be killed this year.

The previous night, at around 11pm, Volunteers took over a flat in Rossnareen road, overlooking the main Shaw's Road in the nationalist Andersonstown area.

At approximately 10.30am the following morning, the

Volunteers observed two British army jeeps coming from the direction of the Lenadon Estate. Two British soldiers were standing on the back of the second jeep acting as look-outs. As they passed the flat, a Volunteer, using a high-velocity rifle,

fired a single shot from the window at one of them. The Volunteer immediately withdrew and several other shots were fired at the jeeps by other members of the IRA active service unit covering the operation.

The soldier, who was hit in the neck, died almost immediately.

Minutes later, the entire area was sealed off and saturated with reinforcements, including helicopters. Roadblocks were set up and scores of houses were searched in the Rossnareen area and in the nearby Lenadon Estate. However, in a statement later, Belfast Brigade said its Volunteers had "safely evaded capture".



# MAN SURVIVES LOYALIST MURDER BID

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A WEST BELFAST lorry driver has survived an assassination attack by loyalists.

Eamonn Burns (37) works for the Ulster Bottling Company on Colinglen Road. Just before midday on Monday, June 8th, he was reversing his lorry into the works yard when he was hit by a burst of gunfire from a passing car. Around 30 shots were fired at him through the windscreen of the lorry and he was hit in the head, face and body.

## AMBULANCE

Although stunned and seriously injured, he managed to climb out of the cab and was quickly

helped by other workers who heard the gunfire. Shortly afterwards, an ambulance rushed him to hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. His condition was described as 'ill' but although he remains in intensive care his life is not believed to be in danger. Burns is a married man with one child from the nationalist Kashmir Road area of Belfast.

A director of the Ulster Bottling Company, Denis Murray, explained that Eamonn Burns "drives all over the country for us... I can't think of any reason

why he should be shot, he's only a driver doing his job." But as Sinn Fein's Lagan Valley candidate, Pat Rice, observed, the assassination bid was the latest in a long list of nationalist either killed or injured by loyalists in the 18 months since the signing of the Hillsborough Treaty:

"According to the SDLP, Irish unity is not worth one life yet for its own selfish political survival 'it defends this agreement which is a 'bulwark against a united Ireland' and has cost 19 lives, scores of injured, hundreds forced from their homes and now the serious wounding of Eamonn Burns."

BY  
HILDA  
MacTHOMAS

# Rounding on Sinn Fein

EVE OF POLL statements, apart from Sinn Fein's, were unanimous: "massive swings" had been detected "on the doorsteps" for... the SDLP, the unionists, the Alliance Party, the Workers' Party and Robert McCartney. Where all these eager new converts were going to come from, the over-confident party leaders did not say.

The unionist campaign proceeded sedately through the four weeks with the sole aim of maximising the unionist vote in safe unionist constituencies so as to boost continued and united opposition to the Hillsborough Agreement. North Down, with the interruption of maverick Robert McCartney, was the exception and a split loyalist vote gave Alliance Party leader John Cusnahan his first realistic hope of a seat for his party. But all unionist eyes were on the British opinion polls and the narrowing margin between the Tory and Labour Parties: a block of 13 or 14 unionist MPs could not be discounted in a hung parliament.

In the two 'marginals' of South Down and Newry/Armagh, where the SDLP hopes to respectively gain and retain a seat, the 'peace-loving' SDLP chose to make a sectarian 'keep the Prod out' appeal on the canvass. But the unionist candidates in both these constituencies refused to be interviewed on British TV and radio, thus depriving SDLP candidates of air-time also by virtue of the Representation of the People Act.

The SDLP campaign was a very defensive one throughout. Unable to boast much about the Hillsborough Agreement, it resorted to name calling and ill-argued attacks on its political oppo-



ents. It attacked Sinn Fein for its boycott of Westminster but, when Gerry Adams pointed out the SDLP leader's dismal record of voting and attending at Westminster, all Hume could do was produce a computer print-out allegedly listing his written questions. Written questions do not require attendance. MPs ask hundreds of them for their own research work.

Sinn Fein also forced the SDLP to issue numerous statements about job discrimination, all of which failed to properly justify why it refuses to support the MacBride Principles and why it so trusts the British government's intentions regarding fair employment. Meanwhile, the British government department in charge of employment, the Department of Economic Development, is facing a scandal of its own regarding internal

discrimination against Catholics for senior posts.

## BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE

The SDLP has increasingly showed itself as being the British government's favourite party. Last Friday, former deputy direct-ruler Nicholas Scott was quoted in the *Irish Press* as announcing that the parole system for long-term prisoners would be re-examined after the elections. Coincidentally, on the same day, the very same Nicholas Scott declared to the *Irish Times* that the British government had not altogether closed the door on three-judge courts.

Predictably, the next day, Scott's words figured on the *Irish News Front* page, coupled with some SDLP quote

crediting this new development to the Hillsborough Agreement. This cheap electioneering on behalf of the SDLP reminded one of the SDLP's outrageous promise shortly before the Hillsborough Treaty had been signed of "100 prisoners released by Christmas".

Meanwhile, the SDLP made no secret of whom it was rooting for in the British elections. Extremely annoyed at the declarations of the British Labour Party deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, who last week admitted that a Labour government would have to talk to Sinn Fein, Seamus Mallon attacked Labour's "Cromwellian" mentality, hinting that a Thatcher victory was a much better prospect for Irish nationalists.

A Labour administration which might do deals with the unionists or might include people who would 'talk to Sinn Fein' is nothing less than frightening for the SDLP.

## HIERARCHY

As for the Catholic hierarchy, it was prevented from making its now traditional appeal to its flock not to vote for Sinn Fein because of a blunder by Fine Gael Deputy Paddy Cooney, who last Friday called on the hierarchy to remind Catholic voters that "support for Sinn Fein is morally wrong and incompatible with membership of that church". For the church to have anything to read out in that line at the following Sunday masses would have appeared so blatant as to be counter-productive. But there were other ways to help. In West Belfast, Fr Des Wilson accused the church authorities of supplying the SDLP with lists of people who were incapacitated and would require postal votes, an accusation which surprised no-one and drew no comment from the church's press office.

# THE REAL TERRORISTS

BY MAIRTIN MacDIARMADA

THE LEADERS of the world's richest countries met in Venice during the week and among the items they discussed was 'terrorism'. But the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Japan did not deal with the real scourge of international terrorism - nuclear weapons, state repression and the denial of peoples' rights to national self-determination.

The definition of terrorism used by the states represented at Venice is confined to the methods used by the legitimate national liberation and resistance movements and to the occasional individual acts of terror carried out by such groups as the Red Brigade, the Baader Meinhof group and others. The most widespread form of terrorism is that which holds the people of the Third World to ransom through economic exploitation, nuclear terror and militarisation.

Earlier this year, an International Conference on Terrorism and Liberation Movements was held in Geneva. It was organised by the International Progress Organisation based in Vienna and which has consultative status with the United Nations. At the conference a document entitled *The Geneva*

*Declaration on Terrorism* was drawn up. This declaration clearly sets out the position of the majority of the world's population in relation to the powerful states who dominate militarily and economically.

## STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE

Pointing out that the people of the world are "engaged in a series of struggles for a just and peaceful world based on fundamental rights now acknowledged as sacred in a series of widely-endorsed international legal conventions", the declaration mentions in particular the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, the Palestinian struggle and the struggles of the people of Central America.

It goes on to say that the most flagrant type of international terrorism consists of preparations to wage nuclear war and unless a



holocaust against the people of the world:

"The terrorism of modern state power and its high-technology weaponry exceeds qualitatively by many orders of magnitude the political violence relied upon by groups aspiring to undo oppression and achieve liberation."

## STATE TERRORISM

The declaration defines state terrorism in all its aspects - all of which can be found in Ireland. These include police state practices ("fear by surveillance"), censorship, false and mass arrests, show-trials, assassinations, covert operations and denial of civil rights.

The second section of the *Geneva Declaration* deals with

national liberation movements. It says that people fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation "have the right to use force to accomplish their objectives within the framework of international humanitarian law."

"Such lawful uses of force must not be confused with acts of international terrorism. Thus, it would be legally impermissible to treat members of national liberation movements in the Caribbean Basin, Central America, Namibia, Northern Ireland, (our emphasis), the Pacific Islands, Palestine and South Africa, among others, as if they were common criminals."

The declaration states that a liberation fighter when captured should be treated as a prisoner of

war and "if found in a neutral state should not be subjected to extradition to the belligerent state". Extradition of republicans to the Six Counties by the Dublin authorities contravenes this principle.

The role of the media is also dealt with and it is pointed out that the international media "specifically ignores or underestimates institutional forms of terrorism, preserving the term instead for national liberation movements and their supporters".

The truth of this statement can be seen in the media coverage of this week's Venice summit and its discussions on 'terrorism'. The real victims of international terrorism - including the Irish - remain effectively voiceless.

# No sale for slum

**DUBLIN CORPORATION** has refused to buy Buckingham Buildings, the North Inner City flats complex where tenants continue to endure slum conditions.

Talks took place between Dublin Corporation and the owners of the buildings, Lanswick Properties, about their purchase, but with an asking price of £200,000 and increasing demands for their complete demolition, the Corporation turned down the offer.

At a meeting of the City Council's Housing Committee recently, Sinn Fein Councillor Christy Burke condemned the proposal to buy the buildings. He said that no public funds should be paid to slum landlords and the Buckingham Buildings should be demolished and their tenants rehoused in the Inner City.

Burke also called on the Corporation's chief medical officer and health environment officer to declare the buildings unfit for human habitation when they inspect them. If this was done it would have the effect of cutting across the continuing legal battle over the future of the flats and would lead to demolition.

## FIRE HAZARD

Meanwhile, a judge has issued a Fire Order against Buckingham Terrace, which is also owned by Lanswick Properties. The judge said that the structure of the terrace constituted a fire hazard and ordered that immediate alterations be carried out.

Tenants living in the bottom half of the terrace, which is below ground level and where there was a fire several months ago, have to live in almost permanent darkness and there is also a sewerage problem in the houses.

After the court order, the landlords served a notice to quit on the Buckingham Terrace tenants. At a special meeting, Christy Burke assured the tenants, many of them elderly people, that they could not be evicted.

## EAST WALL

After a long campaign the people of Dublin's East Wall area have succeeded in having the City Council erect ramps to prevent cars from speeding through their streets and endangering lives.

Christy Burke, who has backed the campaign since it started, welcomed the development as "a victory for the people of East Wall".

## TORTHAÍ CRANNCHUR

**Republican Raffle**  
Week 3 Gerry O'Brien, c/o Club, 5 Blessington Street, Dublin; Washing Machines: Bruce, c/o Brendan Corry, Cork; Microwave: John O'Connell, Castlelyons, County Cork.

Strabane Sinn Fein monthly draw  
May £50: Ultan McNulty, Strabane, £25: Naomi Maguire, Strabane.



# CAVAN RAPE PROTEST

**WOMEN** protested outside Leinster House this week to highlight the injustice of the Cavan rape trial.

Women Fight Back, the group which organised the picket on Wednesday, June 10th, called on Leinster House deputies to initiate proceedings for the removal of Judge Frank Roe who presided at the trial.

They also pointed out that women rape victims get

a raw deal from the courts, are not believed, and are subjected to abuse and harassment in the course of trials:

*"If every time a man's car was stolen he had to go through the same ordeal, you would soon have a change in the law."*

Women Fight Back also

voiced support for changes in the Criminal Law (Rape) Act 1981 which have been demanded by the Rape Crisis Centre. These changes include the broadening of the definition of rape, the criminalisation of rape within marriage, non-admissibility of victims' past history or social behaviour as evidence and the right of rape victims to their own legal representation paid for by the state.



