

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

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SINN

FÉIN

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TO

STAY



WITH A VICTORY and increased majority for Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams in West Belfast and over 83,000 votes overall for the republican candidates in the Westminster election last week, Sinn Féin held its ground and dashed the hopes of the London and Dublin governments who had worked hard for a defeat for republicanism as one of the fruits of the Hillsborough Agreements.

Wolfe Tone

COMMEMORATION

Bodenstown

Sunday 21st June

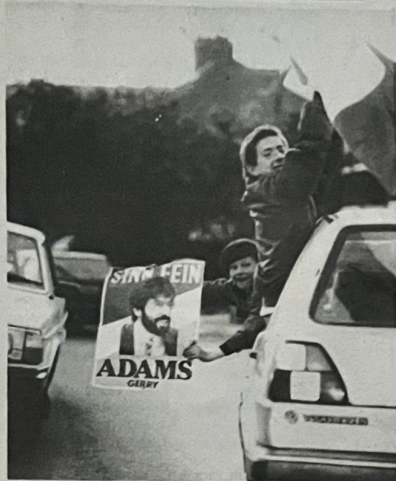
Assemble 2pm

SALLINS Co. KILDARE



MAIN SPEAKER: RITA O'HARE

OPINION



THE ELECTION

THE FIFTH major election campaign fought by Sinn Fein in the North since 1982 has ended.

Sinn Fein entered the election battle as a David facing an alliance of Goliaths made up of the entire British and Dublin establishments, the Catholic hierarchy and almost every branch of the media (and not forgetting the North's largest bookie).

These forces of conservatism combined in a formidable bloc whose single purpose was the defeat of Sinn Fein and took the form of open political and material support for the SDLP. Money poured into the SDLP campaign, including thousands of dollars from the CIA-controlled NED fund in the US, while newspaper headlines proclaimed the inevitability of SDLP victories, particularly in West Belfast. There was also the continual harassment of and attacks on Sinn Fein workers.

British and Dublin government spokespersons expressed open support for the SDLP. The most blatant example occurred on Friday, June 5th, when, in two separate interviews, British Northern Ireland Office Minister Nicholas Scott cynically used two emotive issues on which the Hillsborough Agreement had failed to deliver any changes and raised the possibility of Diplock courts being changed and a new system of parole for prisoners serving life sentences.

Despite these vague promises of changes in the future, and despite the biased media coverage and the deluge of anti-republican propaganda, the Sinn Fein vote remained solid at 11.4%

83,389 people voted for Sinn Fein candidates and the people of West Belfast turned out in force to re-elect Gerry Adams in an historic victory which the enemies of Irish freedom cannot easily explain away.

The reality is that a large section of the nationalist community in the North remains committed in its support for Sinn Fein and the republican struggle. They rejected the myth peddled by the SDLP that the Hillsborough Agreement is capable of leading to a British withdrawal and permanent peace.



● The scene of the shooting of the UDR soldier in Lambeg on Friday, June 12th

Two UDR men killed

IN A WEEK which resulted in two crown forces fatalities and three other members injured in attacks, the IRA has strongly repudiated an RUC claim that civilians will become targets.

In a statement on Tuesday, June 16th, the IRA said:

"The only people terrorising civilians and doing so on a daily basis are those in the uniforms of the British army and RUC. The RUC's statement is an attempt to deflect attention away from the successes of the IRA against crown forces."

The fifth member of the UDR to be killed in IRA attacks this year was shot on Friday morning, June 12th, in the grounds of a golf club in County Antrim (a sixth UDR man was killed three days later, on Monday, June 15th).

At around 10.15am, Volunteers of the Belfast Brigade, which has inflicted three fatalities on the crown forces in as many weeks, drove up to a greenkeeper's building in Aberdelgy Golf Club, Lambeg. Two armed Volunteers entered while another remained in the car. They identified the UDR man, who had been in the regiment just over a year, and shot him several times, killing him instantly. The Volunteers then withdrew.

Later, rebutting hypocritical outcries from establishment circles over the attack, the Belfast Brigade said in a statement:

"Whether they belong to the Lancashires [a regular British army regiment], the

UDR or the paramilitary RUC, they are all members of the British forces and have taken a conscious decision to take up arms against the Irish people.

"The media and discredited individuals have recently made feeble attempts to squeeze the last imaginary drops out of the long-failed 'Ulsterisation' policy. There are no 'soft targets' in this war which is, we repeat, being waged as a direct consequence of British interference and occupation of the Six Counties."

SECOND UDR MAN KILLED

Belfast Brigade also claimed responsibility for the booby-trap bomb planted in a UDR man's car parked outside Tomb Street Post Office in the city centre on Monday afternoon, June 15th. He had been a former member of the Parachute Regiment before joining the UDR 15 years ago.

A mercury-tilt attached to explosives detonated when the UDR man switched on the ignition. The vehicle was devastated and the UDR man was killed instantly.

In another operation on Thursday night, June 11th, Volunteers of Belfast Brigade shot and injured a British soldier in the nationalist New Barnsley area. The soldier was a member of a foot patrol in



New Barnsley Park and was hit by a Volunteer who fired a single high-velocity shot. The bullet hit the soldier in the shoulder.

DERRY BOOBY-TRAP

And in a well-planned operation in Derry on Tuesday, June 16th, the IRA claimed responsibility for injuring two RUC men in a booby-trap explosion.

The RUC men were part of a large crown forces presence involved in searching flats in Rathlin Drive in the nationalist Creggan Estate. As they were opening the door of the flats, the booby-trap exploded. Two RUC men were detained in hospital for treatment to injuries.

BY EAMON TRACEY

THE INK was hardly dry on the election results when a barrage of 'informed leaks' and political comments by most of the North's politicians assailed the electorate from every direction.

Tom King, confirmed in his role of colonial master at Stormont, led the assault: "The great challenge that we face now is the need to break the deadlock over political dialogue."

The Dublin government, through its usual "reliable sources" in the media, hinted at encouraging "talks between the SDLP and the unionist parties on a devolved system of partnership to administer Northern Ireland". John Hume was quick to promote the idea of the SDLP agreeing to participate in a new assembly provided the Hillsborough Agreement remained in place.

In the unionist camp, Jim Molyneux and Ian Paisley have been more careful in their comments. The cracks which have emerged inside the unionist pact and the failure of unionist tactics to shift the Thatcher government have led to much soul searching.

The report of the 'Unionist Task Force', which was set up earlier this year and comprises Harold McCusker, Frank Millar and Peter Robinson, is expected to be handed over to the party leaders shortly, possibly this weekend. It is widely predicted that the report will propose talks with the SDLP on a new Stormont.

It is suggested that the hurdle of the Hillsborough Agreement can be surmounted by the London and Dublin governments arranging a long summer break for the Inter-Governmental Conference and the Maryfield Secretariat.

So what will happen in the coming months?

LITTLE TO SHOW

After 18 months the SDLP has little to show for an agreement hailed as the greatest event in Ireland in 60 years and is worried by its inability to diminish the Sinn Fein vote. The SDLP leadership, with its sights set clearly on an

SDLP's hidden manifesto



● The SDLP's John Hume, doing business with Thatcher

internal Six-County settlement, needs remains a desire to militarily defeat and politically isolate the Republican Movement.

The British dimension in this equation

It is entirely likely therefore that in the coming months the SDLP and loyalists will agree to some limited form of power sharing in return for SDLP support for the RUC, the prospect of a return of responsibility for 'security' to a new assembly and increased repression against republicans.

The SDLP may feel it can sell such a shift in policy by continuing to trumpet the so-called 'Irish dimension' of the 26-County government's participation in the Agreement — an Irish dimension significantly less than their demands for a Council of Ireland in 1973.

Austin Currie, a senior SDLP figure, gave pointers in that direction recently. Commenting in an interview on the question of responsibility for 'security' he said: "Any administration which cannot enforce its decisions is a eunuch."

He further remarked that although the nationalist position has traditionally been a united Ireland: "In the short-term, there is no possibility of a unitary state." Currie's definition of the "short-term" became clearer when he said later that the Hillsborough Agreement represents "a framework for a solution as far forward as it is possible to visualise".

INCREASING REPRESSION

The decision to replace Northern Ireland Office Minister Nicholas Scott with the Armed Forces Minister John Stanley, a one-time private secretary to Thatcher, Tory hardliner and right-winger, is being taken as further evidence of British intentions to win loyalist support by increasing repression against republicans.

The IRA, in a statement on Tuesday, June 16th, identified this likely development:

The appointment of John Stanley as deputy direct-ruler is also an indication that the British government now believes that the time is right for the militarist dimension of the Hillsborough Treaty to be implemented. To sell Hillsborough to the loyalists the SDLP will now be expected not to object to an offensive against the Republican Movement and to support a revamped Stormont. That was the SDLP's hidden manifesto."

Civil rights axed

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

MAJOR CURBS on the civil liberties of citizens in the 26 Counties are to come into effect from July with the implementation of the most draconian sections of the 1984 Criminal Justice Act.

Fianna Fail Justice Minister Gerry Collins signed the order this week which gives the gardai sweeping new powers to arrest, detain and interrogate people. The new powers virtually abolish the right to silence and give the gardai a police state-type status in detaining people for questioning.

The new laws have been described as the most fundamental change in the legal system since the setting up of the Free State. Under the Criminal Justice Act the gardai will be allowed to detain people for up to 20 hours without bringing charges. After arrest a person can be held for up to six hours. This can be extended for another six hours by order of a gardai not below the rank of superintendent. A person can be held between the hours of midnight and 8am during which time the six hour rule does not apply (i.e. they can be arrested at 6pm and held for six hours, detained over-

night and then, the order having been given, be detained for a further six hours from 8am).

While in detention the gardai are empowered to photograph, finger-print and strip-search alleged suspects.

RIGHT TO SILENCE ABOLISHED

The most serious breach of fundamental civil rights in the Act is the abolition of the right to silence. If an arrested person either has on them or in their clothing "any object, substance or mark" which the gardai consider "may be attributable to the participation in the commission of an offence" then failure to account for this can be taken as evidence against them in court. This also applies in the case of a person found "at a particular place at or about the time the offence in respect of which he (sic) was arrested is alleged to have been committed".

This implementation of the

new laws represents a major victory for the gardai who have long been clamouring for more powers. That innocent people will be the victims of this Act and that it will do little to halt the rise in crime can be seen from the use (and more often the abuse) of the powers the gardai already have.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE STATE ACT

Arrest without warrant for questioning was, before the Criminal Justice Bill, only possible under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act. This section is widely abused by the gardai for holding people in connection with all sorts of offences totally unrelated to 'subversive offences' to which Section 30 is allegedly confined.

The number of Section 30 arrests has steadily increased over the years as has the number of deaths in Garda custody. Suicides, cell deaths in suspicious circumstances and injuries to prisoners have become more common. The extension of new powers will continue this trend and make it easier for gardai



● Gardai policing themselves with the Criminal Justice Act

to force confessions from people.

CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUP

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties and the Association of Criminal Lawyers criticised the new Act this week. The ICCL said that it would allow the gardai to carry out in-depth int-

errogation and force people to confess to crimes they have not committed. The civil liberties groups also condemned the alleged safeguards on the Act which depend entirely on the gardai policing themselves and monitoring their own treatment of people in custody.



● Margaret Healy

GRANDMOTHER HIT BY BRIT

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

A WEST BELFAST grandmother was physically assaulted by a British soldier shortly after the polling stations closed on Thursday, June 11th. Margaret Healy, from the St James's area, went out to close her front gate at around 10.30pm. There was a soldier in the garden, one of a British army foot patrol which was in the street and she asked him to move so she could shut the gate.

The next thing Margaret Healy remembers is being pushed by the soldier and falling against the wall, injuring her right hand. She also suffered bruising to the bridge of her nose and cheek. Margaret suffers from arthritis and as a result of the fall her neck has become stiff and painful. Commenting on the assault, she said: "It all happened so quickly. Before I knew what was happening he stood up and gave me a shove into the garden wall."

THREATENED

One of her neighbours ran to her assistance but was told to get away by the soldier who also threatened to hit him. As the foot patrol moved off, the soldier slammed the gate so hard it broke and he shouted: "There's your fucking gate!" Neighbours further down the street who had come out to see what was happening were asked by the foot patrol did they "want the same as she got" and told to get back inside.

The next day, after recovering from her initial shock, Margaret Healy sought treatment for her injuries at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

SURVEILLANCE OPERATION DISCOVERED

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A LARGE FORCE of British army and RUC personnel were hastily deployed to the Aghyarn area of County Tyrone last Friday, June 12th, when a nationalist family discovered surveillance equipment close to their home.

69-year-old Hugh Browne was walking up a laneway yards from his house on the Trenamonga Road when he noticed a pile of oddly-stacked stones in the hedgerow. Curious, he tossed the stones away and discovered a camera (possibly a video camera) mounted a foot above the ground. Two wires protruded from the back and led across the ditch and to a large battery submerged in the soil. The lens of the camera was pointed in the direction of the Browns' back door and would have had a clear view of any cars or persons arriving or leaving the house.

