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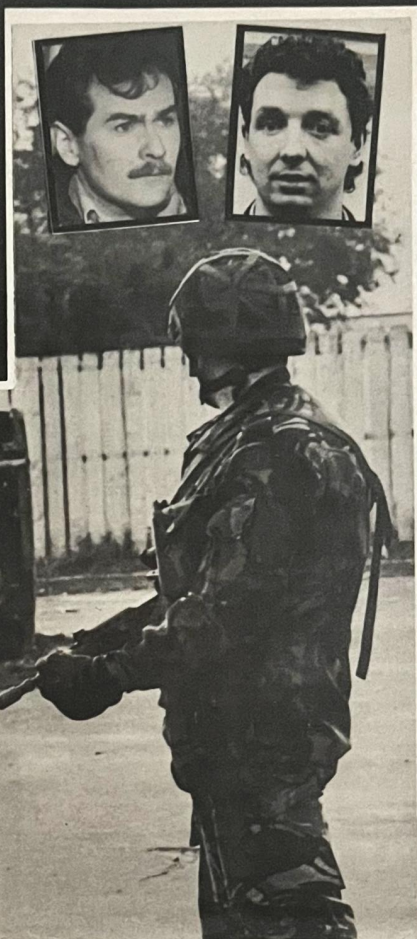
IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



PHOBLACHT

Republican News

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● The burnt-out vehicle in which Volunteers Eddie McSheffrey and Paddy Deery (inset) lost their lives in a premature explosion on Wednesday, October 28th

Tragedy in Derry

THE TRAGIC PRICE in republican lives demanded by the continued British occupation of Ireland hit home once again in Derry when two IRA Volunteers were killed in a premature explosion on Wednesday.

Volunteers Paddy Deery and Eddie McSheffrey were killed on Wednesday

afternoon as a bomb they were transporting exploded prematurely in Crom-

ore Gardens in Creggan. Both men were dead on arrival at Altnagelvin Hospital.

As soon as ambulance men removed the two Volunteers from the scene, several local people set fire to the blue Renault

car in which the bomb was to be transported. It had been commandeered earlier in the day from Colm Calle Court in the Bogside.

There were no other casualties and little damage was caused to surroun-

ding houses. Two other incendiary devices found at the scene were defused by British soldiers.

Within an hour and a half of the explosion, the crown forces had saturated the Creggan and Bogside areas.

BEREAVED FAMILIES RAIDED

Showing their utter contempt for their grief, British troops and RUC personnel raided the homes of the bereaved McSheffrey and Deery families. For over an hour the families were subjected to verbal abuse and, in the case of Colette Deery, the RUC smashed a door and a window and took away a large number of personal items.

Other homes in the Bogside area were badly damaged by the crown forces in similar raids.

A Creggan man was also arrested by the crown forces and taken to Strand Road RUC Barracks.

To the family, friends and comrades of Volunteers Paddy Deery and Eddie McSheffrey, republicans extend deepest sympathy. We pledge to continue the struggle in which they selflessly laid down their lives.

OPINION THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

SINN FEIN'S double victory in last week's West Belfast by-elections have confirmed Sinn Fein as the largest nationalist party in Belfast, with nine representatives on Belfast Council to the SDLP's six.

It also confirms that, in spite of combined pressure applied by establishment politicians and clerics and by the media, in particular the *Irish News* which at election time becomes an annexe of the SDLP's press office, the electorate of West Belfast stands solidly behind Sinn Fein. And they have done so consistently through the last five years. The Sinn Fein vote, is not the emotional response or transient phenomenon which it was claimed to be. It is here to stay.

Sinn Fein election workers can congratulate themselves at the dramatic increase in our vote in proportion to the SDLP's.

The Hillsborough Treaty hardly came up at all on the doorsteps. West Belfast nationalists have recognised its illusory promise of change for what it is. However, the resentment caused by the British government's proposed change in electoral law was quite obvious to canvassers.

But the main factor in Sinn Fein's victory is Sinn Fein's consistent record in the area, the fact that its activists, elected or not, come from and live in the very area which they represent, that they take part in every aspect of the nationalist struggle for change, whether it is about housing conditions like Fra McCann in Divis Flats, or culture like Martin O Muilleoir in Andersonstown.

Sinn Fein representatives are of the people who voted for them: the dispossessed, oppressed working-class nationalists of Belfast. The people chose their own to speak for them, and the people's voice will be heard loud and clear, regardless of British military or legal repression.

JUDICIAL REVIEW OF STRABANE INQUEST

A JUDICIAL REVIEW of the inquest in Strabane held earlier this year into the deaths of three IRA Volunteers in February 1985 was announced on Tuesday evening, October 27th.

The application for the review was made on behalf of the families of Charlie Breslin and brothers Michael and David Devine. The three were runned down in a fusillade of bullets in the early hours of Saturday morning, February 23rd 1985, by members of the SAS.

Controversy surrounded the inquest into their deaths, which lasted for several months and was the longest inquest ever held in the North. Conflicting evidence was given by members of the crown forces, RUC forensic experts and civilian witnesses, several of whom suffered considerable harassment and abuse by the RUC because they were

prepared to give evidence. There was also criticism of the manner in which the coroner, Ronnie O'Doherty, presided over the inquest.

IRREGULARITIES

The decision to allow the judicial review leaves the solicitors acting for the families with 14 days to prepare their case before it will be heard by a panel of judges. It is believed that at least 20 points of irregularity in the inquest have been listed by the families' legal advisers.

If the dead Volunteers' families win the review, a new inquest will have to be heard.

WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ... WAR

Volunteers killed

THE TRAGIC DEATHS in Derry on Wednesday of two IRA Volunteers, Eddie McSheffrey and Paddy Deery, while on active service, cast a shadow over IRA operations in the North. Their deaths are a sad reminder of the risks IRA Volunteers daily face while fighting against the British crown forces in the occupied Six Counties.

The week's attacks began in Derry on Wednesday evening, October 21st, when IRA Volunteers opened fire with automatic rifles at British soldiers. The ambush occurred just before 8am as a mobile British army patrol travelled along Iniscarn Road in the Creggan area. No hits were claimed.

RUC INSPECTOR

Also in Derry, on Sunday night, IRA Volunteers placed a bomb at the home of RUC Inspector Dougie Hogg in the Waterside area of the city.

A warning was telephoned to the Samaritans and the area was evacuated. A British army explosives expert detonated the bomb causing slight damage to the house. A second device, an anti-personnel booby-trap, was left nearby. However, it was spotted by the crown forces and eventually defused.

HIGH COURT BOMBED

In a well-planned operation on Friday morning, October 23rd, IRA Volun-

teers from the Belfast Brigade breached the tight security around the heavily-guarded High Court in Belfast and placed a 100lb bomb.

At about 9am an armed Volunteer held up security staff in a hut at the back of the court. A hoax bomb was placed on a table with the comment, "There you are." At the same time, a 100lb bomb hidden in a rucksack was placed where it would not attract the attention of the crown forces, who were hurriedly evacuating the building.

A short time later, the detonator exploded but the bomb failed to explode. British troops and RUC personnel who were standing nearby had a narrow escape.

BRIT WOUNDED BY GRENADE

One British soldier was seriously injured when IRA Volunteers hit a British army Saracen with one of its recently designed impact grenades.

