

AN

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PHOBLACHT

Republican News

UNVEILING CEREMONY
H-BLOCK MARTYRS MEMORIAL

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Courtbane
HACKBALLSCROSS
(near Dundalk)
COUNTY LOUTH
Speaker : Joe Cahill

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FIGHT THE CUTS

PEOPLE have taken to the streets in massive numbers to fight the savage attack by the Fianna Fail government on the health services which this week were condemned to a slow death when Fine Gael abstained on the estimates vote in Leinster House and put off what seemed like an imminent general election.

demonstration of tens of thousands of workers and people affected by the health cuts; inside, the leader of Fine Gael, Alan Dukes, and the leader of Fianna Fail, Charles Haughey, making an unofficial pact to protect the privileged few whom they represent.

more and more people as the cuts bite deeper. Everyone except a tiny minority will be hurt by this attack and it can only be fought successfully if the trade union movement organises effective resistance which mobilises people in massive numbers and keeps up the momentum.

The contrast at Leinster House on Wednesday could not have been greater. Outside, a massive

That the effect of the cut-backs in health services and other services will be to make them the preserve of the privileged is becoming clearer to

The lines have been clearly drawn. On one side, the wealthy few and their political allies; on the other, the working people of the 26 Counties.

BODENSTOWN '87

REPORT AND PHOTOS
PAGES 7, 8, 9, AND 10

OPINION

NEW TACTICS - SAME AIM

A VERY CLEVER article was featured in last Monday's Northern newspaper, the *News Letter*, by Peter Smith of the Official Unionist Party. After the obligatory complaining about the Hillsborough Treaty, the treachery of the British government and the SDLP's dependency on Dublin, Mr Smith articulated what is conceivably the best future plan of action for loyalists.

There are other indicators from the leaked 'Task Force' document (prepared by Peter Robinson, Harold McCusker and Frank Millar) and from the comments of the DUP's Sammy Wilson that, having failed to bring down the Hillsborough Treaty, loyalists must come up with firm proposals instead of just saying 'no'.

When all the rhetoric is cut away from Mr Smith's article he is advocating the following:

Unionists need an alternative to the Treaty but the restoration of the old Stormont regime is a non-starter.

If the SDLP insists on Dublin making representations on its behalf to the British government then loyalists can legitimately claim that their interests could only be protected through some institution which they control.

However, unionists must recognise that there is a big difference between the SDLP and republicans, and that a section of the SDLP will come to terms and identify with a state into which they have a political input. Here he is referring to the ideological, middle-class element of the SDLP.

Unionists can take the initiative by making a concession to this element, probably along the lines of voluntary coalition (not his words). If the SDLP refuses to accept this offer of power-sharing it will be expressed as being intransigent: if it accepts then that section of the party which is nationalistic will split away, thus weakening the nationalist cause.

"Such a compromise would keep us out of a united Ireland," affirms Mr Smith, who believes that the Catholic middle-class would join with unionists against the IRA to defend its share of power.

This cogently-argued scenario represents the sort of pragmatic thinking the Hillsborough Treaty was designed to provoke.

What should be the attitude of republicans to a major tactical shift by loyalists on the issue of power-sharing with the SDLP?

Firstly, if the proposals (which are beginning to take shape) gain even limited currency within unionist ranks so much the better if it splits and weakens them.

Secondly, if the SDLP is confronted by power-sharing unionists so much the better if the offer also splits that party and flushes out its Brits. The deal with the loyalists would require support for the Union and for the RUC.

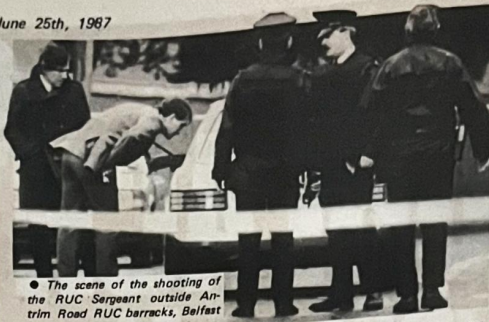
Thirdly, the SDLP is not the same thing as the nationalist community. Loyalists are not proposing to share jobs, to share promotions, to share the locating of new industries, to reverse discrimination and end sectarianism. They are out, in their own words, to preserve the Union even if it requires a few piece-meal changes.

Frankly speaking, if the loyalists can be broken on the heretical issue of power-sharing because of the pressures from the Hillsborough Treaty - which, when all is said and done, is really a product of the IRA bomb of Brighton and the electoral rise of Sinn Fein - then they most certainly can be broken on the issue of national self-determination.

Finally, if all this talk of the loyalists and the SDLP becoming British bedfellows is to come to fruition then the loyalists need one vital requirement to sell it to their supporters - a full-scale offensive, North and South, against the Republican Movement, against the IRA, against Sinn Fein, against republican supporters, against this very newspaper.

That's the contradiction of British rule in Ireland. It cannot deliver on peace or stability, it cannot deliver justice or equality: it relies on repression to maintain its position.

And the loyalists, for all their talk of positive alternatives, are only adapting new tactics to achieve the same old aims.



● The scene of the shooting of the RUC Sergeant outside Antrim Road RUC barracks, Belfast

RUC man killed

IN BELFAST IRA Volunteers struck another blow to crown forces morale when an RUC sergeant was killed during an attack on Tuesday evening, June 23rd.

His death brings the total number of RUC personnel killed so far this year to 11 and the total number of crown forces fatalities to 19 - 11 RUC and 8 British army (including six UDR soldiers).

At around 5.30pm, an IRA active service unit positioned in a playground close by Antrim Road RUC Barracks in North Belfast observed the RUC sergeant driving his Ford Escort car. As it travelled along the Cavehill Road and stopped to turn right into Richmond Square - towards the rear of the heavily-fortified barracks - the Volunteers made their move.

According to an IRA statement, eight shots were fired from a high-velocity automatic rifle, several of which struck the RUC man in the head and body. He died two hours later in hospital. The IRA statement also repudiated allegations that their actions had placed the lives of children at risk.

"Our Volunteers had clearly identified their target and ensured that no children were in the playground before they took up position."

Later, at around 9pm that night in the Ligoniel area, three miles from the earlier shooting, the IRA shot and wounded a UDR man as he drew up in his car outside a parochial hall.

A passenger in the car, the soldier's mother, was inadvertently shot and wounded.

IRA WARNS BANKS AND BAILIFFS

The IRA in Derry has threatened to take action against banking institutions involved in evictions. Its decision followed traumatic scenes on Tuesday morning, June 23rd, when a Derry couple, Charles and Molly Campbell, and their two sons and two daughters, had almost all of their possessions and furniture confiscated before being forced from their home by the RUC.

Apparently, Mr Campbell had taken out a loan from the Northern Bank over five years ago. Two years ago, the bank obtained an eviction order and earlier this month the eviction order was finally served on the family.

Shortly before 9am on Tuesday morning, a large force of RUC personnel surrounded the house on the Racecourse Road. They were accompanied by bailiffs and two large furniture vans.

For the next two hours, the

family was subjected to a humiliating ordeal as the RUC and bailiffs confiscated most of their belongings and changed the locks on the house. Family items not being taken were thrown into a back yard.

At one point, Martin Campbell (26) sat on the floor and refused to move. Four RUC men, one of whom struck him on the back, manhandled Campbell out of the house.

In a statement later that day, the IRA issued a warning to those "bank directors, officials, and mercenary bailiff companies that they employ to do their dirty work, that we have compiled information about their activities and identities".

The IRA continued: "Their victims are small business owners, small farmers and house owners, and in particular first-time house owners, many of whom have got into financial difficulties with the banks."

"At a time when banks are making massive profits as a result of Thatcherite economic policies, it is intolerable that faceless executives and directors can call on bailiffs to evict people onto the streets."

INFORMER EXPOSED

The IRA in Belfast executed Thomas Wilson, an RUC informer, in West Belfast on Wednesday morning, June 24th. The shooting took place at around 11.20am and the body was found at Rodney Parade in the St James's area. In a statement later that day, the IRA released details of Wilson's involvement with the RUC Special Branch:

Belfast Brigade, IRA, claims responsibility for the execution this morning of Thomas Wilson from the Beechmount area of West Belfast.

Wilson was executed because he had willingly involved himself as a paid RUC informer since 1978. During that time he collected and passed on to his RUC 'handlers' information concerning IRA Volunteers and operations, and information about the activities of the Workers' Party military wing.

He was arrested by the RUC Special Branch in 1978 in connection with a shooting incident in Crocus Street, off the Springfield Road. He was told by them that they had seized a weapon belonging to the military wing of the Workers' Party on which they had discovered his fingerprints. Because of this threat he allowed himself to be compromised.



On his own admission he had met his handlers once a week at various locations.

He was paid £10 per week and this was increased when he supplied specific information.

'ZERO'

Wilson worked under the code-name 'Zero' and was observed by our intelligence units meeting his contacts in a car park on the Dublin Road every Tuesday night for the past six weeks. After his last meeting last night he was arrested by an IRA active service unit and confronted with the indisputable evidence of his 'outing'.

Throughout the nine years in which he worked for the RUC Special Branch, his main task was to observe and pass on information about the movements of known republicans. For example:

- In 1981, he supplied the names of IRA Volunteers who participated in an RPG rocket attack on crown forces in Beechmount Avenue.

- He was paid a bonus of £100 (also in 1981) for providing information which led to the capture of a rifle belonging to the INLA.

- More recently, in 1986, he was responsible for passing on information which resulted in IRA Volunteers engaged in an operation being shot and captured by the RUC.

- And in an incident this year, Wilson identified for his handlers IRA Volunteers who had taken part in a gun attack on crown forces in West Belfast.

Throughout this period he was constantly gathering low-level intelligence on the IRA, INLA, and the structure and membership of the military wing of the Workers' Party.

CAPTURE

Thomas Wilson was executed because he was a paid RUC informer whose information had led to the capture and wounding of IRA Volunteers, the seizure of weapons and countless raids on houses in West Belfast. His membership of the Workers' Party was irrelevant. We do not foresee any possibility of conflict between ourselves and the Workers' Party's military wing.

We would again repeat our plea to anyone in a similar situation to Wilson to come forward. Irrespective of how long you might have been working for the crown forces, if you come forward and reveal your involvement you have nothing to fear. Failure to do so will result in execution if detected.

MASSIVE SHOW OF STRENGTH

BY MAIRTIN MacDIARMADA

IN ONE of the biggest displays of strength seen in the 26 Counties in several years, 40,000 workers in the health services and from across the public service, as well as huge contingents of supporting groups and members of the wider community, took part in marches to demand an end to the health cut-backs.

The main demonstration was in Dublin where over 20,000 people marched on Leinster House. Inside that building, as marchers were assembling on Wednesday afternoon, Fine Gael leader Alan Dukes was meeting with Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey to assure him that his party would not be voting against the cut-backs. This ended speculation over an imminent general election which Fianna Fail said would follow if it was defeated on the crucial vote. This followed the abstention of Fine Gael on the vote to allow Labour's Deputy Emmet Stagg back into the Leinster House parliament after his recent suspension.

LAST-MINUTE PACT

But even with Stagg still suspended Fianna Fail would have been depending on the votes of Independent Deputy Neil Blaney and the Ceann Comhairle to win. The last-minute unofficial Fianna Fail/Fine Gael pact removed this danger to the Dublin government and ensured the passage of the most savage attack on health services in the history of the 26 Counties.

This that is the most far-reaching attack was borne out by the scale of Wednesday's demonstrations and the wide public support they won. The prevailing mood at the huge Dublin march was one of anger and a sense of betrayal at the Fianna Fail government which one speaker pointed out had "sought a mandate on one policy and implemented the opposite".

The same speaker (Eddie Brown of the ITGWU) pointed out that the government was encouraging the two-tier health service which was now rapidly emerging. The Irish Nurses' Organisation representative said:

"Nurses who have given long years of loyal and dedicated service are being let go and join the dole queue or the emigration trail.

"They want to stay and provide the health service which should be provided in any civilised country. Nurses have never marched on the streets in such numbers before."

IN THE FRONT LINE

Craftworkers and tradespeople who build and maintain hospital



● A section of the massive street demonstration in Dublin's O'Connell Street on Wednesday, June 24th

and health facilities were represented in force on the Dubuinn demonstration. Sean Nolan said that they too were threatened with unemployment and were among those in the front line. He told the rally outside Leinster House that the politicians who were carrying on the charade inside had allowed over €660 million of taxes to remain unpaid.

"This march is about what type of society we want - one which cares for only the privileged or one which provides services for all," said Jerry Shanahan of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions. He said that a process was going on of marginalising the unemployed and the working-class. He highlighted the fact that the cut-backs was also affecting many thousands of people who were illiterate and whose education services were cut.

There were large sections of

workers from the rest of the state and semi-state sector in attendance, including postal and telecommunications workers, bus crews, ESB engineers, local authority employees, as well as many general workers with their trade unions and members of the general public. A large Sinn Fein contingent also took part.

PATTERN

The pattern was repeated on Wednesday in towns and cities around the 26 Counties where workers took to the streets to fight the cut-backs. Thousands marched in Limerick, Galway, Cork, Monaghan and other towns.

Many people were comparing the marches to the massive PAYE demonstrations of 1979. The obvious difference is that the health and other cut-backs have a more far-reaching effect on the whole community.

This is the factor which must

be used by the trade union leadership to maintain the momentum of protest (which ebbed in 1979) to build successful resistance to the cut-backs. As Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said on Wednesday:

"The on/ defence against the cuts is an intensified campaign of street protests and industrial action by communities and trade unions to force Fianna Fail to halt the cut-backs.

"Sinn Fein calls on the ICTU to withdraw from talks with the Haughey government which has pre-empted all possibility of rational debate by passing the health estimates.

"It is particularly obscene that the health estimates should be passed the day after tax officials' unions announced that the total of uncollected taxes stands at €664 million - ten times the amount Fianna Fail is slashing from health services this year."