## RENT STRIKE OVER?

**FOLLOWING** the indication by the Fianna Fail government of its willingness to negotiate on a new differential rents scheme, the National Association of Tenants Organisations has decided to end its 26-County-wide rent strike.

The move comes after talks with NATO resulted in Fianna Fail Environment Minister Pádraig Flynn giving an assurance that a new scheme would be hammered out if the strike ended.

NATO General Secretary Matt Larkin told AP/RN

that this represented a "major breakthrough" as it removed the automatic right of city and county managers to impose rent increases and restored NATO's position in negotiating rents.

NATO has decided to end the strike on Monday,

June 22nd, with tenants paying rents at the old rates which operated before the increases were imposed. The organisation is also seeking a 12-month period for making back payments of rents due during the strike. It remains to be seen if these conditions will be agreed to by the Fianna Fail government which may try to force a complete payment of rents at the increased rates.

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**AN CUMANN CABHRACH ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL DINNER**

**THIS YEAR'S** An Cumann Cabhrach annual testimonial dinner will be held, as usual, on the eve of Bodenstown, Saturday, June 20th, at the Belvedere Hotel, Great Denmark Street, Dublin. Dinner will be served at 7.30pm.

The honorees at this year's dinner are:-

Ulster: J.B. O'Hagan  
 Munster: Benny Ryan  
 Leinster: Jack McGuinness  
 Connaught: Jim McCafferty  
 USA: Alex Murphy

Tickets cost £11 each and, to avoid disappointment, should be booked immediately from Bob Smith at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

# Maskey leaves hospital

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ALTHOUGH REQUIRING further medical treatment for his serious wounds, Sinn Fein Councillor Alex Maskey decided to leave Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital on Monday morning, June 8th, for his own safety when administration there refused to transfer him to a secure section of the complex.

Maskey, who had been in intensive care for the past 17 days since he was shot in the stomach by loyalists at his Andersonstown home, slammed the administration in the hospital.

He said they operated a discriminatory system whereby secure units were "exclusively reserved for members of the British crown forces". Doctors at the hospital had recommended that he remain there for a further week and he requires another operation shortly and a lengthy recovery period. But since the shooting of Gerry Adams MP in 1984 (again by loyalists), the hospital administration's former policy of providing a secure unit has been changed.

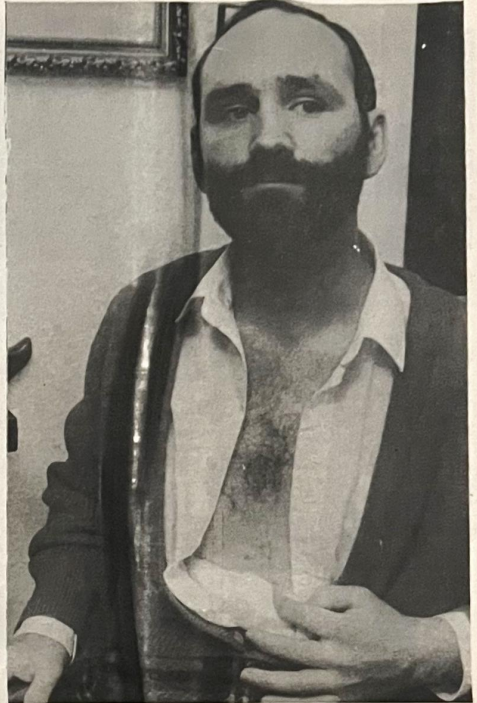
## DETERMINED

Speaking to the press from his home, Alex Maskey appeared remarkably well, although pale, and he praised medical and nursing staff for their care and attention. He also spoke strongly about his determination to continue articulating the republican viewpoint in spite of the assassination attempt which, he believed, was carried out "by loyalists and the RUC who I think were very tied up in the attack".

However, the hospital administration had informed him last week that he was going to be transferred into an open ward on the ground floor which was easily accessible to the public and therefore exposed him to the risk of being targeted by loyalists again. Maskey pointed to the assassination of former Sinn Fein vice-president Maire Drumm who was shot dead by loyalists in such an open ward in the Mater Hospital on October 28th 1976.

Maskey continued:

"The administration was unable to provide a secure unit for me to stay in, indeed these units are exclusively reserved for the crown forces and I feel the



administration has a responsibility to protect people like myself and others who find themselves in this position. I wouldn't have expected any security from the RUC but the doors of the secure unit at least are locked and I would have had my family and

friends."

Speaking of his plans for the future, he told reporters he would be seeking medical treatment "somewhere very secure" but would not go into detail for his own security.

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, the trial in Belfast of 18 of the original 38 H-Block escapees has heard evidence from a score of prison warders and dealt with events in phase three of the escape — the seizure of the main gate which includes the tally lodge (a small building through which prison personnel entering or leaving the jail must pass for security clearance).

Phases one and two of the escape (the cool and well-planned seizure of H-Block 7 and the commandeering of a food lorry in which the 38 republicans reached the main gate area) have already been outlined in detail by prison warders who showed glaring contradictions in their evidence.

Equally, the past fortnight's evidence from them has shown there was collusion between them and the RUC in collating evidence in order to implicate the escapees. The RUC had shown some warders photographs of the escapees which also bore their names. A series of 'half sheets' (short statements used by warders to record any incident, which are for internal prison use) also showed contradictions when compared to statements later made to the RUC. The controversial Hennessy Report statements have still not been produced for the defence, presumably because they would almost undoubtedly expose even greater discrepancies in accounts from prosecution witnesses.

### PHASE THREE

The court heard that the food lorry containing the escapees arrived in the van pool area near the tally lodge and a number of prisoners disguised as warders got out the back door. A POW dressed in a warder's uniform who had travelled on the floor of the cab in the lorry got up and sat in the passenger seat.

## H-BLOCK ESCAPE TRIAL

He told the driver to proceed to the first gate of the security 'air-lock', arriving with the other uniformed prisoners who were indistinguishable from real warders. As another warder went to open the gate, he was arrested by a POW while more of his comrades simultaneously entered the tally lodge from the front and rear. The six or seven warders inside were taken by surprise and arrested by the POWs.

What is emerging is that the POWs were so well disguised and the warders were completely fooled. Some warders could not grasp the reality that an escape was in progress until weapons were produced. Others have said that they thought the whole affair was a British army 'exercise' staged for the benefit of 'raw recruits' and this resulted in some of them refusing to lie down in the tally lodge when ordered to by the escapees.

Indeed, one warder said he passed two disguised POWs and a bona fide warder inside the front gate. The warder with the POWs was actually being arrested by them but started struggling and "shouting at the top of his voice". When the passing warder hesitated, one of the disguised POWs said to him that they could handle it so he went on.

Moments later, when he himself was arrested, he realised he had been told this by Brendan Mead (this warder later changed his mind about Mead and named another POW instead).

Scuffles broke out between prisoners and warders on the open path between the tally lodge and the main gate during which five warders were injured. A warder was shot in the leg while trying to overpower an escapee and four others, including Warder Ferris who later died and whose killing 16 of the escapees are charged with, had "puncture" wounds. These were later described as not being serious in nature.

Although the scuffles occurred directly under the noses of troops in a British army observation post, the escapees gained control of the position and ordered the warders into the tally lodge where they were ordered to lie on the floor. The tally lodge became increasingly overcrowded with captured warders, each arrested on entering.

With the POWs now finding it more difficult to control and watch their movements, an alarm was triggered. Security warders from the emergency control room immediately telephoned the tally lodge and enquired through an intercom system if anything was wrong

there. POW Bobby Storey allegedly instructed the warder in charge to answer these calls at gunpoint and to give satisfactory answers, which he did. The precarious situation in the tally lodge called for an immediate change of plan by the escapees.

The remaining POWs in the back of the lorry, dressed in civilian clothing, jumped out and ran through the main gate which was allegedly opened by 'Bik' McFarlane. They then made off across barbed wire entanglements into surrounding fields. Three of them, Robert Kerr, Dennis Summings and Eddie O'Connor, were overpowered and recaptured in or around the tally lodge. Just across the outside car park, Billy Gorman was caught when he became entangled in barbed wire and Harry Murray was shot by a British soldier just before he was out of range of one of the numerous British army posts surrounding the jail.

### POWs BEATEN

Mainly as a result of persistent cross-examination of warders by the defence, it emerged that in the immediate minutes after their capture, Kerr, Cummings, O'Connor and Gorman were brought to the car park. There they were stripped naked and spreadeagled on the tarmac, surrounded by a large group of warders.

The warders denied that they then physically abused the POWs, one saying "no comment" in reply. However, when he was again pressed about injuries to O'Connor's face and head and injuries to Kerr, he admitted that O'Connor's face was injured "all over" and "bleeding". Kerr, he said, was also injured and the prisoners were being verbally abused by the warders.

The evidence, as the trial completes its seventh week, is dealing with further details about phase three and phase four, the aftermath of the escape and the frantic attempts to recapture the escapees by crown forces.

# PORTLAOISE DEMANDS

RELATIVES of republican prisoners in Portlaoise picketed the Department of Justice in Dublin last week.

The relatives were calling for action to implement the Whittaker Report on the prison system and for the resolution of the outstanding issues affecting the prisoners and their relatives. The Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives' Action Committee wrote to the Fianna Fail Minister for Justice, Gerry Collins, in April and received no reply. In a further letter handed into the department, the PPRAC outlined its demands:

1. Life prisoners: Some men in

Portlaoise are now entering their 14th year in prison without any possibility of release, yet a previous Justice Minister said that a 'life' sentence in this state was seven to nine years. Obviously, republican prisoners in Portlaoise are being held as political hostages. We are campaigning for their immediate unconditional release and we will continue to do so until our goal is achieved.

2. Parole is another problem. Men serving 40 years are being

refused compassionate parole. The refusal of even compassionate parole for these men can be seen only as pure vindictiveness.

3. The amount of visits presently available to prisoners and their families is totally unacceptable. Due to the number of visiting boxes (three to facilitate nearly 100 prisoners) each prisoner can have only one visit every 17 days. This problem can be quite easily resolved and should be as a matter of urgency.

4. The practice of strip-searching is used on a regular basis. Our committee unequivocally con-



● The PPRAC picket on the 26-County Department of Justice in Dublin

dems this degrading act and calls for its immediate end.

At the Prison Officers' Association conference last year, a motion calling for an end to strip-searching was overwhelmingly passed by its members. In this day and age, modern technology

proves that there is absolutely no need for strip-searching. We see it as being used purely to degrade prisoners. The prisoners do not want it, relatives do not want it, and prison officers do not want it — it therefore should be stopped immediately.

# Repression increased since Hillsborough

BY BRENDAN KERR

*"THE REALITY is that, since the signing of the Hillsborough Deal, the repression of nationalists in the North has intensified and their nightmare has got steadily worse. The sectarian RUC and UDR continue to harass nationalist people. The government death squads are still in business, as we saw recently at Loughgall and Castlederg, yet Mr Lenihan had the nerve to condemn the republicans murdered by British occupation forces at Loughgall. If he and his government had been doing their business there would have been no need for those men to be at Loughgall and no place for British soldiers at Loughgall or anywhere else in Ireland."*

Community for Justice letter to Brian Lenihan, 26-County Minister for Justice.