The attack took place late

on Monday night as the two-vehicle patrol was travelling along the Springfield Road towards the Henry Taggart RUC/British army barracks. At about 10pm, and less than 50 yards from the crown forces base, one IRA Volunteer stepped forward and threw the grenade.

The device struck the vehicle, exploding and penetrating its heavy armour, injuring one of the British soldiers inside. The Saracen drove erratically towards its base where the soldier was carried to its relative safety.

BOMB TRAP SPRUNG

In a carefully-laid ambush on Tuesday, IRA Volunteers lured the crown forces into a bomb trap after placing several small bombs in Mackies factory in West Belfast.

The operation commenced shortly before midday when three bombs were placed by IRA Volunteers in the administrative block of the factory complex. One bomb exploded, causing some damage. The other two were defused.

The area was sealed off by a large force of British soldiers and RUC. For five hours, while British army explosives experts worked on the devices in Mackies, an IRA active service unit waited for the crown forces to approach the corner of the Springfield/Kashmir Roads where they had earlier placed an anti-personnel mine.

Just before 4.30pm, the mine was detonated, blasting one soldier several yards across the road where he lay injured until his shocked colleagues went to his assistance.



● A British army engineer carrying away defused bombs planted by Volunteers of the Belfast Brigade at the High Court on Friday, October 23rd, and (inset) British troops on the run after Tuesday's booby-trap explosion on the Springfield Road, Belfast



● The Anti-Extradition Campaign's picket on Fianna Fail's Dublin HQ

BY MAIRTIN MacDIARMADA

FIANNA FAIL has accused the Leinster House opposition parties of succumbing to British pressure and changing their stance on the extradition issue.

The claim by the Fianna Fail government said that higher than normal diplomatic pressure had been used by the British to influence Fine Gael and the Progressive Democrats. This included meetings with the British ambassador, Nicholas Fenn. Opposition parties were quick to deny that they had changed their position of opposing the implementation of extradition until some type of reform has been indicated in the Six-County judicial system.

What this week's flurry of accusations and denials shows most clearly is the severe pressure under which the Fianna Fail government now finds itself. On the one hand are the threats from the British, as expressed by Tom King last week; on the other, is the escalating opposition to extradition within Fianna Fail, including from numerous constituency branches and backbench TDs. The extent of opposition seems to be pushing Fianna Fail towards postponement of the Act.

BRITISH LOBBYING

The Irish Anti-Extradition Committee welcomed the intervention by the Dublin government to highlight pressure by the British Embassy on the issue of extradition. Committee chairperson Alasdair Rutherford said:

"It has been clear for the past few weeks that the British government has been engaging in an extensive lobbying campaign to force the Irish government to allow the Extradition Act to go through despite widespread opposition. Not only opposition leaders but the editorials of national newspapers have begun to argue that the Act is of symbolic importance only.

"The Extradition Act is the most extreme form of legislation necessary to ratify the European Convention. The other signatories to the convention have, almost without exception, introduced safeguards such as the requirement for prima facie evidence, refused to extradite their

BRITISH PRESSURE GROWS

own citizens, or a refusal to extradite to special courts.

"The Irish Anti-Extradition Committee calls on the government not just to postpone the Act but to repeal it entirely."

The list of local authorities and public bodies calling for the repeal of the Extradition Act continues to grow with Nenagh Urban Council in Tipperary the latest to add its voice.

The UDC unanimously backed a call from Sinn Féin Councillor Jimmy Nolan to oppose the Act. Several Fianna Fail councillors spoke strongly against extradition and all the councillors were opposed to its implementation on December 1st.

EX-CABINET MINISTER

Kevin Boland, former Fianna Fail Cabinet minister, addressed a well-attended public meeting on extradition in Castlebar, County Mayo, last week. In a hard-hitting speech he called on the Fianna Fail government to withdraw the Extradition Act. He recalled their objections to the Act while they were in opposition and asked them not to do a U-turn on this as they had on other issues.

If the proposed Extradition Act is ratified, he argued, this government will be saying that the actions of the people who founded this state were not political acts.

He pointed out the eagerness of all the major parties and the media to create an artificial situation where extradition will be conceded in exchange for some minor adjustments in the Diplock court system. His opposition to extradition is more fundamental — no Irish citizen who stands accused of a political offence should be extradited.

Pat Quinn gave an account of his extradition from Dublin to London in 1985. He told the meeting that the evidence which was accepted in an Irish court, on the word of a British police officer, was so irrelevant that he had to be released without answering any charges in Britain after all. He received no compensation for the months spent in British jails or the cost of fighting his extradition in the court here.

The Westport meeting elected a committee to co-ordinate the campaign in County Mayo.

TIM PAT COOGAN

The former editor of the *Irish Press*, Tim Pat Coogan, was one of those who addressed an anti-extradition meeting on Friday, October 23rd, in Dun Laoghaire. Coogan said that the Extradition Act was designed to criminalise people in the context of the conflict in the Six Counties. He said it was a bad law, had nothing to do with the well-

being of the people of the 26 Counties, and should be scrapped.

This was echoed by other speakers including Fr Denis Carroll and Joe Costello.

A general meeting of Queen's University Students' Union in Belfast on Wednesday, October 21st, passed motions against extradition and any oaths designed to disenfranchise large sections of the nationalist people in the North.

On extradition the several hundred students present were in broad agreement that the standard of legal justice in the Six Counties was such that:

"The extradition of political suspects to the Six Counties would immediately lead to the violation of their civil and human rights."

With reference to the plight of Irish prisoners in Britain the meeting decided that extradition of Irish people to Britain could not be contemplated by anyone concerned for justice.

WEST CORK

West Cork has been the latest area to organise against the Extradition Act. An action committee was formed after a meeting in the town on October 24th. After the meeting, newly-elected PRO Anne O'Leary said that opposition had to be expressed to the extradition of Irish citizens to any type of court in the North or in Britain. Also raised was the possible unconstitutionality of extraditing Irish citizens to the Six Counties.

FF EXEC MEMBER HEADS COMMITTEE

A well-attended public meeting was held in Ennis, County Clare, on Tuesday, October 27th. Three members of the Fianna Fail National Executive were present and one of them, Michael McNamara, was elected chairperson of the Clare committee.

Clare County Council has already called on the government not to implement the act. Among other local bodies opposed is the West Clare Hurling Board of the GAA.

In Limerick, 30 people took part in a picket of the opening of a new Garda barracks by Justice Minister Gerry Collins. The protest was organised by the Limerick Anti-Extradition Committee which has also distributed hundreds of leaflets in the city centre.

BY MARTIN O'NEILL

IN OCTOBER 1929, a financial 'panic' began which spread round the world. Wall Street share values fell until 1932, when they had lost 90% of their value. It led to the 'Great Depression' which lasted till the end of the Second World War. They said it could not happen again. It has.

Speculative yuppie greed turned to abject fear in the course of a Monday morning in New York on October 19th 1987. The cause: a massive amount of US government debt waiting like a hangman to strangle the world economy.

Newspaper and TV commentators have pointed to the events that sparked off the crash and accelerated its downward spiral:

■ The latest US attack on Iran in the Persian Gulf.

■ Automatic computerised stock trading on Wall Street.