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

AS THE ORANGE marching season gets under way, the unionist leadership has reached a crossroads in its campaign to smash the Hillsborough Agreement.

Nineteen months on, the Agreement is still in place. It has not yet delivered any reform which might have got the unionist community's backs up, but the Sectariat at Maryfield is operating nevertheless. Thatcher has been re-elected with a safe majority which precludes unionists being in a position of bargaining power for at least four years. Her Dublin counterpart, Charles Haughey, who in opposition had expressed criticism of the agreement, has now given his backing to it.

Meanwhile, the unionist campaign of boycott is dying away. Unionist councillors are drifting back into the councils under the threat of court injunctions or the pressure of local voters and community groups. The Westminster boycott is unofficially over, although unionists are saying that there will only be a return to "normal parliamentary practice" when negotiations for an alternative to the Hillsborough Deal are under way. When the British parliament reopens today unionists will be there.

As for the campaign of street agitation and civil disobedience promised by Paisley and Molyneux, by and large it has not happened. Harold McCusker and Ken Maginnis of the OUP are at present the only two prominent unionists who have spent a few days in Crumlin Road Jail for refusing to pay road taxes or TV licences. The unionist community will march once a year, but it seems it has not got the stomach for protracted campaigns. Loyalist paramilitaries registered their protest against the Hillsborough Agreement in the only way they know how - by killing Catholics. But that had little effect on the British government's determination to implement the Agreement.

Campaign dilemma



● Unionist MPs marching in Belfast in 'defiance' of the Public Order Act earlier this year

Voting as a form of protest has not worked either. Due to the electoral pact between the OUP and DUP, most of the unionist seats were safe and this led to relative apathy among unionist voters.

SIGNS

There are signs that unionist leaders are now reassessing their tactics. The unionists' 'Task Force' (namely Frank Millar and Harold McCusker of the OUP

and Peter Robinson of the DUP) have compiled a report of consultations they had with all shades of unionism about the way forward. The Task Force report is still with the two unionist leaders for consideration, even though it was ready before the elections. This cautious suggests that the report may advise compromise rather than a continuation of the unionist campaign as before.

Last week, the former DUP mayor of

Belfast, Sammy Wilson, hinted that a re-think was needed, including "areas previously considered taboo". This means anything from starting to talk to the SDLP while the Maryfield Secretariat remains open, to some form of power-sharing. Official Unionist MP John Taylor made similar noises, saying that, as unionists were now "in a position of strength" (sic), they should make proposals for new structures for the North.

Unionists are obviously starting to float ideas through the press in order to prepare unionist opinion for a switch in tactics, if not a U-turn. But the fact that unionist militancy seems at a low ebb does not mean that a million unionists have been converted to the virtues of Dublin involvement in the North. The Hillsborough Agreement has not been much of a nuisance to unionists, but RUC attitudes to loyalist marches this summer could lead to clashes and accusations that the RUC is enforcing 'Dublin's law'.

DECISIONS

Unionist leaders are now faced with decisions on their political future: they have stopped being the preferred political partners of the British government in Ireland, and have been replaced by the Dublin government in that position, but they can still command the support of one million unionists who will object (with varying degrees of force) to any political initiative which threatens to erode their privileges. Meanwhile, the SDLP must begin to ask themselves how the standing of the Hillsborough Deal among Northern nationalists will be affected by unionists accepting to play the game.

As for Northern nationalists, they are entitled to wonder how the hype of the Dublin Forum Report asking for Irish unity has led to political observers congratulating themselves that, at last, unionists are thinking about some measure of power-sharing for the Catholic middle-class within the Six-County state.

BRITISH SOLDIERS SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO UDA GET OFF LIGHTLY

Double standards

BY PAUL CONWAY

THE DOUBLE STANDARDS of British 'justice' were again exposed on Monday, July 22nd, at Bristol Court when two British soldiers received outrageously low sentences of three years' imprisonment for stealing anti-tank rocket launchers in a plot to supply arms to the Ulster Defence Association. The middle-men involved in the affair, two militaria dealers, were jailed for five and six years respectively - had they received tougher sentences no doubt even further attention would have been focused on the leniency displayed towards the soldiers.

Corporals David Knighton (32) and Kenneth Smith (33) of the 1st Battalion, Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters, had admitted stealing 14 M72 (66mm) anti-

tank rocket launchers, each containing a live round capable of piercing armour plate, together with various other British army equipment including empty shells,

thunderflashes and flares. The thefts took place over the first six months of last year while Knighton and Smith were stationed at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster.

Their regiment acted as the British army's 'Infantry Demonstration Unit' and in the confusion of firepower demonstrations on Salisbury Plain, Knighton doctored records of live rounds issued and unused rocket launchers returned to stores.

On the first occasion, five rocket launchers and shells were

smuggled out of the barracks concealed in sand bags and sold for £500 to militaria dealer Paul Barker of Trowbridge, Barker, in turn, passed on the launchers to another militaria dealer, Peter Kabluczenko of Mold, North Wales, for £1,000. Kabluczenko, who ran three shops called 'Soldier of Fortune' selling military goods in Chester and Liverpool, sent the rockets by British Rail Red Star parcel service from Liverpool to Glasgow for collection by Scottish loyalists who were linked to the UDA.

However, the rockets were intercepted en route by the police and destroyed. Weeks later, Kabluczenko and Barker were caught red-handed loading a further nine rockets into a van at a lock-up garage in Trowbridge. Just how many rockets were actually stolen may never be known as the British Ministry of Defence is unable to tell falsified records from genuine ones.

SENTENCE

In passing sentence on the soldiers, both of whom had 'served' in the North, Judge Leggett claimed that the jail

terms would have been heavier but for the fact that they had now lost their careers and army gratuities. He ordered that Barker should pay £1,000 compensation to the British army.

A statement from the relatives of the Irish Prisoners in English Jails organisations condemning the leniency of the sentences called for "an end to the racist victimisation received by Irish prisoners from the same English judicial system" and reiterated its demand for their repatriation. The organisation points out that on the flimsiest of evidence, English judges have recommended that Irish prisoners serve life sentences of 20 to 35 years.

Sinn Fein's Danny Morrison said that the "slap on the wrist" sentences were in sharp contrast to the draconian 20-year jail sentences imposed only last week on three West Belfast men who were charged with possessing unprimed explosives:

"The reason why these sentences were so light was because the rockets were not intended for use against the crown forces but against prominent members of Sinn Fein who must use armour-plated cars to go about their daily business."

Demolition question mark

BY EAMON TRACEY

THE TOTAL DEMOLITION of Divis Flats is now a certainty, according to senior Housing Executive officials who met residents' representatives last week. Angry spokespersons for the Divis Residents' Association (DRA) accused the Executive of refusing to give a "straight answer" to several important questions concerning the future development of Divis Flats.

The day-long meeting between the DRA and Housing Executive officials, including Sean Gallagher, its regional housing manager, took place on Wednesday, June 17th. The DRA delegation was accompanied by representatives of the London-based Town & Country Planning Association.

At the outset, the DRA tabled a series of questions, the answers to which it felt were crucial to the development of the flats complex. These included:

- Why has the demolition of Divis Flats been slowed down?
- Why is there still no detailed demolition programme with time-scales and budgets?
- Why is the Housing Executive not consulting regularly with the DRA on this demolition programme?
- What is the Executive's

response to the residents' demand for 'houses with streets' in the new Divis?

In almost all instances the DRA group felt that the Executive representatives were being deliberately evasive in their replies. Claims by the officials that they consult fully with the DRA were dismissed as rubbish. Marie Osborne, of the DRA, explained to AP/RN:

"Six to eight weeks ago, we were asked to approve letters being sent by the Executive to residents about the planned demolition of the Gilford and St Comgall's blocks. While the meeting was in progress the letter was actually being distributed. At Wednesday's meeting, we were asked for our opinion on new information leaflets. They too were being distributed even as we

talked. Where is the consultation?"

VENEER

Plans by the Executive to create a veneer of respectability for its "consultation process" by setting up a "design clinic" (where residents express their personal preferences) have also been severely criticised by the DRA.

The clinic will open only two hours each week in the Executive's sub-office in the complex. The DRA argued that its establishment would allow the Housing Executive to distort the real views of tenants. A suggestion by the DRA that the Executive organise a door-to-door canvass of people's opinions was rejected, as were proposals that the DRA be involved in the 'clinic' or that financial assistance be given by the Executive to aid the DRA in the preparation of a community-designed alternative housing scheme.

At a press conference on Thursday, the DRA slammed the Executive's apparent reversal of the policy of total demolition and called on "all those who



support total demolition to ensure the Housing Executive does not allow its promise of total demolition to go unfulfilled."

The DRA reaffirmed its commitment to full consultation for the residents of the complex.

"The DRA does not intend the wishes of the residents to be disregarded and will continue to press for the total demolition of the Divis Flats and give control of its redevelopment to the people of Divis."

SETBACK FOR TRAVELLERS

PLANS by Belfast City Council for a permanent site for 20 travelling families in the west of the city received a setback this week when unionist councillors walked out of a special meeting of the Community Services Committee, leaving it without a quorum and forcing it to a close.

On Sunday, OUP Councillor Fred Proctor boasted of the "radical new approach" to the issue of travellers which he intended proposing at Monday night's committee meeting. The plans call for 20 chalets with living-room/kitchen facilities. Families would also be able to park their caravans in a bay beside the chalet where it could

be linked to an electricity supply.

Less than 24 hours later, Proctor led unionists out of the meeting, effectively leaving the proposals in limbo. Condemning the loyalist tactic, Sinn Fein Councillor Tish Holland accused the unionists of not only walking out on the travellers but also on their other constituents:

"The provision of one site cannot solve the problem because of the large number of travellers' families. The practical reality is that a number of permanent sites are made available and proper consultation must be made with both travellers and residents."

MAGHERAFELT

Nationalist-controlled Magherafelt Council, at a meeting on Monday night, voted in favour of a motion proposed by Sinn Fein's council vice-chair, Lughaidh Mac Giolla Brighde, withdrawing a £600 council grant from the RUC's Community

Relations Branch. SDLP Councillor Paddy Sweeney who spoke in favour of giving the grant argued that it helped provide "good entertainment for many young people in the district".

Mac Giolla Brighde pointed out that the RUC usually provided "a different kind of entertainment for young people at roadblocks". The three Sinn Fein councillors and one SDLP councillor succeeded in out-voting the remaining three SDLP councillors. Loyalist councillors had stayed away as part of their protest at the Hillsborough Agreement.

In Derry last Thursday, Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchell McLoughlin was unanimously elected chairperson of the council's Finance & General Purposes Committee.

DUBLIN

Fianna Fáil plans to have Ned

Brennan elected Lord Mayor of Dublin were frustrated when Sinn Fein's Christy Burke abstained on the vote for the position.

At the meeting of Dublin City Council on Monday, the former Leinster House Fianna Fáil deputy, Ned Brennan, was proposed as mayor by the other Fianna Fáil councillors. Christy Burke told the meeting that he would be acting to prevent a Fianna Fáil victory. He pointed to Fianna Fáil's disgraceful record on the health cuts, Brian Lenihan's statement on the Loughgal massacre, the continuation of Section 31 censorship, and the strip-searching of republican POWs in Portlaoise Prison.

Christy Burke also protested at the estimates for the city passed earlier in the year which have meant cuts in jobs and services for thousands of Corporation tenants.

RUC TACTICS FAIL

BY EAMON TRACEY

FOLLOWING ASSAULTS on two West Belfast men in the Castlereagh Interrogation Centre last week, Belfast Sinn Fein Councillor Sean Keenan has accused the RUC of "attempting to shift responsibility for the violence at Finbarr McKenna's funeral away from itself and onto mourners".

Brian Weldon (25), from Andersonstown, and Patsy McKee (27), from Clonard, were arrested from their homes at around 5.30am on Thursday morning, June 18th. Both men had received medical treatment for injuries inflicted by the RUC at the McKenna funeral in May.

The two were taken to Castlereagh where, over the following 12 hours and several interrogation sessions, they endured sustained physical and verbal abuse. The RUC interrogators wanted both men to sign statements admitting riotous or disorderly behaviour at Finbarr McKenna's funeral.

STRUCK

Weldon was repeatedly struck about the head, stomach and back, and was made to stand for

long periods. His interrogators sought to intimidate him by claiming that they had photographs of him fighting at the funeral. He told AP/RN: "I knew this was nonsense as I was one of the first to be taken to hospital after being injured." Throughout the remainder of the day, until his release at 6pm, Weldon was threatened with years of imprisonment if he didn't sign a statement admitting riotous behaviour. However, he remained silent throughout his ordeal.

Patsy McKee was told: "You better speak, you Fenian bastard." At one stage his mouth was painfully forced open and his interrogator threatened: "See them teeth? If you don't sign we are going to knock them



● One of the victims of the RUC riot at the funeral of Volunteer Finbarr McKenna

down your throat." Like Weldon, he was forced to stand, thrown against walls, punched and slapped about the head and testicles.

MONEY

At one stage in the morning, the RUC asked McKee would he like to work for them. They offered him a holiday in Spain

and £50 a week. Later in the afternoon, one interrogator placed £15 in McKee's pocket and then threatened to release a video of him accepting the money. McKee stayed silent and they began punching him about the head. The abuse continued until shortly before his release at 6pm. Sean Keenan, who described

the beatings as outrageous, said: "By initiating court cases in which it can produce alleged statements of admission for disorderly or riotous behaviour by mourners, the RUC is clearly trying to absolve itself of responsibility for the violence or injuries inflicted at the McKenna funeral."

RUC attack disabled man

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AN EAST BELFAST nationalist who lost both his legs in a loyalist attack several years ago was punched and kicked by the RUC who then charged him with assault.

Arthur Fegan (27), from the Short Strand area, has had to use artificial legs since he was seriously injured in a no-warning loyalist car-bomb left outside the Bridge Bar on New Year's Eve 1975.

