

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

Sraith Nua Im! 9 Uimhir 33

Deardaoin 27 Lúnasa

Thursday 27th August 1987

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HILLSBOROUGH AGREEMENT

DELIVERS NOTHING

THREE

JUDGE

TRICK

FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR, British direct-ruler Tom King has said that there will be no change in the operation of the Diplock courts in the Six Counties. The change from one judge to three judges is not going to happen.

One judge, three judges in a British court or 33 judges presiding over a no-jury Diplock court all amount to the same thing — bigoted, anti-nationalist jud-

ges in a British court on Irish soil. But in the make-believe world of the Hillsborough Agreement, the meaningless reform has been pre-

sented as something which would be a major step forward for nationalists, a prize to be presented courtesy of the Dublin government. Now even this measure is being turned down by the British.

There has been talk this week, that this will mean a coolness in relations between

(Continued on page two)



IRA hits RUC

BELFAST BRIGADE OF THE IRA last night (Wednesday) killed two RUC men and wounded a third. As *AP/RN* goes to press the only details are that the RUC men were drinking in the Liverpool Bar on Donegall Quay in Belfast when an IRA active service unit burst in and shot the three. Two of the RUC men were killed, a third wounded and a barman was also injured.

The attack took place at 10.30pm in spite of heavy surveillance in the area. The IRA chose to strike on an evening when the bar was comparatively empty. The bar is normally crowded with people using the Liverpool ferry, which was cancelled on Wednesday night.

H-BLOCK

MEMORIAL

MARCH

3pm Saturday 29th August

Assemble at White Strand

March to Market Square

BUNCRANA

County Donegal

Speakers: Danny Morrison

Brendan Hughes (H-Block hunger-striker)

Martin Galvin (Noraid)



IRA warns oil suppliers

ON FRIDAY, the IRA in Derry once more warned of the consequences facing firms supporting the British war machine.

In a statement issued by the Derry Brigade, the IRA stated that the BP oil company had taken over from Shell oil in delivering fuel to local crown forces bases and said that it will take action against executives and tanker drivers responsible for maintaining these bases.

In a further statement, on Wednesday, August 26th, the IRA warned that:

"All oil and petrol companies must clarify their position by making public whether or not they are supplying crown forces bases in the occupied Six Counties. Failure to do so will be taken as an acknowledgement that they are participating in the maintenance of the British war machine."

"Companies supplying the crown forces are actively collaborating with them and as such will be treated like them. Those companies who do not publicly clarify their position should realise that from now on their executives and tanker drivers will be targeted."

LANDMINE BLAST

Shortly after 11 o'clock on Friday morning, August



21st, an active service unit of the Belfast Brigade detonated a landmine by command wire at the junction of Rmoan Gardens and Edenmore Drive. Two British soldiers were injured, one seriously. Throughout the operation, the Volunteers took every precaution to ensure that there was no danger to civilians.

SNIPER

Late on Monday night, August 24th, an IRA Volunteer armed with a high-velocity rifle opened fire on a British army/RUC foot patrol in the Cathedral Road area of Armagh city. No hits were claimed.

UDR MAN ESCAPES

A UDR soldier narrowly escaped injury on Tuesday morning, August 25th, when an active service unit tracked him down in Upper Canning Street, North Belfast, and fired five shots at him. The attack took place in the predominantly loyalist area of Tiger's Bay.

he agreed to work for them. Kelly said at first he refused but later agreed when they guaranteed that he would not be jailed. (He received a two-year conditional discharge.)

The first information concerned a van hijacked in Creggan. Kelly went directly to Strand Road Barracks where he met his two Special Branch handlers, 'Keith' and 'Billy'. Thereafter he regularly met his contacts every fortnight, the first three times at Strand Road but afterwards at the Groaty Road behind Creggan. Kelly was paid between £100 and £350 by his handlers each time he supplied significant information.

SHADOWED

Over the space of 18 months, Kelly revealed that he had:

1. Shadowed certain 'marked' republicans and reported back their movements to the RUC. Houses which they frequented were raided.

2. Eavesdropped on IRA Volunteers test-firing weapons.

3. Located two IRA arms dumps in Carrickreagh Gardens and Lislane Drive and pinpointed them for the crown forces.

THREE JUDGE TRICK

(Continued from front page)
the London and Dublin governments. The reality is that there will be no change, just as nothing has changed for nationalists in the Six Counties since the Hillsborough Agreement.

DUNGANNON

Last week, the people of Ballygawley Road Estate in Dungannon, County Tyrone, presented a petition to Fianna Fail Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan calling on him to demand the rerouting of the provocative loyalist Royal Black Preceptory parade past their area next Saturday. In a letter written by his private secretary, Lenihan dismissed the fears of the people of Ballygawley Road as contemptuously as had the SDLP's Austin Currie when he said that the petition was only designed to embarrass Lenihan. The letter said:

"The matter has been raised with the British authorities with a view to minimising the risk of disturbances on the day."

So, on Saturday (August 29th) the nationalist people of Dungannon will be placed under siege by the British

crown forces, confined to their own area for 24 hours and subject to sectarian abuse from coat-trailing loyalists. As local Sinn Fein Councillor Anita Cavlan said:

"The very fact that Currie recognised that the petition would embarrass the Agreement and the 26-County government is an indication that he knew neither could deliver on previous promises."

"What about the claim of the SDLP and Peter Barry that nationalists would no longer be second-class citizens? That they could hold their heads up?"

"The nationalists of the Ballygawley Road can hold their heads up, not because of the Hillsborough Treaty, but because they have always stood up for their rights themselves."

SUBSERVIENT DUBLIN GOVERNMENT

In contrast, the Dublin government will be adopting its familiar subservient posture. The Hillsborough Agreement will remain in place. The Extradition Act is ready to come into force on December 1st with or without - most likely without - even meaningless reforms in the Six Counties, while nationalists remain second-class citizens, targets of loyalist assassins (who struck again during the week), discriminated against and harassed by the crown forces.

How much lower can the Fianna Fail government sink?

4. Actually led two undercover British soldiers to the arms dump in Lislane Drive where the enemy doctored the weapons.

Kelly also claimed that his RUC handlers repeatedly urged him to join the Fianna, something which he refused to do. At their last rendezvous on August 11th, his contacts again insisted he join the Fianna.

When asked by journalists about the future, Kelly said:

"I am glad that I have told the IRA what I was doing and have got this thing off my chest. However, I am very worried about what the RUC will do to me now as in the past they told me that I could face new charges."

Taking seriously the IRA warning, Kelly left the city on Friday night.

The IRA said that after its own investigations it was convinced that Kelly had been working as an informer:

"The only thing that saved this informer's life was the fact that he was 16 years old. Had he been one year older he would have been executed."

Martin McGuinness said:
"This youth was manipulated and exploited by the RUC who deliberately and cynically put a young boy's life at risk in their search for information. Given the information that this teenager provided, the IRA treated him in a very humane manner, showing consideration for his youth, consideration which the RUC failed to show."

The Kelly family expressed their anger and shock at their son's manipulation by the RUC in

a statement on Monday.

They made it clear that they never at any time knew of Paul's activities with the RUC and said they would have stopped it immediately if they'd been told. They stressed that Paul was a "victim of RUC blackmail".

SECOND INFORMER

And as we go to press, a second Derry 16-year-old, William Knight, has admitted to being an RUC informer.

Knight, also from Rinmore Drive, received almost exactly the same treatment from the RUC as Kelly. He was arrested 18 months ago on a riotous behaviour charge which was dropped when he agreed to work for the RUC. He got £165 in three payments from the RUC for information which included the pinpointing of an explosives dump. He had informed on the dump on a Friday. He told a press conference in Derry on Wednesday afternoon, August 26th, but it wasn't 'lifted' until the following Tuesday. The only conclusion to be drawn from this is that a stake-out had been set up by the British army/RUC.

PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE

William Knight was particularly vulnerable to RUC pressure as his father (his parents are separated) is a former British soldier who served in the North. The RUC threatened that they would spread the word that "Your Da is a Brit."

When Paul Kelly was arrested by the IRA, William Knight contacted his RUC handlers and asked what they were going to do for him or Kelly. He was told they would not help him. He then contacted the IRA and told what he had done.

Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchell McLaughlin told AP/ARN:

"While I feel total pity for this boy, and abhor the RUC's exploitation of him, I feel it is right for him to leave Derry. He is too vulnerable to continued pressure from the RUC."

IRA uncovers RUC informers

THE DERRY BRIGADE of the IRA has exposed two paid RUC informers within the nationalist community and ordered them to leave the country. The warning to the first informer to quit within 24 hours was issued on Friday, August 21st, after the RUC agent appeared at a Sinn Fein press conference in Derry, confessing his role in supplying the RUC Special Branch with vital intelligence information.

One informer, 16-year-old Paul Kelly of Rinmore Drive, Creggan, was arrested by IRA Volunteers late on August 19th outside the Creggan shops. He was blindfolded, taken to a house and questioned throughout the following day.

Though at first denying any involvement with the RUC, Kelly later admitted that he had been passing on information to the RUC for the past 18 months for which he received between £100 and £600. As a result of Kelly's actions, two IRA arms dumps,

containing four shoulder-held rocket launchers, were captured by the crown forces and two people later arrested.

At the press conference, Kelly revealed details of how he first began supplying information to the RUC (at the age of 14½), three weeks after being arrested for alleged petrol-bombing offences. Kelly said he was approached in Strand Road RUC Barracks by two plainclothes detectives who offered to 'make it easier' on him on the petrol-bombing charges if

WEEKEND OF TRAGEDY

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

A CATHOLIC TAXI-DRIVER was murdered by the loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters in Belfast on Sunday, August 23rd, as he drove his wife and three children to Mass. The UFF is a cover-name used by the Ulster Defence Association.

The callous murder took place shortly before noon as Michael 'Mickey' Power (31) drove his wife, Bernadette, and their children to midday Mass. The family had just left their home in Dunmurry on the edge of West Belfast when the UDA killers struck.

As Power pulled up to the junction of Dunmurry Lane and Netherlands Park, a hooded man jumped out of the car behind, ran up to the driver's side of Power's car and shot him at point-blank range. He was hit twice in the head and died several hours later in hospital.

His daughter, Michelle (8), was struck by flying glass and is still in hospital with face and eye injuries. Miraculously, his wife and their other children, Gavin, aged five, and three-month-old Emma, escaped injury.

The UDA claimed that Mickey Power had been killed because he was a member of the IRA. The claim was immediately dismissed as ridiculous by other workers at the firm where Power worked, who said that it is clear that he was murdered simply because he was a Catholic, and pointed out that Catholic taxi-drivers have been a target for sectarian killings because the nature of their work makes them vulnerable.

The Power family live in an area which is bordered by housing estates which are,



● The scene of the shooting of Michael Power (inset)

in effect, under the control of the UDA and UVF. In recent years, many nationalist families have moved to the Dunmurry area as a result of housing shortages in West Belfast.

So far this year, the UDA has been responsible for three murders and the UVF for five.

Sinn Fein Councillor Pat Rice condemned the murder of Mickey Power and refuted the UDA claim that Power was in the IRA. Rice described the claim as "a transparent attempt to justify this brutal and sectarian murder". He noted:

"Mickey Power was a deeply religious family man who went to Mass each day.

His only interests were his family and his job."

GLENGORMLEY SIEGE

In further sectarian violence at the weekend, a Catholic woman was forced to move from her Glengormley home after she and several friends endured a six-hour siege by loyalists.

A crowd of 25 to 30 loyalists descended on the house in the New Mossley Estate on the outskirts of North Belfast at around 11.30pm, August 22nd, as the woman entertained friends. The mob shouted sectarian slogans and smashed every window in the front of the house. Moving around to the back of the house, they beat on the doors and windows, shouting abuse.

One man in the house described how everyone was terrified and he said that several people received injuries. One woman suffered several fractured fingers and other people were bruised and cut by glass.

The RUC refused to help the beleaguered group. At one point they did draw their batons but did not get involved. When the people in the house pleaded for protection, the RUC withdrew from sight and the people had to barricade the doors and windows.

The house was completely wrecked and, as the woman moved out on Sunday, the UDA told her she was not going to come back. A neighbour was also told that she was "on the list for getting burnt out". Several Catholic families in the estate have expressed the fear they will be next and noted that a gang of men armed with hatchets have been seen in the area.

Hayward linked to Strabane murders

BY KEVIN McCOOL

THE FAMILIES of murdered Strabane IRA Volunteers Charles Breslin and Michael and David Devine have called for fresh investigations into their sons' killings following reports in the British media linking drug-trafficking British army Captain Simon Hayward with the crown forces ambush of the three Volunteers.

Several British newspapers claimed that Hayward, currently serving a five-year jail sentence in Sweden for drug smuggling, was the SAS officer who organised and commanded the shoot-to-kill ambush. The British authorities have so far refused to confirm or deny Hayward's involvement but a spokesperson has admitted that Hayward was attached to the Six Counties headquarters staff of the British army.