■ The latest monthly US trade figures.

■ The threat by the US Treasury Secretary, James Baker, to allow the dollar to fall in retaliation for a rise in West German interest rates.

These reasons are not the fundamental causes of the crash.

The economic system the majority of the world's population suffers under is totally unstable. The activities of a tiny bunch of speculators in New York, London (of which the Dublin Stock Exchange is still a financially insignificant part), Tokyo and Hong Kong are at the visible public end of a socially-irrational financial and economic system.

SHARE SPECULATION

The level of 'confidence' buyers and sellers have in a share from a particular company is based on guesswork. At its most basic these guesses should relate to the ability of the company concerned to make profits and pay out an annual dividend to shareholders. Speculators guess whether its price will go up or down. They buy when they think the price will rise and sell when they think it will fall. If they guess right they don't even need to spend their own money since they have 14 days to pay up - if buying and selling takes place at a profit within the 14-day period no money needs to be shelled out.

Before last Monday week, share prices had risen well beyond any realistic relationship to profits. It was a classic speculative boom where everybody hoped to 'get out' before the crash came. In the end there were no 'bigger' fools around to pick up the shares when the day of reckoning arrived. Sellers outnumbered buyers by 36 to 1. Prices fell through the floor. The livelihood of millions seem beholden to a bunch of glorified bookers' runners and millionaire punters.

In this parasitic game of second guessing the links between what happens in the madcap scramble on the stock exchange floor and the real wealth production on the factory floor have become separated to the point where some capitalists think wealth increases actually stem from stock exchange speculation. The term 'popular capitalism' and the successful privatisation measures in Britain were all part of this false dawn. The mad scheme of Dessie O'Malley and John Bruton to sell off Aer Lingus and the ESB to their rich friends could only be put forward in a climate where money seemed to expand at will on the stock exchange floor.

The bubble was bound to burst.

The real value of money is based on what workers and farmers produce, not on share speculation. The present problem is caused by the contradictory relationship between capitalist profit, which runs the system, and the real economic needs of the world's producers.

At least since the early 1980s investors have refused to expand production because they were unsure of a large enough return from this type of manufacturing investment. Such productive investment that has taken place has been geared towards wage

the CRASH of '87



Relative small-timers will have lost most of their savings.

The poor of all nations will bear the brunt of this economic madness while most of the rich will get off scot free, despite any media sob-stories to the contrary about skyscraper suicide bids.

FALTERING RECOVERY - INEVITABLE CRASH

The faltering steps away from severe worldwide recession in the early '80s, on which the share boom was based, was also built on a mountain of debt. This is the fundamental cause of today's crash. The near 1,000 billion dollar Third World debt owed by 60% of the world's population in the poorer countries (including the 26-County state) to US, Japanese and European banks is only about 10% to 15% of worldwide dollar debt.

Most of this debt is owed by the United States itself.

The US government debt is twice that of the Third World. US corporations and ordinary US household credit account for the lion's share of the rest of it (see Table 1).

Owed by	billions of dollars
US government	2,000
US corporations	2,800
US household	1,900
Third World	950
Other countries' debt	700

Source: International Viewpoint, May 5th 1986

Ronald Reagan's huge military build-up - his Star Wars programme and the massive build-up in 'conventional forces' - has

been paid for with borrowed money. It had nothing to do with the real needs of US citizens, only with the worldwide reactionary military role of the US government. This borrowing has been financed by European and Japanese capitalists buying US government bonds and depositing money in US banks at higher interest rates than were available at home.

High US interest rates kept the dollar at a high exchange rate against other currencies. This caused US manufactured goods to be dearer than those of the EEC countries and Japan. US manufactured goods were not competitive with imports like Japanese cars, videos and other electrical goods taking larger and larger chunks of the US market. The US has been running a huge trade deficit (imports growing much faster than exports) alongside its budget deficit - which also, in turn, has to be paid for.

In other words, economic growth in the EEC and Japan is based on US borrowing spending financed by the US borrowing money lent by the EEC and Japan!

The longer this bubble took to burst the worse the effects were going to be.

The US could devalue the dollar - it was the threat to do just this that led to the disagreement between Baker and the West Germans. But that would devalue the dollar holdings of foreign investors. They would then withdraw their dollars which would lead to financial collapse in the US and a recession since there would be no money to buy West German BMWs and Japanese videos. Thus the recession would spread to the EEC and Japan whose economies in turn would collapse.

In fact the dollar has been sliding steadily since January 1985, losing 40% of its value against major currencies. This did not immediately cause the withdrawal of Japanese investment in the US since interest rates remained high. It was the US calling on the Japanese to get their own consumers to spend more in order to stimulate an export market for US export goods. When the Japanese did this in the spring, through a 35 billion dollar tax cut and public spending increases, their cash-rich companies invested in their own economy rather than in the US debt. This caused a massive drop in money coming in to the US. In July, private lending to the US was 18.5 billion dollars; in August it collapsed to 1.4 billion dollars.

In turn, just before last Monday week, the US accused the West Germans of deflating their economy by raising German interest rates. The US said they would let the dollar fall to the floor and effectively make West German exports to the US too dear. That, however, would not only cause a recession in West Germany it would stimulate inflation - caused by more cheaper US dollars in the US. The inflation in the US would itself lead to a collapse of investment and recession.

FIT TO BURST

The expanding bubble was fit to burst. It has nothing fundamentally to do with computers or changes of personnel at the top in the US Treasury or the 'inexperience' of the yuppie investors. It is a problem of the collapse of capitalist profitability which will have consequences as severe as those of the 1930s. US attempts to bring their deficits 'under control' will initially be at the expense of US workers and farmers. The poor in countries like Ireland will especially suffer. As a Mexican banker said:

"If the US is going to have a recession you can forget about the Third World countries paying their foreign debt."

Charlie Haughey can say goodbye to the Dublin financial services scheme which, while being a further economic sell-out, would have stimulated the building sector for a short period. Companies like Jefferson Smurfit - which are basically parasitic in relation to the 26-County economy - with over 85% of their assets in the US, will hit hard. Not only will the recession hit them, their shaky borrowings backed up by falling share prices will also threaten their merger mania ventures in the US.

Irish workers and farmers will be battered yet again with further contraction of US multinational and collapse of export markets. Only a return of economic sovereignty with state ownership of financial institutions in order to direct investment toward Irish economic growth rather than speculative and foreign investment will begin to solve the problem. That means the expulsion of all foreign political and economic control from the whole of Ireland. It means linking up with other countries trying to shake off imperialist economic and political interference.

Only Sinn Fein has the policies and the capacity to carry out these tasks in Ireland. The establishment parties are the economic and political servants of Thatcherism and Reaganomics. That is a bankrupt road - it's time to call in the receiver.

Sinn Fein victory

BY MOIRA CONNOLLY

THE HARD WORK and dedication of Sinn Fein's election workers paid off last week with both Fra McCann and Mairtin O Muilleoir winning seats on Belfast City Council. The count, which finished shortly before noon on October 23rd, increased Sinn Fein's total to nine seats, making it the largest non-unionist party on the council.

McCann's victory in the Lower Falls constituency was a landslide win with Sinn Fein polling 5,425 first preference votes to the SDLP's 1,918.