On Friday, June 19th, he and a friend, Aodh O Runai, were washing Fegan's car in a garage at Bridge End Street when an

RUC Land Rover pulled up. An RUC man demanded O Runai's name which he gave and produced his driving licence on which his name also appears in Irish. The RUC man told him if he "didn't improve his English" within the next half an hour he would be arrested. He then came under a barrage of abuse about the Irish language



● The wounds to Arthur Fegan's back

until a second Land Rover arrived.

O Runai and Fegan were ordered to give their names

all over again by an RUC man who knew them both and when Fegan pointed this out and attempted to return to his car he was grabbed by the first RUC man. Fegan told AP/RN:

"He shoved me so I was knocked off balance. My first reaction was to grab onto something - and he was the nearest. I grabbed his left arm and he tried to punch me with his right, so I grabbed it too."

As he tried to keep his balance, he recalls he was "more or less being held up by the RUC man - dangling". At that moment, five RUC men and an RUC woman came from behind him and started to hit and punch him on the back and spine. Aodh O Runai shouted that his friend had no legs and the RUC man replied: "Well, I'll break his

fucking arms too!"

LEG DISLODGED

Fegan continued: "When I was eventually knocked to the ground, the RUC man fell too." In the struggle, one of Fegan's artificial legs was dislodged and as he attempted to fix it on he was dragged along the ground on his back to one of the Land Rovers. One RUC man hauled him upright and threw him into it where he was again assaulted by a younger RUC man.

In Mountpotting Barracks, Fegan was brought to a cell and then taken to another nearby barracks where he was examined by an RUC doctor who asked whether he had self-inflicted the scratches and bruises on his back! Three hours later, Fegan was released after being charged with assaulting an RUC man. He is taking legal action against the RUC.

BELFAST MISSILES SOLD TO AFGHANS

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

IT HAS been revealed that the British and American governments collaborated to send several hundred Blowpipe missiles to fundamentalist Islamic groups fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan. Serial numbers on captured Shorts-manufactured anti-aircraft missiles have been traced back to the Belfast office. One missile (serial number 186522A) was put on display last August by the Afghan government.

The London-based Independent newspaper has claimed that while the Short Brothers aircraft company has done nothing 'improper', four executives were aware of the operation of M16

and the CIA to sent the missiles to the Islamic Party of Yunis Khalis. Shorts have denied all knowledge of the incident and the British government, typically, has stayed silent on the matter.

Two Soviet helicopters have reportedly been shot down with the missiles and the Kabul government has accused the Islamic Party of firing at civilian aircraft.

The British government began backing the Islamic Party after Peter Preece, an M16 officer who served in Pakistan from 1982-85, was posted to the Cabinet Office. Preece had formed close contacts with Afghan rebels while in Pakistan.

MEETING WITH THATCHER

In March 1986, a senior

commander of Yunis Khalis's party, Abdul Haq, met Margaret Thatcher in London. Haq has connections with M16 dating back to 1980. A month after the meeting, Blowpipe missiles began arriving to the rebels.

It is believed the arms reached the Afghans via the CIA. The United States is the only government that does not have to give a guarantee to Britain that weapons it buys from British-owned companies such as Shorts won't be passed on to a third party. The 'Irangate' hearings on Washington have established that Americans tried on several occasions to buy Blowpipes for the contras fighting the Nicaraguan government.

The Independent reported last week that an order for a further batch of 300 Blowpipes for the



● A Brit dummy modelling the Shorts Blowpipe missile

Afghan rebels will be completed this month.

The British government has again been caught out on its hypocrisy. On the one hand it

condemns 'terrorism' while, on the other, is supplying sophisticated weapons to Islamic groups for use against civilians in Afghanistan.

York St falling down

*York Street homes are falling down,
Falling down, falling down,
York Street homes are falling down
All over the Corpo*

BY TOM O'DWYER

PROTESTERS SANG this outside Dublin's City Hall as councillors arrived for a meeting of Dublin Corporation on Monday, June 23rd. Families from the Whitefriars area of the Liberties mingled with Corporation workers in a 100-strong picket against housing maintenance cuts. Dressed in their gowns, most of the city's dignitaries tried to scurry past the demonstrators whose homes and jobs are threatened. But they couldn't avoid hearing the demands of their tenants and their workforce.

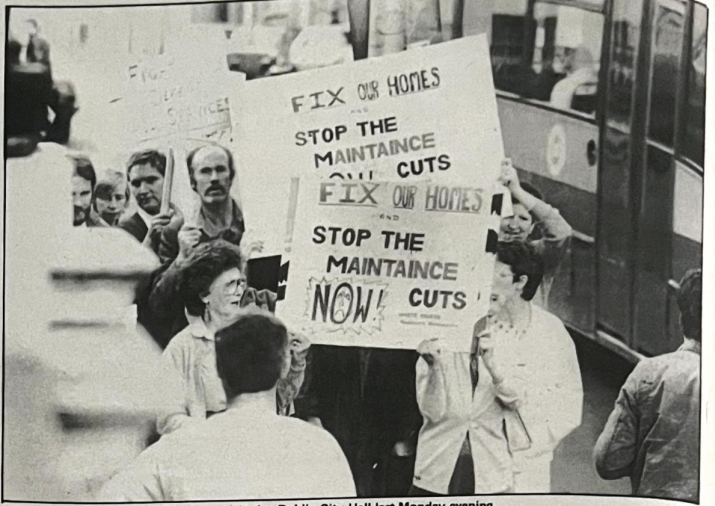
"We've been to the Corporation many, many times," said Ellen Kennedy, secretary of the Whitefriars Community & Residents' Association, "but nothing has been done." "Roofs in the reconditioned houses in York Street are in a serious state and there are flats which haven't been painted in 20 years." The association handed in a letter of protest to the meeting demanding:

"An immediate programme of maintenance for our area. We do not accept the excuses that funds are not available. It is the responsibility of both local and central government to provide decent housing for people."

Cut-backs in the maintenance service provided by the Corporation

are due to decisions taken at its May meeting. The Local Authority Workers' Group (LAWG), an umbrella group of trade unionists in the Corpo's maintenance section, joined with the residents' protest.

"This is the first shot in our campaign," said Brendan O'Brian (LWAG treasurer). "The extent of these cut-backs is a direct threat to the jobs of Corporation employees and to the necessary services which Dublin Corporation provides for the public," said Paddy O'Neill (chairperson of the LWAG) as he addressed the demonstration. "We find it totally contradictory for city councillors to run numerous clinics in their wards advising their constituents on social problems while, at the same time, they vote for cut-backs



• Residents from the Whitefriars area picketing Dublin City Hall last Monday evening

which worsen those very problems."

EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHDRAWN

The Corpo has recently withdrawn emergency services in the Sewers & Waterworks Department, endangering the commun-

ity's health. It has also brought in private contractors in various maintenance sectors and threatens to phase out the Corporation's fleet of haulage vehicles.

Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke has repeatedly condemned the maintenance cut-backs at Corporation meetings:

"The Corporation is making working-class people suffer. There's no danger they'll cut their expensive junkets to save services. These cut-backs show how Fianna Fail really feels about the living standards and jobs of Dubliners."

HOMELESS CRISIS

THE Dublin government has been condemned for its total neglect of the homeless in the year which the United Nations has designated as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The National Campaign for the Homeless (NCH) launched its report for 1987 in Dublin on Tuesday, June 23rd. The campaign is an umbrella group of a number of organisations who work with people who have no permanent accommodation. The report points out that there has been no official count of the homeless since 1927! It is thought that over 3,000 people sleep rough in shopfronts, doorways or broken cars, or crowd into hostels, night shelters or similar institutions for shelter. There are thousands of others on housing waiting lists and with the large numbers of travelling people they make up the significant proportion of the population who suffer because of the accommodation crisis.

CLEAR

That it is a crisis the NCH makes clear:

"Now, in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, it is all the more important that the government in particular, and Irish society as a whole, faces up to the very real crisis affecting the homeless. It is a crisis of inadequate incomes, lack of statutory entitlements, popular prejudices and discriminatory laws compounded by the very real dangers arising from a reduction in health and social services."

The report also points to the lack of provision for homeless women and their children. A new Eastern Health Board hostel with places for 40 people is lying idle at Dublin's Richmond Hospital awaiting sanction and funding from the Department of Health before it can open.

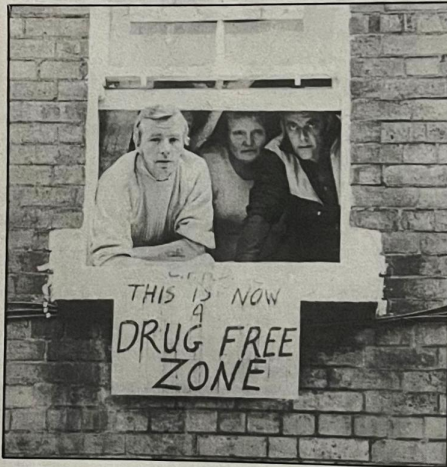
Meanwhile, conditions in the only hostel for homeless women, Bru Caolmhin, continue to deteriorate with bad maintenance and overcrowding.

RESPONSIBILITIES SHIRKED

Summing up its report, the National Campaign for the Homeless says:

"Successive Irish governments have shirked their responsibilities to the homeless, leaving them to be cared for by voluntary organisations and charities.

"We now call on the government to alter this record by ensuring that legislation will be enacted in this year which will give people the right, in law, to be housed. Such legislation will not eliminate homelessness, nor will it solve all the problems experienced by homeless people. What it will do is deal with the most basic aspect of homelessness — lack of access to housing. It would be a fitting way for the government to mark International Year of the Homeless."



Drugs den shut down

TENANTS in the Corporation flats in Dublin's Townsend Street took action last week to shut down what they described as a drug den which had been operating in their building for 2½ years.

The six flats are above shops in the busy city centre street just around the corner from Pearse Street Garda Barracks. The seven other tenants in the building were forced to take action following the failure of the gardai and the Corporation to solve the problem.

One of the flats was being used for two years by a woman who held regular drug parties. Tenants say the house had become a "shooting

FURNITURE REMOVED

On Wednesday, June 17th, following the ignoring of a warning to move out, tenants together, with a large

group of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs, entered the flat and removed the woman's furniture into the street. They changed the lock on the door and hung out posters declaring that their flats were now a "drug-free zone".

A week later, the furniture was still on the street as the woman made no attempt to come back and collect it.

DISGUST

Tenants told AP/RN that they would not be fully satisfied until the Corporation reallocated the flat. They expressed disgust at the failure of the gardai to take any action during the two and a half years when they were menaced by the drug den.

Local Sinn Féin community worker Michael O Muiréagain, who was present at the eviction, congratulated the tenants on their action and said that the establishment politicians and gardai "might as well be living on another planet" as far as the drugs problem was concerned.

FINGLAS

At a meeting called by local people in Finglas West, members of the Central Committee of CPAD called on the people not to fear intimidation from drug-pushers in the area. The meeting was held on Monday, June 22nd, in the Tenants' Association Community Centre which was filled to overflowing.

One man, Kevin Alwright, was called upon by several people to answer charges of selling morphine-based tablets to other local youths. The meeting gave him seven days to stop pushing drugs and to prove that he has done so.

A local committee was elected from the meeting and it was decided to hold another public meeting next week to monitor progress. (Details will be posted in shops in the area.)

Finglas Sinn Féin community worker Harry Fleming, who chaired the meeting, called upon Finglas people to reject the pushers and to notify members of the local committee of any drug-pushing activities. He also advised local addicts to contact CPAD for help and advice on treatment.



● (Above) Part of the crowd at Bodenstown Cemetery, and (below) marchers display an array of Republican Publications Tee-shirts on the way to the cemetery



● (Above) South Armagh's Jim McAllister introducing a new generation to the commemoration, and (below) at the grave of Wolfe Tone a young republican seeks the signatures of Dan Gleeson (Tipperary), John Joe McGirl (Leitrim) and West Belfast MP Gerry Adams



But Bodenstown is all about meeting people, especially those you haven't seen since last year (or perhaps for several years) and the rallying of the republican people always gives a boost. This year was no exception and by the time the parade took shape out of the apparent chaos and the bands got the adrenalin pumping, there was no lack of enthusiasm from marchers and onlookers.

"Hopefully, the busy years of building memorials to dead Volunteers are nearly over."

Among the announcements he made was a scheme to assist committees in the erection of memorials to the 1981 hunger-strikers coming up to their tenth anniversary in 1991.

HARD WORK

The theme of Rita O'Hare's speech and Sean MacManus's summing up was very much one of setting about the hard work that has to be done by republicans to realise the ideal of a republic first envisaged by Wolfe Tone. When the ceremony was ended after the playing of *The Last Post* and *Amhran na bhFiann*, the march returned to Sallins and the crowds rushed to their buses and cars as the heavy rain finally came down.

The journalists from the *Irish Press* and *Irish Independent* who attended obviously compared notes. Their tiny reports on Monday morning were almost identical in their inaccuracies as well as their size. It is an indication in the 26 Counties when such a major national event with many thousands in attendance — only a fraction of them from the North in spite of press reports to the contrary — can be relegated to the small columns.

BODENSTOWN always a boost

BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

THE SLEEPY TOWN of Sallins in County Kildare awakened last Sunday to the one day in the year when it becomes a place of crowds and chip vans, bands and banners, cars and coaches bringing republicans from all corners of Ireland to honour Wolfe Tone.

For the first time in a number of years, rain threatened to drench the crowds who have been used to bright, sunny weather for Bodenstown Sunday. Some less-optimistic

comrades pointed out that the last time a woman spoke — Martha McClelland in 1980 — there was a downpour. The unsettled sky, however, failed to

keep away the thousands of people who began arriving in Sallins from soon after midday.

The wide main street and the banks of the Grand Canal were soon crowded with people, young and old, and the sound of the many bands increased as they practised their spirited playing. The atmosphere was less carnival-like than usual, perhaps reflecting the fact that, as Rita O'Hare pointed out in her speech, republicans have had a hard year.