PRIOR TO handing in the letter to Brian Lenihan at Leinster House on Monday, June 8th, the Six-County-based Community for Justice held a press conference in a Dublin hotel to challenge the "misrepresentation" of the position of nationalists by the Dublin government and the SDLP since the signing of the Hillsborough Treaty.

Refuting claims that the demolition of Divis and the apparent ending of paid-perjurer show-trials was anything to do with

the Treaty, Fr Des Wilson reiterated that "more than 1,200" nationalist families have been driven from their homes, harassment has increased, if anything (case histories were presented to journalists), and there have been no material benefits accruing to nationalists from the Treaty.

## INTOLERABLE

Fr Joe McVeigh, in his letter to Brian Lenihan, said:

*"It is intolerable that this or any other Dublin government not only allows a foreign government to torture and kill its own*



● Fr. Des Wilson and Fr. Joe McVeigh (second and third from left) at the Leinster House gates on Monday last

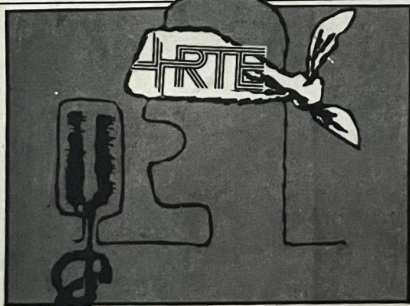
citizens but co-operates with this government in its gross misrepresentation of the real situation. The sooner the world knows the truth about this treachery by Irish politicians

the better."

Replying to a question from an Irish Times journalist as to what he would want to happen in the Six Counties "not to make things perfect but workable",

Fr Des Wilson said:

*"I have never seen any solution except that the British government detaches itself and does so in an orderly fashion — there is no other way."*



## Biased broadcasting

WHILE Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey was this week complaining of lack of coverage of him on RTE, the journalists in that station continued their disgraceful implementation of Section 31.

Once again in its coverage of the Westminster elections in the

Six Counties, RTE made no effort to give fair coverage to

Sinn Fein, even within the restrictions of Section 31. The lavish coverage given to the unionists (and in particular to the SDLP) was not balanced by reportage of Sinn Fein policies or statements. At the same time, viewers throughout most of the 26 Counties could see Sinn Fein election broadcasts and interviews on both BBC and UTV!

## CONTRAVENED

On Thursday, June 4th, a letter of protest was handed into RTE by Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle member Joe Cahill. The letter referred to the *Today Tonight* programme screened that evening which covered the West Belfast and Newry/Armagh constituencies. The letter pointed out that, in the context of the Six Counties, RTE coverage would be in contravention of the Representation of the People Act which compels news media to give fair coverage of all candidates. Also handed into RTE was

a profile and statement from Sinn Fein Newry/Armagh candidate Jim McAllister. Neither of these were used or referred to in the programme.

## MAYO AGAINST SECTION 31

The long list of local authorities calling for the repeal of Section 31 was added to last week when Mayo County Council expressed its opposition. One councillor compared Section 31 to South African censorship and said: *"It is a retrograde step in this country of ours if political views cannot be broadcast."*

Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey's complaints that his activities were not being covered by RTE were replied to by Sinn Fein which said that the party "finds it hard to sympathise with him."

*"Mr Haughey's protestations about the inadequacies of RTE can only be taken seriously when he puts an end to political censor-*

ship and repeals Section 31."

## DONEGAL ROW

The row over the Sinn Fein motion of sympathy to the victims of the Loughgall massacre continued on Donegal County Council when Fianna Fail and Fine Gael councillors again staged a walk-out. The chairperson refused to withdraw remarks he made which led to a walk-out from the meeting on May 25th. He had condemned Dublin government collaboration with the British and had described successive administrations as "rotten to the core".

On Monday, June 8th, the chairperson refused to take Fianna Fail/Fine Gael amendments to the sympathy motion proposed by Sinn Fein Councillors Liam McElhinney and Eddie Fullerton. The meeting had to be abandoned when the establishment parties insisted on their amendment being taken and then walked out when they were refused.

# Child assaulted

**A NINE-YEAR-OLD child was physically assaulted by the RUC and spent a harrowing half an hour in North Belfast's Oldpark Barracks on Sunday evening, June 7th.**

Sean Paul O'Riordan, from Clonard in West Belfast, was in the Manor Street area visiting his grandmother, Flo O'Riordan, when the incident occurred. He had gone out to play when children in the street began to throw stones.

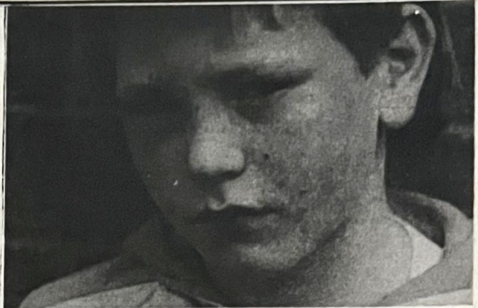
Suddenly, an RUC Land Rover came speeding down the street, screeched to a stop and one of the RUC began shouting, "Up

Paisley!" As the children scattered, one RUC man pulled out his gun and Sean stopped in fear, putting up his hands.

The boy was put in the back of the Land Rover and made to stand for the trip to the barracks. He was hit on the mouth and kicked on the kneecap by the RUC. Sean tried to give them his name and address so they could notify his family but the RUC refused to listen.

Sean's grandmother and his aunt, Siobhan O'Riordan, rushed to the barracks when they found out what had happened from Sean's sister. Inside they found him surrounded by eight RUC personnel who were pushing and taunting the frightened boy, calling him a "Fenian bastard".

The RUC threatened to hold Sean until his aunt said she would



● Sean Paul O'Riordan, aged nine, who was assaulted by RUC last Sunday

got a solicitor. Flo O'Riordan told AP/RN:

"It was a frightening experience for the child and who knows how long he would have been held if we hadn't known he'd

been lifted. They never bothered to ring me or his parents. One RUC man told me that he didn't care, he would lift any kids he liked. That's not right and it shouldn't be allowed."



● Sinn Féin election workers being harassed by British soldiers in North Belfast

# SHOTS FIRED AT ELECTION WORKERS

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

**IT WAS A SURE BET that crown forces aggression would escalate and intensify in the final stretch before polling day on Thursday in the North.**

Sinn Féin election workers were shot at in County Tyrone, a South Armagh Sinn Féin polling agent is still being detained in Gough Barracks, and two Sinn Féin candidates came in for harassment.

On Friday, June 5th, four election workers putting up posters along the Ballygawley to Augher road in County Tyrone had a narrow escape when shots were fired at them by the RUC. Drawing up in an armoured car, the RUC fired several shots into the air before discharging another two shots at the group. The RUC drove off and, although the workers were shaken by the incident, poster-putting was recommenced.

The following day, while Jim McAllister was canvassing with his election team in Chapel Street,

Newry, an RUC Land Rover that had been following them suddenly revved up and drove straight at them. Local election worker Davey Hyland, who didn't see the Land Rover, was alerted by the shouts of his colleagues just in time to jump clear. The RUC then drove off.

A Sinn Féin polling agent, Martin English, was arrested from his Jonesborough home on Sunday morning and taken to Gough Barracks under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. English was to have acted as polling agent for McAllister in the Forkhill area.

At 10pm on Monday night, three Sinn Féin election workers were stopped by the British army/UDR in Dungannon and after being verbally abused were arrested and taken to

Aughnacloy UDR base. Sinn Féin's candidate in Fermanagh/South Tyrone, Paul Corrigan, and Councillor Pat Cox, went to collect the three from Aughnacloy when they were released at 2am.

However, when the entire group were coming away from the base they were again stopped and all five held in Aughnacloy until later that morning before being finally released.

## THREATENED

Sinn Féin members, including Monaghan County Councillor Caoimhghin O'Caolain, were threatened by the RUC's DMSU on Tuesday night while canvassing outside Castletwellan. O'Caolain, who is helping in the South Down campaign, said he was threatened that if he crossed the border again the loyalist Third Force would 'get' him. The Sinn Féin group was ordered from the car and detained for an hour while the vehicle was

searched, purposely holding up canvassing.

Meanwhile, in Derry that morning, an RUC man head-butted Sinn Féin's Foyle constituency candidate, Martin McGuinness, who was canvassing people coming from a DHSS office.

McGuinness, Sinn Féin Councillor Gerry Doherty and other election workers were detained at the junction of Great James's Street/Queen Street. Their names and addresses were taken by an RUC man who verbally abused McGuinness when he reminded the RUC they were deliberately interfering with his campaign.

The RUC ordered everyone out of the car but as McGuinness stepped onto the pavement an RUC man lunged forward and head-butted him in the face. A crowd quickly gathered and, after being subjected to further verbal abuse, McGuinness and his team got back into the car and continued canvassing. Sinn Féin will be lodging an official complaint with the electoral office.

## TRICOLOURS STOLEN

On Tuesday afternoon, the RUC told election workers erecting Tricolours and election banners in nationalist areas of Derry that they had "no right" to do so. In the early hours of Wednesday, the RUC then stole three banners and all the Tricolours along the "expressway". Martin McGuinness said that the incident made a nonsense of the SDLP/pro-British propaganda that the repeal of the Flags & Emblems Act was a major gain for nationalists or that the RUC was not sectarian.

In East Belfast on Wednesday, Sinn Féin candidate Joe O'Donnell accused the RUC of systematically harassing his election workers by serving summonses on two dozen homes in the Short Strand area. The RUC threatened the election workers with court action for conducting a canvass in the area the previous night!

# COUNCIL VICTORY

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

**SINN FEIN Councillor Francis Mackey was elected chairperson of Omagh District Council at the annual meeting on Monday night, June 8th. Mackey was elected by nine votes to eight for the Official Unionist candidate.**

The next afternoon, in the Magherafelt District Council meeting in County Derry, Sinn Féin Councillor Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde narrowly missed election as the council's chairperson when the outgoing chair, SDLP Councillor Mary McSorley, was re-elected. Mac Giolla Bhrighde went on to defeat the DUP candidate for vice-chairperson. He then proposed that no nominations be made to the Police Liaison committee which was defeated by the loyalist councillors after McSorley and another SDLP councillor abstained.

Last week, Sinn Féin's Paul Corrigan was elected to the chair of Fermanagh Council by 12 votes to 10.

# COMBAT DISCRIMINATION

**SINN FEIN has launched new proposals to combat job discrimination against nationalists in the Six Counties.**

The proposals were unveiled by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams and Sinn Féin's candidate for East Belfast, Joe O'Donnell, at a press conference on Friday.

Sinn Féin is calling for:

- 'Affirmative action' programmes, plus clear and comprehensive legislation based on the MacBride Principles.
- Adequate compensation and the right to anonymity for complainants.
- A legal obligation on all employers to end discrimination, with legal sanctions against offenders.
- Effective monitoring and outreach programmes to attract qualified job candidates from unrepresented groups.
- Preferential treatment between equally-qualified candidates in favour of grossly under-represented groups.
- Steps to locate industry more equitably.



● GERRY ADAMS AND JOE O'DONNELL



● Geraldine Ritchie explaining policy to two interested residents in the Model Farm Estate, Downpatrick, South Down



● Sinn Fein's Jim McAllister canvassing in Crossmaglen, County Armagh



● Martin McGuinness, stepping it out in Derry



● Gerry Adams amongst friends in West Belfast



# BRIT PRES CENTRE-

BY JANE PLUNKETT

AS THE FINAL HOURS of campaigning to day's Westminster elections sped by, as Sinn Fein posters were pasted onto gable wall stickers were distributed, the last det before the excitement of polling day itself, Sinn Fein were expressing satisfaction that the party a confident and disciplined contest, and in pushing the vital issue of the British Ireland to centre-stage.