While there was never any real doubt concerning McCann securing the seat, Sinn Fein knew that it had a difficult fight on its hands in Upper Falls.

On paper, the SDLP and the other parties with whom they interchange transfers together have more votes than Sinn Fein. However, despite over 80% of the transfer votes going to the SDLP, on the second count, O Muilleoir was well clear of the quota needed for victory.

O Muilleoir's success is a significant indicator of electoral preferences in the area and establishes Sinn Fein as the major party in the Upper Falls constituency.

The by-election results will leave the SDLP wondering what strategy to adopt next. It is no doubt aware that its defeat in the two constituencies comes within a few weeks of the second anniversary of the Hillsborough Agreement, which was supposedly a lifeline for the SDLP and should by now have stemmed nation-



● Newly-elected Councillors Fra McCann and Mairtin O Muilleoir are held shoulder-high by jubilant Sinn Fein election workers (above) Work for everyone on election day

alist 'alienation' but hasn't, as shown by the votes for Sinn Fein. Election victories such as this give the lie to their analysis of the Sinn Fein vote and show the reality for nationalists since Hillsborough.

ALLIANCE COLLAPSES

The Alliance Party will also be facing some serious internal questioning. The party's vote virtually collapsed with its Lower Falls candidate only receiving

173 first preference votes. Compared with Will Glendenning's 1,113 first preferences in the May 1985 council elections, its campaign this time around was a disaster. The story was much the same in the Upper Falls.

The mood on the Falls Road was jubilant as the two new city councillors made their way up from City Hall. West Belfast MP Gerry Adams congratulated Fra McCann and Mairtin O Muilleoir and described the result as not just a victory for Sinn Fein but as a victory

for the people of West Belfast. Calling the vote a decisive one for real and lasting peace in Ireland, Adams said:

"The massive vote for Sinn Fein in Thursday's by-election, which was underlined by the landslide result in the Lower Falls constituency, is an endorsement of Sinn Fein's record of active representation in the area, and demonstrates the commitment of the West Belfast people to the achievement of Irish freedom, real justice and lasting peace."

LOWER FALLS

1st preferences

Gerry Cosgrove (SDLP)	1,918
Fra McCann (Sinn Fein)	5,425
Mary McMahon (Workers' Party)	850
Pat Maskey (Alliance)	173
David Officer (Labour & TUG)	116

Quota 4,264

Total poll 8,527

UPPER FALLS

1st preferences

Brendan Burns (Workers' Party)	225
Michael Duffy (Labour & TUG)	170
Gerry Kelly (SDLP)	3,375
Michael Morrissey (CPI)	70
Dan McGuinness (Alliance)	302
Mairtin O Muilleoir (Sinn Fein)	4,101

Quota 4,122

Total poll 8,243

DON'T BE AN APRIL FOOL

CLAIM NOW

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE in the Guildhall on October 26th, Derry City Council took positive steps towards countering the impoverishing effects of the planned implementation next April of the Social Fund with the launch of a major benefits take-up campaign in the city.

The council's decision to spearhead a campaign of public information and advice on the effects of the new legislation arose from a Sinn Fein motion proposed by Councillor Dodie McGuinness at last month's council meeting. The motion, which urged the council to provide positive assistance to welfare rights and community groups presently fighting the proposed cuts in benefits, was unanimously adopted at the meeting.

Two weeks later, councillors and council officials met with representatives of the Belfast Law Centre and drew up a comprehensive plan of action. This involves a council-sponsored benefits take-up scheme, the production of in-

formation sheets and posters and stickers with the slogan, "Don't be an April Fool, Claim Now," and the placing of half-page advertisements in the local press outlining details of the council campaign.

At a special sitting of the council on October 20th, the Derry city councillors were briefed in detail on the likely repercussions on the city's 30,000 supplementary benefit claimants of the new legislation. Danny Breslin of the Belfast Law Centre gave a highly informative three-hour lecture and tape and slide show on the Social Fund.

A blueprint of the council's strategy of action has been drawn up by the Belfast Law Centre and is freely



● DODIE MCGUINNESS

available to everyone.

ESTATES TO BE VISITED

At a press conference on Monday, which was attended by observers from Omagh and Strabane, the Derry city councillors outlined plans to visit each Derry housing estate over the next four months with information on the future changes in benefit and what people are presently entitled to. The campaign will begin

in Cregan on November 9th.

The councillors appealed for wholehearted support for their campaign from the media, church agencies, the business community and all organisations involved in community care.

Sinn Fein Councillor Dodie McGuinness told AP/RN that the Derry councillors realised that while motions opposing the new social security legislation have been passed in a number of councils, none had

taken a position to actively oppose the legislation changes.

"Our main stumbling block was how to obtain council funding without affecting the funding that Derry City Council already allocated to voluntary welfare rights groups in the city. We did this through the Community Services budget which allowed us to acquire funding for the campaign as a worthwhile service to the community."

McGuinness believes the Derry City Council campaign is one of the most constructive pieces of work the council has yet undertaken and "an all-too-infrequent example of the council going out into the community and doing something positive for the ordinary person in the street".

CHILD BENEFIT FROZEN

In further attacks on the unemployed, one-parent families and the low paid, the British government announced on Tuesday that child benefit is to be frozen for two years at its current level of £7.25 a week.

During his statement to Westminster, British Social Services Secretary John Moore refused to say whether or not the British government was planning to make child benefit means-tested. He would only say that the system is "under constant review".

Tullamore resists rates

THE WATER RATES controversy has overflowed into County Offaly where the town of Tullamore has been a centre of resistance to the punitive charges.

Faced with the refusal of up to two thirds of the townspeople to pay water rates the council has resorted to the tactic of threatening to cut off people's water supply. Cut-off threats to ten households prompted the local branch of the National Association of Tenants' Organisations to step up its campaign against the rates.

NATO pickets were placed outside the premises where Ger Connolly, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, was holding his weekly advice clinic. They also picketed the house of a council worker who assisted in cutting off water supplies, in breach of the trade union movement's ban on such activities.

FLANAGAN CHALLENGED

A large number of townspeople attended a NATO public meeting the next day, Sunday, October 18th, where opposition to the charges was reaffirmed. Fianna Fail Councillor John Flanagan was challenged on his U-turn regarding water charges which he now supports. During the general election, while canvassing for Fianna Fail, Flanagan promised people in Tullamore that a vote for his party meant the abolition of service charges.



Set-up foiled

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A PROMINENT South Down Sinn Fein member has foiled an attempt by the British army to plant rifles in his car.

Joe Harper, from St Columban's Villas, Kilkeel, became suspicious of a light shining through the curtains of his living-room at around 6.10pm on Sunday, October 25th. When Harper investigated further, he saw that two British army jeeps were parked alongside his car which had obviously been opened as the interior light was on. A British soldier was crouched beside the driver's side of the car and had two rifles in his possession. Seeing this, Joe Harper went outside. He told AP/RN:

"The Brit immediately slammed my car door shut. He threw one of the rifles into the back of the jeep, got in with the other rifle, and drove off at speed. A soldier in the other jeep panicked and shouted, 'Let's get the fuck out of here!'"