Alarmed, Hugh Browne returned to his wife Mary (63) and contacted other members of the

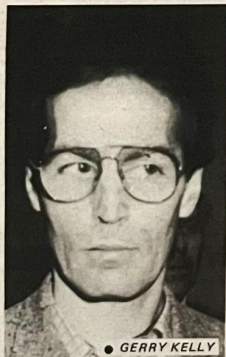
family for advice. Their son, Thomas, arrived shortly afterwards and examined the scene. He told AP/RN:

"I looked into the lens and after about ten minutes I heard a helicopter arriving. I had earlier telephoned Sinn Fein Councillor Charlie McHugh to get him up to photograph it. The soldiers were panicking; they were trying to get it away as quick as they could."

By this stage, three British army Land Rovers, the RUC and yet another helicopter had arrived on the scene and began dismantling the equipment.

SINISTER

Hugh and Mary Browne say



● GERRY KELLY



● BIK MCFARLANE

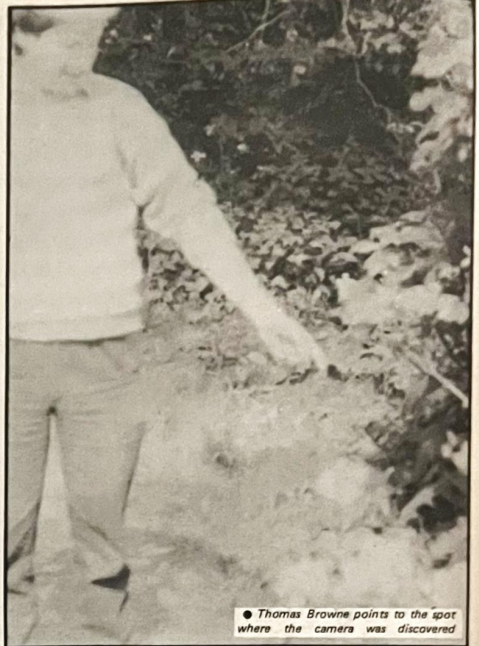
More conflicting evidence in H-Block trial

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AS THE TRIAL in Belfast of 18 H-Block escapees continues — its eighth week completed on polling day — prison warders have disagreed with the identification of the escapee who travelled in the cab of the kitchen lorry. This POW was to play a crucial role in the historic escape plan of the 38 republicans who made a daring bid for freedom in September 1983.

Bobby Storey, Gerry Kelly and 'Bik' McFarlane were all separately named by warders in court as

this one POW. And to compound the issue even further, Prison Officer McLaughlin — who drove



● Thomas Browne points to the spot where the camera was discovered

that their privacy was invaded by the presence of such equipment and:

"It is very sinister. They'd be watching every move we or our relatives made. We're on our own here now that the children are grown and it's made us feel very nervous."

Sinn Fein Councillor Charlie

McHugh said:

"Only rarely do we get a glimpse of the sophistication of crown forces surveillance operations such as this. The chance discovery by the Browns merely scratches the surface and exposes how the British army and the RUC try to monitor nationalist people."

the lorry — in evidence some weeks ago named Gerry Kelly then later admitted he had originally identified Harry Murray to the RUC as the POW involved.

More contradictions emerged as two prison warders, McKane and Gallagher, claimed to have driven their cars into the 'air lock' across the path of the kitchen lorry. They said they each then approached the man in the passenger side of the vehicle. Strangely, neither of these warders had previously mentioned seeing the other! Furthermore, another warder, Canning, said that he had the passenger side of the lorry under observation yet saw neither McKane nor Gallagher.

BACKTRACKED

And in even further conflicting statements surrounding this particular incident, a fourth warder, McBurney, said that Gallagher hadn't driven his car into the 'air lock' at all. A fifth backtracked on his original statement to the RUC in which he claimed to have seen two cars, changing it to only one car.

What seems certain is that Prison Officer Gallagher's car was commandeered by a number of POWs on the roadway almost opposite the main gate. It was then driven at speed towards the eastern gate which leads from the British army camp out into the Halftown Road.

SPEEDING

A British soldier guarding a warder standing at this gate received a call from his control to seal the gate and stop all movements. As he did so, he and other warders heard a car approaching and turned around to see Gallagher's car speeding towards them. It

rammed the gate, forcing it open before halting. The POWs jumped out and raced down the road, followed by a warder and the British soldier armed with a Browning automatic pistol.

The warder at one point tripped and fell and the soldier fired a least one shot at a POW, named in court as Jim McCann, who refused to halt and ran on down the Bog Road. McCann was eventually captured when the warder and the soldiers who by then had acquired a car, overtook him. McCann and another recaptured POW, Jimmy Donnelly, alleged to have been in Gallagher's car, were then both strip-searched.

LAGAN RIVER

Meanwhile, some distance away from the prison, POWs Bobby Storey, Joe Simpson, Sean McGlinchey and Peter Hamilton were challenged by the RUC while crossing the Lagan River. As they made their way out of the water, a trigger-happy RUC man discharged one shot, even though he saw that the POWs were unarmed. In evidence an RUC man claimed that here again the RUC strip-searched, handcuffed and led them back to RUC vehicles parked at nearby Young's Bridge (however, four prison officers had earlier claimed that warders carried out the strip-searching of all the recaptured POWs — a small point but again showing up inconsistencies in evidence). The RUC man who fired at the POWs told the court he was "very tense" and had to go "for a wee lie down" on the grass verge after it!

With the bulk of the prison officers' evidence now complete, RUC evidence has begun and is expected to monopolise the trial until the court rises for the summer recess at the end of June.



● A section of the large crowd at St Malachy's school in Finglas on Wednesday June 3rd

FINGLAS AGAINST PUSHERS

BY BRIAN O'DEE

IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS the people of Finglas South have achieved what local establishment politicians and the Garda Drugs Squad have failed to do in as many years. Despite opposition and obstructive tactics from local Workers' Party Deputy Proinsias de Rossa, local people, with the support of the Concerned Parents against Drugs, have evicted several drug-pushers from the area and are keeping tabs on others.

In recent years, the Finglas area has been noted for the lack of any community action against drugs. This situation has been encouraged by local politicians who have repeatedly claimed that the problem does not exist. People in the area have also been

afraid of intimidation from the pushers themselves.

The recent series of public meetings and protests in Finglas South began when a resident in the Glenties area was assaulted by a person named as a drug-pusher in a petition circulating

in the area. The resident had signed the petition, which called for the expulsion of local pushers.

A meeting was called in a local school on May 31st to discuss the situation and, despite recommendations from Proinsias de Rossa not to get involved with the CPAD (the Workers' Party said that people should collect information on suspected pushers and pass it on to the Garda), the meeting overwhelmingly decided to invite CPAD members to further meetings.

PUSHERS NAMED

People named Christopher Morrison and Jodie Fox as two of the most active drug-pushers in the Glenties/Valeview area. Morrison spoke at the meeting, admitting that he is an active pusher and boasting that nobody could stop him. Local people expressed dismay at Garda inactivity, but Jodie Fox (the other named pusher) claimed that Morrison is a Garda informer. The meeting gave both of them seven days to stop their activities and to prove at a meeting on the following Sunday, June 7th, that they had stopped.

At that meeting, attended by over 600 people, Dinah Boyd, who lived with Morrison, spoke in his defence. Her submission was rejected by the meeting. The constitution of the CPAD was read out and endorsed by the meeting despite objections from a Workers' Party member who called on the people to collaborate with the Garda. The meeting

called on Morrison and Fox to leave the area within 48 hours and a committee of local people was elected.

By Tuesday, June 9th, a further meeting was called to check on the situation. Despite torrential rain this meeting was held in the schoolyard of St Finian's because the hall wasn't big enough for the crowd. It was announced that Fox had left the area and Morrison was packing. The meeting then decided to march on Morrison's house where a vigil was held. Morrison left after midnight but a section of the crowd maintained the vigil throughout the night in case he returned.

'MA BAKER'

Meanwhile, another series of meetings was taking place in St Malachy's School in the St Helena's/Cloonlara area of Finglas South, specifically to deal with the notorious Marie 'Ma Baker' Nolan.

Another attack on CPAD was launched by the Workers' Party, but after the CPAD explained about the attitude of the Garda to drug-pushers and about the efforts made to smear the names of CPAD activists, people decided to back the CPAD. It was decided to send a delegation to the Nolan household and to the house of another pusher in the area. Workers' Party representative Proinsias de Rossa withdrew from this delegation when several CPAD representatives were also elected by the crowd. The delegation was instructed to issue seven-day warnings to the Nolan and Foran households.

Ma Baker and her family denied that they were dealing in drugs and said that they would not leave. Mrs Foran told the delegation that she had nothing to do with her husband, who has left the area, so the seven-day eviction order on the Foran house was lifted.

On Wednesday, June 10th, a meeting of over 600 people rejected a plea from Ma Baker's father, son and several supporters. CPAD members present gave details of Nolan's activities and the crowd called on her to leave the area "immediately". Another person identified as a pusher at the previous meeting, Paschal Boland, was again asked to leave the

area. He totally lost control, roaring at the crowd, swinging a microphone around and threatening people. Boland had to be physically restrained and removed from the hall.

The crowd then marched on Ma Baker's house. Finding nobody in, people entered the house and moved furniture into the front garden. A large force of gardai arrived, including 20 squad cars, a car-load of Special Branch and one black Maria, but there was no confrontation other than the odd verbal exchange. The march dispersed peacefully although a vigil was maintained for several days.

OPEN-AIR MEETING

At an open-air meeting in St Malachy's schoolyard on Monday, June 15th, attended by over 300 people, a local CPAD committee of nine was elected to monitor the situation in the area.

Sinn Fein's Harry Fleming (who was elected to the committee) addressed the issue of Paschal Boland, who had been pin-pointed as a pusher by local people. Fleming urged people not to be intimidated by Boland's presence at the meeting and to contact any member of the newly-elected committee with information on Boland's activities.

A meeting for the Finglas West area was called for next week in the West Finglas Tenants' Association Community Centre (the date has not been finalised as we go to print) which will address the drugs problem in the Barry/Plunkett and Casement areas.

Last week's Workers' Party news-sheet, *The Irish People*, showed a distinct change of attitude by the Sticks towards the CPAD. The anti-drugs group is mentioned without criticism, revising the long-held anti-CPAD bias of the Workers' Party. The article, however, claimed that, despite the experience of working-class people throughout Dublin, the problem can only be solved through collaboration with the Garda. Luckily the people of Finglas have chosen to ignore the advice of local Workers' Party Deputy Proinsias de Rossa by opting for direct community action against the pedlars of dependence, misery and death.



FREE THE CHILDREN

STUDENTS from the Holy Child Community School, Sallynoggin, County Dublin, staged a protest in Dublin city's O'Connell Street on Saturday, June 13th, to focus attention on the plight of schoolchildren as young as 11 imprisoned in South Africa.

Taking place on the eve of the 26 Counties' Children's Day and just before the Day of South African Youth (Soweto Day) on June 16th, some 20 youngsters took turns in being 'imprisoned' behind bars and giving out leaflets to passersby.

A child is the symbol of the Free the Children Campaign in South Africa. Using this symbol to promote the campaign there could cost you a fine of £7,000 or ten years in jail. Stickers, posters and T-shirts with the symbol are now illegal, and it is illegal to campaign jointly with others for the release of detainees.

Dr Allan Boesak is defying the



● The symbol of the Free the Children Campaign

law by issuing stickers quoting from the Bible which say:

"Remember those who are in prison as if you are with them, and those who are being tortured as if you share their body."

■ Further information is available from the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, 20 Beechpark Road, Dublin 18.

BY TOM O'DWYER

"HYSTER to be sued by state," screamed the banner headline of a Dublin evening paper on June 15th. Hyster, the US-based multinational fork-lift manufacturer, closed its Blanchardstown, County Dublin, plant without notice after receiving a £15 million grant from the IDA and £6 million from the Dublin government to pay for the expensive high-technology factory employing 225 workers. But the maximum fine which Hyster faces is £3,000 under the Protection of Employment Act!

Until the day before the closure, Hyster's American bosses were negotiating for the redundancy of around half the workforce, but a late-night phone call to the company's Portland, Oregon, headquarters sealed the fate of the Dublin operation. The next day, workers arriving at the plant were greeted by a curt dismissal note taped to the door.

The Hyster operation was, from the start, a political confidence-trick. In May 1982, the Fianna Fail government had a wafer-thin majority and forced a by-election in Dublin West so as to win another seat. The sudden announcement by the government, two days before the election, that Hyster was to start operations in the area was an obvious vote-catching manoeuvre. Little attention was paid to the fact that the company refused to allow its employees to join a trade union. The Industrial Development Authority pumped taxpayers' money into the plant over the years that followed, but it kept no check on how that money was being used. Although the ITGWU tried to secure union rights for the workers, the company continued its ban on unions, rejecting a Dublin Labour Court recommendation that the ITGWU be given negotiating rights. It told its workforce: "Accept the ban or we'll pull out!" Last year they accepted the ban and set up a 'works council' approved by the company - and Hyster still pulled out.

Multinational firms pulling out in such circumstances usually blame the workforce: the unions are favourite targets. The excuses given for a pull-out are designed to let politicians off the hook. Hyster, however, hasn't bothered to hide its real reasons for leaving - cheaper Japanese fork-lift machinery was cutting their share of the US market.

In 1986 alone, the 26-County government's Industrial Development Auth-

£20,997,000 to go!