DISTANT THUNDER

As the parade made its way along the tree-lined route to Bodenstown Cemetery, the distant thunder of the drums echoed back and forth across the fields, giving an idea of the size of the parade to those at the front and back. Brief showers of rain produced the occasional mushrooming of umbrellas in the cemetery as the start of the ceremony awaited the arrival of the end of the march.

Sinn Fein national chairperson Sean MacManus welcomed everyone and reminded them that their presence paid homage to the principles of Wolfe Tone and to the Republican Movement of today, particularly to the Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann.

Before the main oration, Seamus Mac Ciarnain spoke on behalf of the National Graves Association:

FREEDOM - OUR

WE reprint here the text of the speech given by Rita O'Hare, Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle member and editor of AP/RN, to the Republican Movement's Wolfe Tone commemoration at Bodenstown, County Kildare, on Sunday, June 21st.

Comrades and friends,

Every year, republicans from all over Ireland gather here to honour the memory of Wolfe Tone and to re-assert our dedication to the republican ideals which he helped to initiate. We assemble here as democrats who believe, as Wolfe Tone did, that democracy cannot come about while the connection with England remains unbroken.

Our message is simple, as was his - there can be no prosperity, no justice, no peace so long as the Irish people are denied their right to national freedom. Nearly 200 years after Tone's death that right is still denied us by the British government and its allies in Ireland. Our people have gone through much suffering in those long decades. We live in a country with a fraction of the population a prosperous land could maintain. Our people have been scattered all over the world and are now again leaving our shores in droves.

We are still paying the price of foreign rule and repression, unemployment, poverty, violence and death is still the price we have to pay. So much has changed and yet so much has remained the same.

The Irish people are still held to ransom by the British government. They are still betrayed by political leaders who urge them to place their

part of our country and ends its support for the unionist veto on Irish democracy.

During the election campaign and in its claims for the Hillsborough Agreement, the SDLP promoted the lie that this latest treaty of surrender removes the loyalist veto. In fact, Hillsborough has extended it, with the Dublin govern-

ment the Westminster election was one in which we faced the most concerted political and media campaign ever mounted against us. The SDLP had the backing of the British and 26-County governments, the Catholic hierarchy and the media, as well as its friends in Washington and their millions of dollars. They had all this and they still failed to do what they set out to do, which was to erode Sinn Fein support.

They asked people to have faith in the British government, to pin their hopes on the Westminster parliament and to look to the Dublin government which would not 'stand idly by'. They predicted that people would turn in massive

RTE & Co because Sinn Fein had won. "Perhaps if we close our eyes it will go away," said the Montrose mandarins of RTE as they put in their Section 31 ear-plugs.

FALSE HOPES

It says much of the political establishment in this country and in Britain that their main interest in the Westminster election in Ireland was to dislodge Gerry Adams from West Belfast. They hoped to see Gerry Adams lose his seat and they were preparing their speeches and their editorials about how the Republican Movement would be reeling after this blow and after the massacre of eight Volunteers at Loughgall. How little they know of republicans! How little they know of our people!

They have tried so hard for so long to defeat us and they have failed. With all their technology and their military might, with all their money and their media they have failed to hold back the determined resistance of the men and women Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann. The IRA has said that it is stronger and more confident than it has ever



-BODENSTOWN '87-

faith in that government and in its sense of fair play. We know all about the British sense of fair play. We are all too familiar with one of its great exponents, Margaret Thatcher, who began another four-year reign last week. Or at least she hopes it will be a four-year reign. For all the Irish people, for more than three million unemployed in Britain, for the working-class in Britain and Ireland, Thatcher's victory holds only the promise of more misery and want. And yet it was welcomed in Ireland.

It was welcomed by John Hume, by Charles Haughey, by Alan Dukes, by that elder West British statesman, Garret Fitzgerald, and by the rest of the pro-British establishment in this country. They joined with President Botha, the leader of racist South Africa, in congratulating Margaret Thatcher on her success.

The election which returned Thatcher was, of course, a very different one in the Six Counties. One issue dominated, as it always has done, and that was the existence of the state itself and the union with Britain. This will always remain the central issue until the Westminster parliament renounces its claim to sovereignty over

ment acting as the second guarantor of the Union in exchange for consultation status with the British direct-rulers of the Six Counties.

ORIGINS IN HUNGER-STRIKES

Let no-one forget, this strategy has its origins in the aftermath of the 1981 H-Block hunger-strike when Britain's barbarity was exposed to the world and when the British government, with its 'criminalisation' and 'normalisation' policies in tatters, saw the need for a stronger alliance with its allies in Ireland. The purpose of their strategy was to defeat the forces which had frustrated previous British strategies. These forces were the republican prisoners who carried on an epic five-year struggle in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh Jail, the Volunteers of the IRA who defied the might of the British war machine and carried on and escalated their resistance into the mid-1980s, the political activists of Sinn Fein who opened up a new front in the war, and, above all, the risen people who refused to be beaten.

Six years later, the establishment has still not come to terms with the electoral successes of Sinn Fein. For republicans,

numbers to the SDLP. Well they got it wrong again.

In spite of all the forces ranged against us, including constant harassment by the crown forces and threats from loyalist assassins, Sinn Fein mounted a strong campaign. Republicans addressed the central issue of freedom, justice and peace. We put forward the only scenario for lasting peace with justice and we addressed the social, cultural and economic issues which affect the lives of our people in the Six Counties. Sinn Fein held its ground. Our sound base of support remained strong and, to the dismay of London and Dublin, Sinn Fein retained the republican seat of West Belfast. That we withstood the attacks against us and that the republican people of the Six Counties refused to be deceived or intimidated was in itself a victory. Gerry Adams emerged from Belfast City Hall with a ballot paper in one hand and an Eastwood's betting slip in the other! And West Belfast suddenly became invisible to RTE and the SDLP News, which masquerades under the title of the Irish News. West Belfast, the focus of all the attention of previous weeks, was no longer of interest to

been in this phase of the freedom struggle. In the past year it has held its first Army Convention since 1969 and elected its leadership from its ranks. Since that historic event, the IRA has demonstrated its resourcefulness and its capacity to strike hard at the enemy. We salute the Volunteers of Oglagh na hEireann as they speak to the British government with the only words it understands! Their actions will hasten the day when Margaret Thatcher plays her last card and gets out, out, out - out of our country!

Standing here today we are reminded both of the continuity and the endurance of the republican struggle. There are old comrades here who were living when Padraig Mac Piarais addressed the first great Bodenstown commemoration of this century in 1913. There are babies who were not born when we assembled here last year.

We think of those who cannot be with us here today, in particular the republican prisoners for whom the prison cell is the front line of struggle. We remember those IRA Volunteers who have given their lives on active service in the cause of freedom in the past year: Jim McKernan, Brian Dempsey, Finbarr McKenna,



Gerard Logue, Larry Marley, and the Loughgall Martyrs - Eugene Kelly, Jim Lynagh, Declan Arthurs, Tony Gormley, Paddy Kelly, Seamus Donnelly, Gerard O'Callaghan and Padraig McKearney. They gave everything they had in this struggle. Every republican should measure his or her commitment against their sacrifice and realise that victory can only be achieved by a united, and highly-politicised movement in which everyone plays their part to the full. Nor can victory be won within the narrow confines of

the Six Counties. Action movement. We unique position in fi armed struggle against upping army in the country and, at the s attempting to bring the struggle on the front throughout the ties. It is only in the years that we have seriously take on the building a strong Do ganisation in the 26 C The decision of Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis abstentionism from House was an essent

...RS TO BE WON



social, cultural and economic mess which is Ireland today.

The corrupt economic and political system sustains itself by dividing and demoralising the working-class. We cannot end that division and demoralisation by standing on the sidelines.

In the fight against these formidable forces, North and South, the Republican Movement needs every republican in here fighting with us.

CLEAR ANALYSIS

Our analysis is clear and our policies are what are needed both in the short-term and in the long-term. But they are no use gathering dust on the shelf. They must be used to show how partition affects every aspect of our people's lives. Political progress only comes from political activists placing themselves in the forefront of the daily struggles of the men, women and children who suffer under this rotten system. For republican political activists the front line in the war is in the workplace, on the dole queue, on the farm, in the



● Editor of AP/RN, Rita O'Hare, gave the oration

their jobs and your health service.

And what about Haughey's statement in December 1986 when he said:

"It is dishonest and misleading for the Taoiseach, government ministers or anyone else to attempt to put the ratification of this Single European Act across as something of

the 26-County Criminal Justice Act that gives the gardai more powers of arrest and detention. Will those powers ensure the protection of women against the horrific violence of rape, will they protect children from physical or sexual abuse? Or will they be added to the formidable powers that already

BODENSTOWN '87



home, on the picket-line, on the canvass trail and everywhere the oppressed face the struggle for survival.

Let it not be forgotten that the politicians who so willingly collaborate with Thatcher and the British government's strategy in Ireland are the same ones who mimic the social and economic policies of Thatcherism. And in this the Fianna Fail administration has outdone the Coalition which it replaced.

Remember those huge Fianna Fail hoardings during the election campaign? "Health cuts hurt the old, the sick and the handicapped?" The old, the sick and the handicapped know now how much health cuts hurt - under Fianna Fail.

ONLY STARTED

And the cuts have only just started to bite. The imposition of hospital charges, the closing of casualty units and wards, and the decimation of rural hospitals all hit at the poor.

Under Fianna Fail (backed by Fine Gael and the PDs), health is to be the prerogative of wealth. Opposition to the health cuts shouldn't be left to the health unions. Get involved in protests in your community, organise to fight closures in your local hospital. Join with health workers in fighting for

great benefit to the people of this country because that is not in fact the case."

And yet he joined Dukes and Spring in that campaign of bribing, bullying and blackmailing the people of the 26 Counties into accepting the SEA!

He did that because the SEA represents the interests of big business. It will not, as they claimed, bring more jobs to Ireland or save jobs - just ask the 225 workers at the Hyster multinational!

The SEA will erode what is left of 26-County sovereignty and neutrality, it will erode our identity, our culture and our dignity unless we fight its effects and fight them now! It is designed to create not a "community of good Europeans" but a pool of cheap labour which is afraid to demand any rights for fear of losing the few jobs there are.

And while we are forced into this 'unity' with the NATO bloc, the unity that matters most - the unity of our country - is forgotten. Or they hope it will be forgotten. That propaganda campaign that has almost succeeded in making unity seem an unachievable (and even undesirable) aspiration must be challenged. The only people who can and will challenge it are republicans.

Haughey has also been quick to implement those clauses in

protect business and property, that erode the rights of workers, that ban trade unions and industrial action?

LEADING ROLE

We must take a leading part in the fight against these measures and we must, at all times and in all our work, seek to create a renewed republican consciousness among the people. This can only be done by the involvement of as broad numbers as possible in those campaigns which tackle some of the worst aspects of repression and collaboration, be it the strip-searching of women prisoners in Maghaberry and Durham, the plight of our POWs in England, the life prisoners with no prospect of release in Portlaoise and other jails, the state censorship of Section 31, or the extradition of republicans into British hands by the Dublin authorities.

Our tasks are many, comrades, but we face them with confidence because we know that our cause will ultimately prevail. The freedom of the Irish people, the just and equal distribution and ownership of the wealth of our land and the peaceful conclusion of this long war are ours to be won.

Ni bheidh deireadh leis an streachailt seo go dtí an la ina mbeidh saoirse ceart agus síochain i reim. Tíocfaidh an la sin lenár linn. Beidh an bua againn.

ties. As a liberant we are in a on in fighting an e against an occi on one part of our to bring forward on the political out the 32 Count- y. In the past few on the task of ong political or- he 26 Counties. on of the 1986 rd-Fhais to end from Leinster essential devel-

opment and cleared the decks for much hard work. How hard this work is going to be became clear only a couple of months later when Sinn Féin, for the first time, fought a Leinster House general election campaign on a participation basis. It was a hard beginning and the results were sobering for many of us, but it was *only a beginning* and that is how it must be seen.

We have begun in earnest the work of building our organisation to provide a revolutionary, alternative to the bankrupt politics that have

dominated in the 26 Counties since the post boxes were painted green 65 years ago by the gombeen men who hijacked the people's struggle for freedom. They have had 65 years to dig in, virtually unchallenged. They have created a system of patronage as corrupt as that of the sectarian Six-County state. It will be a hard system to shake but we must take on that task, we must organise our members and join with others to expose the corruption and injustice of this state so that we can offer hope to the victims of the



CANADIAN TOUR

DUNGANNON Sinn Fein Councillor Francie Molloy has returned to Ireland following a week-long series of speaking engagements, meetings and interviews in Canada.

Molloy, who was there at the invitation of the Irish Freedom Association, toured Toronto from June 2nd-10th, explaining the political situation which exists in the occupied Six Counties and our people's struggle for national self-determination. He also emphasised the need for the Canadian government to support the MacBride Principles concerning fair employment practices and spoke to trade unionists, Irish-Canadians and David Kho, National Democratic Party candidate for Scarborough-Agincourt. Kho said that, if elected, he would campaign to have the MacBride Principles adopted by the Canadian parliament.

RALLY

Apart from several other well-attended meetings and briefings, Molloy addressed a march and rally of over 1,000 people on June 6th. The rally, from Parliament Buildings, Queen's Park, was in protest against US involvement in Nicaragua.

The following day, Molloy met other trade unionists and Marion Dewar (New Democratic Party candidate in Hamilton) whose labour council has already passed the MacBride Principles and is bringing it to party conference soon.