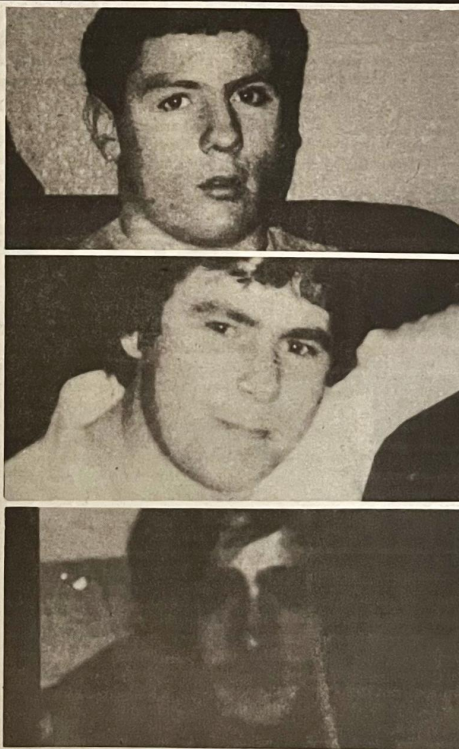
The coroner's inquest into the Volunteers' deaths ended abruptly in April after the RUC successfully intimidated six local witnesses to the killings into withdrawing their vital evidence to the inquest. The limited verdict of "death due to gunshot wounds" remained cautiously silent on the repeated

revelations during the course of the inquest of covert SAS involvement in the triple killing and strenuous efforts by the RUC to throw a veil of secrecy over the murders.

SAS SQUAD

The recent Hayward revelations have further strengthened the widespread belief amongst the nationalist community in Strabane that the three IRA Volunteers were ambushed by a waiting SAS death squad brought in by the RUC. The Breslin and Devine families are firmly convinced that Hayward is the man referred to in the inquest as 'Soldier A'.

'Soldier A' admitted in a written statement read to the inquest that he had fired a total of



● The three IRA Volunteers killed in the ambush at Strabane on February 23rd 1985 (top to bottom) David and Michael Devine and Charlie Breslin

53 shots from a Heckler & Koch assault rifle and a Browning automatic pistol at the three Volun-

teers from a maximum distance of five metres. Twenty-eight of the fatal shots were fired by the

anonymous 'Soldier A' after the Volunteers had fallen to the ground.

Frank Collins, the Devine family's solicitor, has applied on their behalf to the High Court to have the inquest verdict reviewed. He said recently that if those allegations "proved to be true that Captain Hayward organised the shooting, as opposed to participating in it, then he should have been called as a witness at the inquest".

CONSPIRACY

Strabane Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr spelt out to AP/RN the implications of Hayward's involvement in the Strabane killings:

"As neither the British army, the RUC or Hayward (who has access to the media from his prison cell) have attempted to deny these allegations, the indications are that they are indeed accurate. The only conclusion which we can draw is that the inquest, over 17 days, was a criminal conspiracy involving wholesale perjury by senior RUC and British army officers to conceal all evidence of the involvement of the RUC Special Branch, their informant and the SAS execution squad in the premeditated murders of Charles Breslin and the Devine brothers."

An attempt by Strabane's three Sinn Fein councillors to have Strabane Council invite representatives of human rights bodies to the town to conduct an independent inquiry into the killings failed on Tuesday night when two independent nationalists and an SDLP councillor combined with unionists to defeat the motion.

HOSPITAL CUTS NO



Cancer cuts

A DUBLIN WOMAN with suspected cervical cancer was recently told that her biopsy (a test to see if the cancer is malignant) would take six to eight weeks but that if she had £500 she could have the test done privately the following day!

The woman, a medical cardholder and a patient in Dr Stevens' Hospital (which is due to close on September 30th), is a victim of the cruel logic of the Fianna Fail government's health cuts. Cervical cancer kills but it can be stopped if dealt with in time. Despite the cuts, life-saving treatment is available — but only if you have enough money to pay for it.

A social worker at Dr Stevens reported on the woman's case to a Dublin district meeting of the ITGWU on Tuesday, August 25th. In another case at the same hospital, a man with an arthritic hip was offered a replacement operation the next day — for £1,000. The

man, also a medical card holder, would have to wait in severe pain for many months for the operation.

BEDS LOST

Also on Tuesday came the announcement that Cork's North Infirmary was to close in spite of a vigorous campaign in its defence. Fianna Fail Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon said that the 63 remaining beds would be transferred to another hospital leaving only an out-patient and casualty service at the North Infirmary site.

At the Children's Hospital in Temple Street, Dublin, two wards were abruptly closed on Wednesday, August 26th, losing 37 beds.



● Dublin Sinn Fein activist Joe Whelan is pushed from the platform by a garda after he had confronted Haughey about extradition

A HIGHLY POLITICAL PRISON

A recently-released Portlaoise POW explains about conditions in the prison

BRIAN TUMELTY is from Newry and last May he was released from Portlaoise, having served five years as a republican prisoner there.

On the mood in the jail at the time of his release, Brian Tumelty says that the major issues of contention — ifers, strip-searching

and visiting conditions — were always sources of tension and unrest. During most of his sentence the issue which dominated all

others was the conditions prisoners and their relatives had to endure on visits. They were separated by wire cages in visiting boxes which allowed no physical contact whatsoever. After a long campaign by the Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives' Action Committee the prisoners won the right to 'open' visits.

But the visiting facilities are still unsatisfactory, as Brian Tumelty points out:

BAILIFFS SENT IN

BY ALEX WEST

WHEN MARY O'REILLY answered a knock on her door at 11.20am on Wednesday, August 26th, six Dublin Corporation officials barged past her, removed the contents of her home to the balcony, and then evicted her and her two small daughters.

A local woman, Mary O'Reilly moved into the vacant flat at Courtney Place in Dublin's Ballybough last November, knowing that the penalty for 'squatting' was automatic removal from the housing list. But as she and her two children Irene (22 months old) and Nicole (nine months) were homeless she felt she had no choice.

She was told by the corporation that if she kept the rent up to date and "kept quiet" there was nothing in the way of her getting the regular tenancy. When the eviction squad arrived on Wednesday morning, the rent, electricity and all other bills were paid up to date. Mary O'Reilly has also spent considerable amounts of time and money decorating the flat.

The local community, faced with the prospect of the eviction of the popular local woman, rallied around her, gathering the names of over 120 families on a petition demanding that she be allowed to stay.

Sinn Fein Dublin City Councillor Christy Burke described the corporation's action as "ruthless". Demanding that Mary O'Reilly either be let back into the flat or be immediately rehoused, he lashed the city sheriff saying:

"That an eviction such as this should occur in 1987 is a disgrace. That Mary O'Reilly's furniture and belongings were just dumped on the stairs of a flat complex is a scandal."

ASSAULT ON WOMEN

WOMEN throughout County Cork face a particularly brutal assault on the health services under the Fianna Fail budget cuts. Hospital closures in West Cork and Cork city, staff cuts and overcrowding in maternity wards have shown the low priority given to women's health by establishment politicians.

A pregnant woman in Cork city recently spent the night in a hospital armchair because of the lack of beds in Erinville Maternity Hospital! Many West Cork women have to travel 90 miles before giving birth.

Bantry Hospital is accepting emergency maternity cases only in spite of a pre-election promise by Fianna Fail Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon that a full maternity service would be immediately reopened if his party was returned to power. The hospital served maternity cases in West Cork and parts of South Kerry until Coalition government cuts forced women to travel from areas like the Bear Peninsula to St Finbarr's Hospital in Cork — a 90-mile journey. The Dublin government 'now' aims to cut the 80

remaining beds to 50. The people who have organised the Bantry Action Group to protest against the cuts believe the hospital will be turned into an old people's home.

The expense involved in travel to St Finbarr's means that West Cork women do not get adequate ante-natal care. The long journey to the maternity hospital is a terrifying prospect for a woman in advanced labour.

COMMUNITY ANGER

Medical care in the county is further threatened by the planned closures of Dunmanway, Schull and Millstreet hospitals as the Southern Board attempts to pass on a £4.4 million cut in its government funding. Local establishment politicians have been deeply embarrassed by community anger

over the cuts. In a face-saving move, many of them voted against the closures when the issue came before the Southern Health Board on August 21st. Like Bantry's Senator Vivian O'Callaghan (Fianna Fail), they knew that the government will try to force the cuts through in any case.

Hospitals in Cork city have also been severely hit. In Erinville Maternity Hospital, stretcher beds have been used in ante-natal and post-natal wards because no proper beds are available. Because no relief staff were allocated to the hospital for the summer months, the 28 bed gynaecology ward was closed on June 1st. The gynaecology unit in Cork Regional Hospital has also been closed with the loss of 70 beds.

"These vicious cutbacks are a blow to the efforts of women and women's organisations to achieve proper health care for over half the population," said Geraldine Garvey of Cork Sinn Fein's Women's Department.

HAUGHEY SCUTTLED

BY BRENDAN KERR

CHARLES HAUGHEY likes to think of County Kerry, 'The Kingdom', as his own fiefdom, but the man who would be king was forced to give an unplanned audience to Sinn Fein members protesting against extradition at the weekend.

As soon as a relaxed Haughey stepped from his car in Dingle to open the local regatta on Sunday, some 20 Kerry and Dublin Sinn Fein activists appeared to loudly voice their opposition to ratification of the Extradition Treaty on December 1st. Haughey's composure evaporated.

Gardaí tried to push the anti-extradition group and an *APRIN* photographer away from the regatta race-start platform where Haughey sat with his back to

them, but one former Portlaoise prisoner, Joe Whelan, made it onto the scaffold structure to come face to face with Haughey and ask him, "Would you extradite your da, Charlie?" — an obvious reference to Haughey's father being an IRA member and a candidate for extradition were he alive today.

PUSHED

As Whelan was pushed off the stage by a garda, Haughey



Anti-Extradition protestors holding the 20-foot banner which caused Haughey's blood pressure to rise in Dingle on Sunday

looked straight ahead — only to be faced with Kerry republicans carrying a 20-foot banner proclaiming, "Extradition means more Guildford Fours and Birmingham Sixes."

Twenty minutes later, not wishing to disrupt the family occasion of the regatta itself,

the protesters dispersed, having raised people's awareness and Haughey's blood pressure. Within minutes, Haughey was whisked away by his Special Branch minders.

GAA SEMI-FINAL

The newly-formed Irish Anti-

Extradition Committee was also in action on Sunday, distributing several thousand leaflets to Derry and Meath fans attending the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final.

The IAEC can be contacted at 16 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1.



"The facilities are there for more 'open' visits but the authorities refuse to use them. They hold the threat of wire visits over the prisoners' heads.

"Open" visits give the impression of open contact but this is not the case. Prisoners and relatives

are separated by a table and they have no privacy at all. The Screws hear every word that is said."

STRIP-SEARCHES

Strip-searching of prisoners is carried out after every visit but the main occasion for strip-

searches are the early morning cell raids, which occur regularly. Three or four cells are taken at random and each is invaded by up to six Screws who search the cell and order the prisoner to remove all his clothes.

Prisoners going to and coming from court are also strip-searched, even though they are allowed contact with nobody except gardai and prison officers.

Those who refuse to be stripped are set upon, their clothes forcibly removed and invariably charged with assaulting prison officers. Just a week after Brian Tumelty was released, three remand prisoners were beaten and had to receive medical treatment after they were forcibly strip-searched:

"The punishment for assault is solitary confinement which can

last up to four months. You lose all privileges as the authorities call the rights which the men have won over the years. You get one hour's exercise per day and no shop, no visits or letters."

PAROLE

While strip-searching remains a serious problem, the issue which most concerns the prisoners is that of prisoners sentenced to life who have no release dates. The vindictiveness of the administration to long-term prisoners can be seen in the repeated denial of parole, particularly to those serving 40 years, on the illness or death of a relative:

"Prisoners always adhere to the conditions of parole. The prison authorities recognise this but they indicated that pressure against granting parole was coming from

the Special Branch."

This also highlights the highly political nature of Portlaoise Prison and the conditions there. The mood tends to change as the political climate outside varies:

"You can read the situation and determine what is happening outside. For instance, it was clear that they were ordered to have a 'cool-down' period around the time of the signing of the Hillsborough Agreement."

The presence of over 100 political prisoners in a top-security jail is something the Dublin government wishes to play down at all times. All mail is censored and any mention of conditions is given the blue pencil by the censors. As Brian Tumelty says:

"The authorities want Portlaoise just not to exist in the public eye."

Tension heightened in Portlaoise

THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS in Portlaoise have reported tension in the jail with the failure of the authorities to deal with long-standing grievances and with the censorship of letters about conditions.

The Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives' Action Committee has said that the situation of the 102 republican prisoners is "giving rise to serious concern". Six demands have been submitted to the prison authorities to alleviate the tense situation in the jail:

1. Release dates for prisoners serving life.
2. Compassionate parole for those serving 40 years.
3. An end to strip-searching.
4. More 'open' visits.
5. An end to solitary confinement.
6. An end to censorship of prisoners' letters.

LIFERS

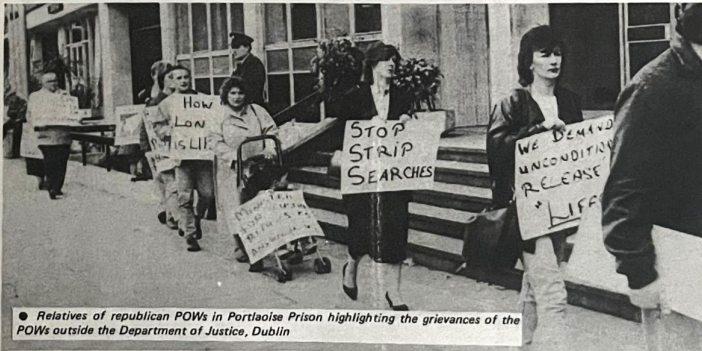
The PPRAC points out that on May 4th 1987 the Minister for Justice stated in Leinster

House that the average life sentence served in the 26 Counties is eight years and eight months. There are life prisoners in Portlaoise who have already served 13 years and have no prospect of release.