● The empty shop-floor of the Hyster plant in Blanchardstown, County Dublin



ority (IDA) gave out grants totalling £84 million to foreign-based companies. The sole interest of many of these companies is to exploit Irish people and they disappear when the profits drop below a certain level. IDA money given to Hyster for training workers was instead used to pay top-class hotel bills for their executives. There was an immense waste of expensive materials and tools used by the firm. But these abuses could only happen because of the industrial policy of attracting multinational companies at the expense of developing native industry.

It's a policy for which both Fianna Fail and Coalition governments are responsible. Fine Gael and Labour politicians were quick to attack Fianna Fail for its role in the Hyster disaster, but they were in government for most of the time that the plant was in operation. An ornamental garden in the

centre of the factory was opened by John Bruton, Fine Gael Industry spokesperson, in 1984 when he was the Dublin Minister for Industry and Commerce.

Hanlon pulls out

Longford Fianna Fail election agent Noel Hanlon recently showed how deep his commitment to ending unemployment goes. On Monday, June 15th, he announced the closure of his Longford town ambulance factory and the transfer of production to Liverpool, making 210 Irish workers redundant.

For five weeks, Hanlon's workers, members of the ITGWU, have been on official strike against the victimisation of 85 staff who were laid off last November. The 85 include workers with many years' service and those selected for lay-off were mostly strong trade union supporters.

The lay-offs were caused by a drop in orders for the only Irish ambulance manufacturer. The Dublin Labour Court recommended that the factory should go on a three-day week until orders picked up again but Hanlon contemptuously rejects this, saying:

"I run this company, not the unions."

Already Hanlon's uncompromising attitude has lost the company a £1 million order. It will also force the state to import ambulances. The Fianna Fail boss was formerly the chairperson of Foir Teo, the 26-County state industrial rescue agency, and a director of Aer Lingus.

The closure of the factory, now 20 years in operation, will be devastating for Longford and its surrounding area. It is expected that 200 other jobs will go in a town with a population of 10,000 because of the loss of the Hanlon's workers' spending power. Many of the workers come from Roscommon and Leitrim where unemployment is extraordinarily high.

Noel Hanlon's behaviour has caused problems for his party colleague, Albert Reynolds, the Leinster House Minister for Industry and Commerce. When Hanlon was chair of Foir Teo he bailed out Reynolds' Edgeworthstown, County Longford, pet food firm which was facing collapse. Now it looks as if Hanlon will cost Reynolds a lot of votes.

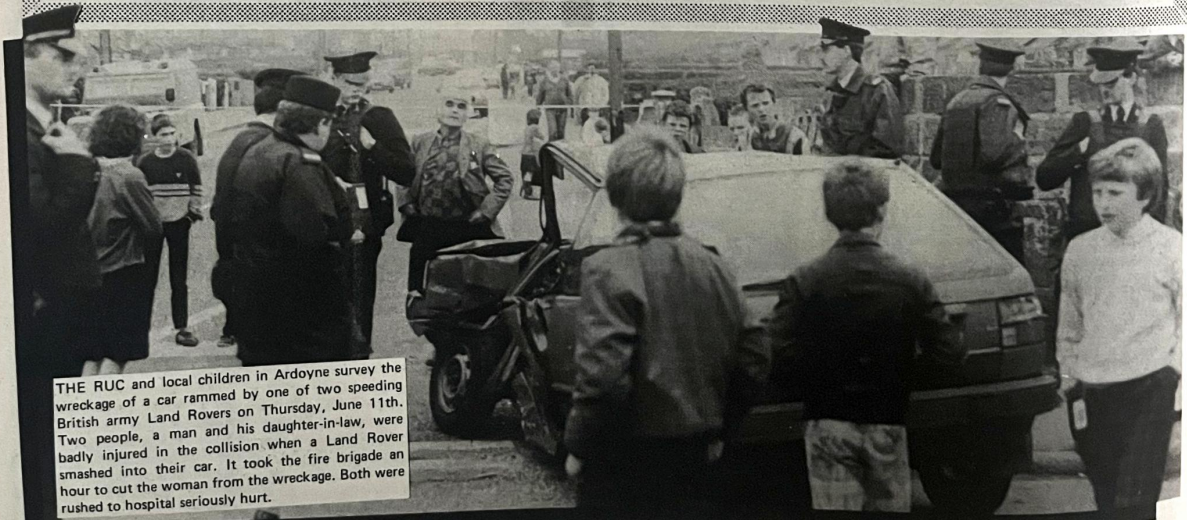
Sectarianism

Job discrimination against the Six-County nationalist community was highlighted this week by news from two multinational firms in Belfast.

Workers at Ford Autolite in West Belfast discovered that the US parent company is to send an executive team to examine discrimination in the plant after pressure from Irish-Americans. The campaign to force Ford to hire on a non-sectarian basis has clearly hit home: the investigation team includes Peter Pestillo, vice-president of Ford in Detroit.

The Six-County Fair Employment Agency has pointed out that of the 120 skilled workers in Ford Autolite, only 9% of them are from the nationalist community. In 1983, workers who celebrated St Patrick's day were disciplined although the firm closed for July 12th. The company has received 24 separate written allegations of discrimination from nationalists on its staff.

Workers at Fisher Body's plant in Kennedy Way, West Belfast, fear that their jobs will be moved to the company's premises in a loyalist area. The company, a subsidiary of the American giant General Motors, is planning 63 redundancies and may close the West Belfast plant, forcing the workers to travel to Dundonald to keep their jobs. The daily journey across loyalist areas would expose the nationalist workers to sectarian attack and endanger their lives.



THE RUC and local children in Ardoyne survey the wreckage of a car rammed by one of two speeding British army Land Rovers on Thursday, June 11th. Two people, a man and his daughter-in-law, were badly injured in the collision when a Land Rover smashed into their car. It took the fire brigade an hour to cut the woman from the wreckage. Both were rushed to hospital seriously hurt.

'IT'S YOUR VICTORY...'

BY JANE PLUNKETT

"IT'S YOUR VICTORY, it's your election, it's your seat," Gerry Adams MP told hundreds of jubilant supporters on the Falls Road on Friday afternoon.

Even before the news broke that Sinn Fein President Adams had, for a second time, been elected MP for West Belfast, crowds began congregating outside the Republican Press Centre. Old and young had come. Parents rushed out of their homes with all the children in tow.

Men and women clapped and cheered until they were hoarse. Youngsters were hoisted onto Parents' shoulders for a better view. In the atmosphere of general exhilaration, the MP's hand was shaken a thousand times. More than one grandmother clasped Adams in an emotional bearhug.

The relaxed smiles and laughter were the outcome of weeks of hard work and tension, followed by a nail-biting count in the City Hall.

Promptly, as the count began at 9am on Friday morning, Sinn Fein workers and supporters began arriving. Many had spent the night dreaming of tally huts and canvass sheets... Had Sinn Fein voters all come out? What about the hundreds turned away because they didn't have the stipulated identification documents? What about the postal votes stolen by the SDLP?

And with the uncertainty as to where Gerry Fitt's 10,000-odd votes would go, many were anxious that the margin might be tight.

In the corridors, Sinn Fein supporters huddled in small groups, quietly discussing the latest rumours.

ANXIOUS

Behind two high wooden doors, piles of votes were being counted. Those outside anxiously watched those doors, poised to pounce on any co-worker emerging with the latest news.

"How many unionists voted for Hendron?" Another whispered: "What about Andersonstown?" Looking good.

And so the wait continued. The young Sinn Fein supporters, conducting themselves quietly and with dignity, showed no signs of being intimidated — either by the large force of heavily-armed RUC men in the corridors, or by the glares of hostile loyalists, or by the grandiose columns and marble staircases of City Hall itself, built as an extravagant symbol of unionist domination.

For once, its corridors were filled by working-class people.

But there were no crowds of SDLP supporters, just a handful of career politicians. The SDLP's Alex Atwood — tipped as a possible future SDLP contender for West Belfast — was telling journalists to come to him before approaching the current SDLP candidate. "Hendron's under pressure," intoned Alex smoothly.

During the long wait, Sinn Fein's North Belfast election agent, Brian Quinn, chatted amiably with the SDLP's Alban Maginness. Joe Hendron compared notes with Sean Keenan, Gerry Adams' director of elections.

The more confident became the Sinn Feiners, the longer grew the faces of the RUC. Adams' supporters glanced tensely at watches, but hunger was forgotten.

After nearly five nail-biting hours, news came of good Sinn Fein results in the other Belfast seats, particularly North Belfast where candidate Paddy McManus increased Sinn Fein's share of the total poll.

Sinn Fein smiles grew broader while the RUC looked correspondingly glum.

But at long last, the uncertainty was over. Shortly after 2pm, unrestrained cheers echoed through the vaulted corridors — Gerry Adams had won and had increased the Sinn Fein vote.

Ignoring unionist heckling,



● Ecstatic Sinn Fein election workers celebrate Gerry Adams' victory in Belfast City Hall

Adams, speaking first in Irish then in English, thanked the election officials and "the people of West Belfast who refused to give up their seat".

"The vote," Adams added, "isn't just a rejection of Thatcher's anti-Irish bias, it's also a rejection of her anti-working-class bias, or her attacks on the poor." And he renewed his 1983 promise to provide loyalists, "especially working-class Protestants" a constituency service, "because they have more in common at a working-class level with the people of the Falls than they have in disagreement".

Immediately, representatives of the media which had openly hoped for Adams' defeat rushed to interview him, leaving an obviously irritated Hendron to make his speech unheeded.

At last, the MP for West Belfast was able to leave City

Hall, surrounded by elated supporters calling their verdict: "Easy! Easy! Easy!" Loyalists howling vicious abuse pressed threateningly forward and, outside, joined the RUC in kicking the departing republican cars.

A short distance from City Hall, two Sinn Fein workers were arrested and others were manhandled by the RUC who dragged them from their cars.

ECSTATIC CROWD

During its short journey, the Sinn Fein motorcade passed the spot where Adams and three other republicans were shot in March 1984.

Then, at Divis Street, they were met by an ecstatic crowd several hundred strong. British army armoured vehicles arrived to impose their intimidatory presence but they were ignored by the joyful crowd. Young and

old waved and cheered from Divis Flats, Tricolours flew proudly from many a window, as the newly re-elected MP for West Belfast walked up the Falls Road, surrounded by an ever-growing throng of supporters.

Minutes later, speaking from a window of the Republican Press Centre, Adams congratulated "every single one of you who worked in this election and voted Sinn Fein". He added, amidst cheers:

"There are an awful lot of disappointed British soldiers and RUC men (cheers) and they're looking to cause trouble... It's our victory, it's sweet, don't let anybody ruin it — anybody. And especially I'm talking to young people: no hijackings, no messing, no graffiti. It's very, very important that the news that goes out of here today is that Sinn Fein held the seat."



● Dignity Lavery (foreground) and Sinn Fein's North Belfast candidate Paddy McManus (background) being dragged from their car by fanatical RUC near Belfast's City Hall on Friday

Attack on Adams' workers

BY JANE PLUNKETT

FOLLOWING Gerry Adams' historic re-election as MP for West Belfast, RUC men launched a revenge attack on two Sinn Fein cars leaving City Hall, kicked and punched their occupants and arrested the two drivers.

Among those assaulted were Sinn Fein's North Belfast candidate, Paddy McManus, and his election agent, Councillor Bobby Lavery.

They were in a car halted seconds after leaving City Hall, where the RUC had allowed a screaming loyalist mob to flank the departing car, kicking the vehicle and attempting to pull its doors open.

While one RUC man waved the car on, a hysterical RUC inspector repeatedly struck the car with his baton, screaming: "Stop that car!"

As other RUC men outside drew guns, the Sinn Fein members stopped, fearing they were about to be shot.

RUC men then surrounded the car, smashing its windows with batons, and dragged out the

occupants, kicking and punching them.

CAMERAS

This unprovoked RUC aggression, which was witnessed by numerous journalists, ended only with the arrival of the RUC inspector, who ordered his men: "Easy, easy — cameras."

The RUC then vindictively arrested the car's driver, election worker Brian Quinn, and confiscated his car.

With an Orange mob only yards away, the other occupants, candidate Paddy McManus, Bobby Lavery, and campaign workers Danny Lavery and Gerard Brophy were made to walk back to West Belfast.

Meanwhile, outside the College of Technology, a second Sinn Fein car was halted and the occupants were trailed out, searched, their names taken, and held for 15 minutes.

The driver, language activist Seosamh Caenn, was arrested and his car was confiscated.

Sinn Féin

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE 1987 GENERAL ELECTIONS will be remembered for three things:

- The unionist vote went down.
- The SDLP increased its vote nearly everywhere.
- The Sinn Féin vote showed remarkable resilience in the face of a massive onslaught.

It will also be remembered for two results:

- Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams retained his West Belfast seat.
- The SDLP unseated Official Unionist Enoch Powell in South Down.

That the unionist vote slumped is hardly surprising: in all but two constituencies (North Down and South Down), the result was a foregone conclusion. In another three constituencies (Foyles, West Belfast and Newry/Armagh) unionists were assured of defeat and in the remaining 12 they were assured of an easy victory. Against that background, appeals by unionist leaders to maximise their vote and register a strong protest against the Hillsborough Agreement fell on apathetic, if not deaf, ears.