This month's general election has been very different from previous elections, particularly the January 1986 by-elections, in that, from the start, Sinn Fein set a number of goals and stuck to them. In particular, many months of political discussion and planning resulted in a much more effective presentation of the republican case than ever before.

Sinn Fein's election manifesto was the most comprehensive yet produced by the party, and the most comprehensive produced by any party contesting these elections.

Sinn Fein's manifesto and its 14 candidates put to the

forefront the that the root political instab and the polit the North, lies the partition of maintenance o undemocratic ony.

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Sinn Fein thus obliged others to respond on the vital issues. Most notably the SDLP, which had hoped to masquerade behind the illusory 'benefits' of the Hillsborough Deal, was forced to defend its opposition to the eminently sensible MacBride Principles and its backing for British counter-proposals, and was exposed too on the fallacy that attendance at Westminster could bring benefits for Irish people.

The lacklustre performance of the unionist candidates was symptomatic of their negative and sterile outlook. As the struggle continues, the loyalist leadership will increasingly be exposed as political pygmies, incapable of giving proper leadership, especially to the Protestant working class whose real interests, as Gerry Adams pointed out this week, "lie within Ireland and not in the cul-de-sac of a British colony".

### TALKING

It is also significant that the only time the election in the Six Counties impinged on British campaigning was on the issue of talking to Sinn Fein.

For the record, both Tory and Labour governments have talked not just to Sinn Fein but to the IRA in the past, and they will continue to talk to the IRA and Sinn Fein in the future as the need dictates.

As Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president and sitting MP in West Belfast, pointed out in a final press conference on Tuesday:

*"We have put forward a plan for peace... Not one of the other parties has this policy. The talking is going to start, and Sinn Fein says it should start sooner rather than later."*

### HARASSMENT

As in every election, Sinn Fein has had to fight against the odds. Party election workers have, as usual, suffered extensive harassment by the crown forces. They have been shot at: West Belfast director of elections Alex Maskey and South Belfast election worker Brendan Davidson were shot and seriously wounded by loyalist murder gangs. Sinn Fein faced a hostile media which in some cases resorted to outright censorship. British government ministers, the RUC, 26-County politicians and members of the Church hierarchy intervened directly in the election in the hope of damaging Sinn Fein.

The key to this, of course, is that despite the suffering of so many people here, the British government remains utterly intransigent and remains as committed as ever to the Hillsborough Treaty, its latest counter-insurgency strategy whereby it hopes to 'pacify' the North and persuade nationalists to settle for some revamped version of the Six-County state, with inequality and job discrimination as firmly entrenched as ever. The British government's main interest in today's elections is



● A new mural in West Belfast shows what freedom holds for all

whether the Sinn Fein vote holds up.

*"I am confident that it will,"* Gerry Adams told reporters on Tuesday. *"I think that the aim of the British government and of our main political opponents will be thwarted by the one ingredient that they all leave out of their analysis - the nationalist and republican people."*

**IN AN EVE-OF-POLL statement, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams called upon nationalist people to reflect carefully on the interpretation which Britain will place on the way they vote. He said:**

● In 13 out of the 17 constituencies, nationalists have a choice of voting for a party totally dependent upon Britain and acceptable to Mrs Thatcher. Votes for the SDLP take the pressure off Britain and the British government will feel no need to act.

On the other hand, Sinn Fein, which is standing in 14

constituencies, is the only party which Britain takes seriously and that is because we are serious about achieving real peace.

No honest person could claim that Britain - with its jails, its guns and plastic bullets, its repressive laws and, above all, its historic record of total disregard for human rights in Ireland - is a force for good in the North.

In this election we have successfully raised the issues of national self-determination and job discrimination against Catholics. We have emphasised the importance of international pressure on the British government as a means of forcing change. After the election, in spite of the despicable attempts by the SDLP to sabotage growing support for the MacBride Principles, we will continue to lobby on the issue of discrimination.

Twenty years after the launch of the Civil Rights campaign, one of the main demands of which was an end

to discrimination, there is little to show in the way of change. Those who claim to have the ear of the British government, to have the floor of the House of Commons, have been completely derelict in their duty of fighting the nationalist corner. More can be achieved outside of the British parliament than inside it, and outside it, where one can maintain one's integrity, we will devote our energy to force change from the British on behalf of the nationalist people.

Before the next election we believe we will have made real gains in this area, whereas, if it was left to the 'good faith' of the British government, as the SDLP has done, it would be the next century before any changes were due.

This has been a successful campaign for Sinn Fein and our policy of active representation by working with people on the ground is the correct political approach in the circumstances of union with Britain at British gunpoint.

## A STRICTLY PERSONAL VIEW OF THE ELECTIONS

# Strictly for the birds

— BY A FLOATING VOTER —

**THE SUN** sank behind Mullyesh Mountain, the shadows climbed Slieve Gullion.

"Mallon," said a poster; "Caw," said a crow; "Ah-ho," said a cuckoo; "Grrake, grrake," said a corncrake.

Meanwhile, Jim McAllister put down the boot as six hooded men jumped out at him in the pouring rain at Ballymacnab. In his rearview mirror our brave man spots that the hoods are, in fact, Sinn Fein posters stapled into cocked hats, effective against rain, storm or attacks of wind. Reversing back, our candidate finds three Keady men and three Armagh men armed with ladders, having walked ten miles, disturbing the peace with the thump of their hammers and the slap, slap, slap of their paste brushes.

Having kept an eye on the weather, Tommy Carroll arrives and whisks away the Armagh team, carrying their light-weight aluminium ladder out the window, while Jim

drives off with the Keady men, their heavy wooden ladder hidden in a friendly hedge.

Elsewhere: "Mallon," says the poster; "Caw," says the crow; "Ah-ho"; and "Grrake, grrake, grrake," chorus the cuckoo and the corncrake.

### VERY RELIABLE

Meanwhile, in Camlough, home of radicalism and late opening, Denis Donaldson took his life in his hands and said "AP/RN print is very reliable." "Of course they are," said Eithne McAteer, taking Geraldine Ritchie's manifesto out from a bundle marked 'Newry/Armagh'.

"You'll get any assistance you need," said Joe Austin. "Finance," requested Owen Caragher.

"Right you are," says Joe and sends down a truly magnificent cheque for £100.

"Caw," said the crow. "Ah-ho," said the cuckoo.

Earlier that day: "I'm a Jehovah's witness," said the Banbrook woman.

"I'm from Carnally," said Steve.

"Yeze have a great day for the job," says a passerby.

"We can't interview you," says RTE.

"Vote for me and keep the unionists out," says Mallon.

"Vote for Sinn Fein and keep all the unionists out," says McAllister.

"Satan is walking the earth, maybe in the form of a politician," says the Banbrook woman.

"Definitely," says Tommy Carroll. "Did you ever hear of Maggie Thatcher?"

"Mallon," said the poster; "Caw, caw, caw," cried the Drumuckavall crow searching for his missing tree; "Ah-ho, ah-ho," said the cuckoo; and "Grrake, grrake, grrake," said the rest.

P.S. The crow in question is not based on a Dublin man said to have migrated to Newry for the season.



The Dublin region's only orthopaedic hospital (caring for spinal and limb injuries and deformities) will close for July and offer a reduced service in August and September. St Mary's Hospital in Cappagh, County Dublin, is losing over 40 staff. One sixth of the hospital's patients are children and many of the 1,500 waiting list for St Mary's are old people in considerable pain waiting for hip replacements. Navan, County Meath, will also lose its orthopaedic hospital during July and August. Liam Doran of the INO says: "In the Greater Dublin area there will barely be emergency cover available for July and August."

#### HEART OPERATIONS

There are 493 people in the 26 Counties awaiting heart by-pass operations and the cuts will mean they'll have to wait considerably longer. Rita O'Neill, a five-year-old Dublin girl, was due to receive hers on June 10th, but for the fourth time in 2½ years, it was postponed.

The cuts have also meant an extraordinary assault on nurses' pay. One hundred student nurses in Dublin's Mater and St Vincent's hospitals have had their pay cut from £125 to £50 a week during their first year of training. The pay cut also affects midwifery students in the National Maternity Hospital in Holles Street, Dublin. Many of these are already fully-qualified nurses with several years' service who wish to increase their qualifications.

Monaghan General Hospital, threatened with closure due to the cuts, was given a reprieve on June 3rd at a meeting in Leinster House between Monaghan councillors including Sinn Fein Councillors Pdraigín Uí Mhurchada, Owen Smyth and Pat Treanor, and 26-County Health Minister Róry O'Hanlon. O'Hanlon promised that the hospital would stay open despite the loss of certain posts. The meeting marked a break with the practice of the previous Coalition government which boycotted delegations which included Sinn Fein members.

Hospital cuts have been combined with the £10 hospital levy which can amount to a £100 bill for ten days in a public hospital ward. Low wage-earners who can't afford to pay it are being forced into the Voluntary Health Insurance system (VHI) under which they once again pay for a service they've already paid for through their taxes. Taxpayers, in effect, subsidise the VHI by paying 58% of its bills, but the VHI itself subsidises a very unjust health system.

It has meant a bonanza for hospital consultants. Many of these top doctors (educated at public expense) earn between £40,000 and £80,000 a year, but some earn up to £200,000. Their basic is between £27,000 and £35,000 for a 27 to 33-hour week. But VHI (and the kindly taxpayer) foots the bill for every single 'procedure' undertaken by a consultant (on top of this wage, removing a child's tonsils means an £84 bonus and a normal maternity delivery can net the consultant £112).

The 26-County government doesn't even know how much these consultants actually earn. Hospital consultants aren't the only ones to make a packet out of the health industry. A rash of private hospitals, catering for the very rich but paid for by the poor, has appeared in recent years. The Bon Secours Hospital in Cork, Calvary Hospital in Galway, and four Dublin hospitals, St Joseph's, Mount Carmel, the Mater Private and the Blackrock Clinic, are entirely concerned with private patients. But the 20,000-strong elite, whose VHI insurance covers them for such care, get a massive £3 million gift from the taxpayer through tax subsidy.

# Health emergency

BY TOM O'DWYER

HOSPITALS throughout the 26 Counties are to go on emergency-only service after the junior hospital doctors voted on Wednesday, June 10th, for all-out strike against the health cuts which will mean 200 doctors losing their jobs.

The 1,800 doctors below the rank of consultant perform vital medical tasks and are 'on call' for up to 80 hours per week. They are taking action against a government which refuses to negotiate and which is willing to put lives at risk rather than back down on its plans to cut £55 million from the health service. Thirty-three hospitals in all areas of the 26 Counties except the North-West have already been on emergency-only service for five days.

Nurses and other health workers are fighting back as well. The Irish Nurses' Organisation (INO) is now balloting its members on a proposal to step up its industrial action which has already closed hospitals throughout the 26 Counties for up to three hours at a time. If, as seems likely, the nurses accept the proposal, it could mean all-out strike action — the first of its kind in the history of the 26-County state. Liam Doran, INO industrial officer, says the action will be "the most radical ever". Nurses in 35 hospitals are now

working to rule and refusing any non-nursing duties.

The Alliance of Health Service Unions (AHSU) which unites almost all health service workers, plans a half-day work stoppage for June 24th with public protests in Dublin, Limerick, Cork and Galway. The Dublin Council of Trade Unions voted on Tuesday, June 9th, to support the action of the AHSU and to call on members of affiliated unions to strike in sympathy with the health workers.

#### CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

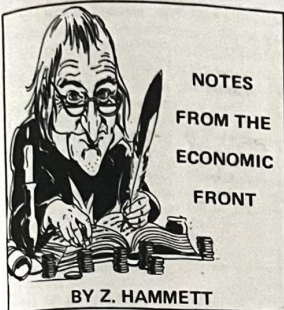
Children's hospitals were among the hardest hit by the government cuts. Temple Street in North Inner City and Our Lady's Hospital in Crumlin, both in Dublin, have especially suffered. More than 90 jobs and over 100 beds will be lost in Temple Street which caters for children from all over the Dublin region.

Our Lady's is to lose 150 of its 330 beds. Both hospitals have rigidly imposed cutbacks over the past year in order to keep within guidelines set up by the Coalition parties in government and were shocked to have further cuts imposed upon them. Temple Street faces a £650,000 shortfall and over two years has lost nearly half its beds. One ward has been converted from public to private care. "There are no delays for private patients," say ITGWU shop stewards at the hospital — for working-class children and their families, these cuts mean continued suffering.

An 800-strong demonstration was called on June 3rd to protest at the cuts hitting Our Lady's, which serves the entire Southside of Dublin and is the main acute children's hospital for all the 26 Counties. Marchers included community groups and one banner read: "St Theresa's Gardens Against the Cuts." Four wards at the hospital are to go by the summer with more closures in December. The children's casualty unit is to close at 5pm each day in a move which will surely put young lives at risk. Many wards are to close at weekends, leaving families caring for sick children in the home without any contact with the skills and experience of the nursing staff. Parents of chronically ill children will be unable to get the advice and support which they sorely need.

The Fianna Fail axe also hangs over Dr Steeven's Hospital where staff only learned of the hospital's closure when they read about it in the morning papers on May 28th. The closure, to take place in September, means the loss of a 250-bed hospital which houses the 26 Counties' only centre for the repair of cleft lips and palates and serves much of Dublin's Southside. Within the last two weeks Dr Steeven's has lost the state's main burns unit. A 30-year-old Donegal woman with burns over 45% of her body had to be refused admission last week when Letterkenny General Hospital tried to transfer her to Dublin for specialist care.

# FOREIGN DEBTS, DEBTORS, THUGS AND ECONOMISTS



I WAS leafing through one of our local publications recently when I came across an article about the foreign debt. This article was an excellent example of how the economists and the journalists can bend the truth about economic things.

The article started well enough. It quoted the fact that the 26-County state has the highest foreign debt *per head* in the world. We each owe 2,900 dollars to foreign banks. Every man, woman and child. By comparison, every Mexican owes 1,300 dollars. Every Brazilian owes a mere 730 dollars.

Now, these are quite shocking figures, so much so that I feel a great weight leave my shoulders every time I cross the border. As I sit, sipping my alcohol-free pint in my favourite Belfast shebeen, I take comfort in the fact that not only have I found a cheaper pint, but I also owe far less to foreign banks!

"Ah, but wait." I hear a voice, timid at first. It is the voice of an *economist* in the distance. It is the same economist who has been talking to the magazine I mentioned earlier. The economist is *insisting* that the Irish foreign debt is not so bad as the comparisons with Mexico and Brazil would suggest.

To quote the aforementioned magazine, "*economists insist*" that the comparisons with Mexico and Brazil do not provide a "*comprehensive comparison*".

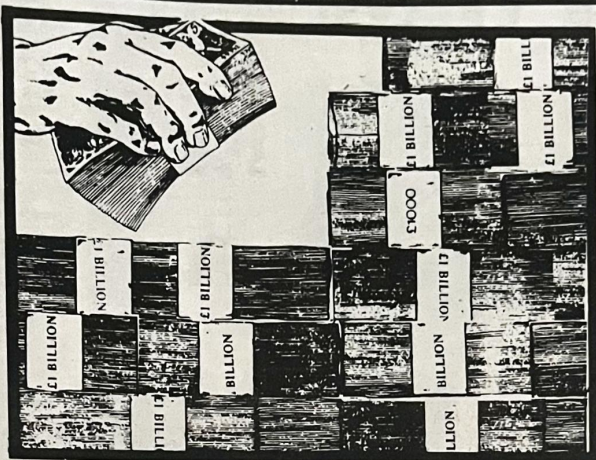
## VERY SUSPICIOUS

Whenever you read or hear *anyone* saying "*economists insist*" - take old Zed's word for it - get very suspicious. Think about whatever follows in the same way as you would think about a statement like "*leading astrologist says collision with Mars imminent*".

But getting back to what "*economists*" are insisting about the foreign debt. "*Economists*" are insisting that Ireland is in a far better position to pay back its debt than Mexico or Brazil. This is because Ireland exports so much. When we export we earn a lot of foreign currency - dollars, francs, shekels - and this foreign currency can be used to pay off the foreign debt.

According to the aforementioned article, "*economists*" are insisting that the Dublin government is on the pig's back, because it needs only 10% to 15% of the state's exports to make the payments on the debt. Brazil needs about 50% of its export earnings. Mexico needs 67%.

So much for "*economists*". Now let's see what the real connection between exports and foreign debt is.



It is true that there is a relationship between *foreign exchange* and the *foreign debt*. *Foreign exchange* is all of the foreign currency that is paid for Irish exports: the German marks that are paid for computers assembled in Ireland and the petro-dollars the Libyans pay for cattle fattened in Ireland.

Now the state needs all of these marks and dollars and francs for several reasons. It needs them to pay for imports. And it needs them to pay off the foreign debt.

Each year, more and more of our government debt is *foreign debt*. And more and more of our *foreign debt* is owed to private banks in Europe and the US. This debt is in the form of private loans, in Swiss francs, German marks, US dollars and Japanese yen. These are relatively expensive loans, with high interest.

For years, these private banks have been waving their money in front of the Irelands and Brazils and Mexicos of the world.

"*Easy money*," said the smiling international bankers. They are no different than the man who comes around to our housing estates to entice us to borrow some "*easy money*". They just dress nicer and have respectable names. The man carries a tyre tool, but the bankers have more respectable weapons to enforce payment.

"*Well, why can't we pay them back in punts?*" someone asks.

We can't just pay in punts because punts are no good to most foreign banks and exporters. Punts can only be spent in Ireland. And only in a part of Ireland! The Swiss and American banks can't use them. The people who send their goods to Ireland don't want them.

So, the more *foreign money* that comes to Ireland from exports, the easier it is to pay our foreign debt. *Then*, what is left over can be used to buy imports that we all need.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE & FOREIGN DEBT

"*Okay*," someone says. "*So the economists are right. We have lots of foreign exchange from all of our exports, so we are more able to pay our foreign debt than Mexico or Brazil.*"

Not quite. And the economists won't tell us why. They won't tell us because the answer involves our old "*friends*" - the multinational corporations, the Dublin government, the EEC and the US

government have spent so much time and effort getting multinationals *into* Ireland that they will not admit the havoc these foreign companies have caused.

Let's look at how the multinationals affect our exports and our ability to pay off the foreign debt. (My figures are based on IDA publications, not some "*left-wing loony*" source.)

Suppose a multinational company comes to Ireland to make condoms. Obviously, good moral Irish people don't use these condoms. So the company sells them in the US to the immoral Yanks for, say, one million dollars. The Dublin government and the "*economists*" (and even the bishops) are thrilled because Ireland is earning *foreign exchange*. The morals of the Americans are not their concern. (Don't laugh...Ireland is one of the world's leading exporters of birth control pills.)

Does this mean that we have one million-dollars that we can use to pay off our foreign debt? Of course not.

First, we have to subtract the 400,000 dollars that the company paid out to import the plastic and the machines it used to make the condoms.

Does this mean that we are left with 600,000 dollars to pay off our foreign debt? Of course not.

The average US multinational in the health products sector (including the condom business) in Ireland has a profit rate of about 33% of sales. This means our multinational company makes profits of about 330,000 dollars, which it sends back home to Chicago. This leaves...hmmm...600,000 minus 330,000 equals...hmmm...about 270,000 dollars that the condom company trades with the Irish banks for punts.

That leaves the massive sum of 270,000 dollars to pay off our foreign debts. So, as the "*economists*" say, Ireland needs only 10% of its export earnings to pay off the foreign debt. But the "*economists*" fail to add that it has available only about 25% of its export earnings to pay off the foreign debt.

## BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

But that's not the whole story. Not by a long shot.

Ireland has what the "*economists*" call an "*open economy*". This means that we make very few things ourselves. We import most of the things we have. So we need a lot of exports to earn the foreign money to pay for all those imports.

Countries like Brazil and Mexico have

"*closed economies*". They produce most of the things they need. Even most of their manufactured goods and consumer goods. The Brazilians and Mexicans need far fewer imported things than we do.

In other words, the Mexicans and Brazilians have less need for imported things, so they can *afford* to spend more of their export income on foreign debt. Now, don't get me wrong, neither Mexico or Brazil can afford their foreign debt either, but they are more self-sufficient than Ireland.

Furthermore, more of Mexico and Brazil's exports are natural resources. Mexico exports a lot of oil through its state-owned oil company, Pemex. The dollars the Mexicans earn from oil can be used to pay off the foreign debt or pay for imports.

Three quarters of the 26 Counties' exports are manufactured goods that are made by multinational corporations. As we already saw, most of the dollars that are earned this way are not "*ours*". They belong to the multinationals and are used by them to buy imports or are repatriated to the US. We *cannot* use these dollars to buy imports or to pay off our foreign debt!

## SO WHAT GOOD ARE ALL THESE EXPORTS?

So we can see that very few of "*our*" export earnings are actually available to pay off the foreign debt. The multinationals and other capitalists have first call on these earnings.

But once the capitalists have had their share, the banks are next in line. The "*economists*" keep telling us that Ireland, despite having its huge debt, is still considered a "*good credit risk*" by the foreign banks. This is because Ireland, as part of capitalist Europe, has always been a good little state. It has done what the banks and capitalists tell it.

In other words, Ireland *always* keeps its foreign debt payments to the foreign banks - even though there is precious little of our export earnings left to do it.

This leaves damn all dollars for us to buy all those nice imported items that we were promised to get as soon as we joined the EEC and became "*modern*".

So how can we buy the things we need (not to mention the *luxuries* that the boys and girls in Ballsbridge need)? Why, of course, we borrow more dollars and Swiss francs and go deeper into foreign debt.

Then, we have to use 12% of our exports to maintain the foreign debt. So we borrow some more francs and dollars...14%...francs and dollars...20%...dollars... francs...debts...round and round in a vicious circle.

This could go on for a long time. And the longer it goes on, the more of "*our*" income goes to the foreign banks and the less goes to the Irish people to buy the things that we need. As a result, Dublin governments introduce tough budgets. They cut back on social welfare. They freeze public sector wages. They force ordinary people to buy fewer imported things by forcing ordinary people to buy fewer things of any kind.

It is time that we throw in our lot with the other poor debtor countries of the world - against the international bankers and the developed Western countries.

It may be even better to begin considering freezing the debt repayments or even the repudiation of our foreign debt. Time to tell "*the man*" to go find another sucker. It is time to give the Irish people a hope of a decent life.

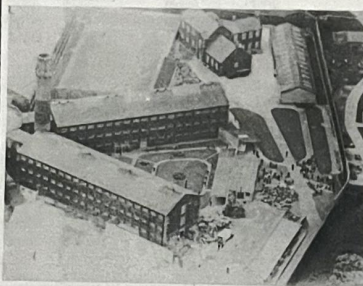


REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS has produced a special poster to commemorate the Loughgall Martyrs; eight brave Volunteers of Ogligh na hEireann who died while on active service on May 8th.