An average of 100 strip-searches per month are carried out on the men in Portlaoise while £300,000 worth of security equipment is lying idle in the jail.

So far this year, 17 requests for compassionate parole have been refused and men serving 40 years are not allowed parole under any circumstances.

What has brought the situation to a head has been the censorship of letters about conditions. Letters to Fianna Fail TDs, trade unionists, journalists, bishops and the Irish Council for



Relatives of republican POWs in Portlaoise Prison highlighting the grievances of the POWs outside the Department of Justice, Dublin

Civil Liberties have been refused to be let out of the jail and returned to the prisoners without explanation.

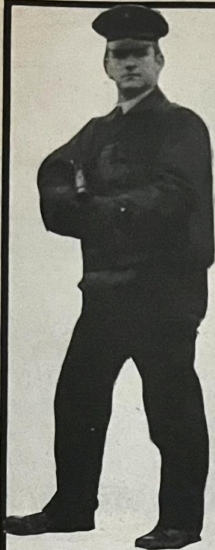
OCCUPATION

Over 20 relatives and support-

ers of the Portlaoise prisoners took part in a PPRAC protest in O'Connell Street in Dublin on Saturday, August 22nd. They occupied the office of Dublin Tourism and staged a picket outside, distributing leaflets to

passersby and visitors to the office.

The PPRAC has said that protests will be stepped up if the authorities fail to take action on the Portlaoise prisoners' demands.



CASTLEREAGH TORTURE

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Derry nationalist was arrested by the RUC as he stepped off the plane after a fortnight's holiday in Greece. Paul Martin of Abbot's Walk, in the Bogside, was taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre, where he was subjected to sustained brutality. A writ of habeas corpus was served on the RUC before he was released.

Fears about Martin's condition arose on August 17th when his solicitors visited him in Castlereagh and heard about his ill-treatment. Later that afternoon, in the High Court, permission was granted to Martin through his solicitors to serve notice on RUC Chief Constable John Hermon, calling on him to give reason why he should not be released from custody.

The RUC released Martin late on August 18th before a legal ruling could be given on the writ of habeas corpus. The hearing was scheduled for the next day.

ASSAULTS

Martin described to AP/RN the repeated assaults on him by the RUC. They included kicking and punching him during long periods of interrogation and he was also forced to remain standing for lengthy periods. Martin said:

"I was in no fit state to be questioned hour after hour without a break. The only time the RUC eased off beating me was when they feared that my solicitors had arranged a court hearing on the grounds of my complaint to the doctor in Castlereagh. There are cameras installed in the interview room, supposedly as a safeguard against the type of abuse I received. They're only a joke."

WOMAN IN HIDING FROM RUC

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

AN ARDOYNE WOMAN, Pauline Palmer (27) was subjected to seven days of physical and mental abuse in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre.

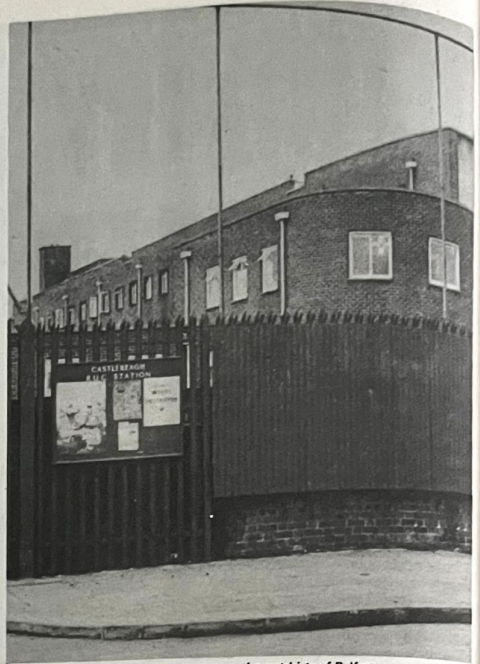
Palmer, who is married and has three children, was taken from her home by the RUC on Tuesday, August 18th, at 5.40am and held in detention until Monday evening.

She was severely beaten by the RUC and at one stage endured 3½ days of continual interrogation and abuse. She was taken from the cell at 9.30 each morning and was not allowed to rest until 12 midnight.

The distraught woman told AP/RN that, at the first interview: *"An RUC detective just walked in and started hitting me about the head with his hand. They told me I had murdered all these cops and I was charged with the murders. Then another detective told me that my name would be in all the papers and the UVF would get me, that I'd be assassinated."*

She was allowed to see her solicitor after three days and asked him to put in a complaint about the physical assaults. That night, two RUC men rushed into Palmer's cell and lifted her into the air by her neck. When she fell on the floor they threatened to kick her if she did not get up. One RUC man shouted at her, *"You had the cheek to tell your solicitor that we were hitting you, you Provie bastard!"*

The RUC further threatened Palmer that she was going to jail and that she would be brought to Castlereagh again. They said they would arrest her every month. She was also told that her children would be put in a home. Palmer said that at that point she was told, *"You will end up crawling to the court on your hands and knees."*



● Castlereagh interrogation centre on the outskirts of Belfast

When her solicitor returned again, Palmer was so frightened of more beatings that she pleaded with him not to make another complaint.

HAIR PULLED OUT

Describing the seven days, Palmer said:

"It was torture. My hair was pulled out by the handfurls and I was constantly hit about the face. The RUC told me I would rot in

jail with cancer. I'm terrified to go back home. If they lift me again I'll just crack up."

She is currently staying with friends in the hope that she will be safe there.

Palmer was also taken to Castlereagh last month and held for five days. At that time she was beaten black and blue. She said she was too scared at the time to complain but that now she wants people to know what is going on.

INFANTRY RAMPAGE

BY EAMON TRACEY

IN RAIDS ON OVER A DOZEN HOUSES IN NATIONALIST AREAS OF Belfast last week, British soldiers caused thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Troops from the Light Infantry, accompanied by the RUC, raided homes in the Oldpark area of North Belfast in the early hours of Wednesday, August 19th. Rita Bateson (53) and her two sons, aged 21 and 16, were woken shortly before 4am by British soldiers loudly banging on their front door.

The family was put under illegal house arrest and forced to remain in one room while their house was ransacked. Floorcoverings were ripped, floorboards lifted, and furniture and clothing strewn about the rooms. In similar raids in three houses in the same area, a living room suite and washing machine were damaged, carpets torn and a fireplace damaged.

TWINBROOK

And following raids two days earlier in the Twinbrook Estate, on the fringe of West Belfast, similar damage was caused.

One man who was not at home when the raid took place said to AP/RN that he was later told that weapons had been discovered and he was left a note telling him to report to Woodbourne Barracks. He denies that there were ever any weapons in his flat. Local Sinn Féin Councillor Damien Gibney



pointed out that the RUC issued no public statement to the effect that weapons were found which is usually the case in such circumstances. He said the move could be a ploy to pressurise the man into becoming an informer.

Gibney also condemned the marked increase in British army/RUC harassment and raids in the Twinbrook and Poleglass areas. In recent weeks almost two dozen homes have been raided. In addition, Gibney added:

"Scores of teenagers have been stopped in the streets, verbally abused and in several cases arrested for short periods of time."

RUC attacks family

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

A MAN had to be rushed to hospital after collapsing with a heart attack following a raid on his Derry home in which four family members were viciously assaulted by a large force of RUC.

At 6.30am on Tuesday, August 25th, two RUC and one British army Land Rover arrived at the Thornton home at Abbots Walk in the Bogside, allegedly to carry out an intensive search. Upon gaining entry, the raiding party pushed past Matt Thornton, who suffers from a severe heart condition, and then tore up carpets in the bedrooms and smashed the living room fireplace.

According to Rosina Thornton, the RUC realised the condition of her father, Matt, and became deliberately abusive and aggressive towards him. One of the RUC men stood on his legs and a plaster was torn from his chest. As a result of this treatment he became extremely agitated and Rosina said, *"He turned the colour of death. It was awful."* A doctor was called but before he arrived Thornton collapsed and had to be carried out to an ambulance.

The RUC's reaction was furious. They lashed out at a Celtic

Cross in the living room, shattering the glass stereo cabinet on which it stood. Then eight of the crown forces set upon 26-year-old Martin Thornton and his younger brother, Neil. Their mother, Betty, was elbowed to the ground by an RUC man.

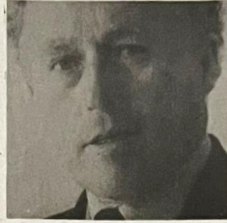
BEATEN UP

Both of the Thornton sons were beaten up while the rest of the family screamed for the RUC to stop. Finally, Martin was dragged by his hair out of the house and bundled into an RUC Land Rover. He was taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre.

The RUC have attempted to cover up their brutality by claiming that they were attacked by 14 people in the house. Apart from those already named, there were only three young children under the age of five in the house.

Matt Thornton is recovering in hospital and Betty and Neil Thornton were threatened by a doctor for cuts and bruises.

SDLP AND UNIONISTS UNITE INQUIRY CALL DEFEATED



● IVAN BARR



● JIM McALLISTER

member of the Northern Ireland Police Authority) — walked out in protest. During their absence the unionists were permitted by the remaining nationalist councillors (two SDLP and three Independents) to suspend standing orders to introduce two motions condemning Sinn Fein and the IRA and calling for unreserved powers for the crown forces. Neither motion was opposed by the 'nationalist' councillors.

to stand over SDLP councillor John Gallagher's blocking of the Sinn Fein motion for an inquiry and its implications:
"Is the SDLP, by virtue of its spokesperson John Gallagher's abstention now giving tacit support to the crown forces' shoot-to-kill policy?"

BARCELONA

At a meeting on Tuesday of Newry & Mourne Council, Sinn Fein councillors strongly protested against a decision to send a deputation to an EEC conference in Barcelona.

The conference is on, "Urban violence, insecurity and crime prevention." Sinn Fein Councillor Jim McAllister slammed the decision:

"It's a totally useless exercise and a waste of ratepayers' money. People here do not have to go to Spain to hear about insecurity and urban violence, the root cause of which is the British presence in Ireland."

According to Sinn Fein councillor Ivan Barr, the alliance of interests shown on Tuesday night will cause considerable resentment amongst the nationalist people of Strabane where the killing of the three local men is still an emotive issue:

"People will not only be disappointed but also angered that nationalist councillors, by their abstentions, aided and abetted the unionists in their cover-up."

Barr has challenged the SDLP

STRABANE's three Sinn Fein councillors walked out of a council meeting on Tuesday night when a Sinn Fein motion calling for an independent inquiry into the shooting on February 23rd 1985 of three IRA Volunteers in the town was defeated by nationalist abstentions.

When the two-part motion calling for the council to write to human rights organisations and internationally-known human rights activists, voicing their concern at the circumstances surrounding the triple killing and petitioning their support for an independent inquiry came up, the unionists proposed that the council move on to the next business. The unionists' motion was given the go-ahead by Independent Council Chair James O'Kane (against the wishes of the Sinn Fein members)

and passed by seven votes to six with three abstentions. A detailed report on the 17-day inquest on the killings from councillors previously mandated to attend by the council was, in like manner, consigned to the waste bin.

The three Sinn Fein councillors, incensed at the conspiracy of silence within the council chambers — which had earlier been planned by Independent Councillor James O'Kane, SDLP Councillor John Gallagher and Official Unionist Edmund Turner (also a



TWO MORE TIME BOMBS

THE NUCLEAR TIME-BOMB ON Ireland's doorstep is to have its deadly potential doubled with plans announced this week by the British government to build major nuclear plants at Trawsfynydd and Anglesey in Wales, just 80 miles from the Irish coast.

The proposed nuclear power stations would be water-cooled reactors similar to that at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, USA, scene of a major nuclear accident in 1979. Speculation that the plants were planned was confirmed by the British Central Electricity Generating Board. They claimed that their investigations of the sites were only at a "preliminary stage".

There are already 11 nuclear plants along the west coast of Britain on Ireland's doorstep. They include the notorious Windscale/Sellafield reprocessing plant and at Trawsfynydd there is already a plant at which there was yet another accident on August 10th.

Faced with a storm of protest in both Ireland and Wales this week, the CEBG played down the plans for the stations but a Plaid Cymru MP who represents the area says that Lord Marshall, chairperson of CEBG, told him prior to the British general election that the Trawsfynydd plant would be going ahead.

The CEBG's attitude is in keeping with the secrecy and deception surrounding Britain's nuclear industry. The revelation that the Dublin government was not told of the plants came as an embarrassment to the Fianna Fail administration which now finds itself under severe pressure to strongly oppose the new nuclear plants.

BRITISH PIRACY

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the British parliament passed the Territorial Sea Act. This piece of legislation purported to extend British territorial waters to 12 miles and their claims include the seas around the Six Counties and around Rockall.

Since the passing of the Act, harassment of Irish fishermen by British naval vessels has been stepped up. In Carlingford Lough, which has always been the scene of aggression from British patrol boats, Irish vessels have been stopped and boarded and in one recent incident members of British forces landed on the Louth shore and threatened local Sinn Fein activist Arthur Morgan.