A similar 'anti-Hillsborough referendum' had been conducted by unionists in the January 1986 by-elections. Its results, the unionists complained, had been disregarded by the British government. People will indeed remember how easy it had been then for the British to admit that the North was just a big gerrymandered constituency, with entirely predictable election results apart from marginal variations.

Added to this was 1½ years of a unionist boycott of Westminster and of unionist adjournments and walk-outs at council level, all of it with few results. The Hillsborough Agreement was still standing and there was no sign of Thatcher changing her mind on it, even the new 26-County premier, Charles Haughey, after being very critical of the Hillsborough Agreement while in opposition, had announced that he was going to support it in government.

SDLP FACTORS

The SDLP vote has increased by 3.2% since 1983. It now holds two extra seats, Newry/Armagh (won in January 1986) and South Down. Its success is due to two factors: the Hillsborough Agreement, which it has been allowed to milk for every drop of publicity it can get, and the support of the media and the Irish establishment, North and South.

Middle-class Catholics perceive the Agreement as their

guarantee of some say, albeit through an obscure secretariat, in the running of the Six Counties. Economically they have not done too badly out of eight years of Thatcherism, while working-class and unemployed people have seen their living standards take a nose-dive. For middle-class Catholics the Agreement is therefore the best they could get at this time, and they are preparing to settle for it and go back into Stormont. The SDLP is the party that best represents that group, both in aspiration and in social composition.

But the SDLP did not only get votes from the Catholic middle class. Through a revitalised election machine, with its key workers trained in electioneering methods in the US and flush with funds, the SDLP set about reversing the drift in its vote which had appeared after Sinn Féin joined the electoral fray. In Newry/Armagh and South Down in particular, it carried out a massive registration drive. A lot of work and money went into election literature and advertising. As Seamus Mallon admitted on the night of the count on UTV, what wins an election is largely the election machine, and the SDLP's is in good shape.

The SDLP also happens to enjoy the support of the media.

The *Irish News* in particular, through its front-page layout and editorials, methodically set about promoting the SDLP and undermining Sinn Féin for the last two weeks of the election campaign. The SDLP also had the vast bulk of the political and religious establishment rooting for it.

That Sinn Féin polled more than 83,000 votes is therefore no mean achievement. Sinn Féin's 1983 vote was high due to a combination of factors: the enthusiasm of the Sinn Féin campaign compared to the defensive, sedate SDLP, the novelty aspect of the 'let's give Sinn Féin a try' attitude, and the failure of the SDLP to offer any concrete hope of change. In 1987, the novelty effect has definitely worn off. The initial enthusiasm was dented by the slump in the Sinn Féin vote in the 1986 by-elections and has been replaced by a more thoughtful and professional approach, at

least in some areas. Sinn Féin also has to contend with opposing the Hillsborough Agreement, which the unionists also oppose, though for opposite reasons, and that has certainly confused some voters.

Against that, Sinn Féin's *Scenario for Peace* and its emphasis on the basic republican demands were an effective message, far more so than the simple, negative attitude to the Hillsborough Agreement which had been the case in 1986.

All in all, last week's Sinn Féin vote can therefore be considered to be Sinn Féin's core support - although in that field nothing is ever assured! A greater effort on registration, on targeting the vote, and on putting across a clear message should help Sinn Féin to increase that solid base vote.

WEST BELFAST

In 1983, half of Gerry Fitt's 10,326 votes had been claimed to come from unionist tactical voting. The truth seems to be closer to 3,000 given the votes obtained by Frank Millar of the OUP. If that is so, the SDLP had failed to capture the remainder of Fitt's vote. The SDLP vote increased by 3,707, a rather poor showing given the favourable circumstances the SDLP enjoyed.

Wrongly described by observers after the count as "a law unto itself", West Belfast is far from being a 'Sinn Féin seat'. High unemployment and poor housing breed apathy, not political motivation. And recent rioting and hijackings antagonised many people around the Falls Road. The Sinn Féin victory is therefore due in no small measure to a very good election team which had done its homework well in advance of the elections. That victory is a thorn in the side of the British and Dublin governments, and of the SDLP, which poured a lot of money and resources into West Belfast and up to the eve of polling day was sure it would win or at least run Gerry Adams very close.

SOUTH DOWN

The SDLP waged a campaign on the theme "Send the Englishman Home." After several attempts at the seat, McGrady went this time for an American-style campaign, and

1983			1987		
	Vote	%	Vote	%	
OUP	259,952	34.0			
DUP	152,749	20.0			
Other unionists	22,861	3.1			
Total unionist	435,562	57.1	400,430	56	
SDLP	137,012	17.9	158,087	21	
Sinn Féin	102,601	13.4	83,388	11.4	
Alliance	61,275	8.0	72,671	10	
Workers' Party	14,650	2.0	19,294	3	

NORTH ANTRIM

I. R. K. Paisley (DUP)	28,383
S. Farran (SDLP)	9,137
G. Williams (Alliance)	5,140
S. Regan (SF)	2,632
DUP Majority	19,234
No change	

SOUTH ANTRIM

C. Forsythe (OUP)	25,395
G. Mawhinney (Alliance)	5,808
D. McClelland (SDLP)	3,611
H. Cushman (SF)	1,592
OUP Majority	19,587
No change	

EAST BELFAST

P.D. Robinson (DUP)	20,372
J. Alderdice (Alliance)	10,574
F. Cullen (WP)	1,314
H. O'Donnell (SF)	649
DUP Majority	9,798
No change	

NORTH BELFAST

A.C. Walker (OUP)	14,355
A. Maginness (SDLP)	5,795
G. Sawright (Pro.U)	5,671
P. McManus (SF)	5,062
S. Lynch (WP)	3,062
T. Campbell (Alliance)	2,871
OUP Majority	8,560
No change	

SOUTH BELFAST

W.M. Smyth (OUP)	18,917
D. Cook (Alliance)	6,963
A. McDonnell (SDLP)	6,268
G. Carr (WP)	1,528
S. McKnight (SF)	1,030
OUP Majority	11,954
No change	

WEST BELFAST

G. Adams (SF)	16,862
J.G. Henderson (SDLP)	14,641
F. Millar (OUP)	7,646
M. McMahon (WP)	1,819
SF Majority	2,221
No change	

SOUTH DOWN

E.K. McGrady (SDLP)	26,579
J.E. Powell (OUP)	25,848
G. Ritchie (SF)	2,363
S.E. Laird (Alliance)	1,069
D. O'Hagan (WP)	675
OUP Majority	731
SDLP gain from OUP	



FOYLES

J. Hume (SDLP)	22,743
M. McGuinness (DUP)	12,853
E. Zammit (Alliance)	4,707
E. MeLaugh (WP)	1,276
SDLP Majority	10,022
No change	

LAGAN VALLEY

J.H. Moyniaux (OUP)	29,101
S.A. Close (Alliance)	5,728
B. McDonnell (SDLP)	2,888
P.J. Rice (SF)	2,566
J.T. Lowry (WP)	1,215
OUP Majority	23,373
No change	

EAST DERRY

W. Ross (OUP)	25,332
A. Doherty (SDLP)	9,375
J. Davey (SF)	5,664
M. McGowan (Alliance)	3,237
F. Donnelly (WP)	935
M.H. Samuel (Ecology)	281
OUP Majority	20,157
No change	

NEWRY/ARMAGH

S. Mallon (SDLP)	25,137
J.F. Nicholson (OUP)	19,812
J. McAllister (SF)	5,173
W.H. Jeffrey (Alliance)	664
J.O'Hanlon (WP)	482
SDLP Majority	5,325
No change	

MID-ULSTER

R.T.W. McCrea (DUP)	23,004
P.D. Haughey (SDLP)	13,644
S. Begley (SF)	12,449
P. Bonnar (Alliance)	1,846
P.J. McClean (WP)	1,133
DUP Majority	9,360
No change	

FERMANAGH/SOUTH TYRONE

K. Maginness (OUP)	27,446
P. Corrigan (SF)	14,623
R. Flanagan (SDLP)	10,581
D. Kettles (WP)	1,784
J. Hasset (Alliance)	941
OUP Majority	12,823
No change	

UPPER BANN

J.H. McCusker (OUP)	26,037
B. Rodgers (SDLP)	8,676
B.P. Curran (SF)	3,126
M.F.A. Cook (Alliance)	2,487
T. French (WP)	2,004
OUP Majority	17,361
No change	

every SDLP supporter, from the solicitor to the local pharmacist, was pulled in for the canvass. Compared to Sinn Féin's poorly-organised and poorly-financed election machine, the SDLP appeared as the winner from the start.

Despite all that, the Sinn Féin vote remained at a respectable 2,363. The Sinn Féin organisation on the ground gained new members, and an insight into the party's weaknesses in that area.

NEWRY/ARMAGH

"The basic republican vote came out," says candidate Jim McAllister, who polled 6,173 votes. "With hindsight we are pleased with it in the face of

the sectarian campaign mounted by the SDLP." The SDLP campaign in Newry/Armagh adopted a similar tone to that in South Down. "Keep the Protestant Out" was the theme there.

In spite of a deliberately low profile, the unionist candidate pulled a credible vote, nearly as high as in January 1986. Sinn Féin election workers will have to contend with apathy among Sinn Féin voters in future general election contests as the seat may now be perceived as Mallon's seat.

MID-ULSTER

The Sinn Féin candidate, Sean Begley, was relatively unknown at the start of the



SEAN MCKNIGHT campaign, while the SDLP contender, Denis Haughey, fought two previous elections in Mid-Ulster. The Sinn Féin vote held well in the circuitous. Sean Begley is from Mid-Ulster and was considered

Vote solid



● Part of the Sinn Fein motorcade which spread the news of Gerry Adams' re-election through the West Belfast constituency



(Above) Derry Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness being harassed while canvassing and (right, top and bottom) Sinn Fein election workers hard at it in West Belfast



1,000, a tribute to the effective campaign waged by Pat Rice and his team.

In the whole of Belfast the Sinn Fein vote increased on 1983, although it was overtaken by the SDLP, but that is due to Hendron getting a chunk of Gerry Fitt's vote and the Alliance vote in West Belfast.

FERMANAGH/SOUTH TYRONE

This constituency saw a three-cornered race and its foregone conclusion — with the OUP's Ken Maginnis assured of victory — almost certainly kept some voters from the polls.

However, the Sinn Fein vote held well and comfortably retained its position as the major nationalist party with 14,623 votes. With a very credible and well-known candidate in Paul Corrigan (who recently began his second term as chairperson of Fermanagh Council), Sinn Fein improved its share of the nationalist vote to 58% and took more than a quarter of the total poll.

With Rosemary Flanagan contesting the seat for the SDLP instead of Austin Currie, the party's support dropped by 1,500 votes to barely above its 1983 level.

EAST DERRY

In East Derry, where the election of the single unionist candidate, Willie Ross, was a certainty, it seems that there was a degree of apathy among many voters.

The SDLP's vote dropped slightly and the total cast for Sinn Fein's candidate, local Councillor John Davey, fell by 1,609 to 5,464, a result which will be looked at carefully by his election team to see what weaknesses exist.

NORTH AND SOUTH ANTRIM

In North Antrim, Sean Regan performed creditably as a first-time candidate increasing Sinn Fein's share of the nationalist vote by polling 2,633 votes, only a couple of hundred voted lower than the party's 1983 tally.

In this predominantly loyalist constituency, where DUP leader Ian Paisley predictably topped the poll, but with a much reduced vote, the SDLP vote was down by more than 1,000 (to 5,149) on its 1983 total.

In South Antrim, Sinn Fein's Henry Cushman, a local councillor and another first-time contender in Westminster elections, did well, polling 1,592 votes and holding Sinn Fein's 1983 vote.

nationalist vote the republican vote was very difficult to mobilise. However, we are confident that with a strong and effective organisation we can win this seat for Sinn Fein.

FOYLE

In Foyle, the Sinn Fein vote dropped by nearly 2,000, a disappointing result for local election workers who had hoped for as many (if not more) voters than in 1983. According to Mitchel McLaughlin, however, the present figure is a "realistic reflection of Sinn Fein support in Foyle".

BELFAST AREA

The outstanding features



here include the very solid vote for Sinn Fein in North Belfast ("A substantial republican vote that will not go away," in the

words of Paddy McManus, the local Sinn Fein candidate) and Lagan Valley, where the Sinn Fein vote went up by nearly



● PADDY McMANUS

Sinn Fein as the natural candidate for the seat. It was only a matter of time before Danny Morrison stood down to let a local candidate run.

"On paper the SDLP increased its vote," Sean Begley reflects, "but because of a split

the SDLP... had... elections... Sinn Fein... the circum-... from Mid-... considered by

9,743
8,883
7,907
7,276
6,022
5,860

9,101
8,228
7,388
6,556
5,215
4,373

9,632
8,775
7,944
7,237
6,935
6,281
5,157

5,137
4,012
3,173
2,664
2,482
1,325

9,004
8,644
7,449
6,846
5,133
4,360

5,037
4,676
3,126
2,487
2,004
1,361

LIFE IN THE COCKPIT

IN THE COCKPIT. Life gets boring sometimes, but not when you're in the cockpit.

At least that's where the Beeb and the *Irish News* and the rest of the bourgeois media said I was last week. Looked like the Falls to me, same as always. But, no... the pre-election newspapers assured me that West Belfast was the cockpit.

In the *Irish News*, the editor was telling us that we in the cockpit were "voting for a breakthrough" by putting a rich doctor from up the Malone Road in Westminster, "at the vortex of power".