The poster, which includes details of each Volunteer's personal history and photographs of the eight, costs £1 and is available from 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, and 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast. (All postal orders should include cost of postage.) If you have any difficulty in obtaining your copies contact your local Sinn Fein cumann or AP/RN seller.

# Mála Poist

AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



## Crumlin Road intimidation

A Chaire, We are writing to express our concern at the present campaign of intimidation and harassment being waged by certain prison officers in the jail.

This campaign has consisted of many incidents of petty harassment, a continual flow of men to the punishment blocks and the needless removal of association and privileges from many others. The harassment appears to be orchestrated by a main senior officer who has himself taken part in the brutal beating of several republicans in recent months and is responsible for manufacturing the incidents in A-Wing out of which most of these beatings arose.

Although this senior officer was removed from the wing for several weeks, he has now returned with a vengeance and celebrated his return on Thursday, May 14th, by sending these republicans to solitary confinement on trumped-up charges which will also ensure loss of association and all privileges in the weeks to come.

This arch-bitch also has a detrimental effect on the other Screws in the wing. He is proof of the pride of place reserved for vindictive sectarian bigots within the prison system.

Republican POWs, Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast.



## Tired doctor

A Chaire, No-one could disagree with Dr Joe Hendron's declaration (after the shooting of Alex Maskey) that violence begets violence. But his re-echoing of the tired and customary SDLP insinuation, namely that

the prolongation of violence is governed only by the IRA, makes his rather timorous censure of the shooting look almost insincere.

Irish nationalists have no need to be reminded that violence begets violence, the truth of which they have been reminded in every decade by the graphic consequences of British occupation and armed rule in this country. Is it not now time for the SDLP to discontinue giving succour to the real perpetrators of the spiral of political violence which would surely come to an end with British withdrawal?

Sometimes one wonders which is more important to the SDLP and to British politicians: the destruction of republicans or the ending of the long war. Must that party continue to blame the underdog just as constitutional politicians blamed our forefathers who (we all like to think) fought the good fight in their time?

If our problem of political violence is not to be handed on to the next generation, and the next, to examine and confront its root cause is imperative. Centuries of neglect of this option suggests that it is the only beginning for a peaceful solution. In the continuing absence of such an initiative it is pointless and illogical to continue to condemn the desperate response of good people who endure the brand of the British military and political apparatus in Ireland.

An (Athair) Piaras O Duill, Baile Atha Cliath.

## Mail hold-up

A Chaire, Within the confines of this prison over the last few weeks the republican POWs have been receiving one letter per day per wing from a daily delivery of approximately 200. At the beginning of this week we made representations to the administration about the lack of mail being received by republican prisoners in all wings whereupon we were informed that, due to a shortage of staff, they were unable to staff the censor's office but that all mail concerning this wing (43 letters in all) was awaiting censorship.

The reason for this treatment of republican POWs stems from the fact that the Prison Officers' Association and the NIO have been at loggerheads with each other over staffing levels within the

prison, and being unable to rectify the issue outside the walls, the POA has taken its grievances into the wings and cells of republican prisoners in the hope that the disruption caused will strengthen its case for maintaining the present level of staffing an overtime. In the meantime, we are being denied our mail because of their greed (their average take-home pay is between £230-£290 per week).

The POA and the NIO are using the plight of republicans to deny them their fundamental rights under international law pertaining to the treatment and imprisonment of all persons. Britain is, of course, one of the signatories of the document but, as we know from history, any agreement signed by Britain is not worth the paper it is written on - more so if it concerns republicans.

Republican POWs, Long Kesh.

## Confusion

A Chaire, John Hume was given prominence in the Irish News letters column on May 20th to explain his party's opposition to the MacBride Principles on the grounds that they 'discourage potential investors'.

Mr Hume, however, claimed the SDLP is committed to a much more far-reaching set of principles, with penalties 'including withdrawal of government grants' for those who transgress them.

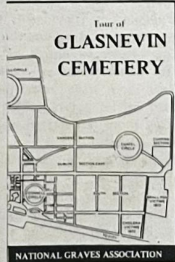
But obviously someone omitted to inform Austin Currie about this far-reaching commitment. The previous night he came on TV to champion that bastion of fair employment, the shipyard, calling for more government orders to secure its future.

Confusing, isn't it? Then again, coherent policies were never the SDLP's strong suit.

Many nationalists, particularly in East Belfast, have long lived in close proximity to the type of industries John Hume referred to. However, all but the tiniest amount have forever been denied employment.

The MacBride Principles are at least an honest effort to counter this traditional discrimination, yet this purportedly nationalist party not only opposes them but actually reinforces such discrimination.

Joe O'Donnell, East Belfast Sinn Fein.



## Glasnevin tours

A Chaire, For the past ten years, the National Graves Association has conducted tours of famous national graves and memorials in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery.

These tours were previously only conducted on Sundays in July but this year they will take place on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (beginning on Thursday, July 2nd) at 11am, lasting for approximately 1½ hours and visiting 34 locations. There is no charge but we will be selling a new illustrated booklet of the tour (there is, of course, no obligation to buy).

To facilitate us, could anyone wishing to go on the tour please book a place well in advance at the address below.

The sites to be visited include: the graves of Roger Casement, Anne Devlin, James Mangan, Michael Cusack, Noel Lemass, the Pearse family, the Manchester Martyrs and the Fenian and Republican Plots.

Seamus Mac Ciarnain, National Graves Association, 13 Glendale Park, Dublin 12.

## Boycott the Sun

A Chaire, "Great day. 'The death of eight IRA terrorists is the best news out of Ireland in years. They set out to murder and destroy; armed with deadly weapons, they gave themselves a far greater chance of survival than they would ever have allowed their victims. Only cowardly parasites of terror like Gerry Adams will be weeping.'

Sun editorial, May 11th. After reading the above editorial in the Sun, we, a group of people in Twinbrook, Belfast, find it necessary to express our disgust and anger through AP/RN.

We find this strike-breaking rag to be extremely racist, totally anti-Irish and sexist. We call upon shopkeepers to boycott this obscene paper and we ask for the support of the people in this campaign.

Don't be insulted and don't insult your intelligence by using this rag.

Proud Irish Against the Sun.

## Solitary

A Chaire, We should like to let your readers know that Vincent Donnelly (POW No. 274064) is presently in solitary confinement at Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Du Cane Road, London W12.

An Cumann Cabhrach, London.



A Chaire,

In the course of the last general election the Fianna Fail party made a lot of promises and statements about a variety of different things. One of the statements it made was with regard to health cuts - indeed it spent large amounts of money in posters and canvass literature advertising that same statement which said: 'Health cuts hurt the old, the sick and the handicapped.'

Since coming to power it has done so many U-turns that it is sometimes hard to remember all the promises they made. However, one U-turn more than any other affects virtually every member of the community, that being the one on health cuts. With one stroke of the pen Fianna Fail has put hundreds of people on the dole and thousands more at risk with these extreme health cuts.

Fianna Fail was not just happy with making cutbacks the order of the day, but had to introduce a taxation on sickness with a £10 outpatient's charge and a £10 per day in-patient's charge.

Enough is enough. The people can take no more of this behaviour by the politicians in Leinster House which enables one government to be brought down on its proposed budget only to allow the new government to introduce the very same budget with even harsher measures.

These health cuts do the exact opposite to what Fianna Fail led the electorate to believe it would do in power. They hit the very people that Fianna Fail claimed it was worried about: the old, the sick and the handicapped.

But it doesn't stop there, for anyone of us could need hospital treatment any day, though unless we can afford private care we will find ourselves with problems.

Sinn Fein supports all those employed in the health service in their struggle to keep their jobs and maintain the service at its previous level. These people do a vital job and it is up to every person in the country to do all in their power to support them.

Maitiu O Hanlaid, PRO, Meath Sinn Fein.

## Tribute

A Chaire, It is with the profoundest regret that we learn of the murder of our comrades Paddy Kelly, Padraig McKeeney, Jim Lynch, Declan Arthurs, Tony Gormley, Eugene Kelly, Seamus Donnelly and Gerard O'Callaghan.

Obviously the crown forces, although in a position to take prisoners, deliberately chose to murder our comrades. No amount of media hype, British propaganda and gloating at these cruel murders will blur over the plain truth that our gallant comrades suffered great personal sacrifices in playing their part in Ireland's struggle for freedom. They made the supreme sacrifice. Their example is a beacon to us all, whether POWs, IRA Volunteers, republican activists or nationalists.

Let us today rededicate and increase ten-fold our commitment to the ongoing struggle for national liberation and self-determination, that same cause our fallen comrades fought for so valiantly in life and paid so dearly for in death. Nothing less is a fitting tribute to these brave men. Their fight will continue to be our fight.

To the wives and families of our dead comrades, we offer our deepest, heartfelt sympathy.

Tyrone POWs, A-Wing, Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast.

ALL LETTERS should be clearly written or typed, double-spaced (one line of space between each line of writing), and on one side of the paper only.

Please try and keep your letters as short as possible. Names and addresses must be included, even when not for publication.

## Buses to Bodenstown

- Sunday 21st June
- Carlow
- 12.15pm Muine Bheag
- Taille E3
- Contact M. Aherm/J. Bolger
- 12.45pm Carlow Town
- Taille E3
- Contact K. Foley/J. Corcoran
- Clare
- 8am Ennis
- 8.30am Shannon
- Taille E7
- Dublin: Ballyfermot
- 11.30am Church of Assumption
- Taille E3
- Dublin: Ballymun
- 12 noon Shopping Centre
- Taille E3
- Dublin: Finglas
- 12.30pm Shamrock Pub
- Taille E3
- Dublin: Inchicore
- 12 noon Black Lion
- Taille E3
- Dublin North East
- 11.30am N'side Shopping Centre
- Cooleck
- 11.45am Kibarrack Fire Station
- Taille E3
- County Dublin: Ballybrack
- 10.30am Ramblers' Rest
- 10.40am Victor Hotel
- 10.45am Noggin Inn
- 11am D. Laoighaire (Eason's)
- 11.30am M'town Farm (Farmhouse)
- Taille E3.50
- County Dublin: Tallaght
- 12 noon Tallaght Village (H. Williams)
- via Killinarden, Fettercairn, Saggart and Píotin Still
- Taille E2
- Kildare
- 1.15 Athy
- Taille E3
- Contact P. Wright/L. Cunningham
- Limerick
- 9.30 Patrickswell
- 10am Penney's
- 10am Our Lady of Lourdes
- Church
- Details: Joe Lynch 061 41457

# REVIEWS

## Mixed feelings

BY JOE GABRIEL

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS, chaired by Olivia O'Leary on RTE 1 last Sunday night, showed us some new and refreshing insights into the way politicians will grasp at anything to allow them to hold onto a shred of credibility. Austin Currie (SDLP) was there as was Christopher McGimpsey (Official Unionist Party), Janet Hughes (FWUI) was the token woman, and Jim Downey (London editor of the *Irish Times*) completed the quartet.

The first question related to how the panel might feel about a Thatcher victory in the election. McGimpsey talked about his accident of birth, being born in the North and all of that. His contribution, I am sorry to say, sounded perfectly sane compared to what Mr Currie had to say.