On Thursday, August 20th, a trawler based in Killybegs was arrested by the British navy near Rockall. The boat was detained, supposedly for exceeding the

DUBLIN SUBSERVIENCE

The latest events have also shown the subservience of the Dublin government which has hardly uttered a murmur of protest about the latest British denial of Irish sovereignty. Officially, the Dublin government does not



recognise British claims to the waters around the Six Counties or Rockall. In practice, they allow the British a free hand to board

and arrest Irish vessels in our mineral and fishing resources.

United front against education cuts

"WE ARE RULING OUT NOTHING. We are committed to taking all action necessary to oppose government cuts in education," was the message from the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) after students' unions presidents from every university in Ireland met in Dublin.

The university sector conference, held on August 14th, 15th and 16th, discussed how students could best organise oppo-

sition to government cutbacks, both north and south of the border. USI campaigning officer Mary Carolan described the cut-

backs as "the most serious ever to hit Irish education" and said that they reveal "a complete absence of educational philosophy" in governmental thinking.

CALLOUS

Carolan went on to condemn as "particularly callous", the 26-County government's arbitrary

axing of the £700 grant to post-graduate students.

USI called for all trade unions, teachers' unions, parents and community groups to support the fight against education cutbacks and to join students in their call for increased funding for education.



● USI's Mary Carolan



THE BLEAK V inner city ear The walls were 1618, stand formally inec royal char. 'London' to th nine bastions, a Butcher Gate, the Ferryway were added late beginning: to plantation in th the sea route to

Derry was in British milita at fortress, protesti vely Protestan s dispossed native expressly fordid within the walled ci eventually came to western flank of ments, on the mar eath Butcher Gate came known as th Right up until the of the 18th Centur bell tolled a drillin to the Catholic Iri the walled city befo

According to was on these hi

In the shadow of a

THE 300-YEAR-OLD STRATEGY is quite deliberate. The theory is that even when the walls of Derry are gone, loyalists will still be fighting the siege. Its ghosts will haunt them for eternity.

The victims of this time-worn scenario are, of course, the nationalist people of Derry who have been forced to live in the shadow of the siege through three centuries and endure the triumphalist displays, the sectarian baiting, and the coins tossed down at them from the walls by the Apprentice Boys to remind them of their poverty.

James Connolly said that the siege was part of the struggle between "the forces of two English political parties fighting for the possession of the powers of government" — *Labour in Irish History*. But at times the provocation of the Orange rituals has been just too much to bear for Derry nationalists.

The first recorded commemoration of the siege took place on a small scale in 1692 and the first Apprentice Boys club was founded in 1714. The small Catholic community outside Butcher Gate actually participated in the centenary celebrations of the siege. But as that community steadily increased in numbers, so did loyalist triumphalism.

The Apprentice Boys helped

local yeomanry to put down the 1798 rebellion and thereafter there was to be no more truck with nationalists. The first clashes at the anniversary parades came in 1809 when the militancy of the O'Connell movement for Catholic emancipation encouraged nationalists to stand up to the loyalists. In 1826, a massive 81-foot-high granite pillar in memory of Governor George Walker, the loyalist hero of the siege, was erected on the western side of Derry's walls. Walker's foreboding figure was to tower over the Bogside for the next century and a half.

INVASION

The Apprentice Boys saw the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 as a direct threat to their supremacy in the city and set out to reassert that supremacy through the vehicle of the August marches. With the introduction of the excursion train in the 1860s, enabling thousands of Orangemen from outlying areas to pour into Derry each year, the August 12th march took on the appearance of an invasion of Derry by bitter strangers. For the incensed nationalists

of the Bogside (who had become a majority in 1851), it was the last straw.

Each time the Orangemen now took to the streets at all, the Bogside rallied to confront them, resulting in a series of fierce riots in the city throughout the late 1860s. In July 1868, mobs of Apprentice Boys fired salvoes of broken crockery over the Bogside from the Walker monument after clashes with nationalists. The most serious confrontation occurred on April 28th 1869 during a visit to Derry by English royalty. Rioting and shooting broke out, nationalist crowds at the Diamond were trapped within the walls by loyalist rioters, and the RIC opened fire, killing three and wounding scores more.

The commission of inquiry into the riots of April 1869 reported that the toleration of Orange parades in Derry was the primary cause of the civil disorder and recommended their suppression. Even the Presbyterian journal, *The Londonderry Standard*, admitted that the parades had lost their former purpose of commemorating the siege and were now only a rallying point for extreme Tories.

With characteristic arrogance, the Orange rulers of Derry simply brushed aside all such

warnings and determined that the triumphalism should continue unfettered until it finally backfired on them a century later in August 1969.

NATIONALIST COUNCIL

Only once during that century was a rein put on the march by the British. That was when, at the height of the Tan War, the first-ever nationalist council was elected in Derry through the new PR system. The sight of the Maiden City in the hands of democratically elected 'Papists' set the Apprentice Boys (now in the guise of the UVF) off on a sectarian stampede. In their minds, the siege had been overturned and had to be won all over again.

In May 1920, masked and armed UVF men began to patrol and mount roadblocks on some of Derry's main streets while the British crown forces looked on. On June 19th 1920, loyalist gunmen took up position on the city walls and began firing on nationalist areas below, killing five people. The self-styled defenders of the walls continued their sniping until the Derry IRA began to take defensive action. Two of the loyalists were killed, one of whom turned out to be the son of the head of the Apprentice Boys.

The British military intervened on June 23rd, alarmed at the rising tide of support for the IRA in Derry. A curfew was imposed and that year the August 12th procession was banned.

The entire nationalist population of Derry breathed a sigh of relief. That relief was to be short-lived though, for with the arbitrary partition of the country and the consolidation of the Orange state, the August 12th march was restored to its former glory. The substantial nationalist majority in the city was shackled by an unashamedly sectarian system of gerrymandering, discrimination in housing and employment, and judicial repression (the PR system had been abolished).

The Orange victory on the siege was once again secure, if a bit shaky (the gerrymander had to be constantly revised as the nationalist majority continued to swell each decade). The Apprentice Boys — and they alone — could march whenever and wherever they chose, safe in the knowledge that the city was theirs.

BATONED OFF THE STREETS

Throughout the 1922-69 period, whenever Derry nationalists attempted to march inside the city walls, they were swiftly batoned off the streets

by the RUC as ha the St Patrick's Day of 1951 and '52 entered the inner s the walls.

The same savage of the Civil Rights at Duke Street, on 5th 1968 touched nationalists in Derry along with Jocas loyalists at Burntol RUC on the Bogside uary 5th 1969, and murder of Samuel his William Street June, combined to 1969 August 12th m al explosive potentia

The mood in t prior to the August was angrier and mo than ever before. McCann explains i War and an Irish To "The August 12 ion was regarded culated annual ins Derry Catholics a surge of resea much bitter muti year. But this thir we had come thro last nine months ude was very differe

Though they warned of the do the Apprentice Be determined as eve Now, more than e it was necessary. flag, to show the Cont'd on page

WALLS of Derry which encircle the city were originally built between 1614 and 1618, just one year after the city was handed over to the London merchants by the Duke of Tyrconnell. It was these merchants who prefixed the name of Derry. Punctuated by the city walls and four towering gates — the Shipquay Gate, Bishop's Gate and Magazine Gate (Magazine and Castle Gates) — the purpose was clear from the start: to defend the enforced Protestant city in the north-west of Ulster and to guard the route to Britain.

In effect, a wall during the siege of 1689 that the slogan of intransigent loyalism, "No surrender!" was first coined by the 13 Protestant apprentice boys who shut the city's gates against the army of King James II and pre-empted the siege. The 15-week siege of 1689 by the army of James II against the supporters of usurper William of Orange entrenched behind the walls has become a sacred part of loyalist mythology.

With its tales of a handful of loyalist defenders holding off hoards of barbaric Catholic Irish and treachery and

turncoats within their own ranks, it is also a symbol of the loyalists' siege mentality. All the vital ingredients of the loyalists' self-image as an elite people enduring constant attack, isolation and betrayal are there in the 1689 siege of Derry.

LUNDY

The pathetic Lundy, Governor of Derry, whom loyalists to this day believe tried to sell out the starving city is the most hated figure in loyalist mythology. The fact that Lundy did not try to betray the besieged citizens (he left Derry the night before the siege began), or that the historical (not the mythical) siege of 1689 contains more farce than heroics, makes no difference to loyalists.

To Derry Orangemen, the potent symbolism of the siege is all that is important. In their eyes, the siege was a glorious victory over Catholicism and the native Irish, signifying both the racial and religious superiority of loyalism and its determination never to surrender. The Papist hordes and homegrown traitors at the gate are an essential prop to loyalism's insular and paranoid view of Irish history.

For all these reasons, Derry, with its distorted, mythological

siege tradition, has exercised a strong influence on the Orange psyche over the centuries. To unionists, it is the undefiled sanctuary of loyalist supremacy, their city, and their exclusive right to march within its sacred walls to celebrate their victory over an English king.

Twice yearly, the Apprentice Boys of Derry (note, not 'Londonderry'), the latter day defenders of the city's walls, commemorate the 'closing of the gates' on December 18th 1688, which heralded the siege, and the 'relief of Derry' by English ships which brought the siege to an end on August 12th 1689. With Branches all over the Six Counties, Britain and the USA, the Derry Apprentice Boys have 15,000 members, all of whom were initiated within the Derry walls with the sole qualification that they be Protestants.

On December 18th, the Apprentice Boys burn an effigy of Lundy and shoot off toy cannons from the walls (which in the past were real), an act which is the ritual purging by the loyalists of all potential traitors in their midst. The more important 'relief' celebration on August 12th brings thousands of besashed

and bowler-hatted Orangemen flocking to Derry. Twice a year, the leaders of the Apprentice Boys ceremoniously whip their followers to a sectarian frenzy which vents its spleen on nationalist homes, property and heads.

The political struggle between the unionists and nationalists of Derry — between an unrepresentative, undemocratic minority and an oppressed, disenfranchised majority — is described by loyalist leaders in terminology recalling the 1689 siege. Nationalist gains in housing or employment and eventually, after 285 years, political power, were and still are depicted as Papist assaults on the loyalist fortress of the Maiden City.

LOYALISM'S INNER SANCTUM

Peaceful demonstrations or marches by nationalists within the city walls protesting against their inferior status in a city in which they became a majority in 1851, have been portrayed as invasions of the loyalist inner sanctum and infringements of the loyalists' exclusive right to march within 'their' walls.

In their tunnel vision of history, as victors in the 1689

siege, sole ownership of the city has been conferred on the loyalists in perpetuity and no nationalist should be allowed to desecrate the walled sanctuary — to permit this is to make a mockery of the siege.

The historian A.T.Q. Stewart, himself a loyalist, echoed this point when he wrote:

"The factor which distinguished the siege of Derry from all other historic sieges in Western Europe is that it is still going on."

The siege is still going on in the narrow minds of loyalists because their political masters have distorted history to permanently trap their followers in an historical cul-de-sac in order to keep them fighting a war they cannot win. This is precisely why the imagery, the symbolism and the regalia of the siege have been preserved by loyalist leaders so that its hate-figures, its Lundies and its Papist devils can be unleashed the moment that power and hegemony is threatened. (Of course, since 1689, the historical bogies have been brought out of the cupboard for good.)

If Derry's ancient walls are a sanctuary to the loyalists, they are also a prison for them.

the siege

LAST MONTH, the residents of Derry's Rossville Street flats tried to have the annual August 12th procession to the loyalist Apprentice Boys rerouted away from nationalist areas. Each year at this time an awesome military display by the crown forces places the city's nationalists under curfew, restricting them to their homes. The Derry walls are covered by heavily-armed RUC and British soldiers. In a 20th Century rerun of the 1689 siege (commemorated by the App-

rentice Boys), nationalists are kept outside the fortifications of this nationalist city.

AP/RN's Kevin McCool critically examines the mythology and symbolism of the 1689 siege, the political purpose behind its commemorations and their sectarian overtones. The history of the annual provocative parade is traced up until the conflagration of August 1969 which brought British troops onto the streets of the Six Counties for the first time in this generation.



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In the shadow of a siege

Continued from previous page of the Bogside, newly politicised by the Civil Rights movement, just who owned the Maiden City. In his 1980 book, *The Siege of Derry*, the Protestant historian, Patrick Macrory, recalls how, on the eve of the '69 march, he asked a prominent Orangeman of his acquaintance why it was necessary to keep up "these obviously provocative celebrations."

"He looked at me in mild surprise and then said grimly, 'We have to show them who's master, that's why.'"

The Apprentice Boys had their march in August '69 and the fierce resistance they met from the enraged Bog-siders was the spark that lit the flames of resistance in Derry in this, the final phase of the freedom struggle.

CLOCKWORK MARCHERS

The Apprentice Boys are still marching like clockwork every August 12th, with the blessing of the British authorities and the armed protection of the crown forces. The Derry Brigade of the IRA blew up the Walker monument in 1973, leaving the loyalists with one less symbol of the glorious siege to thrust into the faces of nationalists. But the walls themselves are still intact, today mounted by surveillance cameras, British army sargans and observation posts, sitting comfortably alongside the 300-year-old siege cannons which point down at the Bogside. And while there are siege walls to worship, the Apprentice boys will march to them.

Strangely enough, a number of middle-class Derry 'nationalists' are today attempting to venerate (even glorify) the memory of Derry's walls, the London plantation of the city, and the entire siege tradition. One SDLP councillor has even suggested an expansion of the August march and the siege celebrations in general to facilitate nationalist participation.