The vortex of power. It had a ring to it. For a minute, the cockpit of West Belfast paled in comparison. I consulted my trusty dictionary.

"Vortex, noun, a whirling mass of water."

In other words, a toilet. Not a bad description of Westminster. Gerry Adams promised to stay in Belfast, to work with us in winning our freedom. And the *Irish News* wanted us to send Joe Headroom to the toilet.

...

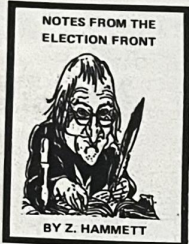
Meanwhile, back in the cockpit, the election was hotting up. A Sinn Fein Grand Prix car came flying by, Parnelli Sheehy at the wheel. It was merely a blur, but I think I caught a glimpse of Tricolours flying from the windows and a poster that said: "Vote Adams."

Music was blaring from the car. Christy Moore. He was singing some traditional Irish ditty about a couple of veterans of the Tan War... Sacco and Vanzetti. I heard about three words before the car disappeared around the corner. Even if you didn't know where Sinn Fein was going, at least you knew they were getting there fast!

Every ten minutes or so, one of these things would whizz by, endangering the lives of dogs, pedestrians, handball players, and punters on their way to win some back from Barney Eastwood.

A ballot paper in one hand and a winning docket in the other.

Each day of the campaign, three Sinn Fein leaflets and two Sinn Fein campaigners came through the door. Gerry Adams' face smiled down from every wall. The wall lining the City Cemetery up the White-



rock Road carried the longest campaign slogan in world history. "Sinn Fein is the best in the West..." it began.

It all made good reading for the Brit foot patrols as they made their way up the Whiterock, practising their strategy of an SLR in one hand and an absentee ballot paper in the other.

Joe Headroom of the Stoop Down Low Party held a lower profile on the street. No campaign cars. No leaflets through the doors. They didn't need them. The Headroom message was being carried by all the radio stations and nearly all the newspapers serving the cockpit. The only personal touch was when an SDLP boss went round the pensioners' bungalows to steal their postal votes.

The closest I got to Dr Headroom, not being a pensioner or a patient, was the chubby face I saw sneering out from the lamp-posts. Evert time I saw the Headroom poster I thought about how well-fed all the SDLP candidates look. They go on the Box and they're always belching, as if they just finished four courses at the Ritz.

"Tell us again about how your party intends to capture the cockpit of West Belfast from those reviled cowardly terrorists who shoot soft targets as they innocently patrol blah-blah-blah-vortex-of-power," invites the interviewer.

"Well, we believe...urp... Anglo-Irish agreement for the good of...urp... and respect the security forces in the...urp... of their duty while ensuring a prosperous...urp... for all," replies John Humeroom with a leg of lamb in one hand and a pensioner's postal vote in the other.

...

Meanwhile, down the



● As Gerry Adams congratulates the people in the cockpit, Mary McMahon (second from left) of the Lost Again Party and Joe Headroom (second from right) of the Stoop Down Low Party wonder if the people of West Belfast will ever vote Lecky

Falls, veteran so-called Workers' Party deposit-loser Mary McMahon was touring the Sticky cockpit of Leeson Street on an old horse. Slowly she rode, up and down Leeson Street and Cypress Street, shaking hands with the same old Sticky voters on their way home from the Drinkers' Party club as if she'd never met them before, waiting for the newspapers to take her picture.

Seems I remembered that one from the recent Leinster House elections, when so-called Sticky Party boss Tomas Mac Giolla-gorilla rode a horse-drawn carriage across the pages of the *Irish Times*. This time, funds were low from a shortage of building site frauds, so McMahon had to settle for the horse.

Not surprisingly, the so-called Whackos' Party provided most of the laughs in the cockpit and the surrounding environs. Up in his New Lodge stronghold, party boss Seamus Lynch was posing for a BBC photo opportunity. Only problem was, he'd lost his voice due to an acute case of embarrassing-questionitus.

So much for those expensive ellect[ro]cution lessons!

Working on the principle that Seamus's loss was New Lodge's gain, the Beeb's cameras followed Lynch on his North Belfast campaign rounds. To make up for his master's (lost) voice, another so-called Talkers' Party

member walked along with Seamus and answered the Beeb interviewer's questions from the stock script of so-called Wafflers' Party answers-to-tired-old-Beeb-questions.

The man from the Beeb would ask a question and Lynch's sidekick would try to answer without moving his lips, while he pulled the string under Seamus's coat and made his mouth move up and down.

But the high point of the television piece came when the candidate and his talking sidekick were filmed on their electioneering rounds. The camera followed them up the path of a randomly-picked house, complete with Sticky poster in window, attached by sticky tape.

"Lynch Workers' Party," read the poster.

"Nuff said."

...

Meanwhile, up on Crocus Street, in the heart of the cockpit of West Belfast, a member of the so-called Leafleters' Party left Mary McMahon's consignment of election leaflets in two neat piles on the entry beside one of the party's numerous empty advice centres. As usual, the centre was locked and empty, so the said member made his way around the corner to locate a comrade-with-a-key in a certain pub where the party holds its weekly Saturday Night Fights.

Well, who am I to say

how it happened? Could have been some of the 'Bow Brigade who drink cider at the next corner. Could have been a freak wind. Maybe it was sunspots. Whatever the cause, those bundles somehow became disengaged. Knots unknotted. Strings unstrung. Bundles unbound. Winds blew.

Soon, a whole consignment of Mary McMahon leaflets were flying around Crocus Street, with a young Runners' Party volunteer chasing after them and several angry Chasers' Party hacks on his heels.

And then it began to rain...

"Vortex."

...

Finally came the day of reckoning. Pundits everywhere, particularly in Belfast City Hall. Their dulcet tones could be heard over the airwaves, assuring us that West Belfast was indeed "the one to watch". The cockpit.

"This will be a close one, but the nod could well go to Joe Headroom," a radio commentator reassured his Malone Road listeners.

"Will the SDLP make that vital breakthrough in West Belfast?" asked another, keeping alive the cockpit image.

The hours dragged on. On the streets, there was not a Sinner in sight. They were all hiding in their houses, fearful that all the media hype might come true des-



pite their mighty campaigning efforts.

"If Gerry doesn't win this one, I'm going home to hide in the coal hole," a local taxi man said. Another woman was going to "leave Ireland and go up a tree". They were fearful of how the Brits and RUC would celebrate their Headroom's victory. A plastic bullet in one hand and a plastic bullet in the other.

Results began to come in. The shocking news of Peter Robinson's re-election in East Belfast came first.



● A Sinn Fein election worker adds the final touches in West Belfast

win by unionist Cecil Walker. Seamus Lynch of the so-called 'Handshakers' Party tripped over his shoelaces in his effort to be the first to shake Walker's hand in congratulations. Lynch was rejoicing in his success at being the *only* Weepers' Party candidate *not* to lose his deposit.

...

Finally, the big moment. The result was announced for West Belfast. A win for Gerry Adams. Two-thousand-plus majority and an increased Sinn Fein vote over the 1983 election. Not even close. Po-faced Joe Headroom stood silent and serious. Mary McMahon began watching a cartoon that was being broadcast on the ceiling directly above her.

Then came the shock. The heavens split. Lightning bolts crashed down on the BBC. Typesetters watched helplessly as bits of type jumped out of their boxes at the *Irish News*. A forlorn bookie could be heard silently weeping in some far-off betting shop. Someone hit the 'erase' button on the journalists' collective memory-bank.

Dennis Murray, the BaeB's political 'expert', nearly tripped over Seamus Lynch's shoelaces in his haste to justify the Adams victory.

"Nobody ever expected the SDLP to win this one," he reassured the Malone Road viewers. "What Joe Headroom had done, in this magnificent performance, is to serve notice on Sinn Fein that he will take the seat in the next election."

Then you could hear it. Throughout the North. A voice was flying around, through every home, at every workplace. Soft at first, then stronger and with conviction.

"Serve notice... serve notice... SERVE NOTICE." The phrase was winning its place in the Journalists' Hall of Fame of Overused Ulster Phrases, along with "copperfastening" and "soft target".

The next morning's newspapers confirmed that things had indeed changed. The *Irish News*, which had led the cheerleading for Joe Headroom's "breakthrough from the cockpit to the vortex" was silent. Two sentences were given to the Adams victory on its front page. The editorial spoke of "fair warning" being served that the SDLP would win West Belfast next time around.

We were no longer in the cockpit. Indeed, we *never had been*. It was all in our imagination. West Belfast had never been important. Adams' election was an inevitable aberration. West Belfast voters didn't *really* support Sinn Fein. Some inexplicable force had entered the ballot boxes overnight and changed the Xs from Headroom to Adams. It would all be put right in the next election.

And the war goes on...



● Peter Robinson of the DUP couldn't bear to share a platform with a Sinn Feiner... and smile



Sinn Fein's candidate for the constituency, Joe O'Donnell, was visibly upset at his defeat by Robinson. So upset that he couldn't wipe that silly smirk off his face when Peter Robinson refused to share the podium with him.

More results. Ian Paisley's shock win in Antrim North came in. Big Ian responded by favouring us all with his rendition of an old hymn. The voice sounded like the rumble of stones in a cement mixer.

"Praise Him from whom

all blessings flow..."

The Alliance Party candidate sang along while the so-called Singers Party back in Cypress Street regretted this loss of an opportunity to cross the sectarian divide by joining in. "I want to stand in Antrim next time," South Down deposit-loser Des O'Hagan was overheard to say.

More results while the commentators on the Box kept assuring us that the "all-important" West Belfast result was imminent. Belfast North, with another shock



● A NATO conference in Brussels - will the 26 Countries soon have delegates?

NEUTRALITY IS DEAD

FIANNA FAIL showed its true NATO colours in the European Parliament on Tuesday when the leader of their parliamentary group, Paddy Lalor, supported a call for EEC involvement in military affairs.

The Fianna Fail support for NATO came in a debate on disarmament which had resolutions before it calling on the EEC to adopt a position on the negotiations and take a specific military stance. Paddy Lalor said that he fully supported a resolution from a German Christian Democrat which called on EEC Foreign Ministers to promote a "European concept of security" and to draw up disarmament proposals which "take specific account of the security interests of Western Europe".

any Dublin government representative has ever gone in promoting the militarisation of EEC decision-making. Other MEPs of the NATO states were reportedly surprised and delighted at Lalor's departure from 'official' Dublin government policy. Even the Fine Gael MEPs could not support the resolution which, if implemented, would make EEC forums nothing more than NATO talking-shops.

NOT SURPRISING

This latest development is not surprising given the record of successive Dublin governments and given the support of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael



● PADDY LALOR for the Single European Act which finally killed 26-County neutrality.

MILITARISATION
The Fianna Fail support for this move is the furthest



● Green Street Courthouse, Dublin

NAKED INJUSTICE

SIX REPUBLICAN remand prisoners refused to wear their clothing when called to appear at Dublin's Green Street Special Court on June 17th in protest against the continued practice of strip-searching at Portlaoise. Their action delayed the case as they were not allowed into the court while naked. After the protest they put on their clothes again and made a statement from the dock condemning their own treatment.

The six - Eoin Morrow, Dennis Griffin, Jimmy Fox, John McEvoy, Kenneth Carnegie, and Art Crossay - told the court that they had been strip-searched after their last appearance there and three of them ended up hospitalised when prison officers tried to forcibly remove their underclothing. They were strip-searched before and after legal visits even though they had no contact with the public - only with prison officers and lawyers. They said that £300,000

Their main grievance is the system of strip-searching which is still regularly practised. In December 1986, there were 170 strip-searches; January '87: 74; February: 67; and March: 108.

Deirdre Whelan of the Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives' Action Committee said:

"These men have been continually abused and strip-searched when they had no contact with anyone except prison officers. Their treatment is an attempt to humiliate and degrade them. The PPRAC calls on the Dublin Minister for Justice, Gerry Collins, to fulfil the promise made by Fianna Fail in opposition to abolish the practice if returned to government."

RIGHTS REFUSED

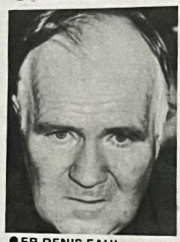
The prisoners were all living in Dundalk and are charged with possession of firearms and breaking and entering. Their action is the latest in a series of protests by Portlaoise prisoners who have been refused the right to meet with the Portlaoise visiting committee.