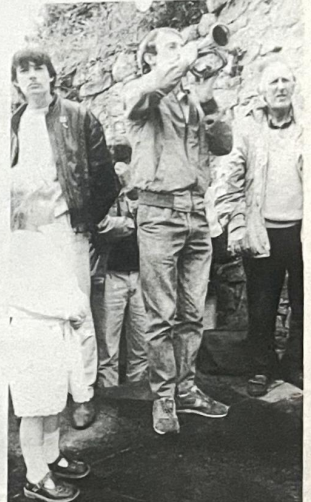
● Three unwelcome visitors to Bodenstown last Sunday - members of the Garda Special Branch



● Two youngsters lapping up the atmosphere



● (Left and above) Republican bands are put through their paces by young band leaders; (below) Sinn Fein Cumann from Carlow and Tipperary, and (right) the Last Post is played in the cemetery



SPIRIT AND LIFE OF IRELAND

CUMANN CABHRACH

BY TOM O'DWYER

"I've worked all my life for an Irish republic and I hope to see it come to fruition before I die," said 74-year-old Leinster republican Jack McGuinness as his long commitment to the struggle was honoured at the An Cumann Cabhrach testimonial dinner in Dublin on Saturday, June 20th. Jack's optimism was echoed by the four other honorees: J. B. O'Hagan (Ulster), Jim McCafferty (Connacht), Benny Ryan (Munster), and Alex Murphy from the United States. The 130 guests of the republican prisoners' support group enjoyed a light-hearted evening; some even started dancing before the meal was over.

The five honorees who, between them, have given over 250 years' service to the Republican Movement, refuse to be called 'veterans' as long as the job of forcing Britain out of Ireland is unfinished. They paid tribute to their families and comrades as each of them received a testimonial plaque from a young member of Fianna Éireann.

LEGENDARY

J. B. O'Hagan's legendary helicopter escape from Mountjoy Prison in 1973 was remembered by the guests when he accepted his plaque, saying:

"There could be 100 people from Ulster here but unfortunately their names are unknown while, through certain circumstances, mine became known."

J.B. was also imprisoned in Crumlin Road, Belfast (1942-45 and 1959-63), the Curragh Camp (1958-59), and Portlaoise Prison (1975-76). He concluded to warm applause: "We are the spirit and the life in Ireland. We'll never give in and we'll finish the struggle in this generation."

Benny Ryan, from Limerick, told the audience that being a member of the Republican



● The honorees at this year's An Cumann Cabhrach testimonial dinner: J.B. O'Hagan, Benny Ryan, Jack McGuinness, Jim McCafferty and Alex Murphy

Movement "became so natural to me that I just can't think of being out of it".

Benny joined Fianna Éireann in 1926 and was an active IRA Volunteer in the 1930s. He was imprisoned in Arbour Hill, Dublin, and in the Curragh. Smiling, he reminded the Cumann Cabhrach supporters of the words of Gerry Boland in the '40s when the 26-County government minister told Leinster House: "The problem of the IRA is finished." Benny, who is very proud of the record of Limerick republicans in the struggle, ended his remarks by saying: "The only true republicans are those who are still fighting and it's glorious they still do."

Next to receive his plaque was Jack McGuinness, one of whose earliest memories was of the funeral of Thomas Ashe who died on hunger-strike in 1917. Jack joined the Movement after attending republican prisoners' defence meetings in the 1920s. He's still a familiar figure at republican demonstrations in Dublin.

When Joe Cahill introduced Jim McCafferty, who joined the IRA in his native County Mayo during the '20s, Jim waived his right to speak. "A man of no words," said Cahill, "just action." The action which Jim undertook in England during the Second World War brought him five years' imprisonment in Dartmoor ("where we ate the por-

ridge, cockroaches and all") and Exeter prisons. On his return to Ireland he was interned in the Curragh for a year. He now is impressed "that there is so much energy in the Movement".

Alex Murphy, from Chicago, told the guests about harassment by the FBI. When an agent recently came to his door, "He must have thought I was a supergrass," said Alex. "He wanted to know if I could give him the names of people giving arms to terrorists." I said "Yes, of course." But when Alex began his list of terrorist sympathisers with the names of Ronald Reagan and Don Reagan, any names that followed were drowned by the audience's laughter.

FREEDOM FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX

It's up to you

POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS from the 26 Counties will have to do a lot more public agitating if the campaign to release the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four is to succeed, British Labour MPs Tony Benn and Chris Mullin told reporters at a Dublin press conference on Friday, June 19th.

'Quiet diplomacy' — as advocated by former Foreign Minister Peter Barry — had obviously not worked, the visiting MPs observed and they later put this view to Fianna Fail Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan.

They called for Charles Haughey to attend the Birmingham Six appeal court hearing in England in November to focus attention on the importance of the case and to highlight the issue in the United States and EEC political circles. 26-County ambassadors should also be initiating publicity abroad and challenging

British government representatives not just on the Birmingham Six/Guildford Four but on their record in the Six Counties whenever they "pasture" about human rights, Tony Benn and Chris Mullin said, just as Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev did with Margaret Thatcher.

POLICE SEARCH

Chris Mullin, author of a book about the Birmingham Six, *An Error of Judgement* (to be published in paperback by Poolbeg in August), said that although the West Midlands Chief Constable

had a "good idea" about who really planted the Birmingham bombs in 1974, some 34 police officers are "combing" Britain for more evidence against the Birmingham Six and that documents pertinent to the appeal hearing are "not forthcoming".

SOLUTION IS POLITICAL

A public meeting held in a Dublin hotel on Friday evening attracted a couple of hundred people to hear Tony Benn, Chris Mullin, Tim Pat Coogan (editor of the *Irish Press*), Dr James Kavanagh (Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin) and Mary McAleese (professor of law at Trinity College Dublin) speak in support of the Birmingham Six Committee's campaign.

Chris Mullin said: "This [the Birmingham Six case] is nothing to do with justice — it's about politics and the solution to it is political. Irish public opinion and the government can have far more effect than we can in England. It's up to you to put pressure on your politicians to make sure they don't get a quiet life until they face up to this case."

Anyone wishing to become active in the Birmingham Six Committee should write to PO Box 1809, Dublin 8.



● (Above) Chris Mullin, Tony Benn, Tim Pat Coogan, Mary McAleese and Bishop Kavanagh at the public meeting in Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel on Friday, June 19th, and (below) a section of the crowd



WAKEFIELD PRISON PROTEST

TWO IRISH POWs in Wakefield top security jail in England are staging protests against visiting conditions there which they say are the worst in the country.

The prisoners have staged a 'dirty' protest in their cells, refused to wear prison uniform, and have refused to do penal work.

Of the 37 POWs in England, two are presently in Wakefield — Donegal man Hugh Doherty, who was sentenced to life in 1976, and Dubliner Nat Vella, who was jailed for 15 years in 1985.

They are doubly discriminated against as their visits are held in worse conditions than other top-security prisoners in Wakefield have and are enduring worse conditions than are imposed on the other male POWs held in England.

Since before the end of last year, Hugh Doherty and Nat Vella have been refusing visits until the conditions are changed, arguing that the authorities are imposing additional punishments on them and their families to try and "break our spirit and isolate us".

SPECIAL ROOM

Wakefield has a special visiting room for 'high-risk' prisoners. A friend of Nat Vella describes the room thus:

"It is approximately ten feet by eight feet, with two tables next to each other in the centre and bolted to the floor. Chairs are positioned at either end of the double tables so that the prisoner and his visitor are five feet apart from each other. This naturally puts a great strain on both prisoner and visitor."

Other Category A prisoners in Wakefield have their visits in rooms with a single table which is not bolted to the floor. The POWs' relatives have seen other families having visits in rooms with easy chairs and coffee tables.

In the case of the POWs, prisoner and visitor are allowed to touch each other only at the beginning and the end of each visit.

Throughout the visit there are two prison warders in the room: one behind the POW's left shoulder and the other behind the visitor's left shoulder. They occasionally take notes of what is said.

"But the lack of privacy doesn't end there," says one visitor. "All along one side of the room there is a window at waist height so that anyone passing along the corridor can look in on the visit."

Hugh Doherty and Nat Vella are strip-searched both before and after visits. Sometimes these searches include the physical probing of both mouth and anus.

Visitors are searched in the prison administration block before visits. Although metal detectors are always used, visitors are often also subjected to hand frisking. Sweets and cigarettes are the only items permitted to be taken on visits.

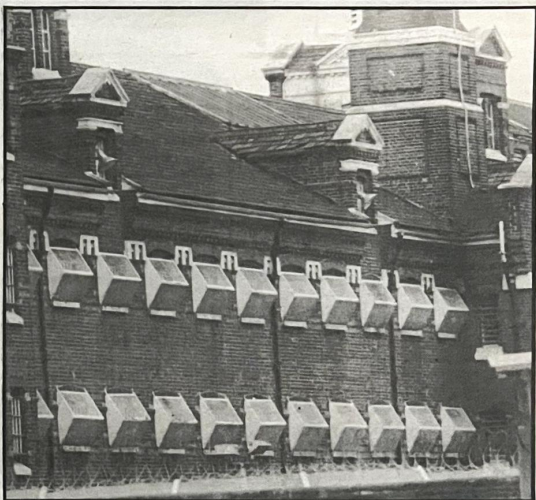
CONFLICTING REPLIES

Relatives' complaints to the Wakefield governor, Mr Gadd, draw the response that he is merely obeying Home Office instructions. Yet complaints to the Home Office have met the answer that visiting conditions are at the discretion of the governor.

Wakefield has long been regarded as the English prison where republicans get the harshest treatment. In the mid-1970s it housed the notorious Special Control Unit and 1976 saw the death on hunger-strike there of Frank Stagg, who was protesting at conditions and demanding repatriation to Ireland.

Hugh Doherty and father-of-two Nat Vella have been in Wakefield since 1986 and 1985 respectively. For refusing to work or wear uniform, they are removed to local prisons on a 'lie-down' for between 28 and 56 days. On their return to Wakefield they are sentenced to 56 days' solitary confinement plus 84 days' loss of remission.

At the end of the punishment period they are returned to the wing where they



will again protest at the unchanged visiting conditions — and the cycle begins again.

Although their main grievance is the visiting conditions, the republican prisoners also appear to be discriminated against when it comes to punishments. Their sentences of 56 days in solitary confinement are four times more than the sentences imposed on a group of British prisoners who staged a protest in March of this year.

ISOLATION

A Home Office spokesperson has said that visiting procedures are laid down by the Home Office "so there ought not to be any difference between one prisoner and another."

This backs up the POWs' belief that responsibility for their treatment lies with

Wakefield's governor, whom they believe to be trying to break them and their families by isolating them even more than being behind prison walls and hundreds of miles from home.

There are clearly parallels with the strip-searching of women prisoners — searches which are used as a psychological weapon rather than as a security measure.

The continuing protests and growing bitterness inside Wakefield and the campaign against strip-searching in Durham are both products of the Home Office's refusal to repatriate Irish republican prisoners to jails in Ireland.

This policy is in direct contrast to the speedy repatriation of British soldiers who have been convicted of serious offences in the Six Counties — offences which have included murder.

"MAS'R always found me on the spot, - he always will." Such were the words of Uncle Tom, of Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, to his slave-master, Simon Legree.

Uncle Tomas is alive and well and living in Ireland today. He is alive in a government that sits back and does as it is told by its 'betters' in Europe. And he is alive in the intellectual snobs of the right and left who preach that Irish history and the Irish struggle is an inferior and worthless heritage that should be forgotten as soon as possible.

Here is an example of what I mean. Uncle Tomism has been the history of our relationship with Europe. Not the equal "good neighbours" that Charlie Haughey and his Fianna Fail ministers keep referring to, but the Simon Legress and the Uncle Toms of an unequal, exploitative relationship.

As you know, following the recent referendum on the Single European Act, two thirds of those who voted (about 30% of the adult Dublin-governed population) are now officially "good Europeans" in the jargon of our friends at Leinster House.

"Hold on a wee minute," cries a voice from the gallery. "The people of Ireland have spoken and it's final. Accept the democratic decision."

No, I will not. We as a people cannot. Now that the vote is over, it is even more important that we keep up the good fight to ensure that the Dublin politicians are held accountable when their predictions of a wealthy, modern, neutral, European Ireland fail to come true. And to ensure that we begin now to build alternatives.

FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE

Let me put this in a historical context. Back when this all began, in 1948, the 26 Counties was forced by the US to become a member of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), the forerunner of the EEC. It was all in return for a few precious US dollars.

Now, when we joined the OEEC, we were assured that Ireland would be able to continue its own economic development policies. We were "free" members of a European association that was set up for the good of all Europeans.

By 1955, the OEEC had gone back on its word and was demanding that the Dublin government remove its protection of Irish industry. We had to let all European goods flow freely into Ireland to compete with Irish goods.

So the Department of Industry and Commerce did a secret study. And they found out that if we did what the OEEC wanted, and brought in free trade, 75% of Irish industry would be wiped out. The ministers agreed that they couldn't afford to go along with Europe on their terms. It's all in the "secret memos" that the government has been hiding from us all these years.

So, the ministers and the taoiseach of the time, those doyens of national freedom in Fine Gael tossed it about, thought it over... and agreed with what the Europeans wanted, knowing all the while what it would do to the economy.

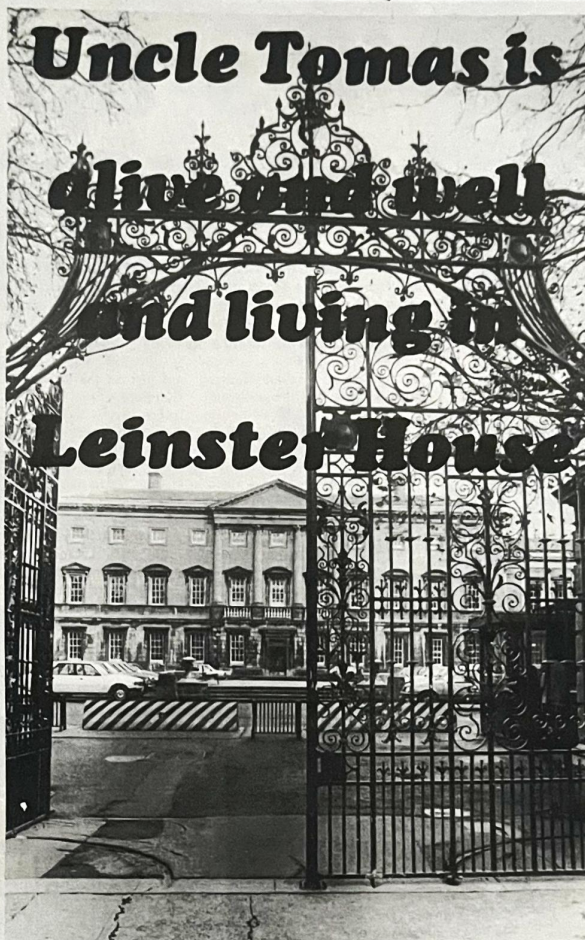
"If we don't agree, we'll be kicked out of Europe," opined the taoiseach. "Then we'll never be rich modern Europeans."