This ignores an important lesson of Derry history which generations of Derry nationalists have dearly learned - the 'historic' Derry walls and the 'venerable' siege tradition will never be anything other than an enduring symbol to Derry nationalists of their second-class citizenship in a city in which they are the overwhelming majority.

It is up to the loyalists to break out of their siege mentality for it is they, not the nationalists of Derry, who insist upon seeing everything in the light of the siege of 1689.

Prisoners suffer in POA dispute

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A DISPUTE between the Northern Ireland Office and the Prison Officers' Association (POA) over working hours and a cut in overtime has inevitably led to republican prisoners bearing the brunt of vindictive attacks and restrictions in Crumlin Road and Magilligan.

In similar disputes in the past, prison warders have deliberately provoked violent confrontations in an attempt to portray the jails as 'unmanageable' in order to pressurise the NIO.

In recent weeks, in A-Wing of Crumlin Road Prison, warders have assaulted prisoners and manipulated confrontations in an attempt to provoke republicans. One prisoner who had his arm in a plaster cast had a steel grille repeatedly closed on it; he was left in severe pain for 40 minutes without medical attention. Another prisoner was charged with "threatening a prison officer" and sentenced to seven days' loss of all privileges when he objected to a warder throwing his underpants on the ground during a strip-search.

Prison warders have also imposed a policy of controlled movement. Prisoners are unlocked from their cells two at a time to get their food. Often, the food is so cold it is inedible and on at least one occasion last week, cockroaches

were found in the soup.

EXERCISE SHORTENED

The daily two-hour exercise period has also been deliberately shortened because warders unlock prisoners 15 to 20 minutes late. Such pettiness has been extended to other areas such as personal mail being withheld for up to three days before being censored. Food parcels are being tampered with, newspapers are 'going missing', and Gaelic books and other educational material have been confiscated without reason.

On Monday, August 24th, the situation deteriorated even further when republican prisoner Gerry Kelly was attacked by six prison warders and dragged to the boards. He has been accused of "assaulting a prison officer". The republican PRO in the jail has warned:

"This heavy-handed attitude by the prison administration can only lead to more trouble in which someone will undoubtedly get seriously hurt."

The PRO also revealed

that two men from the nationalist Bone area of North Belfast, Thomas Maguire and Brian Hunter were brought into the jail from Castlereagh Interrogation Centre suffering from perforated eardrums. Both men were attacked by the RUC Special Branch.

MAGILLIGAN

Meanwhile, there is growing tension at Magilligan Prison, County Derry, following incidents last Thursday and Friday, August 20th/21st. On Thursday, a group of loyalist prisoners went on the rampage in D-Wing, H2 Block, wrecking toilets, sinks, windows and lights. Republican prisoners who were not involved were nevertheless locked in their cells. The following night, loyalists caused more damage in the washrooms in B-Wing, H3 Block, and one loyalist started a fire in the canteen, damaging chairs and a snooker table.

Because UDA prisoners were involved, the republican prisoners believe that the action was in response to broken promises by the NIO following the aborted loyalist hunger-strike last year.

Loyalists can apparently smash up prison property with virtual immunity, but the situation is different for republican and nationalist prisoners.

This was highlighted last week when two nationalists, Smyth and McPartland, were involved in a dispute with prison warders over restricted washing time. Smyth was refused a razor to shave with and during a verbal confrontation a prison warder attacked him. McPartland intervened, asking prison warders to leave Smyth alone, and was locked up in his cell. Meanwhile, Smyth was badly beaten and required three stitches to a head wound.

Armagh arrests

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

THE BROTHER of Armagh Sinn Fein Councillor Tommy Carroll, Niall Carroll (22), and Armagh Sinn Fein Press Officer Stephen Fields (27), are among a number of people being detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at Gough Barracks.

Niall Carroll was detained while out walking in Armagh city on Monday night. Fields was stopped while driving Councillor Carroll's car. Jamesie McLaughlin (25) who was a passenger in the car, was also detained.

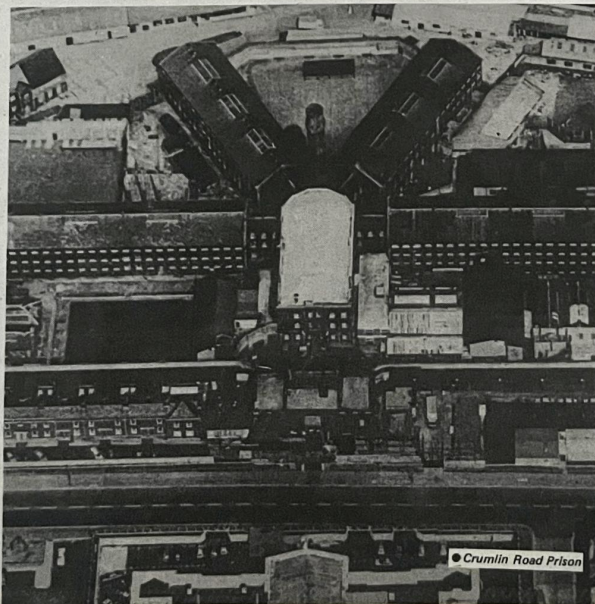
Tommy Carroll was also arrested shortly after midnight and held at Armagh's Newry Road RUC Barracks for an hour. Carroll said his arrest was the result of his refusal to remove his shoes and socks when stopped by the RUC.

BRITISH ARMY FAIRY STORY

The photograph from Niall Carroll's driving licence 'fell out' after he was stopped at a UDR checkpoint on Cathedral Road, Armagh, in April, the British army has told him.

The photo was then allegedly handed over to the RUC by an officer to be returned. Niall Carroll still hasn't received it and he has accused the UDR of stealing it.

"The British army's fairy story is a better one than ever told by Hans Christian Anderson," he said last week before his arrest.



• Crumlin Road Prison

Sinn Fein
National
Finance
Committee
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DRAW

THE Sinn Fein National Draw begins on Saturday, August 29th, and takes place on each subsequent Saturday, concluding at the Ard-Fheis.

Star prize
CAR
(or £2,000)

Cards are available now from 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Special
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Striking out cuts

BY TOM O'DWYER

AS THE NEW EDUCATION YEAR approaches, 26-County teachers and students threw down the gauntlet over Fianna Fail education cuts at a meeting in Dublin on Tuesday, August 25th. The Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland (ASTI) said:

"If there are any attempts to introduce reductions we will withdraw our services." 26-County Education Minister Mary O'Rourke threatened earlier this month to impose heavy cuts on education in the autumn government estimates.

Cuts in the school transport system are expected in January. Already repeat leaving certificate students have to pay a fee of £200 and the teacher/pupil ratio is likely to get much worse. Charges for school books and extra-curricular activities are normal in many schools, making the system of free education a thing of the past.

Union of Students in Ireland (USI) President Patricia Hegarty also warned at the meeting that her union would be taking "direct action" against the cutbacks and called for an alliance between students and education trade unions to fight them.

NORTH-WEST GRIM

Unemployment figures for Counties Sligo and Donegal and for North-East Mayo and North Leitrim reveal a number of grim economic developments in the North-West.

In Donegal, the number of women unemployed increased to a figure of 3,000 - 10% more than last year despite a decline in the number of unemployed men.

In Sligo and the surrounding areas of Mayo and Leitrim, unemployment is 21.3% - considerably higher than the 26-County figure of 19.1%. Over one in every four people under 25 is unemployed in the area as a whole but in Ballina, County Mayo, the figure is 35.5%. Adult unemployment in Sligo town is lower than the 26-County average but the surrounding region has been economically devastated.

ABBEY MEATS VICTIMISATION

The 11-week dispute at Abbey Meats in Whiteabbey, County Antrim, is being prolonged by management's attempted victimisation of 14 workers.

The German-owned company has agreed to take back all but 14 of the 175 workers who were locked out in June. The workers, who are on a two-day



● School transport: a thing of the past?

week, had refused to do two extra nights' work because they would have lost their family income supplement. By doing the extra work they would have been worse off at the end of the week.

Seven of the victimised workers were Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers Union shop-stewards while another five were committee members. When the workers refused to accept this attempt to exclude union organisers from the plant, managing director Reinhold Stahl broke off talks with the Six-County Labour Relations Agency.

ACTED PICKET

A campaign against 30% cuts on

training allowances imposed last week by the Fianna Fail government began with pickets on the Department of Labour in Dublin and on National Manpower Service Offices throughout the 26 Counties on Wednesday, August 26th.

The Association for Community-based Training, Education & Development (ACTED) presented a letter to Fianna Fail Minister for Labour, Bertie Ahern. Staff and young AnCO trainees attended the pickets as did many unemployed people.

ACTED spokesperson John Farrelly said:

"Its recent actions clearly show that the Fianna Fail government is not concerned about the income require-

ments of young people. Without doubt these cutbacks will have a detrimental effect on the personal welfare of young people in training, on their families, and on the level of wages offered to them when they enter jobs after training."

The organisation is planning a series of actions throughout the 26 Counties over the coming weeks.

TALLAGHT CAMPAIGN

As the campaign to save Glen Abbey Knitwear in Tallaght, County Dublin, goes on, around 15 of the workers at the plant returned to work on Thursday, August 20th. They hope to get three weeks' work finishing a £10,000 contract for the firm which was recently the victim of an asset-stripping exercise by its managing director, John Teeling.

The workers had occupied the plant until a court decision forced them out. The court finally relented, allowing them to return to finish the order.

ITGWU secretary, Jimmie Somers, the workers' representative, said that the workers would consider organising a rescue project themselves if the liquidator now in control of the plant is unable to find a buyer.

WHO'S AT FAULT?

A technical fault has cost the jobs of 80 Cork workers, most of whom got only a week's notice.

Yeates Industries, the Little Island computer company, failed to work out why a "blackspot" was appearing on copper foil used to make the company's printed circuit boards. The fault was causing short circuits on the boards which are basic to all electronic instruments - so the New Jersey-based multinational company just fired the workforce.

The fault could either have been caused by machinery used in the plant or by the surrounding atmosphere. Either way, the workers are suffering over a fault for which they're not responsible.

GALTEE REPRIEVE

The agreement between the ITGWU and the management of Galtee Meats at the company's plant in Mitchelstown means a reprieve for the 360 jobs there and an important victory for the workforce.

Management attempted to intimidate the workers into accepting an end to the 'last in/first out' principle by threatening the closure of the plant but the workers stayed firm. The agreement accepts the principle although it includes a reduction in the control workers have over their conditions.

EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK

THE BELFAST Education & Library Board has withdrawn funding for day and evening classes from a West Belfast adult education centre.

The Conway Education Centre (CEC), in the Lower Falls, heard this week that the board will no longer pay the salaries of nine part-time tutors so long as the centre is based in Conway Street Mill.

The classes affected are GCSE courses in history, maths, English language and English literature.

A-Levels in English, Philosophy and Political Studies; and Access to Education and Woodwork courses. The classes were being run under the auspices of the Rupert Stanley College and had been widely advertised.

To date, the board has failed to provide any written explanation of its decision to with-

draw funding, a failure which, according to a spokesperson for the CEC, "must seriously bring into question the BELB's commitment to adult education provision in West Belfast."

And Sinn Fein's constituency representative for the Lower Falls, Fra McCann, speculated that this latest move was not unconnected with previous attacks on the Conway Mill Centre by the Northern Ireland Office, which

last year cancelled ACE worker posts there.

Despite the Conway Education Centre's considerably good academic results (this year four past pupils graduated from university with honours degrees), over the years the centre has received absolutely no financial help for equipment or running costs from the BELB.

This discrimination is all the more blatant because nationalist

West Belfast has no properly-funded further education college despite years of pressure from local people.

A spokesperson for the CEC told AP/RN:

"The premises which we have been asked to abandon are second to none in terms of facilities, access to both audio and visual resources, not to mention a fully-equipped theatre. These facilities are not available elsewhere.

"The only conclusion we can draw from the board's dictate is that it is motivated by a desire to decrease adult education provision in West Belfast. But we will continue our work, with or without their support."

Imeachtaí

BALLAD SESSION

Featuring Buskers Anois
Saturday 29th August
Welcome Wagon
CROSSAKIEL
County Meath
Admission £1

COLE/COLLEY COMMEMORATION

11.30am Sunday 30th August
Assemble at Beaumont Inn
March to memorial at
Yellow Road, Whitehall
DUBLIN
Organised by Sinn Fein

FOLK NIGHT

(to commemorate
the 45th anniversary of
Vol Tom Williams)
Featuring Flight of the Earls
Thursday 3rd September
Shamrock Social Club

ARDOYNE BELFAST Taille £1.50

MION CHOLAISTE

(For those who have
been learning Irish
for the past year)
Sathairn Su la Meánfomhair
Sean Mhuilleann
Sraid Mhic Conaidhe
BEAL FEIRSTE

H-BLOCK MEMORIAL MARCH

3pm Saturday 5th September
Assemble Abbey Square
ENNISWORTH
County Wexford

FAILTE ABHAILE

O PHORTLAOISHE
(For Patsy Mohan)
Hugo Duncan and the Ranchers
Thursday 10th September
Glencarr Hill
CASTLEBLAYNEY
County Monaghan
Taille £4 (bar extension)
Organised by Sinn Fein



THE PLIGHT OF IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

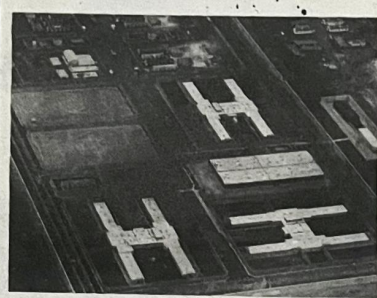
The Sinn Fein POW Department has produced a new pamphlet dealing with the plight of republican POWs and their families.