Buses to Bodenstown

Sunday 21st June
 Carlow
 12.15pm Muine Bheag
 Taille E3
 Contact M. Ahern/J. Bolger
 12.45pm Carlow Town
 Taille E3
 Contact K. Foley/J. Corcoran
 Clare
 Bam Ennis
 8.30am Shannon
 Taille E7
 Cork city
 9.15am Mahon Garda Barracks(1)
 Dublin: City Centre
 12 noon 44 Parnell Square
 Taille E3
 Bookings: 308783/308664
 Dublin: Ballyfermot
 11.30am Church of Assumption
 Taille E3
 Dublin: Ballymun
 12 noon Shopping Centre
 Taille E3
 Dublin: Finlagh
 12.30pm Shamrock Pub
 Taille E3
 Dublin: Inchicore
 12 noon Black Lion
 Taille E3
 Dublin North East
 11.30am N'side Shopping Centre
 Colcock
 11.45am Kibarrack Fire Station
 Taille E3
 Dublin: North Strand
 11.15am Fire Station, Annesley Bridge
 Taille E3.50 (E3 unwaged)
 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: Stillorgan
 12.15pm Lords' Tavern, Marian Park
 12.30pm Shopping Centre
 Taille E3.50
 Bookings: Brian Tyndall 883457
 County Dublin: Tallaght
 12 noon Tallaght Village (H. Williams)
 via Killinarden, Fettercairn,
 Saggart and Píotín Still
 Taille E2
 Kerry
 7.15am Tralee Station
 Taille E10
 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

Máire Poist

AP/RN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



● FR DENIS FAUL



● MR SCOTT

POWs and the Irish News

A Chaire, I would be grateful of the opportunity to comment on an article carried on the front page of the *Irish News* on June 6th entitled: *Early release on the table. New hope in campaign for prisoners.* The article was built around an *Irish Press* interview with Nicholas Scott in which he hinted that there would be a more humane approach from the NIO towards long-term prisoners in the Six Counties, especially those who, as Scott says, "Have been caught up in the 'Troubles' unwillingly." This, if true, would be a most welcome development and will affect all republican prisoners as no republican has ever willingly been caught up in what Scott calls the 'Troubles'. Rather they have been forced into particular actions as a direct result of the continued British presence in Ireland. But as a republican prisoner I must confess to having certain reservations about what Nicholas Scott has said and just exactly what he means. For instance, by more humane does he mean an end to strip-searches, forced interrogation, beatings by prison staff, solitary confinement, 23-hour lock-ups, refusal of compassionate parole, and lack of exercise and education facilities? (The list is much longer but I think these few examples make the point.) Or will those inhumane actions continue? Perhaps Mr Scott is only

referring to the release of those prisoners serving life or SOSP who have been 'assessed' and deemed to have made 'progress'. If the latter is the case then it also raises a number of questions. For instance, does Nicholas Scott mean that no longer will some men serving SOSP have to serve 15 years before even being considered for release, as is the case at present? And by 'making progress' does he mean that no longer will a prisoner who has been charged with a breach of prison rules have to wait 13 years before being considered for release, which is also the case at present?

Just how long will Nicholas Scott's view of 'progress' be assessed, and by whom? What evidence is there to suggest that it will be any different than the biased system which prevails in the present life-review system, in the Diplock courts, in employment, in housing, in fact in all aspects of daily life in the Six Counties?

I for one see no such evidence and, contrary to the headline of the *Irish News* article, nothing Scott has said fills me up with hope, just a feeling of 'here we go again', prisoners being used in an effort to win the hearts and minds of our families; prisoners being used as political hostages to make political capital for the British and their cohorts.

But Nicholas Scott wasn't the only person in the *Irish News* article quoted and those others were also worthy of mention. Fr Faul, of course, was invited to give his opinion

and even if one does not doubt his concern - however misguided - the question must be asked, why does Fr Faul's concern not impel him to speak out about the way Nicholas Scott's department is presently using its process of 'assessing prisoners' to discriminate against and victimise prisoners, rather than applauding Scott for something he has yet to do. If for the reason Fr Faul's silence is a lack of awareness then I would be only too happy to provide Fr Faul with the relevant information.

Mr Mallon and Dr Hendron were, not surprisingly so close to an election, also invited to give their opinions. Mr Mallon, for his part, was "delighted" that the young people who are detained under SOSP were to get "special consideration". I am one of those people to whom Mr Mallon refers, and if the special consideration is remotely like the consideration I have been given (i.e. refused compassionate parole to attend my father's funeral), refused compassionate parole to visit my brother critically injured in a gun attack, not to be even considered for release until I have served 14 years, then no thank you Mr Mallon.

Dr Hendron promised to use the House of Commons to "plead for a more lenient approach to be taken to the many hundreds of prisoners in our jails". Ireland has seen a long and sad litany of Irishmen who have pleaded on the floor of the House of Commons and gained nothing. What makes you think that the British would have listened to your pleas, Dr Hendron?

Finally I would like to mention the lack of comment in the article from either Sinn Féin - which is at least in touch with a large number of prisoners - or prisoners themselves. Only the viewpoint of the *Irish News* correspondent was covered in the article and resulted in a very unbalanced piece of reporting. In an attempt to rectify what may have been an oversight I am taking this opportunity to invite the correspondent responsible for the article to cover an interview with either myself or a representative of the prisoners on this issue. Hopefully this will place him in a better position to write on this issue from an objective point of view.

Tony Catney,
 PRO
 Republican POWs,
 Long Kesh

Editor's note: This letter was written before Nicholas Scott was moved from the Northern Ireland Office in the British government's Cabinet reshuffle.

ganisation to which its struggle to the floor of the European Parliament. Herri Batasuna's win should not be underestimated. It has confounded the entire body politic in Spain - Sinn Féin must join it in 1989.

Paul Maguire,
 Dublin South Central.

Puppets

A Chaire,
 Down the centuries since 1169 two wonders of the world have stood out conspicuously in the pages of Irish history.

On the one hand we read of the countless wretches who, for incomprehensible reasons sold their birthright, betrayed their national leaders and took their nefarious stand on the side of their tyrannical enemy. On the other hand, the souls of all people of integrity are inflamed with love and admiration as they read of those who gave their all, in the cause of freedom and justice not without standing all the treachery and ingratitude practised against them by those they sought to serve.

It is salutary for us to reflect that never at any stage in our sordid history were the betrayers as brazen and aggressive or the patriots as heroic as they are at the present day. No longer is it a case of individual traitors; rather it is a case that the entire state establishment, including the political parties, the church and those who control the news media, are all engaged as assiduous puppets of the enemy.

For proof of this we need search no farther than the headlines in the newspapers and on radio and TV on June 4th. They were all saturated with the outpourings of the usual anti-national criminal liars - one feels tempted to say professional liars.

Take for example, Brian Lenihan's reference to the killing of RUC man Sammy McClean and Fr Faul's reference to the same event. Both those gentlemen know, as everybody knows, that one-sided condemnations of such happenings are despicable lies because all they contain is vicious condemnation of the IRA without a word of blame against the victim. The purpose in this is to create the fraudulent and misleading picture in which the IRA is portrayed in the most possible light and denied even a word of justification while there is not even a hint that all the blame rests on RUC man McCann and his British masters.

In the first place, there is a war of liberation being waged in the Six Counties and during a war antagonists do not wander freely through each other's territories. McClean was a hireling of a foreign colonial power which is denying us every day, by might of arms, our right to sovereignty, unity and peace. He was an active member of an organisation which acts almost entirely in a lawless, sectarian manner (shoot-to-kill), employs paid-perjurers to have innocent people sent to prison, consistently harasses people of all ages, breaks into homes, terrifies families, destroys property wantonly, and tortures detainees. It is not unknown for the late RUC man's fellow officers to commit perjury.

If those who so viciously calumniate the IRA had the faintest trace of self-respect, care for their country, or interest in truth or justice they would renge on the enemy and give the IRA credit and support for its integrity, loyalty to the national cause and its heroic, limitless sacrifices made in devotion to that cause. Padraig Mac Saindir,
 Dun Laoghaire.

Playing our song

A Chaire,
 The symphonic failure of the Irish Rugby Football Union, manager and team to have our nation's anthem played during the World Cup match against Wales was so nauseatingly obsequious as to make even New Zealand holdikymakers in Ireland blush for our shame.

The supine subservience of the IRFU in failing to register an effective protest, even after the game is an insult not only to every Irish citizen worthy of the name but also, and especially, to Peadar Kearney (the author) and Paddy Heaney (the composer), both of whom gave their all in the cause of the Irish people.

Such moral cowardice has not been seen since they used to junket to South Africa and holiday regally on the sweat and pain of the exploited blacks. If they could gain even a minor modicum in principle of what they have in brain, they might take a step in the direction of alleviating their betrayal of Ireland's 'foreign fields'.

As Katy Jurado (who played Mrs Ramirez) said to Lloyd Bridges (who played the deputy) in that classic movie, *High Noon*:

"It takes more than big shoulders to make a man, Harvey."

Ter O'Leary,
 North Strand,
 Dublin 3.



Protest in the USA

A Chaire,
 The Stop the Strip-Searches Committee of Concerned Irish-Americans as well as men and women with no Irish heritage are planning a rally in Philadelphia to coincide with the picket at Maghberry Prison in November.

The women in Maghberry and Durham Prison in England would appreciate the co-operation of all people in the United States and other countries in planning rallies on the date to be announced.

November 11th 1987 will start the sixth year of this degrading, dehumanising psychological rape of women in the North of Ireland and England. We cannot, by our silence, allow this to continue and respectfully ask that all areas across the United States hold rallies on the same date.

Any help we can provide with information and/or literature on strip-searching will be gladly sent to any group planning rallies. Please write to us if your area is interested in helping in this most worthwhile effort.

Stop the Strip-Searches Committee,
 PO Box 14648,
 Philadelphia,
 Pa 19134.

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.

CATH SAOIRSE AN IÚIR

- Newry's Struggle -



Cath Saoirse an Iúir, a history of Newry's republican struggle between 1798 and 1962 is also available from all republican outlets. Raymond P. Watson's book, which is published in English, costs Stg. £2.50 (plus postage).

The EEC

A Chaire,
 The result of the Single European Act referendum in the 26 Counties contains many lessons for the Republican Movement. The salient feature of the poll was that support for neutrality, sovereignty and opposition to the EEC is strongest in the urban, working-class areas. Secondly, opposition and/or indifference to the EEC has increased substantially since 1972. Thirdly, while peace and neutrality are laudable ideals in themselves, people voted against the SEA primarily on what they perceived to be economic issues, despite efforts by sections of the 'no' campaign to limit the agenda to Title III of the Act.

Sinn Féin's participation in the campaign was a useful exercise and credit is due to both members and supporters who formed the backbone of the Constitutional Rights Campaign, especially in Dublin.

Some republicans correctly expressed understandable reservations about working with the occasional ultra-Catholic bigot. However, this was inevitable given the *ad hoc* nature of the CRC organisation.

The task now facing Sinn Féin is not to allow the contradictions which have appeared within Fianna Fáil, Labour and the Workers' Party in relation to EEC membership to simply evaporate. The next EEC elections will be held in 1989 and Sinn Féin must capitalise on the substantial 'anti-EEC' sentiments and use the elections as a spring-board for electoral advancement in the 26 Counties.

Success will be achieved by taking the following measures:

1. Detailed preparation must be made well in advance of the election.
2. Republicans should actively support the politically broad-based Irish Sovereignty Movement.
3. The economic failure of the EEC should be highlighted by republicans in the trade

REVIEWS

CRIMINAL NEGLECT

BY JOE GABRIEL

RTE RADIO 1 can be a major blessing on Sundays. At the end of a long, hard week there is nothing better than to tune into the station and listen as politicians and journalists duel with each other for dominance of the airwaves. Invariably, it is always good for a laugh, as the programme between 1pm and 2pm, *This Week*, purports to give us an analysis of the week's news. Last Sunday was no exception.

For openers, there was Fine Gael's spokesperson on Industry, John Bruton, lamenting the fact that the Hyster plant in Blanchardstown, County Dublin, had effectively done a bunk after getting at least £17 million from the IDA and assorted agencies. Mr Bruton was quick to point out that the minister currently in charge of giving money to the large multinationals, Albert Reynolds, was also the holder of the office when Hyster first went into business here in 1982. And at that time there was a major rush-job performance in getting Hyster to set up, and influenced to no extent whatsoever by an impending by-election in Dublin West, no doubt.

Bruton wanted accountability. He wanted people to be aware of where money went. He wanted a situation where the taxpayer wasn't been done by bad commercial decisions taken by ministers on their behalf. He didn't want bad decisions taken where £17 million was lost.

A GAS MAN

John Bruton, it may be remembered, was the man who did the deal over Dublin gas.

That deal cost the taxpayer over £100 million. It goes without saying that Mr Bruton



has a neck like a jockey's ***** to even talk about (S)Hyster. What was even more annoying than that was the fact that this little sordid episode in his past was not explored in any way. But this is typical of the way RTE operates on Sundays - or indeed, every other day of the week as well.

For whatever reason, Bruton was let off the hook, and what he had to say in relation to Albert Reynolds became 'news' in the sense of the word that RTE sees it. In other words, what politicians say becomes the news of the day, and they can say anything they like.

On the same programme, there was further evidence of this. Garret FitzGerald was also on the programme. He stated that the Sinn Fein vote was down 23% across the North and then added that this was outside West Belfast.

This figure was repeated again and again, and the impression was given that the total Sinn Fein vote was down by



a number of points. The interviewer never challenged him on the figures. In fact, the Sinn Fein vote was 11.4% - up 0.8% since 1985.

The entire thrust of RTE's 'coverage' is like that. Politicians are brought into the studio and then allowed a free reign for their opinions with regard to the function journalists are supposed to be carrying out - to inform, clarify issues, and so on. What these politicians say then becomes 'news' for the rest of the day.

By the way, too much listening to this programme could damage your political health, as your brain turns to jelly after a while.

For some time now, the word in Leinster House is that our great and natural leader (Charlie Haughey) is desperately trying to get back to basics and single-seat constituencies. This has been floated to various politi-

cal correspondents who frequent the hallowed corridors of that glorious building. However, despite the fact that the rumours have been floated for more than six weeks, it has taken until quite recently for any of this to make its way into the papers.