RED-HANDED

Harper believes that he caught the soldiers red-handed trying to plant rifles in his car and set him up for prosecution. He recognised the soldier involved in the attempt to place the rifles in his car as the same one who has been harassing him for the past fortnight. No later than Saturday, October 24th, this soldier stopped Harper on the Kilkeel Road and, during an hour-long detention along the roadside, he told Harper:

"You'll not see the Ard-Fheis if I've anything to do with it."

Harper also told AP/RN that British troops had stopped a number of local people and enquired about his movements and who he has been seen with.

STRABANE DEMANDS ACTION

ANGRY COUNCILLORS passed several Sinn Fein motions at Tuesday night's Strabane Council meeting calling for immediate action from the various statutory bodies after last week's floods.

The floods, which caused extensive damage and hardship to large areas of Tyrone and Fermanagh, hit the border town of Strabane particularly hard. Following the collapse of a river wall shortly after midnight on Wednesday, October 21st, much of the town centre was under several feet of water.

Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr proposed that the statutory agencies be invited to an extraordinary meeting of the council to discuss what action

is necessary to clear up the devastation. It was also agreed that an all-party delegation, including Sinn Fein, should seek an urgent meeting with direct-ruler Tom King to demand action.

At the weekend, Ivan Barr confronted King when he made a publicity visit to Strabane to view the damage. Barr approached him when he arrived in Bridge Street, where the Sinn Fein councillor lives.

"I asked him if he was going to make funds available to compensate local residents and pointed out that his government had announced its intention to provide £1 million to restock Kew Gardens in England with rare trees to replace those destroyed in the storms. No sooner had I pointed out that people in Strabane were more in need of finance than those gardens than I was grabbed by the RUC and forcibly held up against a wall until King had left the area."

Barr criticised the behaviour of the RUC and added that he wasn't surprised that King had left Strabane without giving any commitment for assistance for the region.

BLATANT SECTARIANISM
Also in Strabane, there was uproar at the local council meeting the previous week

when unionist councillors, taking advantage of the absence of three nationalist councillors, reversed a previous council decision to lease a building in Castleberg to a local community association.

The building was to be used as a community hall by the Churchtown & Area Community Group, which represents nationalist estates in Castleberg. Five months ago, the council had unanimously agreed to lease it, but at the council meeting the seven OUP and DUP councillors successfully forced through a proposal that the old railway building be turned into a tourist office.

Sinn Fein councillors immediately condemned the decision which Ivan Barr said was based on "political and sectarian grounds". The chairperson of the association, Paddy Devlin, accused the unionist councillors of "blatant discrimination" in preventing them from acquiring the premises.

He said: "They have deprived our small but very effective community association from providing facilities for a community impoverished by high unemployment."

ARMAGH ADJOURNS
Unionist councillors in Armagh again adjourned council business after only 15 minutes

on Monday, October 26th, not before they passed a motion proposing that three OUP and DUP councillors be sent to London at ratepayers' expense to participate in a picket of the British House of Commons on November 12th.

Their decision was slammed by Councillor Tommy Carroll who pointed out that unionists were "quite willing to use ratepayers' money even though some of them are withholding their rates in protest at the London-Dublin Agreement". Carroll told AP/RN that he would be seeking legal advice.

The Sinn Fein councillor was also angry at the refusal of the council to deal with several important motions he had placed on the agenda. These included the monitoring of sectarian discrimination in the council workforce, a ban on councillors participating in junkets, and the provision of a permanent site for travellers in Armagh. Carroll accused the unionists of "turning their backs on the people they claim to represent".

CIVIL DEFENCE STORE RENO
The British Ministry of Defence is behind the takeover of an industrial site in Castlewellan, County Down, for use as a Civil Defence store.

Plans to move the current store at Besbrook in South Armagh to the Moss Lane factory were released some months ago by Sinn Fein Councillor Frank McDowell. He argued that in an area of high unemployment the empty factory should be used to provide jobs and proposed the establishment by the District Council of an abattoir. Down District Council lodged several strong protests at the establishment of the store.

Two weeks ago, lorries began arriving at the vacant factory. McDowell criticised the attitude of the DHSS and the NIO:

"This area is in urgent need of jobs with many of our young people being forced to emigrate. What we don't need is a useless British Ministry of Defence store."

WOMEN HARASSED BY RUC

ONE HUNDRED RUC and British army personnel, in full riot gear and backed up by a helicopter and sniffer dogs, surrounded 50 women protesters demanding the closure of the Lanark Way road in West Belfast on Monday afternoon, October 26th.

Lanark Way, situated between the nationalist Springfield Road and loyalist Shankill Road, has been used as an access and escape route for loyalist assassins. It has been picketed on a daily basis since September.

On Monday, the women were threatened with prosecution for "obstruction" and heavy fines. They were then photographed by RUC men. In response, to avoid prosecution, they moved their picket down to a zebra crossing and kept walking across it. A local man carrying a hurley stick down Lanark Way was arrested for possession of "an offensive weapon".

RIDICULOUS

A residents' committee spokesperson, Celine Fitzpatrick said: "It was ridiculous to have so many armed soldiers in riot gear surrounding us. All we're trying to do is protect our community against loyalist assassins. People here are living in fear and at night



● CELINE FITZPATRICK

there's hardly a person who'll walk along the Springfield in case they're shot. They say it would be too expensive to close the Lanark Way link, so it's a case of the authorities putting money before people's lives."

The women have temporarily postponed the daily protest while they reappraise the situation and explore other channels of action but, said a determined Celine Fitzpatrick, "We will continue to highlight this situation whatever way we can."

SECTARIAN ASSASSINS STRIKE

FOUR CHILDREN were badly shocked after two hooded loyalist gunmen forced their way into their Ballymurphy home on the Whiteeroo Road on Wednesday afternoon.

The four children included a boy aged 14 and his sister aged 4 who were at home with their cousins (aged 3 and 4) when the gunmen struck.

Shortly after 2pm, the two men, both hooded and armed with handguns, forced

the front door and rushed into the house. They demanded to know who was at home and threatened to shoot the 14-year-old boy. They searched the house before leaving.

Local Sinn Fein councillor Sean Keenan, condemning the attack, pointed out that the Whiteeroo Road is constantly patrolled by the British army and RUC and the front door of the house attacked is under observation from the nearby Fort Jericho British army base. He added:

"Nationalists need to be extremely cautious. It is deeply worrying that in an area more regularly and heavily patrolled by the British forces than anywhere else in the North, loyalist gunmen have succeeded in recent weeks in carrying out two attacks. Francisco Notarantano, a 66-year-old retired taxi-driver, was murdered in his bed on October 9th."

Gaelic banned by NIO

PRISONERS in the North's jails are banned from playing Gaelic football and could face up to 28 days' loss of remission if found doing so. In other words, a prisoner can serve the equivalent of a two-month sentence just for playing a game.

This revelation was made on October 23rd, during a court action brought against the Long Kesh authorities by two Belfast men, Matthew Lundy, who is serving a life sentence, and Gerard Hodgins, released two years ago, are seeking damages against the NIO after their Irish-language bibles were confiscated by prison authorities in 1985.

The two men are claiming that they were discriminated against by the prison regime on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion.

Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich presented the Irish-language bibles to around 100 prisoners

ed the names of prison staff but agreed that no such names were found.