The 14-page pamphlet, which opens out into a three-colour A1-sized poster, contains sections on conditions in all of the Irish prisons, the prisoners in England, repatriation, strip-searching and control units & solitary.

•The plight of Irish republican prisoners and their families is available at £1.20 from An Cumann Cabhraich, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (Tel: 726932) and Green Cross 73, 51/55 Falls Road, Belfast (Tel: 249975).

Mála Poist

AP/IRN, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.



MAGILLIGAN

A Chairde,
Since the ending of the loyalist siege in Magilligan, republican POWs opted for a low-key approach, affording the administration the opportunity to change the unjust, oppressive and highly dangerous regime existing here. It is now apparent that the deplorable state of affairs is being intensified rather than relaxed.

The effects of aggression can best be measured not by the response of prisoners but from the reaction of Screws. The 'sick' rate among Screws has never been higher. However, there still exists a group of sadistic diards, and these fools go out of their way to lay petty and trumped-up charges against prisoners, resulting in loss of remission. Prisoners are now confined to cells more than ever and vindictive censorship ensures that republicans spend their time idle.

While it takes three months for six words of Gaelic to pass through censors, pornographic material (rejected by republicans) goes unchecked. The list of injustices are endless and as each day passes the situation is further exacerbated.

The Magilligan administration has been afforded every opportunity to cure the monster of their creation and their idiotic experiments. Forced integration was never viable and, as experience shows, can only get worse. It was they, the Northern Ireland Office and Magilligan administration, who dismissed all forms of passive protest. It was they who ignored the political process and they who confirmed that 'a leopard never changes its spots'.

PRO,
Republican POWs,
Magilligan Prison.

A Chairde,
I am writing to bring to your attention the position of republican and nationalist prisoners who are forced to integrate with the loyalist prisoners in Magilligan Camp. Because of the NIO policy of forced integration, tension is always at a very high level even at the best of times, but at this time, when loyalist murder gangs are constantly attacking nationalist areas, the tension is once again very high.

As republicans/nationalists have to eat their meals in the canteen with loyalists, and there when news of

murders of nationalists are broadcast, the atmosphere becomes extremely tense and could be literally cut with a knife. It must be remembered that we know that these loyalists are one-time cohorts of the members of the murder squads and are all the time trying to get information on us and our families.

I must repeat what has been said before and ignored by the NIO: the policy of forced integration must come to an end now if more serious trouble, or even loss of life, is to be averted.

Republican prisoner,
Magilligan Prison.

A Chairde,
I would like to voice my opinion as a nationalist prisoner trapped in Magilligan Prison where because of the forced integration policy, I am being used as a pawn of the Northern Ireland Office.

This policy has, as an obvious reaction, produced a very dangerous level of tension. This constant high level of tension is further heightened when nationalists are attacked by loyalist murder gangs. When these incidents occur, friction between republicans/nationalists and the loyalists is very dangerous and has always led to trouble in the past. I must add to these highly distressing circumstances the fact that I am constantly worrying about the lives of my family and what could happen when I am released myself.

Because I have been forced to integrate in the same wings and visiting area with loyalists, I and my visitors are constantly open to identification by loyalists, and every nationalist must surely understand what that could lead to: a murder bid on myself or a member of my family. Is this the NIO's 'relaxed environment' for the good of the prisoners?

Numerous civic bodies have voiced opinions against the forced integration system, but the NIO conveniently remains deaf to these people because they are not in support of their repressive policies. Maybe the NIO wishes to play down the Magilligan situation, but the record of serious incidents that have occurred bears witness to their public relations lie.

Nationalist prisoner,
Magilligan Prison.

WOMEN

A Chairde,
In her comments on my report of the Women's World

Congress (AP/IRN, August 6th), Sue Pentel draws up a long list of complaints, most of which don't bear up under examination.

In spite of the fact that the report covered criticism of imperialist interests in the Third World, the nuclear arms race, partition, British imperialism and establishment feminism, Sue Pentel complains that the reference to Karagwa Byanina (from Uganda) was the only experience held up as relevant to Irish women. She further complains that the report tended to "romanticise the armed struggle". I would ask the question, where was there any suggestion that armed struggle guarantees women's liberation?

In fact, Karagwa Byanina was quoted as saying exactly the opposite:

"We succeeded in liberating our country but not ourselves. We are still dominated by men and poverty."

Now I think that speaks for itself. This issue of armed struggle was addressed by a contributor to the national question workshop. Many feminists, it was said, have had no difficulty in understanding the need for armed struggle in South Africa or Nicaragua but fail to accept the legitimate use of armed resistance to the British military occupation of the Six Counties.

It seems to me that our critic may have a blind spot on the issue of armed struggle. This may arise from a common mistake on the left which falsely counterposes mass political action to armed struggle. I make no apology for drawing this conclusion and ask if it isn't about time that some self-criticism was made by feminists. After all, Sinn Fein women are continuously expected to be publicly self-critical at each and every forum even when the agenda (including the workshop under scrutiny) has different goals.

Sue further stresses the importance of the autonomous women's movement. Daisy Mules referred to this (and I quoted her verbatim) when she said:

"We need to ensure that women have control over their lives and destinies in the same way as we, the Irish people, wish to control our country."

Our critic will just have to accept that Sinn Fein acknowledges and recognises the importance of the autonomous organisation of women in our own interests. Surely this is a response that is to be welcomed rather than denied?

Sue also talks of a shift towards "anti-imperialist understanding". I agree and would suggest that the establishment of the Women's Department, debates at Ard-Fheisanna and the involvement of Sinn Fein women in various campaigns has contributed in no small way (notwithstanding the important theoretical and active work carried on by anti-imperialist feminists).

The unexplained snide comment about the Defend the Clinics Campaign is best answered by the fact that the Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle recently wrote to the campaign pledging continuing support while expressing a difference on an issue it sees as tactical.

The report by no means covered all the items discussed or contributions. I simply highlighted the most striking and memorable.

As if the Sinn Fein Women's Department has developed a "programme for women's liberation". Policy is being continuously developed, backed up by direct experience and the interaction of our party with the campaigns of the women's movement.

With the emphasis not only on public party policy but also on positive discrimination,

childcare and internal education, I believe that our efforts put us far ahead of any other major party committed to the interests of the exploited and oppressed. Much remains to be learned and to be done, but Sinn Fein has more modesty than most to admit this and more capacity than most to achieve.

Finally, Sue Pentel talks of the need for further discussion and possible occasions for this. I can ensure her that opportunities to develop a strategy for women in Ireland will always be welcomed by the women of Sinn Fein.

Ella Rush.



REPUBLICAN WEEK

A Chairde,
The Clarke/Smith Sinn Fein Cumann, Finglas, would like to let you know of our annual Republican Week in Finglas, Dublin.

Finglas Republican Week is a week of events organised to inform the community of anti-repression campaigns which are going on at present, not only in Finglas but throughout Ireland.

This year, Republican Week runs from Saturday, September 19th, to Saturday, September 26th. The events organised are as follows:
Saturday 19th 12 noon
Various campaign stalls in Finglas Village.
Sunday 20th
Section 31 leafletting of local churches.

Monday 21st 8pm
Welcome home ballad session for Portlaoise POW Paddy Devine at Dolly's Lounge, Mulhuddart (taille £2).
Tuesday 22nd 5.30pm to 7pm
Anti-strip-searching picket Finglas dual carriageway.
Wednesday 23rd 8pm
Plastic bullets video (admission free - venue to be confirmed).

Thursday 24th 5.30pm to 7pm
Anti-extradition picket, Finglas Garda Barracks.
Saturday 26th
10am to 12 noon: 'Release dates for Portlaoise lifers' picket of Fianna Fail clinic, Social Services Centre, Wellmouth Road.

2.30pm: Parade from Giant Trading Co, Cardiff Bridge Road, to rally at Dick McKee Memorial, Finglas Village.
Speakers: Martin McGuinness, Harry Fleming and National Graves Association.

Any marching bands or local organisations wishing to take part should contact Finglas Sinn Fein through Liam Doyle at 726100/733441 or Noel Ellis at 343390.
Liam Doyle, (PRO),
Finglas Sinn Fein,
Dublin.

PEACE WORK?

A Chairde,
We hear regularly about groups - church and political - who are working, it is alleged, for 'peace and reconciliation' in Ireland. Their praises are sung in the media and they get large sums of money every year from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin and other doubtful sources.

Recently we heard that large sums of money were given out to Co-operation North, Glencree, the Irish School of Economics and

others who are said to be working for 'peace'. Well are they really working for peace or are they getting money under false pretences? What have they done with the money they have received and how could it be said that they have contributed even a little to bringing about peace in this country?

I believe that these so-called peace and reconciliation groups and projects are getting money under false pretences because they have not contributed in any way to peace in this country. My argument is based on the simple fact that if they are not interested in justice for the oppressed and peace will only come through the establishing of justice.

They talk plenty about 'peace and reconciliation' but all their talk is based on an outdated analysis of the problem in Ireland. These groups do nothing to confront the cause of the problem and the cause of the violence - the immoral and illegal British involvement in Irish affairs.

Instead these groups perpetuate the myth that the problem in this country is inter-communal - a problem that could be solved if only Protestant and Catholic would get together and work together. This is a sectarian analysis of the problem which needs a sectarian solution: put more Catholics in the RUC, the judiciary, the civil service and the problem is on the way to being solved!

This misinterpretation of the problem is promoted in the media and especially in RTE. This false analysis is at the basis of the Hillsborough Agreement between the London and Dublin governments and forms the basis of the SDLP's policy.

Those of us who point out the contradictions and weaknesses of this misinterpretation are dismissed and attacked and called all kinds of nice names. However, the truth cannot be avoided forever and only the truth will set us free - free from violence and injustice, free from fear and sectarianism.

Joseph McVeigh,
Irvinestown,
County Fermanagh.



BRITSKRIEG

A Chairde,
Cymru Goch, the Welsh socialist party, has just produced a glossy two-colour poster under the title "Britskrieg". It links the struggles of the Welsh, Irish and Scottish people against the common imperialist enemy - and for just Stg 65p. If any AP/IRN readers wish to buy one, please send the money to Cymru Goch, 7 Stryd Albwy, Hightown, Wrexham, Clwyd, Wales.
M. Jones,
Cymru Goch.

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

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

REVIEWS

Cooking the books

LAST WEEK, Roger 'Thump Me For the Camera' Cook devoted his programme to a report on racketeering in the Six Counties. Cook has a reputation for getting to the root of whatever corruption he is after and confronting the villains head on. This time, it was different.

The Cook Report was devoted mainly to the activities of the UDA and its building-site rackets which go hand-in-hand with its other, more bloody, activities with which the programme did not concern itself. We got a fairly clear view of the inherently corrupt nature of that organisation and its leadership but no real analysis. Cook might have been in gangland London. It was all crime with no political context.

And that was where the "republicans" came in. Cook decided to lay off the Workers' Party — supposedly fearing legal action — and every time their armed wing was mentioned its members were described as "republican paramilitaries". So Robert McKeown, "Official IRA" operator and Workers' Party fellow traveller, was described as a "republican paramilitary". Maybe Cook thought people in Britain would know the difference between one 'republican' and another.

When it came to the real IRA, Cook showed that he was really on shaky ground. For instance, he told us that all the riots in West Belfast in the early '70s were orchestrated by the IRA so that the bus services would be disrupted and the provos could step in and set up their

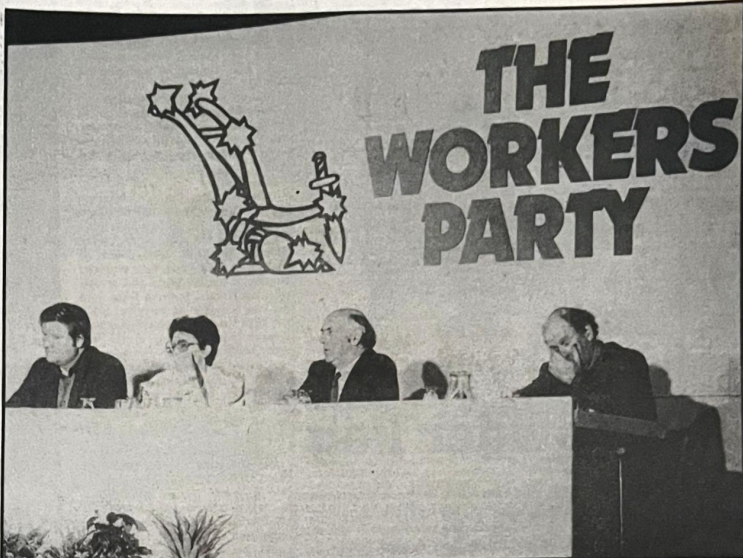
Mrs Thatcher said that going forward one's own policies was not always attractive to the media. MEDIA: Attributing our positive policies so to show why the other policies would not work.

own taxi service — I kid you not.

Mind you, if Cook was on shaky ground he had plenty of helpers to hold him up. Chief among them was Brian Feeney of the SDLP.

Feeney explained how the nasty Provos had everyone in their grip. Just to prove it they took a trip to Ardoyne where they visited the outside of a social club. They told us that a road had to be built around the club. Feeney shook his head. It showed the power of "the paramilitaries". No-one from the club was interviewed. No-one from the area was asked if they would like their club demolished. The visit obviously took place early in the morning when there was no-one around.