"Sure, it'll be okay...they've inserted escape clauses," chipped in that champion of Irish freedom and neutrality, Dev, from the opposition benches.

"Oh, aye, escape clauses," said another minister.

"Escape clauses," echoed the chambers of Leinster House.

Sounds very familiar. The Minister for External Affairs,



'Uncle Tomas' Cosgrave, went to the OEEC, hat in hand, and agreed to the European demands for the destruction of Irish industry.

"Mas'r, you always found me on the spot...you always will."

SECRET STUDIES

Many things happened in the following years. The secret studies were buried deep in the bureaucratic files. The Dublin government released public studies that said only 25% of industry would be lost to free trade. Ireland unilaterally declared free trade in the 1960s to keep the Europeans and the British happy. And the Dublin government finally joined the EEC in 1972. Within two years, it removed all remaining protection of 26-County industry.

"We must have access to the European market of 300 million people for our exports," the government of the day told us.

"We can't be left out of Europe or the multinationals will all go to Mexico and Singapore instead of Ireland," cried the ministers.

"Escape clauses" piped in some TeeDees.

And in all that time...in all those years... how many times did the Dublin government use those famous escape clauses to save our industry?

Well, you could count them on one finger, and still have enough left over to pick your nose.

And what happened to Irish industry in the meantime?

Well, about 80% of it went bust... defunct... ex. The economy collapsed.

And how many times will future Dublin governments use escape clauses to save our neutrality?

Same again. And what are our politicians telling us today?

"There are escape clauses." "If we don't go along, we'll be kicked out of Europe."

The Single European Act opens for us the possibility of sharing in a market of 320 million people for industrial and service type products."

Come on, Minister, you used them back in 1955, and then again in 1972 when we joined the EEC. How many times can they keep opening the same market to 'our' exports?

The problem will remain. The problem will get worse. Not just for the economy but for our neutrality. And that is why the recent SEA referendum resolved nothing. Nothing will be resolved until we start making demands of Europe (all of us, not just the farmers), instead of playing Uncle Tomas. Perhaps other underdeveloped members - Greece, Spain, Portugal - could help.

THE PURGE IS ON

As if to prove that we won't cause any trouble for our European masters now that we've passed the SEA, the Uncle Tomases are also on a tear to purge us of all nationalism.

"Only backward tribes in the Third World have nationalism," we are told. "Ireland is part of Europe now, so we have no need for nation or nationalism."

And now that we're proven A1 satisfaction-guaranteed-or-double-your-money-back genuine Europeans, what makes more sense than to get rid of our national anthem. That outdated piece of tribal rabble-

rebel-rousing, with its "cannons roar", its "rifles' peal" and its wee "soldiers"? It's only a piece of IRA propaganda, anyway.

"Don't sing about oppression and maybe it will go away," the young European uncles tell us.

I'm afraid this one isn't going to go away. We'll be hearing for a long time to come from every Tom, Dick and Harry about changing the national anthem.

The suggestions are coming fast and furious. The Irish rugby team began by standing to attention to the strains of *The Rose of Tralee* instead of *The Soldiers Song* in New Zealand three weeks ago, which is something like watching the Chicago Bears stand for *Here She Comes, Miss America*. It just didn't wash.

A stout-hearted individual on the wireless agreed. They should make *Oh, Danny Boy* our national anthem, he argued. Then the boys from Dublin could stand for the *Derry Air* while the chaps from Bangor stood for the *Londonderry Air*. And the rest of us can have a good laugh at them making...um...*derrieres* of themselves.

Another wag disagreed entirely. Since we've given up our neutrality and accepted the Single European Act, let's make our national anthem *A Province Once Again*.

Ah, now we're getting somewhere. Let's just run down Uncle Tomas's list of three essential requirements for an appropriately toady national anthem (really, we should just call it the *anthem*, because it's not supposed to be national).

1. No political references, especially about guns, bombs, rockets' red glare, freedom, or justice.
2. No national or sectional references which are divisive. It must be a truly European national anthem.
3. No sentimentalism about the past. What's past is past. We have no history. We are all modern now.

In other words, let's show Europe that we are good Europeans and we have no pretensions to outdated notions like national freedom or justice. Then maybe they'll throw our farmers a few more Deutschmarks.

Well, I have the perfect solution. Let's make our (un)national anthem the latest *Eurovision Song Contest* winner. No references to guns or Ireland. It remains modern and up-to-date. It has no chance of going stale because it changes every year (well...sort of). And, best of all, it's democratically chosen for us by a panel of upper-class European snobs.

We could even appoint Fab Johnny Logan our 'anthem laureate'. Why, the other Europeans would feel so grateful, they might let Johnny win a few more times.

Of course, there are other possibilities: Tom Lehrer's anti-nuclear anthem *We'll All Go Together When We Go*, *I'll do Anything You Say*, or, for the EEC dairy farmers, *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*.

(Your suggestions, please, to 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.)

FAITHFUL SERVANT

So the race is on to see who can be the best Europeans. To quote a friend of ours, a Fianna Fail minister who spends all his time eating dinners in front of the news cameras, it is necessary for the Irish to be good Europeans because if we don't we'll lose all that money from the European Social Fund. "Up to the end of 1986 we received a total of £676 million," he assures us (which is half of what the multinationals steal from Irish labour every year - Ed).

Or, in the words of Uncle Tom: "Mas'r Legree, as ye bought me, I'll be a true and faithful servant to ye. I'll give ye all the work of my hands, all my time, all my strength."

"Yer a good nigger, Tomas" replies the EEC Commissioner.



Liverpool solidarity

WHILE THE STRIKE at Hanlon's, the Longford ambulance factory, goes on, its owner, Noel Hanlon, has withdrawn a threat to close down and move to Liverpool. Over 200 Longford workers are striking over the victimisation of 85 of their colleagues.

Hanlon, an ex-Fianna Fail election agent, was begged by his crony, Albert Reynolds, Dublin Minister for Industry and Commerce, to think again. But the would-be union-buster faced opposition from British trade unionists as well. Tony Boyle, branch secretary of the British Transport & General Workers' Union for the area covering Hanlon's Liverpool plant, said:

"Our branch contains a number of

unemployed workers. But although we are starved of jobs in this area it is not jobs at any price' and certainly not jobs at the price of other trade unionists. If action to stop Hanlon was called for, then we would give the necessary support."

Grasping Greene

Alfie Greene, the County Donegal draper, is quick to grasp a business opportunity when he sees one.

Greene's Letterkenny premises were fire-bombed by the loyalist UVF on February 8th. Since then, he's opened four new outlets in Counties Donegal and Sligo. But he's also fired Derek Fleming, manager of the footwear department in the old shop and ITGWU shop steward. Fleming's crime was to organise the workers and to secure union rates



A 150-STRONG picket outside Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin, on Friday, June 19th was organised by Celia O'Neill, mother of four-year-old heart patient Rita. Mothers from the Drimnagh area were joined by members of the hospital's domestic and canteen staff. Dena Ward, a worker at Our Lady's said:

"We're here as mothers of children served by this hospital. Are we going to rear a nation of sick children? Charlie Haughey's children are going to get their health care all right!"



for their job: he had eight years' service as a manager.

Letterkenny trade unionists have been picketing Greene's footwear shop in the Port Road Shopping Centre since June 9th. The sympathy of Donegal people for Greene when his shop burned down is being rapidly transferred to Greene's employees and the boycott, supported by the local trades council, is being widely observed.

Cruelty to staff

Staff of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in Dublin and Cork are on strike for the

first time in the organisation's 100-year history. The ISPC helps to protect children in over 1,000 Irish homes from violence but now the staff themselves are victims of a cruel deception. In 1986, when they accepted a number of redundancies, they were told that no further job losses would be necessary, but a member of staff with ten years' service was recently made redundant. They were told by management that the Dublin Department of Health had refused the Society extra funding, but the Department denies that it has received anything in writing from the ISPC. A quarter of the staff earn less than £5,000 per year.

POLITICAL SACKING

THE RECENT SACKING of a member of the Fair Employment Trust, a body set up to promote equality in employment in the North, has clearly demonstrated the double jeopardy in which Catholics find themselves with regard to employment.

Oliver Kearney, a prominent FET spokesperson who has worked to end job discrimination and has actively promoted the MacBride Principles, was sacked by his employers, the Federation of Licensed Vintners, in a move which clearly resulted from his outspoken views on discrimination.

His dismissal underpins an emerging alliance of both public and private sector employers intent on gagging public protest against discrimination.

More importantly, Kearney's sacking lends weight to the belief that the FET and its members are the subject of a concerted attempt by British government agencies to inhibit, if not totally suppress, the FET's advocacy of the MacBride Principles.

THORN

The FET has been a thorn in the

employed as personnel officers in the Housing Executive.

Both received written notices from the Executive last December stating that their membership of the FET was seen as a "conflict of interests". Rather than lose their jobs, both men resigned from the FET.

IRONY

Commenting on the sacking of Oliver Kearney, Sinn Fein's West Belfast MP Gerry Adams, said that anyone who protests against discrimination "not only has to suffer the consequences of religious discrimination but those in employment must now expect political discrimination and the loss of their jobs if they dare to publicly campaign for an end to discrimination".

Adams pointed out:

"As a final irony, Mr Kearney's only resort to redress is the Fair Employment Agency, which, as the responsible government agency, has been one of the main opponents of the MacBride Principles — the campaign over which Mr Kearney has been so unjustly dismissed. If protest over a major issue of discrimination is not to be stifled by the people who practise it — the employers — nationalists and civil libertarians must have their voices on this issue heard now."

BENEFITS UNDER FIRE

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

THE British government appears determined to press ahead with its policy of attacks on the unemployed by scrapping supplementary benefit payments to jobless teenagers.

Norman Fowler, the new 'Employment' Minister, has now targeted 16-18-year-olds in the British government's continuing 're-organising' of social services. He proposes to replace the current £18.55 per week benefit with some sort of 'waiting allowance'. This would be a temporary payment until a place became available on a Youth Training Scheme.

The proposals would affect those school-leavers who cannot find a job and who, for whatever reason, don't take a Youth Training Scheme place or who drop out of a scheme.

Belfast Sinn Fein Councillor Sean McKnight angrily attacked the proposals:

"They are a blatant attempt to press-gang young people into taking up these directionless schemes. They serve no purpose except to

falsify the already false unemployment figures.

"Instead of providing meaningful opportunities, Fowler intends to make school-leavers pay for the mistakes of adults in putting Thatcher back into power."

SPEECH

It is expected that the British government's plans will be outlined on Thursday, June 25th, in the British queen's speech to Parliament.

In conjunction with the proposed cuts, Norman Fowler launched a £2 million television advertising campaign on Monday to promote the YTS. This will make little difference to teenagers in areas of mass unemployment like Strabane, West Belfast and Derry who have little hope of employment even if they do complete a training scheme.

Imeachtaí

**IRISH BRIGADE
IN CONCERT**
8.30pm Friday 26th June
Wexford Inn
DUBLIN
Taille €2
Organised by
Dublin West Sinn Fein

**MIRIAM DALY
COMMEMORATION**
12.30pm Saturday 27th July
St Colmcille's Church
SWORDS
County Dublin

**IRISH PERSPECTIVE ON
BRITISH WELFARE
CONFERENCE**
Sessions on emigration, welfare
work, ethnic minority assimilation,
Irish women, young offenders,
travellers, elderly people
and Irish prisoners
Saturday 4th July
Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton
LONDON
Details of fees, etc. Elaine Scott
(326 7400) / Gearoid Mac Gearailt
(622 7498)
Organised by the IBRG

**UNVEILING CEREMONY
H-BLOCK MARTYRS MEMORIAL**
Speaker: Joe Cahill
4pm Sunday 5th July
Courtbarne
HACKBALLSCROSS
(near Dumack)
County Louth

SPECIAL CABARET
Featuring the Dublin City Ramblers
and other artists
Special guest: West Belfast MP
Gerry Adams
8.30pm Monday 6th July
Wexford Inn
DUBLIN
Taille €4
Tickets from 44 Parnell Square
and the usual outlets

FINGLAS PUB QUIZ
8pm Tuesday 7th July
Fingal Inn
Finglas
DUBLIN
Taille €10 per table

BALLAD SESSION
9pm Saturday 11th July
Shannon Knights Inn
SHANNON
County Clare
Taille €1.50 (€1 unvainged)
Organised by Sinn Fein

BALLAD SESSION
Music by Gypsy Lacey
8pm Friday 17th July
Camelot Hotel
Malahide Road
DUBLIN
Taille €2.50
Organised by Dublin Sinn Fein
Comhairle Ceantair

**VOL PATRICK CANNON
COMMEMORATION**
Assemble 11.30am
Sunday 19th July
Camelot Hotel
Malahide Hotel
DUBLIN
March to Balgriffin Cemetery

**SINN FEIN
WOMEN'S SEMINAR**
Friday 31st July to
Tuesday 4th August
COUNTY WICKLOW
Taille €10 from Dublin,
€5 outside Dublin, no charge
for children - crèche available
Details: Rose (01 532763)
or Nicola (01 728932)

Organised by the
Sinn Fein Education Department

REVIEWS

Nothing personal

BY JOE GABRIEL

NUALA O'FAOLAIN is a journalist with the *Irish Times*. Regular readers of this column will be aware that we have discussed the editorial policy of the *Times* in the recent past and doubtless this had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that Nuala devoted her *Signals* column of last Saturday to *An Phoblacht/Republican News*.