The security issue had not previously been mentioned in any correspondence about the bibles between the NIO, the men and their solicitors. The men were told that the bibles had been seized because they were "not autograph books".

Woods also admitted that Gaelic football was prohibited. He claimed that this was not "discriminatory" towards republican prisoners but admitted there was a big demand for the game.

The judge reserved his ruling until an later date, saying it was "an important case".

Commenting on the action, Gerard Hodgins told AP/RN: "This case is simply indicative of the British govern-

ment's attitude towards the Irish language and culture. It's obvious that banning Gaelic football and confiscating Irish bibles has nothing to do with security but is just another way the British are trying to oppress nationalists in the Six Counties."

DERRY COUNCIL SUPPORT

In further action last week concerning Gaelic culture, Derry City Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee decided to support the demands of prisoners wanting to learn Irish.

The committee heard from two ex-prisoners, John O'Reilly and Doncha Mac Neill, that Gaelic games were banned, the wearing of the Fainne was prohibited, and Irish study materials denied.

Prisoners are now demanding the right to send and receive letters in Irish, Irish courses for those who seek them, an end to the censorship of Irish literature, the right to speak Irish during visits and to wear the Fainne, and provision for playing Gaelic games and getting traditional musical instruments into the jail.

Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Hugh Brady told the committee that the British government's Prisons Minister had lied to the Council every time it raised issues regarding facilities in Long Kesh and it was now time to confront him.

"Every encouragement should be given to the prisoners in their endeavours to learn the Irish language and other aspects of Gaelic culture."

DIM PROJECTION FOR FILM INDUSTRY

BY ALEX WEST

"THE MYTH that Charlie Haughey is some sort of cultural guardian, that he is concerned with the arts in Ireland, has been shattered. He could have done nothing more damaging than closing the Film Board," Michael Algar, former chief executive of the Irish Film Board, told AP/IRN last Thursday, October 22nd.

A funeral wreath was placed on the door of the now-defunct Irish Film Board by film director Pat Murphy on behalf of the 26-County Action Committee for a Single State Agency for Film.

In June, the Board was ordered by the government to stop all expenditure and then closed down on October 10th.

In July, the Action Committee was formed with the aim of developing a comprehensive strategy for the development of an Irish film industry. It is a broad-based committee and includes representatives from the Association of Independent Film Makers, ITGWU, Irish Actors' Equity, the Dublin Film Festival, along with many others involved in film production.

TAX INCENTIVE

Fianna Fail recently introduced a tax incentive for film-makers in the Finance Act. If a film-maker can raise 40% of the

funding from private industry, the investor will be allowed to write it off as a tax loss over three years. The Action Committee welcomed this move, but pointed out that the scheme can in no way replace the Film Board. "Essential cultural requirements," says the Action Committee, "are unlikely to be served by the investment scheme."

Pat Murphy told AP/IRN: "At the end of the day, small Irish film-makers will not benefit from the tax scheme; certainly there's no way a first-time film-maker will get that sort of funding from the private sector. The people who will benefit will be the huge, well-established American and British film industries."

"We don't need any more films that depict Ireland like a Bond Fatle brochure, or like Beirut. We want films that deal with the reality of Irish life and for that we need a strong, Irish film industry."

KILLING THE GOOSE

In the dismantling of the Film



Michael Algar (second from left) at the wreath-laying ceremony for the Irish Film Board in Dublin on Thursday, October 22nd

Board the government has also killed the goose that laid the golden eggs. This year alone, Irish films made possible by the Film Board have returned over £400,000 in taxes to the exchequer - more than the Board's investment in them.

But the Action Committee stresses that the funding for a single state film agency need not be a direct charge on the exchequer.

Michael Algar points out that it could come from a 'dedicated' levy or tax such as the 'National Lottery, small levies on blank video tapes, or video rentals or on cinema seats.

"Early last year, VAT in cinemas was reduced from 23% to 10%. This did not result in a drop in cinema seat prices. On their present turnover this means that the government has given cinema

owners a present of an extra £7 million every year. That money could be used to develop an Irish film industry."

Algar believes that the decision to close the Film Board was taken without proper consideration of its effects:

"I can see no coherent policy here. The government seems to have given no thought to either the economic or the cultural consequences. The exchequer is going to lose money and the country is going to lose out culturally," he says.

LOOKING PROMISING

The closure of the Film Board and the refusal of the government to set up any state agency for film comes at a time when Irish film is looking extremely promising. Over the last few years, cinema-goers have seen several low-budget, Irish-made and directed films receive critical acclaim, such as Pat Murphy's *Anne Devlin* and Cathal Black's *Pigs*. A new Irish film, *The Courier*, is already in profit before it has even reached post-production stage, because of pre-release advances by film distributors. Without a central state agency to deal with all aspects of film-making, an Irish film industry will never get off the ground.

Pusher pursued

PEOPLE living in the Ballymun estates of Poppintree and Cairn Court in Ballymun have taken action to halt drug-pushing activities which had become a problem in their area after a pusher moved in.

The community got organised after Dinah Morrison, a drug-pusher who was forced out of Finglas by the Concerned Parents Against Drugs, moved in with her sister and continued her trade. As well as drug-pushing, local residents were subjected to threats and abuse and last week they decided to force out the pusher.

A meeting attended by 100 people was held in the area on Sunday, October 25th. Members of the CPAD from Finglas and from the Central Committee were also in attendance. It was decided to send a delegation to the house where Morrison was staying with her sister, Vera Boyd. She told the delegation that she would not let her sister back into the house.

The meeting was still going on at the time and during the course of it Workers' Party TD Proinsias de Rossa attempted to prevent further organisation by CPAD. He claimed that Dublin Corporation had told them that Dinah Morrison would not be allowed as a tenant in the area. It was countered that people could not rely on the Corporation and had no way of knowing if or how long it would take for action to be taken.

De Rossa then attempted to introduce political dissent into the meeting by challenging Niall Donnelly, who had helped to organise the meeting, on his political affiliations. Donnelly, who is a member of Sinn Féin, refused to be drawn and said that

de Rossa was being deliberately divisive.

The meeting went on to form a local Concerned Parents committee and then everyone marched on the Boyd house. Vera Boyd was warned to keep her sister out and that if this was not done and there were any threats against local people the house would be treated as a pusher's house.

INCHICORE MOVES

A St Michael's Estate, Inchicore, Dublin, man who broke a public undertaking not to put up a known drug-pusher has left the area after a meeting of the Concerned Parents Against Drugs voted him out.

Seamus Lambé - who is not a drug-pusher - had allowed a former co-tenant in his flat, Peadar Nolan, to stay with him after Nolan had been evicted by the CPAD. Lambé vacated his flat on Thursday, October 22nd, after being given notice by the tenants. A reformer drug-pusher from St Michael's who has been helping the CPAD in its education and counselling programme for more than a year was rehoused by the tenants.

TENTH ARREST

A member of the CPAD Central Committee, 27-year-old Brian Kenna, is the tenth anti-drugs activist to have been arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act in recent weeks.