THE INDO AND THE STICKS
The Irish Independent was also on about racketeering last week. This time they



● The Building Workers' Party knows the tricks of the trade

did look at the Workers' Party and its armed wing. There was nothing new in the article — nothing we hadn't heard before. The interesting thing was that the next day the *Indo* printed a full-length column reply from the Workers' Party.

We will be watching with interest to see if Sinn Féin is given the same facility the next time the *Indo* attacks the Republican Movement

RAVING HACKS
You would think that when 16 people are murdered in a small English town that it would provoke a sober response, even in the Brit gutter press. Wrong again! "Is your neighbour a raving Rambo — ten tell-tale

signs to spot the maniac killer," another *Sun* 'special' cried alongside a picture of Sylvester Stallone and asked: "Does he have any physical feature he is ashamed of? Is he a loner type? Was he bullied at school?"

But the London-based rag, *Sunday Sport* — whose editor once boasted that there would be naked women on every page — proved that it was capable of stooping even lower than Murdoch's comic.

It's front page screamed: "Rambo killer's kinky double life — 'Tie me up to the tree and rape me,' pleaded madman."

Using the right-wing hack's maxim, "Make it short, make

it snappy, make it up," someone called Charles Penfrew told that Michael Ryan "was tortured into his mad dog killing spree by his kinky sex life".

EXIT TIM
The exit of Tim Pat Coogan from the editorship of the *Irish Press*, while not unexpected, was unexpected at this time.

Coogan had edited the paper for the past 18 years and has been replaced by Hugh Lambert, a man of a different hue and one very close for Vincent Jennings, formerly of the *Sunday Press* and now in a management position. Coogan got into trouble

at the paper on many occasions for his pro-republican stance. Not least was his position on the H-Blocks.

The erring hacks sent around a petition against his stance on the H-Blocks, signalling quite clearly that their editor was not speaking for them. And while Coogan was made a figure of fun within the paper by many, he did stick to his guns on occasion. The reason for his sudden departure has less to do with his stance on various issues and more to do with the fact that he was reluctant to bring all the new technology on stream and go tabloid with the *Irish Press*.

As the saying goes, they won't have poor old Tim Pat to kick around anymore.

Beards and glasses

THE EXTREMELY LITTLE-KNOWN Sheep Worrying Records label has unleashed itself on the public with all the force of a half-brick as it brings us the first recording from Red Smed and the Hot Trot Smash and System Boogie Band (hereafter known as Red Smed — RSHEBBB is a bit of a mouthful).

Hot and half-cut from the Soundhouse studio in Bridgwater, England, Red Smed's tape, *Songs for Swinging Communists*, arrived on the desk of a bewildered letter-opener at *AP/RN's* Dublin office a couple of weeks ago.

The boys (and girl) from Bridgwater told us in their covering letter (which beats U2's album notes) that it was recorded in the studio with the aid of a bottle of Jameson and a bottle of Black Bush — symbolising Irish unity.

(Bridgwater is Tom King's parliamentary constituency and his homecomings can't be too full of peace and tranquillity if he finds himself within an ast's roar —



courtesy of one Dave Hanna — of Red Smed and Co.)

NINE SONGS
There's nine songs — and I use the term songs loosely because Red Smed and his pals think harmony is a hair spray — on the tape. Among the unforgettable tracks are *Leon Trotsky* ("a man with a beard and glasses"), *Lined Up Against A Wall* and *Shot*, and *Come Out*



● Swinging communists! (Note: not a beard or glasses in sight.)

Ye Black and Tans which, the blurb tells us, "brilliantly evokes the atmosphere of the Friday night session down to the sturred words, the garbled melody and the mid-verse amnesia".

A special mention must

be given to Brian Smedley's *The Day We Met the Fascists in Bridgwater* which, with the aid of flamenco guitar, powerfully evokes the images of Civil War Spain, even though Bridgwater is in Somerset, England's cider county,

and the historic event took place in November 1986 facing loyalists.

We met the fascists at Eastover Crossroads. As they marched by we said, "No nazis here!"

But we were wrong. They were 400 strong. And they weren't here to try the local beer.

Despite overwhelming odds, as the last two lines of the chorus testify:

But as comrades we stood shoulder to shoulder, And all for one, united, got done over.

(The only politically discordant note is the inclusion of an awful dirge about Loughgall which left me cringing. Leave it out in future, comrades.)

OTHERWISE BRILLIANT

All profits are going to Nicaragua support groups and if you can get hold of a copy then only play it to people of political maturity, especially those who adhere to the guiding principle that the only taste is bad taste.

Personally, I thought *Songs for Swinging Communists* was brilliant (overall) but my Aunt Concepta wants to use it to record over it *Barry Manilow's Greatest Hits*. My ma agrees with her.

● *Songs for Swinging Communists*, by Red Smed and the Hot Trot Smash the System Boogie Band, released on Sheep Worrying Records, c/o Unity Books, Unity House, Damptel Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, price Stg. £1.50 plus postage (only available on cassette).

WORLD VIEW



Gulf powder keg

THE BIGGEST IMPERIALIST naval expedition to the Gulf between Iran and Arabia for over 150 years is turning the area into "a powder keg that could explode any minute", according to an Iranian leader. The United States navy, aided by British and French vessels, is conducting a massive show of strength involving 41 ships. Its objects are to boost its allies in the area, the feudal Arabian princes, and to intimidate Iran. So far it hasn't been entirely successful and the whole show could go disastrously wrong in the coming months.

Iran has been at war with neighbouring Iraq for seven years and peace is nowhere in sight. The war, like the American naval exercise, began over a power vacuum in the region. In 1979, millions of Iranians took part in an Islamic revolution which overthrew the US-backed shah. Disgusted by the brutality and exploitation of the shah's regime, the people backed Ruhollah Khomeini, a fundamentalist Muslim leader who is firmly opposed to the US.

The Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, misjudging the support for Khomeini, launched a war against Iran in a bid to dominate the Gulf region. Although Hussein received substantial behind-the-scenes support from the US and more open support from France, his move proved disastrous as Iranian forces drove back the invaders and promised to extend the Islamic revolution to Iraq, overthrowing Hussein in the process. The war now resembles that of 1914-18 in Europe, with

both sides bogged down in trenches and suffering massive casualties.

By toppling the shah, the Islamic revolution severely reduced American influence in the region which produces 57% of the world's oil. By embarrassing Hussein's government the Islamic fundamentalists have increased their power in the Gulf. But what has really begun to worry the US is the increasing support for Iran in the Arabian countries.

RICH FAMILIES

Oil has brought immense wealth to the ruling families of Saudi Arabia and the many small states on its Gulf coast, but the rest of their population remain comparatively poor.

Riches and power in the area are generally in the hands of Sunni Muslims, who follow one of the two main currents within Islam. Shias, followers of the other current, are poorer and in many count-

ries more numerous. Khomeini, a Shia leader (or ayatollah), has therefore a ready audience among oppressed Gulf Arabs for his condemnations of corruption and American influence within the Arab ruling elite. He is now calling for the extension of the Islamic revolution to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab states of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saudi police recently fired on Iranian pilgrims in the Islamic shrine of Mecca in riots which killed 400. The incident, widely condemned in the Middle East, underlined the Saudi rulers' fears of an Iran-style insurrection.

The US navy flotilla's objectives are to reassure the Saudis of American support and to humiliate Iran. By including the assault ship *Guadalcanal* in the Gulf fleet, Reagan is making it clear that he's prepared to attack Iranian ports and coastal oil installations. But the force is in no way capable of carrying out a full-scale invasion. It can, however, weaken Iran's standing in the war with Iraq, making an extension of the Islamic revolution less likely.

But it could also have the opposite effect. The enormous display of force could generate increased hatred for the US and its allies, especially if (as is very likely) the US navy launches an unprovoked attack on Iran. Such an attack could drag the Reagan government into a Middle Eastern conflict just at the time when his contra war in Central America is generating opposition in Washington. The result could be an embarrassing retreat for Reagan.

EMBARRASSED PENTAGON

The Gulf expedition has already caused a number of red faces in the Pentagon. First was the Exocet missile strike against the *USS Stark*. The American ship was blown up by an Iraqi missile, although Iraq has received substantial support from the US. Later, the supertanker *Bridgeton* was holed by a mine as it was being escorted by the American navy. The US ships then fell into line behind the *Bridgeton* as it limped into port. Showing discretion rather than valour, the warships used the tanker as a shield against any further mines they might meet. Unimpressed by the American performance, the Kuwaiti government denied the use of its facilities to repair the US naval vessels which might be damaged... while protecting ships carrying Kuwaiti oil. Kuwait's rulers were frightened by threats of Iranian reprisals if they refitted the American fleet.

Oil tankers are now moving in and out of the Gulf after weeks



spent in dock for fear of the mines placed in the Straits of Hormuz during the course of the war. This has been announced as a victory by the US navy. But it only occurred after the Iranian navy carried out its own minesweeping operation at the weekend. On Monday, the Americans announced that they'd fired on a hostile motor-launch but it turned out to be a dhow (a traditional sailing vessel used for trade).

The American intervention bears all the hallmarks of a major blunder. It is therefore extremely likely that Reagan's gunboats will stage a face-saving incident. An attack on Iran might be opposed by many within the US Congress but recent surveys show that it would be popular among the US population. Reagan may well be preparing to cause further bloodshed in an area already dogged by war.

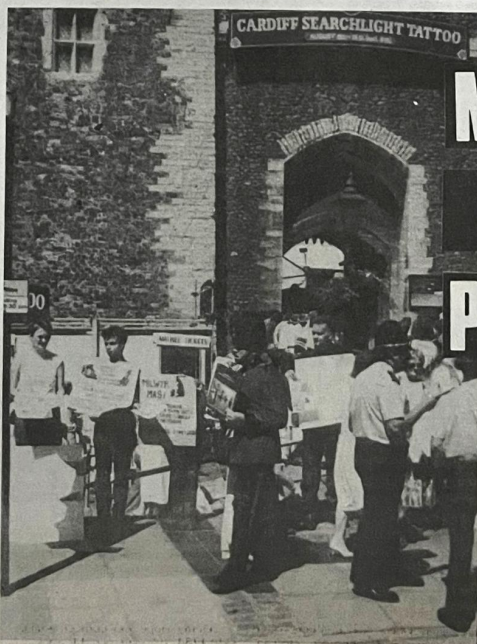


PLASTIC BULLETS PICKET

PLASTIC BULLET MANUFACTURERS Standard Fireworks' Huddersfield, Yorkshire, office, Standard House, was picketed by local activists on Friday, August 14th.

Standard's subsidiary, Brock's, actually manufactures the lethal weapon which has claimed 16 lives in the Six Counties.

Another picket will be held this Friday, August 28th.



MILITARY TATTOO PICKETED

SOUTH WALES members of the Troops Out Movement picketed the recent British armed forces tattoo in Cardiff.

The protesters gave out leaflets which highlighted the role of the British army in the Six Counties.

"The tattoo glamorises the armed forces. We think people need to know the truth — that the British army acts as a force of occupation and not as peace-keepers in the North of Ireland," said an organiser.

AP/RN will once again be occasionally printing poetry and short stories (maximum 1,200 words) sent in by our readers. Please ensure that all submissions are typed (or clearly handwritten) and double-spaced (one line of space between each line of writing). Readers are advised to keep copies of their manuscripts because AP/RN will be unable to return unsolicited contributions.

THOUGHTS IN A HELICOPTER IN SOUTH ARMAGH

Clattering, battering, gale blowing,
Down in drops,
Into the concrete barracks yard
Surrounded by mortar-pierced metal.

No time to stop, no time to spare,
Ireland lives outside these walls,
Her keen eyes watch, her children alert,
Keep the rotors turning.

Urgency rules, not Britannia
As the RUC prod their handcuffed captive
to make him run
Because of their fears.

Switches, wires, helmeted Brits,
Three long seats and fearful
haste in chopper's crew
To leave this place
While captive wryly wonders.

Up, up, lift, drop,
Look right, Lismore, The Square,
Look left, Ardross gone
And the road snakes on.

Up, up, lift, drop,
And spatter leaves from side to side,
Peering out for the Irish
While captive smiles again thinking:

This is my land, this is my homeland.
'Should Browning bees hum
To come and sting this British crew,
'I could still smile, though stung through

'And should my bones fall in the yellow
hollis of Lurgancollenboy
'On McCooney's Creggan,
'Or my ancestral rocks at Carrigan's,
'Sliavenagappell, Carricknagavona or
the fortress of Lislea,

'Should my bones smash on Sturgen Brae
'Or bleach in Camloch waters,
'I'd be home in my land,
The rest at map reference F13, sheet 3, South Armagh.

- Mac an Gheasaí



MOILCHUICHE

BRADLEY, Eamonn (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of the republican hero of the Vol Eamonn 'Bronco' Bradley, Derry Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was shot dead by crown forces on August 25th 1982. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sa. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

BRADLEY, Eamonn (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Eamonn 'Bronco' Bradley, Derry Brigade who died on August 25th 1982. "There is an inner thing in every man, do you know this thing my friend. It has withstood the blow of a million years and will do so till the end." - Bobby Sands. From Martin O'Neill.

CARLIN, James; CURRAN, Martin (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James Carlin and Martin Curran, South Down Battalion, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service as a result of an accidental explosion on August 26th 1972. Thus slad a raibh acu ar son a mhuintir agus a dtír. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the South Down Battalion.