Nuala was of the view that *AP/RN* was not often seen in middle-class homes. She also claimed that there was a certain tension when people came into pubs to sell it. It must be said that in order to pass judgement on the paper, Nuala had read the last four issues, so she could not be accused of being biased against us. Some of her criticisms must be considered valid, depending on your point of view. She missed the central fact that *AP/RN* is a paper aimed at a republican and radical readership covering news which is ignored or censored by other media.

At one point she says that the paper refers to the 26 Counties as the 'Free State'. She goes on: 'I've never met anyone, in this part of the country, who calls it the Free State.' In fact, it was Derry man Martin McGuinness who called it the Free State and I've never met anyone in the Six Counties who called it anything but the Free State. It's all a matter of perspective.

A STATE OF WAR

However, she does concede that the news coverage of the



North is good. She ends stating that the paper 'evokes instead an almost timeless state of war'.

Does Nuala not realise that people in the North are living in a state of war? But there is an interesting angle to all of this.

Nuala O'Faolain rang up the editor of this paper and asked for some back issues (the four she read). While she was being facilitated in this, she said she was going to do something on it and then before she rang off, she said that she hoped that the editor wouldn't take what she was going to write personally! Some readers could conclude from this that she had already made up her mind what the tone of the article was going to be even before she had seen the paper. (And, Nuala, please don't take any of this personally either.)



Conor Brady is currently coming under a lot of fire from within and outside his paper. There are rebellious mutterings among the hacks about the fact that they are working for a Thatcherite paper. They seemingly discovered this while the recent Westminster general election was going on. The consistent editorial line throughout was that Thatcher should be given a good majority to continue her work of destroying the

working class and all forms of opposition to her policies.

THE BUNKER

Coupled with the rebellious staff hacks, the paper also faces a freelance blacklisting starting on July 6th. Incidentally, Nuala O'Faolain will be affected by this dispute, as will Mary Holland, John Healy, Neil McCafferty and many others. That old editorial office must feel like a bunker these days.

It may be that the liberal, well-meaning image portrayed by the paper over the years is falling to dust and that this fact sits uneasily with many of those working there who now feel that they may actually have to do something about the editorial line.

LEAVE IT OUT

Readers of *Phoenix* magazine were treated to something very special on the cover of the last issue.

There was a photo of hundreds of women running in the marathon, and plastered across the front of the mag was, "Rape case backlash." A 'speak bubble' had one woman saying: "To The Four Courts" This was intended to be funny. It wasn't.

A woman had been raped in Cavan. After the accused man was acquitted, there was media speculation as to the behaviour of the legal counsel in the case. The questions raised were valid. The Cavan woman has still to live with what happened. And then along comes *Phoenix* with their cover. Ho, ho, bloody, ho.

There is a place for *Phoenix*. Its formula is quite simple. The mag sets up various groups in society and takes swipes at them. And then all those various groups - gardai, civil servants, judges, and so on - buy the mag to see their colleagues lambasted.

The mag is necessary. It's there to take on anybody who takes themselves too seriously. And, of course, everybody thinks it's very funny - until they are mentioned in it.

But as for the last cover - leave it out. Nobody appreciated that one. It's not the first time the *Phoenix* has been offensively sexist but it should be the last.

MAGILLIGAN: a cause for concern

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

AN EXTENSIVE REPORT into the findings of an inquiry into conditions in Magilligan Prison has been published by the Concerned Relatives' & Ex-prisoners' Committee.

Because of continuing controversy surrounding the County Derry jail and recognising the need to inform the public about conditions there, a number of witnesses, including relatives, ex-prisoners and solicitors, gave evidence to the inquiry held in Belfast on January 27th/28th.

From evidence at the inquiry it emerges that, in a bid to recover their massive losses from the H-Block hunger-strike, over the past three years, Magilligan has become the focal point for the Northern Ireland Office's criminalisation policy against republicans. In Magilligan they do so through dangerously experimenting with a policy of integrating republican and loyalist prisoners.

Magilligan is, therefore, a prison created for a special purpose, with staff specially chosen for the job. Prison warders who were transferred from Long Kesh included not only some who had been involved in sex scandals but also a number who had been particularly abusive of prisoners during the period of the blanket protest.

In 1983, large numbers of republican prisoners were transferred to Magilligan where they were told there would be no political status, that it was going to be a "breakers yard".



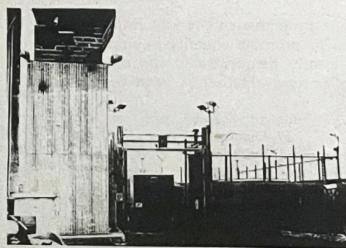
The inquiry heard that it is common for warders to be involved in the manipulation of the integrated system through the fabrication of plots and conspiracies by republicans against loyalists (and vice versa) to increase tension and allow them to justify and add to their 'security' policies. Witnesses at the inquiry agreed that the enforced integration of loyalist and republican prisoners was at the root of most of the unrest, tension and abuse in Magilligan.

WEDGE

While the NI claims that its integration policy is to bring prisoners of different political and ideological views together, all evidence shows that, in practice, integration drives a deeper wedge between them. Significantly, solicitors in evidence reported that a very large number of prisoners' complaints stemmed from the enforced integration system. Given that there would be enormous barriers at any rate in trying to integrate people with vastly different ideals and

MAGILLIGAN A cause for concern

A REPORT OF AN EXTENSIVE INQUIRY INTO PRISON MAGILLIGAN



backgrounds, the prison system and daily tensions not only don't solve these difficulties but make them immeasurably greater.

Witnesses all agreed that the system was designed and is worked to produce disharmony and conflict with a view to imposing maximum control of republican prisoners by the authorities.

Although described as a medium- to low-security prison as opposed to Long Kesh (a high-security prison) prisoners find that, on entering Magilligan, they are confronted by a harsher prison regime. Tension and petty harassment is on a higher scale than at Long Kesh.

In evidence, ex-prisoners

described conditions in Magilligan as an "all-pervasive system of petty harassment brought about by prison policy and by prison warders". New arrivals at the prison are given no prior warning of transfer nor are their relatives which often causes hardship. Prisoners are immediately subjected to provocative and, at times, physical abuse from openly anti-republican and sectarian warders - the purpose being to give the prisoners a taste of what is in store.

While it could be expected that because prisoners transferred to Magilligan are nearing the completion of their sentences the prison regime would be preparing them for rejoining life outside, the

reality is the opposite. Evidence showed that not only did the prison system create tension and ill-will but it also restricted those facilities which could have helped prisoners for their future. One example was the random denial of withdrawal of educational facilities.

INDICTIVE

In addition, the arbitrary and often vindictive interpretation of prison rules by prison warders and governors adds to extreme tension among republican prisoners. Loss of remission and association was commonplace simply because the prison rules are manipulated to suit the regime's purpose - slowly breaking down prisoners' morale and commitment.

Witnesses agreed that there is no adequate structure to seek redress for injustices within the system and equally unanimously they were highly critical of the board of visitors which usually upholds the prison administration's view. The witnesses felt this was an "irrefutable system" which will not be changed until such time "as the prison administration is reformed itself and until it is made perfectly clear that arbitrary punishments and arbitrary treatment of prisoners has ceased to be built into the system".

The report of the inquiry, entitled *Magilligan: A Cause for Concern*, will be distributed to all interested groups and individuals, the churches, and abroad. For further information or to obtain a copy, telephone Belfast 249975.

In Memoriam

BROWN, Denis (30th Anniversary). **MULVENNA, Jim** (30th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Denis Brown, Jackie Malloy and Jim Mulvenna, Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed in action on June 21st 1978. "Believing that the British government has no right in Ireland, never can have any right in Ireland, never can have any generation of the present, in any one generation of Irish men, of any one respectable minority ready by all means to affirm that truth, makes that government forever usurper and a crime against 'human progress'." - James Connolly, "masac laochra na nGael go raibh i measc." Always remembered by Eugene, Sheila, Aine and Oislin.

CARLIN, Thomas (17th Anniversary). **McCOOL, Thomas** (17th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear friend Thomas Carlin, Joseph Coyle and Thomas McCool, Derry Brigade and Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed in an explosion while on active in the nGael go raibh slad. "Life laochra na nGael go raibh slad, and from the springs of patriot men and women grew spring living nations." - P.H. Pearse, "retained unarmed while still just as much freedom as is combed, sent England to give her; Ireland armed will attain ultimately just as much freedom as she wants." - P.H. Pearse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglagh na hEireann, County Tyrone.

CARTY, Patrick (14th Anniversary). **LOUGHRAN, Sean** (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Patrick Carty, Dermot Crowley and Sean Loughran, Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed in an accidental explosion while on active service. "retained unarmed while still just as much freedom as is combed, sent England to give her; Ireland armed will attain ultimately just as much freedom as she wants." - P.H. Pearse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglagh na hEireann, County Tyrone.

CARTY, Patrick (14th Anniversary). **Dermot Crowley**, **LOUGHRAN, Sean** (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Patrick Carty, Dermot Crowley and Sean Loughran, Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed in an accidental explosion while on active service. "retained unarmed while still just as much freedom as is combed, sent England to give her; Ireland armed will attain ultimately just as much freedom as she wants." - P.H. Pearse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglagh na hEireann, County Tyrone.

CARROLL, Frank (10th Anniversary). In loving memory of my father Frank Carroll, who died on June 20th 1977. Always remembered by my son Tommy, daughter-in-law Marion and grandchildren.

CARTY, Patrick, **CROWLEY, Dermot**, **LOUGHRAN, Sean** (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Patrick Carty, Dermot Crowley and Sean Loughran, Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed in an accidental explosion while on active service. "retained unarmed while still just as much freedom as is combed, sent England to give her; Ireland armed will attain ultimately just as much freedom as she wants." - P.H. Pearse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglagh na hEireann, County Tyrone.

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1973. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by his sister Helen Carlin, Newry.

CARTY, Patrick (14th Anniversary). In memory of Vois Paddy Carty, 1973. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by his sister Anna and brother-in-law Vincent and family, Newry.

CARTY, Patrick (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois active service on June 25th 1973. Always remembered by South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein.

CARTY, Patrick (14th Anniversary). **Patrick Carty**, who was killed on June 25th 1973. Always remembered by the Dugganans on Martyrs Sinn Fein Cumann.

CRAIG, Gerard; **RUSSELL, David** (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Gerard Craig and David Russell, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who 24th 1974. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Derry Brigade.

CROWLEY, Dermot (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Dermot Crowley, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed in action during the 1981 hunger strike. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Oglagh na hEireann, County Tyrone.

DEMPSEY, Brian (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Brian 'Dipper' Dempsey, 2nd Battalion, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died while on active service on June 25th 1986. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

DEMPSEY, Brian (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Brian 'Dipper' Dempsey, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on June 25th 1986. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by Sinn Fein Buan na bhFiail.

DEMPSEY, Brian (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my friend Vois Brian 'Dipper' Dempsey, who was killed while on active service on June 25th 1986. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by the Moore family.

DEMPSEY, Brian (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Brian 'Dipper' Dempsey, who was killed while on active service on June 25th 1986. Always remembered by Kieran (Crumlin Road) and family.

FINUCANE, John; **JORDAN, Tony** (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois John Finucane and Tony Jordan, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who were killed in a car accident while on active service on June 28th 1972. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

FINUCANE, John (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vois John Finucane, my dear father Vois John Finucane, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by his brother-in-law Job, David and Karen.

FINUCANE, John (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vois John Finucane, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. Time may hide the tears, but loving memories hold you close, despite the passing years. Today, I share the smile that hides the tears, but loving memories hold you close, despite the passing years. Always remembered by his brother Pat, sister-in-law Geraldine, niece Katherine and nephews Michael and John.

FINUCANE, John (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vois John Finucane, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by his brother Dermot, Ailish and Gráinne.

FINUCANE, John (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vois John Finucane, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on June 28th 1972. RIP. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Always remembered by his brother Dermot, Ailish and Gráinne.

JORDAN, Tony (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Tony Jordan, Oglagh na hEireann, who died on June 28th 1972. Quietly but your love's memory is kept, we who loved you will never forget. Sadty missed but never forgotten by the Finucane family.

LOUGHRAN, Sean (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Sean Loughran, who was killed on active service on June 25th 1973. Always remembered by the rona Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein.

LOUGHRAN, Sean (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Sean Loughran, who was killed on active service on June 25th 1973. Always remembered by the rona Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein.

MellHone, Henry (17th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois Henry McIlhionna, who was killed in a car accident while on active service on June 25th 1970. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

VOL BRIAN 'DIPPER' DEMPSEY

COMHBHRON

BUNDORAN SINN FEIN extends its sympathy to the family and friends of the eight courageous men killed at Loughgal on May 8th by British forces. "It's not those who inflict the most, but those who receive the most who will win..."

DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the families and friends of the eight IRA Volunteers killed by British crown forces at Loughgal, County Armagh on May 8th. "From the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations." - P.H. Pearse. From the Michael O'Hanrahan Sinn

work in Noraid. I am deeply sorry and I know that all those who knew him, in prisons and on the outside, shall be with the McAuley family now in their time of need - just as he has been with us in ours. May he rest in peace. Gearaid and Sheila McDonnell (Parkhurst).

McCREADY, Combrbhor (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vois Combrbhor McCreedy, who was killed in action on June 25th 1975. Always remembered by his family and friends.

McCREADY, Combrbhor (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vois Combrbhor McCreedy, who was killed in action on June 25th 1975. Always remembered by his family and friends.