The *Sunday Tribune* and Monday's *Irish Press* both carried stories which indicated this general direction. Of course, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael would both benefit from this change. The rest would be effectively wiped out. It would give Haughey a shot at another term and kill off his erstwhile political live-logs, Dessie O'Malley's Progress.

Haughey's only function in life is to write himself into the history books. Of course, the sweeter for the electorate would be the lowering of the number of seats. The reason would be 'grave economic times', 'sacrifice for the



greater good', and so on. If Haughey can manage to swing it, he would certainly write himself into the history books - perhaps forever.

The disturbing aspect of all this is that the political correspondents, generally speaking, have ignored this. Opposition to the whole notion has not yet been expressed in a major way. Which just shows that Haughey had the media in his pocket as he is doing exactly what it requires. The fun will start on his own backbenches. The failure of the media here amounts to nothing short of criminal neglect of the issues.

COCA COLA: THE SPARKLE OF DEATH

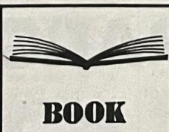
BY TOM O'DWYER

IN MARCH 1976, a list was posted on the plant notice board announcing the dismissal of 160 trade union members. The workers responded with a 16-day occupation, winning reinstatement of their comrades. These could have been details of an industrial struggle here in Ireland - but they aren't. It happened in a country where 2% of workers were unionised, where strikers faced death squads, and where a military dictatorship had been in power for 22 years. The 450 workers of the Coca Cola plant in Guatemala city had begun a nine-year battle during which three union general secretaries were murdered, five workers killed and four others were 'disappeared' (i.e. kidnapped and probably killed by death-squads).

Coca Cola controls 44% of the world's soft drink sales. Its yearly profits alone equal the entire Guatemalan budget. Its winning formula is to sell the rights to bottle and market Coke to local business interests while company headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, manages the Coca Cola 'image' and provides the syrup on the basis of a single. Two Texans, John C. Trotter and Mary Fleming, owned the Guatemala city bottling plant with Trotter, a fundamentalist Christian, in control. Trotter was deeply involved with the Guatemalan military government and after the workers' 1976 victory he was determined to crush their union.

DEATH-SQUAD MANAGEMENT

In 1978, three death-squad



members were brought into the firm as managers. The personnel manager interviewed workers with a revolver on his desk and a bodyguard on either side.

State forces combined with the death-squads to terrorise the workforce and kill union members. The union sought international support and a 'boycott Coke' campaign began over the world. The company's precious image - clean living and carefree -

was being seriously damaged.

Throughout Latin America its advertising slogan "Coca Cola: The Sparkle of Life", was being changed by trade union activists to "The Sparkle of Death". Eventually Coke management was forced to buy out Trotter and Fleming and kick out their thugs, recognising the union's rights. But the problems weren't over yet.

CLOSURE

The managers brought in by Coke headquarters spent the next three years running down the company whose employees were now leading the Guatemalan trade union movement. In February 1984, there was a sudden closure followed by yet another occupation. The entire 460-strong workforce took part, with 200 workers occupying the plant at any one time. Trade unionists in Norway, Italy, Mexico and Sweden took sympathetic strike action and the presidents of 19 North American unions supported the boycott of Coke. The company was forced to back down and the plant was officially reopened in March 1985.

The Guatemala city Coke workers' struggle was not only heroic but successful as well. The pamphlet, *Soft Drink: Hard Labour*, tells their story in detail and it's one which every trade unionist should read.

Soft Drink: Hard Labour, published by the Latin American Bureau, 1 Amwell Street, London EC1R 1UL price 95p plus postage.

Soft Drink

Hard Labour

Guatemalan Workers Take On Coca-Cola

Imeachtaí

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'FORD FOUR PUBLIC MEETING
Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Chris Mullin, Bishop Kavanagh, Mary McAleese & Tim Pat Coogan
8pm Friday 19th June
Shelbourne Hotel
DUBLIN

BODENSTOWN NIGHT MYSTERY TOUR
Sunday 21st June
Buses leave
Shamrock Pub, Finglas, at 7.15pm and Ballymun Shopping Centre 7.30pm
DUBLIN

Chicken 'n' chips and entertainment in "salubrious surroundings"
Pick-ups can be arranged elsewhere
Phone Sean at 347996
Taille E5

SESSION
Musicians and singers from Gweedore and Derry plus guitarist Liam Derry
9pm Thursday 25th June
Downtown Bar
LETTERKENNY
County Donegal
Taille E2 (€1.50 unwaged)

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

MIRIAM DALY COMMEMORATION
12.30pm Saturday 27th June
St Colmille's Church
SWORDS
County Dublin

FINGLAS PUB QUIZ
8pm Tuesday 7th July
Fingal Inn
Finglas
DUBLIN
Taille E10 per table

BALLAD SESSION
9pm Saturday 11th July
Shannon Knights Inn
SHANNON
County Clare
Taille E1.50 (€1 unwaged)
Organised by Sinn Fein

BALLAD SESSION
Music by Gypsy Lacey
Friday 17th July
Camelot Hotel
Malahide Road
Coolock
DUBLIN
Organised by Dublin North Sinn Fein

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S SEMINAR
Friday 31st July to
Tuesday 4th August
COUNTY WICKLOW
Taille E10 from Dublin,
E5 outside Dublin, no charge for children - crèche available
Details: Rose (01 532763)
or Nicola (01 726932)
Organised by the Sinn Fein Education Department

SEAN SABHAT/FEARGAL O'HANLON PLAQUE

WOULD the person from Newry who ordered a plaque please send their name and address (together with their postal order number) to Sally Walsh, Lurriga, Patrickswell, Limerick, or go to the Sean Heuston Sinn Fein Cumann's mobile shop at Bodenstown.

STRIP-SEARCHING HIGHLIGHTED IN DURHAM

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

NEARLY 2,000 people from a wide range of women's groups, trade unions and labour movement organisations, Irish, black and civil rights bodies converged on the small Northern English town of Durham on Saturday, June 13th, to support the demand to stop strip-searching.

Several women's groups and two lively Glasgow bands from the Scottish Republican Band Alliance marched in the warm sunshine through the streets crowded with Saturday afternoon shoppers. Many people showed interest and expressed sympathy with the demonstrators.

At Durham Prison, where Martina Nic Andreas and Ella Ni Dhuibhir who are in the notoriously repressive H-Wing, the marchers stopped for a short time. They chanted messages of support to the women inside and called for H-Wing to be closed and Irish POWs to be repatriated.

SPEECHES

Later, at the rally chaired by Helen Flack (Leicester Women Against Strip-Searches), the crowd



● **MARIA TOLLY** listened to a variety of speeches from groups as diverse as Camur (Chilean Women's Organisation), the Iranian Women's Association, Broadwater Farm Youth Association and the Beliaist Relatives' Committee.

Isobel Anderson, Martina's sister, gave a history of how strip-



searching was introduced and ended by saying:

"We have a mutual cause, to defeat the oppression of women in whatever form it may take. We must do all we can to build a strong and active campaign to end the strip-searching of all prisoners."

Letters of support were numerous and Helen Flack read out one from Gerry McDonnell, Peter Sherry and Thomas Quigley, POWs held in Parkhurst Prison, urging people to "keep up the good work

and don't be disheartened by continued Home Office statements saying they shall not budge".

INSPIRING

Martina and Ella sent an inspiring letter to the rally explaining that between them they'd suffered 900 strip-searches in two years. They asked: "How long will this psychological torture continue? We've been sentenced to life imprisonment. Does that mean a life sentence of sexual torture?"

The two women went on to state that the British government

tactic had failed and commented: "We are determined never to let them win."

Maria Tolly finished the rally with her moving song about the mother of Paul Hill, dedicating it to "all my Irish sisters who have relatives in English jails". Tolly later summed up the mood of the day:

"It was a lovely demonstration of caring solidarity and it heightened people's awareness as to what actually takes place in Durham Jail."



● (Above) Kevin Colfer addressing the Michael Gaughan Commemoration and (below) one of those who poured abuse on the picketers

MICHAEL GAUGHAN COMMEMORATION

THE 13th ANNIVERSARY of the death on hunger-strike of Michael Gaughan in England was commemorated by republicans from Birmingham and London on Sunday, June 7th.

The commemoration was held outside Parkhurst Prison, on the Isle of Wight, where Michael Gaughan died on hunger-strike on June 3rd 1974 after being forced. Eddie Caughey (Birmingham) chaired the ceremony which was organised by the POW Campaign. Kevin Colfer (London) read a statement from the POWs in Parkhurst in which they said:

"If Volunteer Michael Gaughan could speak today — and we feel he does by his example shown, to

us — he would say: organise, work, nothing is too little nor too much. In the name of justice and peace in Ireland, will you sacrifice a little? We as a people are not starved of courage but we are of justice — help us achieve it. Only then can we be sure there shall be no more new commemorations like today or those in memory of tragedies like Loughgall.

"We are with you in spirit and encourage you to greater successes in the future. The Thomas Clarks

and Michael-Gaughans of this struggle led the way, let us follow their example to victory. Tiocfaidh ar la Beir bual Na cimi cogaidh poblachtanacha, Gearoid Mac Domhnaill, Peadar Mac Searraig, Tomas O'Coigligh, and all POWs incarcerated in Parkhurst Prison."

A message of solidarity was then read from Durham POWs Ella Ni Dhuibhir and Martina Nic Andreas by Lee Minto. In it they paid tribute to:

"These young political prisoners (Ireland's hunger-strikers) who with their foresight were able to



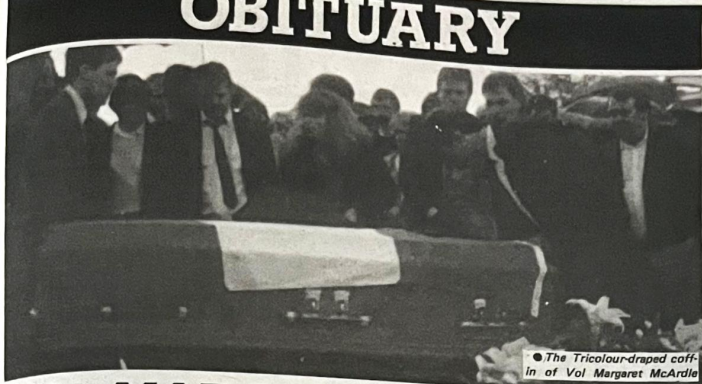
politicise the Irish public in a way unknown to the establishment."

ALBANY

Parkhurst and Albany Prison (also on the Isle of Wight) were picketed during the afternoon.

Attempts to disrupt the commemoration at Parkhurst were made when missiles were thrown from the warders' houses, and three men in a car drove through the group, one of them shouting sectarian abuse at them.

OBITUARY



● The Tricolour-draped coffin of Vol Margaret McArdle

VOL MARGARET McARDLE

THE SUDDEN DEATH OF IRA Volunteer Margaret McArdle, occurred on June 7th while she was on holiday in Delhi, India. A freak heat-wave was the cause of at least 25 deaths in the area where Margaret had gone to visit her sister, Pauline, working there as a missionary.

Margaret, aged 29, was from County Louth. She worked in Belfast's Bass Charrington plant, in Andersonstown, as an office clerk and travelled home early every weekend to be with her family.

According to friends who had known her well for many years, she was "always on the go" and had loved to travel, visiting countries all over the world. Margaret enjoyed life and was popular with everyone who knew her. She was always willing to help and quick to do anything asked of her.



● VOL MARGARET McARDLE

Margaret came from a staunchly republican family and her father, Eddie McArdle, was out canvassing for Sinn Fein West Belfast MP, Gerry Adams when

he learned of Margaret's death. Involved in the Republican Movement since the early 1970s, Margaret was a dedicated Volunteer. While out on operations her first concern was always for the safety of her comrades.

JAILED

Arrested in 1983 along with four other women and her father, Margaret was charged with possession of explosives and intent. She was granted bail until the trial began. During her time in Armagh Jail between January and April 1985, she was subjected to frequent strip-searches. She was eventually acquitted.

Margaret McArdle was buried on June 11th. The republican funeral in Hackballscross, County Louth, was well attended. She will be missed by her family, friends and comrades and the Republican Movement extends our deepest sympathy to all who knew her.



REMEMBERING THE PAST General amnesty 1917

BY PETER O'ROURKE

IN JUNE 1917, just 14 months after the Easter Rising and with the political climate throughout Ireland dramatically changed, the last of the sentenced republican prisoners in jail in England arrived home to an enthusiastic reception.

During May 1916, following the end of the Rising, almost 2,000 republicans, including five women, from all over Ireland, were deported to internment camps and jails in Wales and England.

In August, 1,136 internees in Frongoch Internment Camp in North Wales were released and, the following December, the remaining 600 internees were freed. However, over 100 sentenced political prisoners, including Countess Markievicz, remained in jails throughout England.

the recently-released internees set about reorganising the Volunteers and Sinn Fein and began a major campaign for the unconditional release of all the sentenced political prisoners.

Faced with mounting demands for the prisoners' release, and the fear of another prisoner being nominated for the forthcoming East Clare by-election following the election of Joe McGuinness MP for South Longford the previous month, Lloyd George, the British prime minister, announced a general amnesty for all republican prisoners in English jails.