CARLIN, James; CURRAN, Martin (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols James Carlin and Martin Curran, South Down Battalion, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on August 26th 1972. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh slad. Ni dheanfar dearmad orthu. Always remembered by South Down Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein.

CARLIN, James; CURRAN, Martin (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols James Carlin and Martin Curran, South Down Battalion, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on August 26th 1972. Always remembered by the Leo O'Hanlon Sinn Fein Cumann.

DEVINE, Michael (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Michael Devine, who died on August 20th 1981 after 60 days on hunger-strike. St. Martin pray for him. If he could have spoke before he died, these are the words he would have said: 'Goodbye, my family, my life has passed. I have loved you all to the very last. Weep not for me but courage take and love each other for my sake.' Always remembered by his sister Margaret, brother-in-law Frankie and niece Lisa.

DEVINE, Michael (6th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear uncle Michael Devine, who died on August 20th 1981 after 60 days on hunger-strike. St. Martin pray for him. Always remembered by Kathy, Davy and Kevin Barry.

DEVINE, Michael (6th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear uncle Michael Devine, who died on August 20th 1981 after 60 days on hunger-strike. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by Debbie, Judy and Aaron.

DEVINE, Michael McELWEE, Thomas (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of INLA Vol Michael Devine and Vol Thomas McElwee, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. "I'll never fade in your uniform, nor meekly serve my time, that Britain might brand Ireland's fight 800 years a crime." Always remembered by the Billy Reid Republican Flute Band, Scotland.

FORAN, Joe (3rd Anniversary). In proud memory of Joe Foran, Ardara, Mooncoin, County Kilkenny, who died on August 22nd 1984. Always

CUIMHNE BREITHLAE

DONNELLY, Frankie. In proud and loving memory of Vol Frankie Donnelly, whose 33rd birthday and 9th anniversary of our wedding occur on August 26th. RUC. I'm sitting at the window, I'm looking down the street, I'm looking for your face, I'm listening for your feet. Outside the rain, but it's blowing and it's just begun to rain, but it's being here without you that's causing me such pain. It is raining back again to when you last were here and I wish I had you now, I wish that you were near. Remember the winter night when you warmed me from the cold and the spring when we walked through green fields and skies so blue. You're gone, you're gone but you live on in my memory." - Bobby Sands. Always remembered by my wife Rosemary and his little girl Frances.

DONNELLY, Frankie. Birthday memories of a beloved brother and nephew Vol Frankie Donnelly, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann. Lasting memories of a man with a loving heart that God had made. A sunny nature, a winning smile, your face before us all the while. You always had the time to share, time to give and time to care. Such pangs of sorrow, of deep regret, the loss of you with us. With heads bent low, in whispered prayer, God keep you in his loving care. Always remembered by his loving aunts Betty and Margaret, uncle Paddy and sister Betty and family, and brother Jackie.

COMHBHRON

CONNELL. The Republican Movement extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Alice Connell, former member of Cumann na nGael, who died as a result of a hit and run accident on Saturday, August 22nd. At 87 years of age, Alice was an example to us all. "As long as Ireland is unfree, the only honourable attitude for Irish men and Irish women is an attitude of revolt." I measc laochra na nGael go raibh si.

CONNELL. Deepest sympathy is extended to Tracy and the family and friends of Alice Connell, late of Cappagh Drive, Finglas, who died as a result of a hit and run accident on Saturday, August 22nd. Ni dheanfar dearmad orthu. Always remembered by the Clarke/Smith Sinn Fein Cumann, Finglas.

FREEMAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy and family on the death of their daughter, Cathy, in a traffic accident. From the Clarke/Smith Sinn Fein Cumann, Finglas.

GRIFFITH. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of James Griffith (brother of Vol Jackie Griffith) who died on August 5th.

From the Malone/Martin Sinn Fein Cumann, Ringsend, Dublin.

KELLY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Kelleher family, Listowel, on the recent bereavement of the son, Michael. From the Republican Movement, County Kerry.

McGOWAN. The Patrickarty Sinn Fein Cumann, Bundoran, County Donegal, extends its sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of the late Francis McGowan, Tullaghan, County Leitrim.

Mac LIATHAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Seasmh and Siobhan Mac Liathan, Merivale, Galway City, on the death of their son Ruairi. From the Republican Movement, Galway.

McLIATHAN. Galway Sinn Fein extends deepest sympathy to Seasmh and Siobhan on the death of their son Ruairi.

Mac LIATHAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to Seasmh and Siobhan Mac Liathan on the death of their son Ruairi. From Mary and Seamus.

SWEENEY. The Pat O'Donnell Sinn Fein Cumann, County Donegal, wish to express deepest sympathy with Charlie and Sally Sweeney on the loss of their daughter, Rosemary. Rosemary was killed in a traffic accident while returning from a disco at the weekend. Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam.

BEANNAICHTAI

 McCARTNEY, Ronnie (Gartree). Best wishes on your birthday, Ronnie. Always in our thoughts. Love from Mrs O'Reilly and all the family.
 McCARTNEY, Ronnie (Gartree). Love and best wishes on your birthday Ronnie. From Marlan, Jane and John.

NOTICES
 ALL NOTICES for AP/RN must be in either our Dublin or Belfast offices by 5pm on Monday for inclusion in the issue of the Thursday of the same week.
DEADLINE
 Remember 5pm Monday.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

BY PETER O'DOURKE

Jemmy Hope

JEMMY HOPE, poet, revolutionary and social reformer, was born at Templepatrick, County Antrim, in 1764. Largely self-educated, Hope, the son of a Presbyterian, left school at the age of ten and was apprenticed to a linen weaver. Having served his time he became a journeyman. The French Revolution had a profound effect on his life. Deeply influenced by the writings of Paine and Rousseau, who advocated the ideas of equality and of the rights to life, liberty and property, the movement in Ulster for civil and religious liberties for all classes attracted his support and in 1795 he joined the Society of United Irishmen. A close associate of many of the leading United Irishmen, including

arrest and eventually, after the political amnesty of 1806, returned to Belfast and resumed work as a linen weaver.

In the early 1840s, he assisted Dr. R.R. Madden, the historian of the United Irishmen, with detailed accounts of the events in 1798 and 1803.

LONG LIFE

During the course of a long life he never changed his views on the rights of the working class. His writings earned for him the title of "the first Irish socialist" in whose footsteps James Fintan Lalor and James Connolly were later to follow.

A fervent adherent of the principles of the French Revolution and the United Irishmen to the very end, Hope died, aged 83, in February 1847.

Jemmy Hope was born on August 25th 1764, 123 years ago this week.



THE FLYING COLUMN

UNSUSPECTING tourists and local people be warned! The West coast is now endangered by a new form of parasite: the establishment politician who flits from beauty spot to beauty spot consuming greatly and leaving behind a huge pile of rubbish which is eagerly consumed by copy-hungry hacks. The 'summer schools' of Ireland, stretching from Glenties to Clare, suffer especially from this pest, probably because it does very little during the year, saving its energy for its August binges.

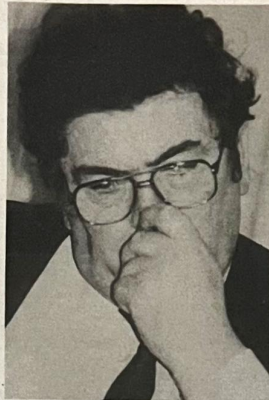
The MacGill Summer School in Glenties, County Donegal, has this year presented a sorry spectacle with an assembly of political hacks and revisionist anti-republicans to beat the proverbial band (to death by boredom no doubt). But braving these dangers, a redoubtable group of Donegal republicans attended a lecture there by John Hume on Friday, August 21st.

On the only occasion when Hume's rambling speech touched on the subject of the discussion (the 1937 Constitution), he suggested that this had provided the 26 Counties with "peace and stability" and that this assertion was borne out by the "economic and social development over the last 50 years".

The Sinn Feiners (who managed to speak in spite of the obvious bias of RTE guru Joe Mulholland, chair of the session) reminded Hume of the economic injustice of mass unemployment and emigration over the last 50 years. They also pointed to the repression of republicans in the 26 Counties. Hume responded in his usual fashion by claiming that Wolfe Tone, who raised thousands of Volunteers for armed uprising against the British, was not in favour of armed struggle!

But it was Hume's remarks about "peace and stability" which really tickled the republicans who were watched by about 25 armed Special Branch gardai at the school.

A UDR SOLDIER died in hospital early



● John Hume in a more constructive mood than he was at the MacGill Summer School

on Wednesday morning (August 19th). Gary Moore (23), from Cloughey, near Portavogie, County Down, had been found at his home the previous evening with gunshot wounds to his stomach - his legally-held firearm was found beside him.

And his namesake and fellow UDR man, Charles Moore (28), died the following day in a shooting incident in Derry's Clooney army base. No crime is suspected.

JUST BEFORE Charles Haughey arrived in Dingle, County Kerry, at the weekend to open a regatta (see story, page 5), one of the songs being played over the loudspeakers was *Take Me Home to Mayo*, a tribute to IRA Volunteer Michael Gaughan who died on hunger-strike in an English prison in 1974 in pursuit of his demand to be transferred to Ireland.

Charles Haughey wants to extradite more Irish republicans to English prisons.

The Dingle Fife & Drum Band also entertained people as they waited for Mr Haughey to arrive. One of the tunes they played was *Sean South* from *Garryowen*,

a ballad telling of the legendary IRA attack on Brookeborough Barracks, County Fermanagh, in 1957.

If Sean South had survived the Brookeborough raid and now lived in his native Limerick, under the Extradition Treaty, Charles Haughey would hand him back to the RUC.

A **PORTADOWN MAN**, John Henry Edward Darlington (20), was so bored doing night security guard at the now-vacant Armagh Prison that he made a number of hoax telephone calls - purporting to come from the 'Ulster Resistance Force' - claiming there were fire-bombs in the Mall. 'Ding-a-ling' Darlington also admitted taking drink into the prison and often turning up for work drunk.

The magistrate recommended that he serve 100 hours' community service and adjourned the case pending a report.

TWO LISBELLAW UDR men and one of their brethren have appeared at Enniskillen Court. The court heard that when an innocent motorist and a woman friend were driving home from a fancy dress party dressed as a cowboy and indian a car came speeding up behind them, overtook them and swerved from side to side, forcing them to stop.

Three men got out and gathered around the couple's van. They accused the driver of flashing his lights at them and demanded that he get out of the vehicle. One said that he was in the police, that he had a gun, and threatened to use it if necessary. He then smashed his fist through the window of the driver's door and pounded on the van's roof. The terrified couple quickly drove off.

UDR soldier William Joseph Reilly was fined £100, sentenced to three months' imprisonment, suspended for three years, and ordered to pay £227.50 compensation. Another UDR soldier, Harold Crawford, who was fined £50, claimed in his defence that they went after the van because his brother was "on the force" and he thought the

occupants were gunmen "because they were all dressed up".

A **FOURTH MAN**, Austin Alan Crawford (not another one), of St Angelo UDR Centre, admitted damaging the front door of a flat in Old Mill Court, Lisbellaw, on the same evening, in an attempt to get into a party.

Fining him £25 with £97.40 damages, the magistrate commented:

"In my view, this is literally a case of gate-crashing a party."

FOLLOWING in the wake of the *Queen Mary* and London Bridge, the *Bibby Venture*, an 11,000-ton troop base used by the British army in the Malvinas/Falklands, is going to the United States for use as a floating detention centre for remand prisoners.

STRICTLY for republican film buffs. An eagle-eyed film fanatic informs me that in the film *Bedtime for Bonzo* in which Ronald Reagan shares the leading role with a chimpanzee (who should've know better), Ronnie's telephone number was Brighton 634.

DR DENIS BRUTUS, an academic based in Pittsburg, USA, was refused entry to Britain when he recently flew into Heathrow to visit his wife in hospital. Dr Brutus holds a single-entry visa for Britain, which is valid until October; but he had already used it to attend a conference in April.

A British Home Office spokesperson was unable to explain why Dr Brutus was arbitrarily denied entry but I'm sure it has nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that both Dennis and his wife, May, are political exiles from South Africa and he is a member of the ANC.



It's like telling a Jew, "We are not going to kill you but we are going to keep you in a death camp."

Solicitor Alistair Logan on the continued incarceration in Durham Jail by the British government of his client, Judith Ward, who was framed in 1974. She was given 12 life sentences for the M62 coach bombings in which she took no part and is now the longest-serving prisoner in Durham.

One of the reasons why Section 31 is still there, without any doubt, is that RTE journalists support the law with their own reticence. How many of them in political programmes, election reports, farming programmes filmed in the West, etc, have ever referred to the fact that the law of the land doesn't allow them include the voice of certain elected representatives.

As a self-styled public service media it should be the first duty they should think of, i.e. to inform all viewers and all listeners at all times that they are operating under state censorship.

Eugene McGloin, Longford News, Provincial Journalist of the Year.

The guns used to kill the people sent over here to defend Northern Ireland.
- Brian Feeney of the SDLP on weapons used to kill British soldiers.

NOTES



Whenever I hear the phrase "Anglo-Irish Agreement" I am in danger of dying of boredom...



How strange! I heard Seamus Mallon of the SDLP saying much the same thing just the other day!



I can't... As soon as the discussion started I began to fall asleep... It was something to do with Diplock courts...



It seems that some people believe that with three judges instead of one you would get three times as much British Justice.



I take it you're not terribly interested in all this...