Austin had "mixed feelings" about her coming back into power. She had one thing going for her - supporting the Hillsborough Agreement, and she hadn't given in to unionist blackmail. But then, on the other hand, there was the small matter of what she had done to the working class during her term of office; all the unemployment, poverty, etc. There wasn't even a mention of the Falklands, Westland, the miners' strike and a host of other decisions which showed her fundamentally flawed character. There wasn't a mention of the H-Block hunger-strikes. There wasn't a mention of her "security" policies in the Six Counties. And Austin Currie ended his contribution with the statement that he had a "certain partiality towards her". But there was more to come....

Jim Downey referred to McGimpsey as "a decent unionist". Currie delivered himself on the view that the union-



ists would, by September next, be sitting down and having discussions with the SDLP. McGimpsey said that he could live with the compliment that he was 'decent'. It was nice to see the three boys getting on so well.

This journalist was forced to absent himself from the proceedings for a while after that for reasons which I need not go into here. Upon returning, the happy four were nearing the end of their comfortable evening. There was another question. Should we change the national anthem? Doubtless this question was inspired by the recent *Sunday Tribune* editorial and not by the ructions in the rugby games. Currie wanted *My Lagan Love* in place of *The Soldier's Song*. Downey was of the opinion that Shaun Davey might make up some new words and music and McGimpsey plumped for *The Pride of the County Down*. Only Janet Hughes had guts to say that we already had a national anthem



● Austin Currie - a 'certain partiality' towards Mrs Thatcher

and that we should stick with it.

At the end of it all, the sight of Currie defending Thatcher was something which defies all logic. It came across as a last desperate attempt by the SDLP to tie itself to her apron strings, thus assuring a place at her table. How much longer must we put up with this awful party?

social commentators down through the ages.

The bold Patrick wanted to know why Margaret Thatcher didn't bury Sellfield waste at Number 10 if it was as safe as she seemed to think it was. "Well, why?" his short article ended. Well, Patrick, would you not be able to figure that out for yourself now?

He had more to say. The Welsh were "dirty, undisciplined animals" in the rugby matches recently. They should be "booted out of the game". Great stuff, Patrick, keep it up.

And then, 1967 was a great year, what with the Beatles, and flower power and all that sort of stuff. He said that "no movement before or since has been so comprehensively destroyed by the establishment as the hippie movement". That is bull, Pat. The 'hippie movement' destroyed itself, standing for very little. There was no political base. When the flowers withered and the establishment jumped on the bandwagon, there was nothing left to sustain. According to Pat, George Harrison still believed that all you needed was love. Pot and LSD were a threat to the establishment and "were not a threat to the physical well being of anyone". He ends this eulogy, with an "if only..." we could go back to all of that.

Patrick is also of the view that Gerry Adams should be locked up and the key thrown away, but that is nothing new. But we have a much better idea.

We think you should take a break Pat. It is obvious that the daily and grinding schedules of the *Evening Herald* are such that one simply cannot continue. By the way, Patrick Murray's column is supposed to be related to television. Don't bother watching it.

Patrick Murray works for the *Evening Herald*. He is a fine fellow full of wit and gay banter, and he has been known to take swipes at various movements from time to time. Ah, but sure, we won't hold that against him. Last Saturday, for example, he again gave us the benefit of his very interesting views in a manner and style to compare with the best of

## Ireland needs her back

BY MAIREAD Nic DHONNACHAIDH

IMAGINE, if you can, Tom Clarke being 'discovered' by someone from the Home Counties of England, who after two years produces a biography entitled *Revolving Tobaccoist*.

The reason for the biographer's interest? Not only that the ideals and achievements of Tom Clarke and his fellow revolutionaries have been well-nigh buried in a revisionist state. "He was English." What? Of course he wasn't (just happened to be born there), but then neither was Constance Markievicz (birthplace: London; upbringing: ascendancy, County Sligo). Diana Norman, however, has failed to grasp the wide world of difference between Anglo-Irishness and Englishness, and throughout her biography claims Constance for England.

Constance Markievicz and her revolutionary comrades, both women and men, who fought for the rights of women, socialism and the republic have indeed been minimised by most later general historians. Some have succeeded in reducing this outstanding figure to a mere footnote - one of the "unmanageable revolutionaries" (Dev's phrase, the title of Margaret Ward's fine book).

So, work to restore her to her rightful place is to be encouraged. Diana Norman's book is well written and an easy read. She derives a lot from the sound work of Anna Marreco, Jacqueline Van Voris



and Margaret Ward (and she does give proper attention to such as Margaret Skinner), but reading Desmond Greaves would have prevented the dreadful blunders about James Connolly. There is little to be learnt about Constance herself from her "political writings". Norman asserts, because they were "almost entirely propaganda". Really!

**SHARED ENGLISHNESS**  
Recently interviewed by another English woman journalist, Diana Norman expanded on the theme of the "shared Englishness" of her subject and herself. "As an Englishwoman I got a view of her I couldn't have done in Ireland. "Con was very English - slightly ridiculous, but didn't give a damn. She had English beliefs and a British outlook which she applied to Ireland." The interviewer noted that "successive generations of Irish politicians are unhappy with

advocates of women's history claiming an Irish revolutionary. The new edition of the *Prison Letters* has been attacked in *An Phoblacht* for its 'English-feminist-oriented introduction'. Diana Norman is angry at republican men for treating Constance as just another minor lieutenant in the Easter Rising and for ignoring her unique achievements as a woman."

Your reviewer (neither politician nor man) would point out that the phrase simply classified the introduction's stance (it's very prickly to think it pejorative). The attack was on its frequent inaccuracy - as to the what worries me about the present English-based Markievicz boom.

**ABSD ANALYSIS**  
Asked what Constance would think of Ireland now, Diana Norman replied: "She would probably be in *Fianna Fail*, fighting a constitutional path, but I'm not sure... She certainly wouldn't be in the IRA. Most of her time would be spent fighting for women - that was her first love - and socialism."

Constance Markievicz's own actions at the time of the Treaty and afterwards are a refutation enough of this absurd analysis.

"She was in danger of disappearing," Norman added. "I think Ireland needs her back."

Absolutely.

## Imeachtaí

**SOCIAL NIGHT**  
Music by The Elms  
8pm Friday 12th June  
Pika Inn  
Mulgrave Street  
**LIMERICK**  
Taille E1 (Pensioners free)  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**IRISH BALLAD NIGHT**  
Featuring The Irish Brigade  
9pm Friday 12th June  
The Carrickdala Hotel  
**CARRICKARNON**  
County Armagh  
Taille E3

**NATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST STRIP SEARCHING**  
2pm Saturday 13th June  
**DURHAM PRISON**  
England

**POST-REFERENDUM FUND-RAISER**  
The Busters  
Cormac Bhratnach & a chairde  
8.30pm Saturday 13th June  
Doyle's Pub  
Hill Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Taille E3 (unwaged E2)

**AN CUMANN CABHRACH SPONSORED BY CLE (Roisin to Croom)**  
2.30pm Sunday 14th June  
Starting at Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
**ROSBRIEN**  
County Limerick  
Details/sponsorship cards from Joe Lynch (061 41457)

**SOCIAL NIGHT**  
The Irish Brigade  
Tuesday 16th June  
Falcons' Club  
**BELFAST**  
Organised by Roinn an Chultuir Sinn Fein

**PICKET AGAINST PLASTIC BULLETS**  
12 noon Thursday 18th June  
**DUBLIN**  
Organised by the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets

**DUBLIN CITY RAMBLERS IN CONCERT**  
Friday 19th June  
Kelly's Hotel  
**MOHILL**  
County Leitrim  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**JUSTICE FOR THE B'HAM SIX & G'FOUR FOUR PUBLIC MEETING**  
Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Chris Mullen, Bishop Kavanagh and Mary McAleese  
8pm Friday 19th June  
Shelbourne Hotel  
**DUBLIN**

**BODENSTOWN NIGHT MYSTERY TOUR**  
Buses leave Ballymun Shopping Centre 7.30pm and Shamrock Pub, Finglas, at 8.45pm  
**DUBLIN**  
Chicken 'n' chips and entertainment in "salubrious surroundings"  
Pick-ups can be arranged elsewhere  
Phone Sean at 347996  
Taille E5

**IRISH BRIGADE IN CONCERT**  
8.30pm Friday 26th June  
Wexford Inn  
**DUBLIN**  
Taille E2  
Organised by Dublin West Sinn Fein

**SINN FEIN WOMEN'S SEMINAR**  
Friday 31st July to Tuesday 4th August  
**COUNTY WICKLOW**  
Taille E10 from Dublin, £5 outside Dublin, no charge for children - creche available  
Details: Rose (01 532763) or Nicola (01 726932)  
Organised by the Sinn Fein Education Department

## TERRIBLE BEAUTY

A Life of Constance Markievicz



Diana Norman

● *Terrible Beauty: A Life of Constance Markievicz*, by Diana Norman, published by Hodder & Stoughton, London. Stg £14.95.

# DUTCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLASTIC BULLETS

A CAMPAIGN has begun in the Netherlands against the use of plastic bullets in the North of Ireland. The six-month campaign, organised by the Amsterdam-based Ierland Informatie Centrum, includes a petition, a photo and poster display, videos, and a booklet in Dutch giving technical details of the weapon, background to the victims, and the circumstances in which they were killed and injured.

The aim of the campaign is to make it increasingly difficult for the British government to justify its use of this weapon. The British army and the RUC have repeated-

ly deflected international public criticism by issuing false press statements on incidents where plastic bullets have caused serious injuries or death. This has resulted



● The Ierland Informatie Centrum exhibition on plastic bullets

in the Dutch media either not handling reports because of their unreliability, or misleading information being presented as fact. As

a consequence many people not only don't know of the damage a plastic bullet does, but even that they exist at all and have killed

men, women and children in the North of Ireland.

## SUPPORT

Support for the campaign has so far come from the ecumenical movement, trade unionists, Third World solidarity groups, and ordinary Dutch people, hundreds of whom have already signed the petition after they learned of the use and abuse of this weapon. It is also intended to canvass support from the legal and medical professions, among the hierarchy of all religious denominations, and political representatives at local and national level.

The campaign will end in late autumn with a speaking tour of Holland by a plastic bullet victim and relatives in co-operation with the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets. During this tour the petition will be presented to the representative of the British government in The Hague, the Dutch Foreign Secretary, and foreign affairs spokespeople of all the political parties in the Dutch parliament.



● James Painter and Romy Cullen of the Latin American Solidarity Committee

## A people imprisoned

BY TOM O'DWYER

JAMES PAINTER, a leading writer on the politics of Central America, officially opened a photographic exhibition in Dublin on June 3rd entitled *Guatemala: A People Imprisoned*.

Guatemala, which has been ruled by millionaire generals since the American CIA helped them overthrow the elected Arbenz government in 1954, is the country with the largest gap between rich and poor in Central America. An appalling list of atrocities has been committed by the Guatemalan military in its attempts to root out guerrilla resistance forces (see last week's AP/RN).

Although a civilian government was elected with the generals' approval in December 1985, a deal between its premier, Vinicio Cerezo, and the military meant that crimes committed by the armed forces went unpunished and the few rich families could continue to exploit the millions of landless peasants who are mainly Indians.

Painter stressed that the new government had changed nothing fundamental in Guatemalan life and that Cerezo's election were merely an attempt by the military to hide behind a powerless elected leader "because they desperately needed American economic aid". Chairing the meeting, Peadar

Kirby, an Irish journalist who specialises in Latin American affairs, said: "Guatemala, although it receives little media attention, has suffered longer and more than its neighbours."