There was rejoicing all through the night before the arrival from England on the mail-boat from Holyhead of more than 100 political prisoners. Huge crowds gathered to greet them.

By the time the ex-prisoners arrived at Westland Row Station (now Pearse Station) from Dun Laoghaire, a milling, pressing crowd, stewarded by the Volunteers, was waiting for them.

Members of Dublin Corporation welcomed them on behalf of the people who, delirious with enthusiasm, carried the prisoners to cars to be driven in triumph through the streets. The events were repeated when Countess Markievicz, released from Aylesbury Prison, returned on the evening boat.

The people were looking for leadership and the duty of leadership now fell on the ex-prisoners. Within two years, they would organise the people in a devastating guerrilla war against the British forces of occupation.

The last of the republican prisoners imprisoned in England since the Rising arrived in Ireland on June 18th 1917, 70 years ago this week.

IN MÍL CHUIMHNE

BROWN, Denis MAILEY, Jackie MULVENNA, Jim (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Denis Brown, Jackie Mailey and Jim Mulvenna, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, who were killed while on active service on June 21st 1978. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

BROWN, Denis (9th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Denis Brown, who died on active service on June 21st 1978 aged 28. When nights are long and friends are few, I sit by myself and think of you, with a broken heart and a silent tear, God only knows I wish you were here. Sadly missed and loved by his brother Pat, Sadie and kids.

McCANN, Paul "Bonanza" (3rd Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother and friend. There is a bridge of golden memories, from here to heaven above, it keeps you very close to us, it's called the bridge of love. In the shelter of thy Sacred Heart, sweet Jesus, may he rest. Remembered always by his brother, Owen, sister-in-law Therese and nephew Michael.

MELHONE, John (1st Anniversary). In fond and loving memory of my dear husband John McElhone, Irish Northern Aid, who died on June 6th 1986. Quietly thought every day. Missed more than words can say. Sadly missed by his loving wife Martha.

MELHONE, John (1st Anniversary). Fond memories of our dear friend John McElhone, Irish Northern Aid, who died on June 6th 1986 and of the great sense of loss felt by his loving wife Martha, Muire na nGael gur a son. Always remembered by Martin, Brenda and children.

McELVANNA, Peadar (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peadar McElvanna, North

Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, who was killed in action on June 9th 1979. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the John Francis Green Sinn Féin Cumann, Castleblaney, County Monaghan.

McELVANNA, Peadar (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peadar McElvanna, who was killed in action on June 9th. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Peadar McElvanna Sinn Féin Cumann, Armagh city.

McELVANNA, Peadar (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peadar McElvanna, who was killed while on active service at Keady, County Armagh, on June 9th 1979. Fualir sé bás ar son na saoirse. Always remembered by Jackie, Bernie and children.

McELVANNA, Peadar (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Peadar McElvanna, who was killed in action on June 9th 1979. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé. Always remembered by Eugene, Mary and children.

McKENNA, Sean (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Sean McKenna, Ogligh na hÉireann, who died on June 5th 1975 from the inhuman treatment he received during internment. RIP. Always remembered by Vinny McKenna.

Ó SULLLEABHÁIN, Mícheál (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Baile Mhóirine, Contae Chorcaí, Ogligh na hÉireann, who died on June 8th 1986. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé. Ó mhuintir Shúilleabháin.

TURLEY, Daniel (4th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear husband and friend Vol Dan Turley, who died on June 8th 1983. Masses offered. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Always remembered by his loving wife Maire.

COMHBHRÓN

GLUCKIAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Joe Gluckian, Bailinamore, on the death of his wife Eilíe Kate. From the Seamus Wynn Sinn Féin Cumann, Bailinamore, County Leitrim.

LYNAGH. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of our comrade Vol Jim Lynagh and his seven comrades who were murdered in Loughall on May 8th. "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." From Comhairle Ceantair Lathdroma.

McARDLE. Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉireann, extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our comrade Vol Margaret McArdle who died suddenly.

McARDLE. In memory of Margaret McArdle, beloved daughter of Eddie and Kathleen. Deeply regretted by friends Marie, Briega, Geraldine and Brenda. Go ndeanfaldh Dia trácaire uirthi.

McARDLE. In memory of Margaret McArdle, beloved daughter of Eddie and Kathleen. Deeply regretted by Mr and Mrs Wright and family. Go ndeanfaldh Dia trácaire uirthi.

McARDLE. In memory of Margaret McArdle, beloved daughter of Eddie and Kathleen. Deeply regretted by Rita and family. Go ndeanfaldh Dia trácaire uirthi.

McArdle, beloved daughter of Eddie and Kathleen. Deeply regretted by Rita and family. Go ndeanfaldh Dia trácaire uirthi.

McARDLE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the McArdle family on the tragic death of Margaret. From the Joe Clarke Sinn Féin Cumann, Courthouse, County Louth.

McARDLE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the McArdle family on the death of Margaret. From the Louth Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

McREADY. Deepest sympathy is extended to our comrade Damien on the death of his mother Nora. From Lagan Valley Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin.

McREADY. Poileagass Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to our comrade Damien and his family on the death of his mother Nora.

O'DONOGHUE. Deepest sympathy to Marie O'Donoghue, her family and friends, on the death of her husband Tony O'Donoghue. From the Glynn South Sinn Féin Cumann, Weston, County Limerick.

Beannachtaí

DEASY, Dan (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings from Cork Sinn Féin.

DEASY, Dan (Portlaoise). A very happy birthday to Dan from all the staff in the Cork office.

DEMSEY, Derek (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Derek. You are now a quarter of a century old. You are still young enough to be an apprentice Basil Fawley. Lots of love, Ann.

DEMSEY, Derek (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings from your mother and sister Tanya.

McFADDEN, Con (Frankland). Happy birthday to my dear son Connie. See you in a few weeks. Lots of love. Mummy, xxx

McFADDEN, Con (Frankland). Birth-

day greetings from the Frank Stagg Sinn Féin Cumann, Bailie Átha Cliath, Tipperary.

McFADDEN, Con (Frankland). Birthday greetings from the Logue/Marley Sinn Féin Cumann, Crumlin, Bailie Átha Cliath, Buir Bua.

McFADDEN, Con (Frankland). Happy birthday on the 19th. Always in our thoughts, from Uncle Neil, Hannah and Paul.

McFADDEN, Con (Frankland). Birthday greetings from Derek, Jacinta and Clora. Onwards to victory.

McFADDEN, Con (Frankland). Happy birthday. Thinking of you always. Belir bua. Love Eileen and Emmat. Also greetings from the Shields family, Moross, County Donegal.

AN CUMANN CABHRACH THE REPUBLICAN AID COMMITTEE



Kevin Barry House, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

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

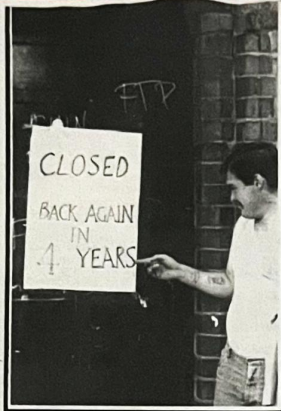


THE FLYING COLUMN

THE NEWLY-ELECTED MP for the Scottish constituency of Paisley North is a Mr Adams.

'GHOST TOWN', the SDLP 'advice centre on the Falls Road was to undergo a "permanent change", so announced Joe Hendron's election agent, Alex Attwood, at the height of the West Belfast election campaign. Not so smart Alex guaranteed that the centre would remain open for business even after the election. In fact a notice detailing the hours of opening was prominently displayed on a side window. But it was just another SDLP election promise - easily made and quickly broken.

Less than a week after the election results were announced, 'Ghost Town' returned to its familiar, deserted state. A large poster adorning the heavily-barred front door reads:



● SDLP HQ in West Belfast

**CLOSED
DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST
BACK AGAIN IN FOUR YEARS
WEST BELFAST DESERVES BETTER**

OBSERVE the sons of the SDLP crawling towards Westminster.

SDLP candidate Arthur Doherty was so keen to join his bosses, John Humid and Seamus Melon, in taking the oath of allegiance to the British queen (and the 30 pieces of silver that go with it) that his election literature proudly bore the ever-so-British constituency title of East Londonderry.

JOHN HUME claims that the SDLP candidate, 'Malone Road' Joe Hendron, has "eaten substantially" into Sinn Fein's vote in West Belfast.

Sorry, John. Sinn Fein actually *increased* its vote in West Belfast - the SDLP's bloated figures came from supporters of 'Screaming' Lord Gerry Fitt and the pro-RUC Alliance Party, which declined to field a candidate in the hope that Gerry Adams would be defeated.

WILLIAM Samuel Edward Sayers, of Circular Road, Omagh, was refused

ball at Belfast High Court last week. Sayers, who had appeared on TV with his crony, Andy Tyrie, was charged with possessing two shotguns, a replica revolver and a number of incriminating documents: a confidential Garda Síochána document containing information on members of the UDA in relation to crimes in the 26 Counties, an RUC boundary map, details about Catholic workers (some of whom had recently been intimidated), information about CIE (which has been contracted to carry explosives into the Six Counties for commercial purposes), and UDA oaths and allegiances. Masks and gloves were found in a caravan in the garden of his house.

THATCHER'S BRITAIN: The real coal run for people in the Cynon Valley in Wales is a dangerous but necessary undertaking nowadays.

Equipped with CB radios, groups of men and youngsters have taken to mounting Wild West-style ambushes of trains carrying coal from the National Smokeless Fuels plant near Aberdare. Using trees, etc. to block the single-track line, the community coalition descends on the wagons and opens the chute levers, spilling the much-needed fuel into wheel-

**FOR
PEACE
EQUALITY
JUSTICE
JOBS
VOTE
S.D.L.P.**

● SDLP candidate Arthur Doherty's 'London' calling card

barrows and prams before scuttling away to sell their black booty at dirt-cheap prices to the needy or given free to pensioners.

In an area where 25% are unemployed, the South Wales Police are running into a wall of silence in their attempts to round up the Welsh Robin Hoods.

DOG BITES PIG. RUC man Colin Baxter was awarded £2,000 damages last week for injuries received during a row with colleagues outside a Craigavon disco in February 1984.

Coming across a confrontation between an RUC patrol and local youths, Baxter weighed in on the side of his RUC pals. Knowing a thug when they see one (but not being too sure which side he was on), they arrested him and threw him in the back of a Land Rover alongside an RUC dog which promptly sank its teeth into him. His colleagues then punched him about before they arrived at Portadown RUC Barracks where it was finally established that Baxter was one of their own.

But 'impartiality' is the new in-word of the RUC and the SDLP so they impartially enforced the rule of law - when you beat someone up, charge them with assaulting you!

Following the dismissal of the charges in 1985 and being cleared by an RUC tribunal, Baxter took a civil action against the force for damages but claimed that he was put under pressure to drop the claim. Armagh County Court Judge Frank Russell has now ordered that internal RUC memoranda re the case be referred

**WESTMINSTER ELECTION
EAST LONDONDERRY
JUNE 11th 7.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.**
THE ANGLORISH ACCORD POINTS THE WAY
TO PEACE PROSPERITY AND
COMMUNITY HARMONY
DO YOU WANT? YES! YES! YES!
Peace and Justice for ALL.
A real say in the government of your country.
Equality of opportunity in jobs and housing.
Equal respect for all Traditions and Beliefs.
Effective action to cut unemployment.
Action to improve the Health and Social Services.

to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Baxter's counsel said he wanted to walk out of court "with the confidence that his career was safeguarded". Baxter's bosses may have other ideas.

REUTERS NEWS AGENCY was so carried away with the Pope's visit to his native Poland that, last Thursday week, it told the world:

"One million Poles lined the Pope's route and tossed red and white flowers at his open car."

"They sang traditional greetings [and] greeted him as a returning king."

Just one wee problem though - the Pope didn't arrive until the following Monday.

TWO WOMEN'S 10KM competitors, Marie Mooney and Patricia Quinn, completed last Sunday's *Evening Press* run for An Cumann Cabhrach in 55 minutes and 62 minutes. Would anyone who sponsored them please forward their pledges to Treasa Quinn at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, immediately. Over £150 was raised by the two women on behalf of republican prisoners' dependants. Well run!

THIS COLUMN is alleged by some guerrillas to be cornier than a Ballymena chiropodist's surgery, but I shall refute this slur upon my Yeats-like genius with the following gem.

Now that John Stanley MP ("a humourless, right-wing workaholic" and "Protestant evangelical influenced by an unorthodox belief in reincarnation" - *Guardian*), former Minister for the Armed Forces, has been dispatched by Margaret Thatcher to become Tom King's apprentice, we shall surely see him clash with some of the newly-elected Labour MPs who support Irish freedom. One of these courageous MPs more than capable of seeing off Mr Stanley is Mr Livingstone, I presume.

QUIRT SIAD

On behalf of the intelligent punters of West Belfast, may I say: Thank you very much, Mr Eastwood.

- Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams after holding the West Belfast seat despite Eastwood's bookmakers naming the SDLP's Joe Hendron as favourite to take it.

The end to the tragedy will only come about with the start of negotiations to end British rule.

- Gerry Adams.

Thatcher legman for Ulster.
- *Guardian* headline on British Minister John Stanley's transfer to the Northern Ireland Office.

NOTES



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