Kenna was walking home



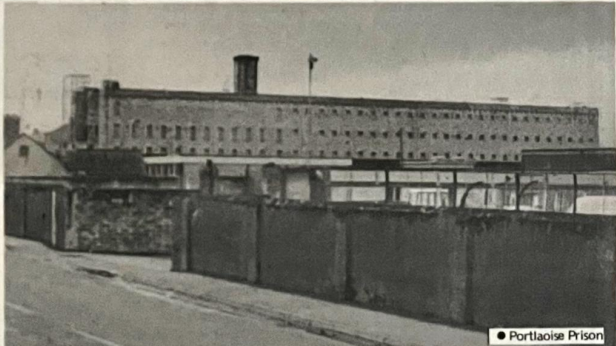
NIALL DONNELLY



BRIAN KENNA

alone after a meeting of the CPAD Central Committee at 12.30am on Wednesday morning, October 28th, when eyewitnesses reported that he had been arrested by uniformed gardai and Special Branch members based in Finglas. He was held for 12 hours before being released without charge.

The CPAD condemned "the continuous harassment of anti-drug activists by gardai while drug-pushers continue their deadly trade". The CPAD has also suggested that the Garda campaign against its members is politically motivated and has been authorised "at the highest level".



Portlaoise Prison

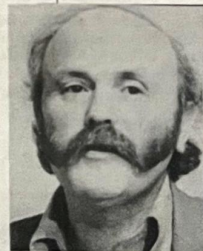
Prisoner's condition worsens

A REPUBLICAN prisoner sentenced to 12 months in Portlaoise in June is being held at the risk of his own life in the jail as he suffers from a serious heart complaint.

Mossie Prendergast, from Castlemore in County Kerry, is now suffering so badly from angina that he is confined to bed for long periods and finds it hard to move about. His condition is such that he cannot have open-heart surgery and he has deteriorated since his imprisonment, taking several bad turns.

Prendergast (49) has had heart trouble for the past 17 years and Professor Cunnane, a cardiac specialist in Dublin's Mater Hospital, sent a medical report to his solicitor for use at his trial but it arrived the day after it ended. Prendergast's wife says that his own doctor has written to the Portlaoise Prison doctor who has agreed that he shouldn't even be in prison in his condition.

Last week, he became ill in his cell during the night and the only 'assistance' given by the prison authorities was to pour water in a tube through the cell door.



MOSSIE PRENDERGAST

There is now serious concern at the condition of Prendergast and relatives and fellow prisoners are beginning to fear for his life. Long before his jailing he did not climb stairs (on his doctor's orders) but in Portlaoise he has had to climb four flights of stairs to his cell every day.

The lack of adequate medical facilities means that if a prisoner has a heart attack his chances of survival will be decreased. Though there is a hospital nearby, the time it would take to render emergency first aid would be dragged out by the high security in the prison.

CALL FOR RELEASE

The Portlaoise Prisoners' Relatives' Action Committee has called for the immediate release of Mossie Prendergast. The committee says that his continued imprisonment is putting his life in danger and that the prison authorities and the Department of Justice now have an urgent obligation to release him.

The PPRAC has also pointed out that no result from the post-mortem examination of the late Colm Maguire (who died in uncertain circumstances after being transferred from Portlaoise to Dunderdun Prison recently) has been made available to his widow.

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET A

PATRICK AND MARGARET GRALTON have been married for 53 years. They run a small farm in Drumsna, County Leitrim, where they have lived for 31 years. Before that they lived a few miles away in Efferagh. Both are cousins of Jim Gralton, the only Irishman ever deported from the 26 Counties.

As well as having first-hand knowledge of local history they hold principled and progressive views on current affairs. Recently they spoke with AP/RN's Alex West.

Your cousin, Jim Gralton, was well-known.

He's the only man to be deported — without trial — from Ireland. I first remember him coming back from America in 1921 — Bonfire night 1921. I came up from the bog that night and I saw Jimmy Gralton. No coat on him, just a shirt and trousers and I remember he had tattoos on his arm, which was very unusual at that time. He wore glasses too.

I remember the time of the Truce and he was training

that it was a sin against private property! The Free State officer said he'd shoot the first one to cross the ditch.

Tommy Gilroy, who was a good IRA man, and Jim Gralton pulled out two revolvers from under their coats and informed the Free State officer that if he moved his hand on the rifle he was with St Patrick forthwith! They jumped over the ditch and he took the land. McHugh's son-in-law, Grey, who had had the land, went down to the solicitor's office in Carrick

JIMMY USED COME AROUND WITH AN ASS AND CART WITH A COUPLE OF OTHER VOLUNTEERS COLLECTING SCRAP METAL TO MAKE AMMUNITION

Volunteers — they had a camp down the road from our house. Jimmy used to come around with an ass and cart with a couple of other Volunteers collecting scrap metal to make ammunition.

Jim was very active in the IRA at the time and they erected a hall at Efferagh and there were great dances in it. There was a committee formed and they used to hold dancing classes, teach carpentry, art and musical instruments.

A 'Direct Action Committee' was formed and people who had grievances used to come and have the case held in the hall. We had people's courts.

How did they operate?

They'd hear both sides of the case and make a decision, and that decision was binding. They were always fair and just.

There was one man, John Egan, who was evicted for not paying the rent. Himself and the wife and children were turned out onto the side of the road. The land was grabbed by a fellow called McHugh and the family ended up in Scotland. Jim Gralton and the committee

and signed it over.

The Direct Action Committee heard lots of cases from then on.

Did the Free Staters not try to put a stop to it?

The Free State army raided the hall one night; there was a meeting on, and they went to close it. They wanted to arrest Gralton and four or five others from the committee but he was able to anticipate their every move. He had barbed wire all around the hall. The Free Staters had to approach from the front and they all escaped out the back. The soldiers tried to burn it down, sprinkled petrol all around, but the people wouldn't leave. Eventually people had to leave and the soldiers started a reign of terror. My own father was nearly shot one night by some trigger-happy Free Stater.

But the hall did stay in use.

Yes, but then the priests started getting on to it. They called a mission and the Redeptionists came.

You could hear the roars

THE PRIEST TOLD THEM NOT TO BE TAKING OVER THE LAND — THAT IT WAS A SIN AGAINST PRIVATE PROPERTY

wrote for Egan to come back and they heard the case and decided to give the land back to him. So, well over a hundred men marched up to the place with Egan. When they got there they found the Free State army, led by a fellow called O'Rourke and backed up by Fr Egan, the parish priest, waiting for them. The priest told them not to be taking over the land —

of them down the town. Everyone had to go to confession and you wouldn't get absolution unless you said you wouldn't go to the hall. They went around to the houses, the priest and these two fellows, intimidating the people, saying not to go to the hall, that it was a Godless place, saying it was bought with Russian gold and all this nonsense.

So the hall gradually fell out of use. Jim Gralton had to go on the run and he ended up going back to America again.

How long did he stay away?

His brother, Charles, died in 1930 and he came back to look after the place.