### VILLAGES

The exhibition of photographs by Joe Fish concentrates on the lives of Indians in Quiché province, many of whom have been herded into 'model villages', fenced off and controlled by the military in a technique used by the British in their war against the Malayan people and later by the US in Vietnam. In one photo a wooden observation post overlooks rolling hills - oppression on stilts, similar to the British army's observation posts in South Armagh.

The exhibition has been mounted by the Latin American Solidarity Committee, 29 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, and can be hired by schools and community groups. It will be on show at the Silver Swan Hotel, Sligo, on Friday, June 12th, and in Ballina and Letterkenny during the following week.



# SELLAFIELD BLOCKED

THE CREW of the Greenpeace ship, *Sirius*, succeeded in doing what months of Dublin government verbalising failed to do when they blocked the nuclear waste pipeline from Sellafield on Wednesday, June 3rd, and halted discharges from the plant.

Divers from *Sirius* blocked the main Sellafield pipeline and then reboarded the ship and left the area before the British Nuclear Fuels officials guarding the plant realised what was happening. The ship was on its way to Dublin before the blockage was discovered. That same day, a Dublin government resolution calling for the closure

of Sellafield was defeated at the Paris Commission in Cardiff.

Another motion calling for the "best available technology" to be used to prevent "pollution from nuclear waste discharges" was passed. The ineffectiveness of this became apparent immediately when BNF replied that it did use the best technology available and claimed that there was no pollution as discharges

were within British government limits.

BNF almost certainly resumed discharges from Sellafield within days of the blocking of the pipeline. There are in fact two pipelines, one a stand-by pipe which was used while the main one was being repaired. On top of this continuation of its nuclear pollution of the Irish Sea, BNF announced that it intended to install a third pipeline.

Sinn Fein welcomed the actions of Greenpeace last week when the party said:

"Sinn Fein congratulates Greenpeace for successfully blocking the radioactive discharge pipeline at Sellafield at great personal risk. This daring attempt by Greenpeace to highlight the pollution of the Irish Sea by British Nuclear Fuels is to be welcomed by all who oppose the madness of the nuclear industry."





# THE FLYING COLUMN

PUNTERS were amazed when Eastwood's the bookmakers published their odds for the Westminster elections in the Six Counties. In West Belfast, the SDLP's candidate, Joe Hendron, was quoted as favourite at four to six while Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams was in second place, at even money, on Monday. Belfast branches of Eastwood's were then inundated with bets on Adams, so much so that a number of offices refused to take any election bets at all.

As Gerry Adams told reporters at a press conference on Tuesday morning:

"At this time on Friday, there'll be a lot of nationalists saying, 'Thank you very much, Mr Eastwood'."

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"WERE I king today, I would chop off the heads of Hamilton, Grant, Livingstone and the rest of the republican rabble." So said the English King Henry VIII recently. Yes, recently. Last week in fact.

In a poll of the long departed carried out on behalf of Rupert Murdoch's scurrilous rag, the *Sun*, by medium and psychic investigator Nella Jones, of Bexley Heath, Kent, 'Enry an ri' stated that he definitely would not give Maggie the chop. Sir Winston Churchill thinks "the lady must be given her head", not on a platter but "to lead Britain forward".

Lord Horatio Nelson would vote for her too, "to restore the Royal Navy to its former glory". So would Boadicea: "When the Romans laid claim to the kingdom of Icen (Norfolk) would Kinnock have razed Camulodunum (Colchester) to the ground as I did and cut off the ears of their 9th legion?" (Certainly not.)

Predictably, Joseph Stalin is backing Kinnock: "The British Communist Party should be disbanded and the cadres sent to join the Labour Party." But Keir Hardie goes for the Liberal/SDP Alliance, describing Labour as "a wretched thing, gift-wrapped by fancy swindlers and hide-bound by the lies of Marxism".

Genghis Khan is a 'don't know'.

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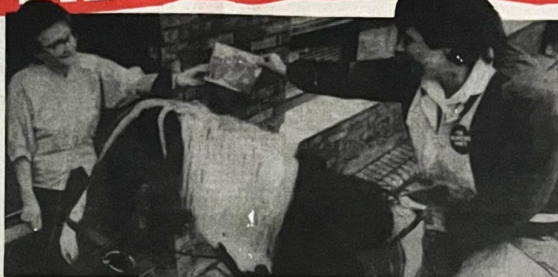
PERHAPS BOADICEA could be brought back from the grave to once more sort out the garrison in Colchester.

Members of the Royal Green Jackets' 3rd Battalion were barred from the town's Waggon & Horses pub recently so on three consecutive nights last week they staged revenge raids on the crowded premises.

On Monday and Tuesday, CS gas attacks took place, forcing hundreds of customers to flee in panic with tears running down their faces. On Wednesday night, fighting broke out during the third attack of the week when 400 customers clashed with soldiers chanting, "We are the RGJ!" Many customers, including a pregnant woman, were violently sick after inhaling British army CS gas.

Also on Wednesday night, dozens of soldiers from the Royal Green Jackets and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment clashed outside The Bull pub in Colchester's Crouch Street, leaving one Brit seriously injured.

And again on Wednesday, terrified civilians were caught in the crossfire when 80 soldiers wrecked The George pub in Andover, Hampshire. Bottles, glasses, tables and chairs were hurled across the packed bar by soldiers of the Royal Hampshire Regiment and the Queen's



● This is a stick-up! Workers' Party West Belfast candidate Mary McMahon flogging an almost dead horse

Regiment. One Brit was knocked unconscious and seven people had to be taken to hospital.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment has just returned from a five-month tour of the Six Counties and the Queen's Regiment is due to travel there soon.

Colchester's *Evening Gazette* on Thursday, June 4th, was somewhat pleased that British soldiers' "service in Ulster no doubt got rid of yet more aggression".

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WEST BELFAST Workers' Party candidate Mary McMahon told an RTE reporter on Monday that the main issue facing people in the Six Counties was unemployment. Mind you, I had to strain to hear her — she was almost drowned out by a British army helicopter hovering immediately overhead.

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WHO DOESN'T know how wide the Falls Road is?

In the early hours of Friday, June 5th, a bemused local observed a group of strangers huffing and puffing as they vainly tried to stretch an obviously-too-short SDLP election banner across the Falls Road near 'Ghost Town', the SDLP 'advice' centre.

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KEN MAGINNIS, the former UDR major, told South Tyrone Young Unionists last week that only two candidates in Fermanagh/South Tyrone merited support — himself and the Workers' Party's Davy Kettles.

The UDR man joins Tory ex-director Jim Prior and Britain's Lord Gerry Fitt in endorsing the Sticks. Strange friends for a party that claims to be socialist.

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PADDY 'COCKROACH' COONEY, the former Fine Gael Minister for Injustice who called on the Catholic hierarchy to weigh in behind the SDLP's election campaign by telling Catholics not to vote for Sinn Fein, is looking for divine intervention in other quarters to ease his troubled mind.

On Sunday, May 31st, Cockroach was caught crawling out of the woodwork by some of his former subordinates while he was making contact with some less than holy spirits in Adrian's Bar (owned by Fine Gael Councillor Adrian Farrell) at Laneshoro, County Longford, before the place was legally open.

The cops, feeling a bit smarter than usual in their new uniforms, apparently noted Cockroach's appearance and filed the relevant papers. He is now rumoured to have asked his buddy, Fianna Fail's industrious 'Uncle' Albert Reynolds (Longford's answer to Jimmy Saville), to 'look into' the affair.

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POETIC JUSTICE, was it not, that the Ireland (West Britain) rugby team was

knocked out of the World Cup in New Zealand?

The gorillas in green couldn't bring themselves to stand up straight for the national anthem and substituted *The Rose of Tralee* lest the martial air of *Amhran na bhFiann* 'cause offence'. But why pick *The Rose*, which has become Kerry's county anthem? Sentimental though it is, this song doesn't deserve to be devalued by those who cannot represent their country.

In the future I would suggest that if the Lansdowne lackeys aren't prepared to recognise *Amhran na bhFiann* they should sing one of Peadar Kearney's other compositions. *Whack Fol the Diddle* should be sung from a crouching position similar to that adopted by rugby players in a scrum:

*I sing you a song of peace and love,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day,  
To the land that reigns all lands above,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day.  
May peace and plenty be her share,  
Who kept our homes from want and care,  
O God bless England is our prayer,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day.*

*When we were savage, fierce and wild,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day,  
She came as a mother to her child,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day.  
Gently raised us from the slime,  
Kept our hands from hellish crime,  
And sent us to heaven in her own good time,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day.*

*Oh Irishmen, forget the past,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day,  
And think of the day that is coming fast,  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day.  
When we shall all be civilised,  
Neat and clean and well advised,  
Oh won't Mother England be surprised!  
Whack fol the diddle lol the di do day.*

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THE ENTIRE membership of the 'Ballykeel Protestant Association' was jailed at Belfast Court last week.

Former UDR soldier Paul Alexander, of Orkney Drive, Ballymena, and UDA man Robert Love, of Rona Gardens, had admitted sending threatening letters containing bullets and 'get out or else' warnings to a number of nationalist families in Ballymena last August purporting to come from the Ballykeel PA.

Love, who also admitted demanding £100 per week protection money from a local builder for employing Catholics, was jailed for a year. Alexander, who had dual UDR/UDA membership, had supplied the bullets and received a two-year sentence.

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RAT KICKS PIG. Another Ballymena UDR soldier, Raymond Barr, was fined £80 when he admitted that, in a drunken 'no-holds-barred' contest at a chip shop in the town last October, he had punched and kicked an RUC man.

TOP OF THE BILL the other week at the Compound Social Club — one of three clubs catering for the needs of prison Screws at Long Kesh — was a team of 'erotic/striptease' dancers.

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"CRY 'HAVOC!' and let loose the dogs of war." — *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.

Fifteen of the Free State army's bold and brave struck out from their base in aid of the civil power on March 31st, facing into the jaws of death but doggedly determined to do their duty. They're not known as the 'Border Terriers' for nothing.

Establishing contact with the enemy at Glangevin, County Leitrim, our heroes, hearts beating and palms sweating, but with a courage not seen since the days of Fionn MacCumhail, swept down upon the unsuspecting foe. It was all over in a matter of minutes.

The forces of subversion and anarchy surrendered unconditionally in the face of a well-executed commando raid carried out by a crack unit of some of the world's finest fighting men.

Another successful mission behind them, our boys marched back to barracks with a certain spring in their step, quietly content in the knowledge that their captives would face the full rigours of the law.

John Paul McManus faced Dowra District Court last week on charges of... having three unlicensed dogs.

The charges were dismissed.



Tory scum! Brighton! Brighton!  
— Anti-Tory protestors heckling Tory Party Chairperson Norman Tebbit.

Why, if Ulster is indeed British, have [the Tories, Labour, etc] not sought election there? As long as they leave the election in Ulster to the native parties, they confess that Northern Ireland is in some sense separate and they would not mind being shot of the place.  
— Allan Massie, *London Times*.

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Unless you do something about unemployment and housing, people won't give a damn whether the Russians invade — they'll maybe even vote for them!  
— British Labour Party heckler at a Tory meeting.

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Imagine poor Ronald Reagan having to face close questioning every day for three weeks.  
"Mr President, what is your wife's name?"  
"Uh, oh, ah, sounds like one for you, George."  
— Tony Clifton, *Newsweek* magazine, on the general election campaign.

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Even the pigeons are under suspicion. Local newspapers are full of bizarre fears that someone might strap a radio-controlled bomb to a pigeon and train it to fly into the Ducal Palace during [the] opening ceremony.  
— Andrew McEwen, *London Times* on the World Economic Summit in Venice attended by Margaret Thatcher.