SORAGHAN, Deapest sympathy is extended to the brothers, sisters and brother-in-laws of Michael Soraghan, who died recently. From the O'Hanlon/Portlaoise/Sinn Fein Cumann, County Monaghan.

SORAGHAN, Deapest sympathy to the relatives and friends of Michael, and especially to his niece, the O'Hanlon/MacMahon/Lynagh Sinn Fein cumann, Monaghan town.

expressed to the brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces of Mick, whose untimely death occurred on Saturday, June 20th, at a time when he was helping hand. From the Republican Movement, County Monaghan.

SORAGHAN, Deapest sympathy is extended to the brothers, sisters and brother-in-laws of Michael Soraghan, who died recently. From the O'Hanlon/Portlaoise/Sinn Fein Cumann, County Monaghan.

SORAGHAN, Deapest sympathy to the relatives and friends of Michael, and especially to his niece, the O'Hanlon/MacMahon/Lynagh Sinn Fein cumann, Monaghan town.

Beannachtaí

CREEGH, Martin (44). Belated happy birthday greetings, Martin, and wishing you all the best for the future. From Eileen, Joe and Ailish, Tony and Margaret, Tiocfaidh ar a.

CRVAN, Patricia (Maghabeary). Happy birthday, Patricia. All the best from Pat Corrigan, Brian McCormack, B. McCaffrey, Sean Tierney, George McDermott, Gerry Tulte and Paddy McGrath (Portlaoise).

DEASY, Dan (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Dan. From Sheenagh and family.

DEASY, Dan (Portlaoise). Happy birthday and best wishes, Dan.

Féin Cumann, New Ross, County Wexford.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the families of eight brave Volunteers, murdered by the SAS in Loughgal. From Mrs McCoy, Roscrea, County Tipperary.

McAULEY, The republican POWs in Long Lartin extend their deepest sympathy to Mary (McAuley) Cruz and all the family, on hearing of the death of her father John. A life-long IRA republican, staunch supporter and great friend of all republican POWs. He will be very sadly

McLoughlin Sinn Fein Cumann, Bunclara, County Donegal.

HOLMES, Paul; **SHERRY, Peter** (Ensland). All the best on Junur birthdays. Regards to all Irish POWs incarcerated with you. From Mary and Patrick, Bunclara, County Donegal.

LYNCH, Seamus (Portlaoise). Have a good day, Seamus. Cheers on the drink. Only seven weeks to go. From Teresa, John, Edie and Andrea.

LYNCH, Seamus (Portlaoise). Wishing you a happy birthday. Won't be long now. From Ma and Da.

LYNCH, Seamus (Portlaoise). Good luck on your 24th Seamus. Moving on in years now. You can celebrate in a few weeks. From Thomas,

Tricia, Vincent and Michael.

LYNCH, Seamus (Portlaoise). Happy birthday Seamus. From Pat, Jackie, Paul, Brigette, Ann, Linda, Kevin.

LYNCH, Seamus (Portlaoise). Happy birthday Seamus. From the Sabhat/Grogan/Lynch Sinn Fein Cumann, Kantstown, County Meath.

LYNCH, Seamus (Portlaoise). Thinking of you on your birthday. See you soon. From Ber. Love also from Pat and Dohy and Sheenagh and family, Cork, xxx

RYAN, Pete (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Pete. Love and best wishes. From the Bell family, Dungannon.

SHERRY, Peter (Parkhurst). Happy birthday to my dear son. With all my love. From Dad.

SHERRY, Peter (Parkhurst). Happy birthday, Peter. We are thinking of you always. Sending all our love. From your sister Irene and Gerard. Tiocfaidh ar a.

SHERRY, Peter (Parkhurst). Happy birthday, Peter. From the 30th. Love from Roslin Kelly.

SHERRY, Peter (Parkhurst). Happy birthday, Peter. From Dungannon Sinn Fein.

SHERRY, Peter (Parkhurst). Happy birthday Peter. Love and best wishes. From the Bell family, Dungannon.

TORTHAÍ CRANNCHUR

North Belfast Sinn Fein Election Ballot Colour TV: K. Toal; colour portrait of James Connolly; A. Carmichael; four framed Celtic prints: B. Dorrain.

Derrylin Annual Sinn Fein Draw
Video Records: Raymond McGovern; E.V.A. Margaret McDermott; 550; John Owens.

Republican Raffle
June Draw
£30; G. Moore; £10; R. Mason and William Kelly; £5; M. Boylan.

town. c/o Brian McEoin; Frtdge/Frazier; c/o Dermot; Tumble dirt; Gerry Murphy; c/o Angela Quinn; No. 5.

Republican Raffle
Week 5
£1,000 Murt Carr, Coolralme, County Wexford; Colour TV; Paddy Sheehan, c/o Mick Reilly, Cabra, Dublin; Washing Machine; Kevin Fox, c/o Hank; Music Centre: John Carroll, Bllr, County Offaly; £100; Noel Power, c/o Brian McEoin; Kilt; £50; Pádraig Hanon; 267; Landon Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

ELIZABETH O'FARRELL

BY PETER O'ROURKE

ELIZABETH O'FARRELL, who carried Pádraig Pearse's surrender message to the British in 1916, was born in Dublin during the early 1890s.

She joined the women's nationalist organisation, Inghinidhe na hEireann, while in her teens and later became a member of Cumann na mBan at its inaugural meeting in November 1913. It was there that she met Sighe Grenan, who was to become her life-long friend.

In the week before Easter 1916, she carried Pearse's mobilisation orders to the Volunteers throughout the country, telling them of the planned manoeuvres for Easter Sunday, April 23rd.

A qualified nurse, Elizabeth O'Farrell was among the Cumann na mBan contingent who occupied the GPO on Easter Monday where, during the week, she attended the wounded and dying.

On Friday, April 29th, with the GPO in ruins and surrounded by

At 12 noon on the following day, she conveyed Pearse's surrender to Brigadier-General Lowe and at 3.30pm she accompanied Pearse to the British barricades at the corner of Great Britain Street (now Parnell Street) and Moore Street to surrender to Lowe.

Later that evening and throughout the following day, Saturday, April 30th, Nurse O'Farrell brought Pearse's surrender order to the various garrisons and outposts on the southside of the city.

From 1917 onwards, Elizabeth O'Farrell worked behind the scenes and, over the next few years, she undertook every task that was asked of her.

She opposed the Treaty of 1921 and down through the decades she continued to work for the republican cause.

RALLY

On a bitterly cold January night, shortly after Sean Sabhat and Fergal O'Hanlon had been killed at Brookeborough Barracks on January 1st 1957, Elizabeth O'Farrell and Sighe Grenan stood on the platform at a republican rally in College Green, Dublin. Nurse O'Farrell told the huge crowd that they both stood behind the IRA freedom fighters and that Pearse and Connolly would be proud of the men and women of the 1980s.

Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell an active worker and supporter of the Republican Movement for almost 50 years, died at Fatima House, Bray, County Wicklow, on June 25th 1987, 30 years ago this week.

Two NEW Tee-shirt designs are available from Republican Publications at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, or 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast.

The Tee-shirts, which commemorate the Loughgal Martyrs and the 16th Anniversary of the establishment of Long Kesh, cost £4 each (plus postage).

Elizabeth O'Farrell was among the last group to leave the burning building to fight their way to the new headquarters at 16 Moore Street.



THE FLYING COLUMN

FOUR BELFAST UDA men appear in court last week.

George Tully (18), of Alliance Road, was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for the attempted murder of a Catholic breadserver who was shot in the head as he made a delivery to an Alliance Road shop on August 1st '86. Tully, described as "severely retarded", received concurrent sentences of between three and eight years on a number of other charges including possession of firearms and throwing petrol-bombs.

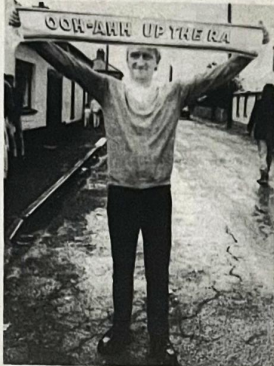
The three others, who, presumably, are not severely retarded, fared somewhat better. James Beedim (33), of Glenbriny Parade was given a six-year recorded sentence for the possession, storing and moving of weapons and ammunition on various dates last year with intent to endanger life. Robert Hamill (25), of Glenbriny Parade, and Andrew Officer, Alliance Road, who both pleaded guilty to possessing firearms, were given suspended prison sentences.

THE SDLP'S ALBAN MAGINNESS was upset at the token sentence handed down to the British soldiers convicted of stealing anti-tank rockets for the UDA (see story, page 2).

Alban said that the soldiers, 'veterans' of the Six Counties, had "betrayed their comrades and their oath". The SDLP is showing an increased concern about the military wing of Westminster and oaths to the British queen lately.

PRINCESS ANNE'S lady-in-waiting, Victoria Legge-Bourke (37), has been fined £225 and banned from driving for a year after admitting driving with excess alcohol in her true blue blood in London.

Ms Legge-less also earns £20,000 a year when not royal flunkying as 'manageress' of the United States ambassador's official residence in St John's Wood.



Well-known man about Dublin town, Paddy Dundon, models part of his Bodenstown ensemble

JAMES ANDERTON, the Manchester police chief who reckons that he is the Almighty's messenger on Earth empowered to pronounce on morality, AIDS, etc, told the Association of Chief Police Officers conference in Blackpool last week that, due to economics, "time-honoured traditions would have to go".

People arrested by the RUC will now have to make their own way to Castlereagh, beat themselves up and give perjured evidence against themselves when they take themselves to court. This way, at least, the SDLP may achieve its pipe-dream of "impartial policing".

A RAPIST who served with the British army's Royal Green Jackets in the Six Counties and subjected two teenagers to long ordeals of sex and violence at the end of last year has been remanded in custody for psychiatric reports after being diagnosed by a Broadmoor doctor as a psychopath.

Peter Chmilkowskyj (31), who had a history of rape and sex offences, pleaded guilty at St Alban's Crown Court on Tuesday, June 16th, to eight specimen charges of rape against the two young women (one of whom he raped nine times) and the manslaughter of a five-month-old child who died when he deliberately crashed his car (containing him and one of his victims) into an oncoming vehicle in a vain suicide bid.

Chmilkowskyj's British army record was not widely publicised.

He may have been an officer but he's certainly no gentleman.

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER Steve Benbow has been awarded £13,000 damages against the Northern Ireland Office for injuries received when he was struck by a plastic bullet while covering events in Divis Flats, Belfast, at the height of the H-Block hunger-strike in May 1981. However, the court deducted 10% because Benbow was actually in Divis in the first place - he was deemed to have entered an area of riot at his own risk.

I suppose the same criteria would apply to the entire nationalist population at that time.

The crown forces had intensified their campaign of terror as support for the hunger-strikers mounted and virtually every nationalist area had become an "area of riot". In the month of May 1981 alone, the British government has admitted that its uniformed rioters fired more than 16,000 plastic bullets.

TORY COUNCILLOR and former British army Major James B.A. Smyth has had his sentence deferred by Glasgow Sheriffs' Court after admitting embezzling £5,829 from the Scottish charity for ex-officers and their widows which he was general secretary of.

FILM DIRECTOR John Huston's son, Daniel (25), received a broken nose and a black eye when Police Constable Andrew Yeates punched him during a row over parking space.

After a five-day trial at the Old Bailey last week, Yeates was found guilty of assault and jailed for a month. He is a former Royal Marine Commando.

BLOOMING CHEEK! Dublin North-West Fine Gael Deputy Mary Flaherty has suggested that the quality of life in Ballymun's Shanghan flats complexes during Environmental Awareness Year could be improved by... holding a window-box competition!

Now window-boxes may be nice, but a few dinky little potted plants aren't going to revitalise an area allowed to deteriorate and starved of facilities and funds by Flaherty's colleagues in Leinster House.

I'm not trying to nip this scheme in the bud, but it leaves me thinking that Mary Flaherty is some tulip and she should get back in her box and... (That's enough compost - Ed.)

THE LAST STRAW. There was thunderous applause at the Sinn Fein victory celebrations in West Belfast last week when Gerry Adams challenged Sinn Fein General Secretary Tom Hartley to make good his promise to buy a drink for all of the election workers if the sitting MP retained his seat (without taking it, of course).

Quick as a flash, big-hearted Tom leaped onto the stage, pulled dozens upon dozens of drinking straws from an inside pocket and invited all and sundry to share a solitary pint of beer.

DÚIRT SIAD

I confess to slight bemusement regarding the controversy surrounding the RTE crew's SAS-style survival tactics. Surely Ryan's Heroes were merely following two well-established SAS tactics viz:

- Get someone else to do your dirty work.
 - Subsequently lie through your teeth to mislead the public.
- Letter to the Irish Press on the Gay Byrne Show sheep-killing scandal.

Níl amhras ar bith murach leithéid Gerry Adams ní bheadh, ó thaobh na polaitíochta de, an dul chun cinn céanna ann maidir leis an nGaeilge.

- Sliocht as Scéalach i Scéala Éireann inar chláineadh an SDLP mar gheall ar an eachtra i Halla na Cathrach nuair a d'eirigh le Gerry Adams sa toghchán agus thosaigh sé ag caint i nGaeilge. Dúirt duine den SDLP: "No-one understands you, Gerry."

The one thing that has emerged in recent years is that the theory that the police are completely impartial, that the judiciary has nothing to do with politics, that the government doesn't interfere, and that the secret services are there to protect us from the Red Army, all these theories have been exploded by experience.



The fact is, in Britain, that the police have been involved as agents of the government...

- British Labour MP Tony Benn at a Birmingham Six press conference in Dublin.

There is no issue in British politics which is more important than ensuring British withdrawal from Ireland, Ireland was Britain's first colony and every serious socialist policy must involve an unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Ireland.

I will be looking during this parliament to every step that can be taken to strengthen the current demanding British withdrawal from Ireland.

- Newly-elected British Labour MP Ken Livingstone.