At that time there was a family being evicted in Ballyfaman. They were in the gatehouse of the Earl of King-

JIMMY GRALTON

THE ONLY PERSON EVER TO BE DEPORTED FROM THE 26 COUNTIES



● Margaret and Patrick Gralton in their home in Drumsna, County Leitrim

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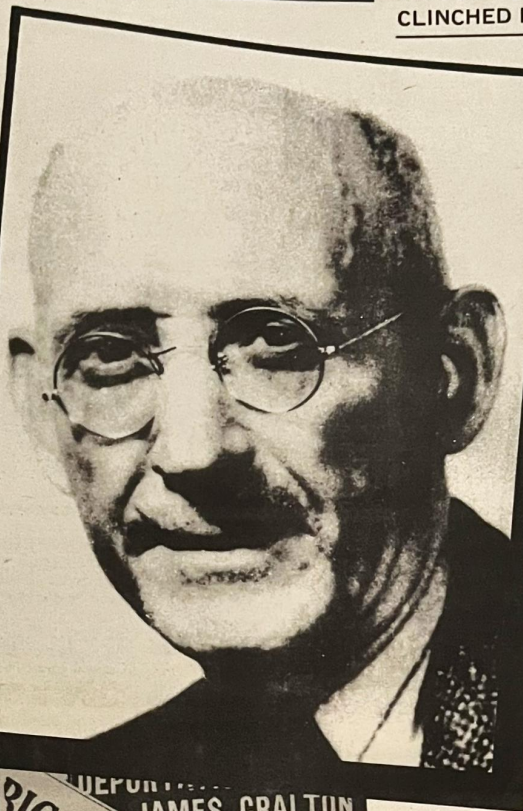
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ND PATRICK GRALTON

THE EEC WAS THE GREATEST CATASTROPHE FOR US EVER AND THIS SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT CLINCHED IT ALTOGETHER



JAMES GRALTON

knocked out of existence, that the motor industry would be finished and that's all happened now. The multinationals have taken over. The main road here in Drumsna they spent thousands on to accommodate the big trucks while the by-roads are left full of pot-holes. The EEC was the greatest catastrophe for us ever and this Single European Act has clinched it altogether.

What's your opinion of the Single European Act?

I think it's going to be very bad. Whatever Europe says we have to go along with. We're just on the periphery of Europe and we're going to come out the worst. As it is we have the highest proportion of unemployed in the EEC and by what Brian Lenihan said last week it looks as though the only

Haughey was opposed to it at the time — but he was in opposition then! He's done a U-turn on it now, of course.

I see in the papers that we're giving money indirectly to Sellafield. The way it works is we have to give money to the EEC for 'research' but it's really military research and that's what Sellafield is all about, for the production of nuclear weapons, purely for hydrogen bombs.

You're in CND, aren't you?

Yes, we have been all along. It was CND and Greenpeace who were the most aggressive in their opposition to Sellafield but the politicians are all running with it now.

What do you think of the Hillsborough Agreement?

It's a real wash-out — it will never work. They've given up all claim to the Six Counties. The Hillsborough Agreement is just a cop-out for the present government.

They're talking about extradition, handing Irish people

IT'S NOT SO LONG AGO THAT A LORRYLOAD OF BLACK AND TANS CAME OVER THE BRIDGE HERE AND SHOT A MAN DEAD FOR NO REASON

hope for them is emigration.

The sad part of it is that Labour, trade unions and the Republican Movement, all the movements of the left don't seem to be able to put up a united front for all those people. I'm sure they can agree on a lot of issues and the most important of those would be unemployment.

There's plenty of work to be done, such as forestry and the development of the bogs, if it was invested in. There's a lot of land that could be planted. Every small farmer should plant a few acres of their worst land with trees. I'd be totally opposed to the Brian Husseys and the rest of the private business interests coming in to make the rip-off.

There are thousands of acres not planted. Where will we be in 10 or 20 years' time. The land is just lying waste. It would be a good idea for all the small farmers to get together as a co-operative and take the land and plant it.

Frank Guckian of Sinn Fein tells me that Ireland is ideal for forestry.

We can grow a tree faster than any other country in Europe. It's great for the climate too; trees need a lot of rainfall so they soak up a lot of moisture, stopping flooding. And of course we've not being hit yet by acid rain.

What role do you think NATO plays in the EEC?

They're getting stronger; this government is co-operating with them and Fine Gael did also. T.J. Maher and Joe McCartin stood up in the European parliament and said they thought we should join NATO.

over to the British, the same ones responsible for the Birmingham Six, the Maguire's, the Guildford Four. It's not so long ago there was a man walking down this village and a lorryload of Black and Tans came over the bridge and shot him dead for no reason. No Irish person can expect justice from a British court.

Do you agree with divorce?

I think divorce should definitely be available. I know it would be the last resort, but for a child to be reared where two people are fighting all the time is not right. To see how some men abuse women too is terrible. You find some women beaten black and blue, really vicious now; the man who does that to a woman must be an animal altogether. Divorce is a much better solution than that sort of carry-on.

There should be family planning too. The clergy encourage people to have large families. Certainly some of them have abused their power in the past. The clergy knows as well as anyone — and probably better! — about broken marriages. There's a lot of stress on young married couples these days.

Are you optimistic about the future?

I have hope for the future. I would like to see a socialist republic but I don't know if it will happen in my time. It can be done. Cuba was a very poor country but great changes have taken place since the revolution. It could be done in Ireland too. It could be done.

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EMPT FAILS TO FRICHTEN
WORKING FARMERS.

REPORT BY
JAMES GRALTON
Without
BIG GRALTON DEFENCE
MOVEMENT GROWING
Neighbours March To His
Farm As Protest
SMALL NOT LEAVE!

try. When they came for him he told them he was just going up to get dressed but he got out of the loft window and went on the run.

When he was eventually caught they took money out of his pocket and paid his way with that. When he landed in America he had only a big wool jumper and a coat — no luggage, no money.

He started organising the Connolly Clubs as soon as he arrived.

He never returned?

No. He fully intended to return but he never did.

Another type of deportation would be enforced emigration, I suppose. Has Leitrim been hit hard?

Yes, Leitrim always contributes the highest proportion of people leaving. There's a lot of small farms and large families. There just isn't work for young people. Most of them are going to England or America — there's no point in going to most of these Common Market countries where there are millions unemployed as it is.

What do you think about the EEC?

We were against it from the beginning and we campaigned against it. We said that the small farmers would be

saying, "Oh, I see you've a communist leading you now — why don't you object?"

When was Jim Gralton deported?

Soon after that he was served with a deportation order. The clergy was responsible, there's no doubt about that. Gahigan, from Longford, was Minister for Justice and he was very great with Bishop Hoare. So Bishop Hoare got after Gahigan to sign this deportation order, and Gahigan signed it and then resigned two days after. He was given two weeks to leave the coun-

be put in a coffin. Jim Gralton gave the speech. Then some of the IRA fellows objected, saying they didn't want to be led by a communist. These right-wingers were led by this fellow who had never taken part in anything but he was living beside the priest and the priest was

LOOK OUT THE OLD EARL AND
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MOTIONS REFLECT PARTY'S PROGRESS

THE RESOLUTION last year of the major strategic debate within Sinn Fein — the issue of abstentionism from Leinster House and the pressing need for development in the 26 Counties — cleared the decks for much hard-headed analysis and work in the organisation.

That process of tackling political realities and developing policies and strategies to advance the republican cause within them is strongly reflected in the clar for this year's Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis.

There are nearly 200 motions covering a wide range of issues and reflecting the ongoing development of policy on all aspects of Irish life both in the 26- and the Six-County states.

A welcome feature of this year's clar is the absence of unnecessary resolutions and the predominance of those which obviously arise out of work on the ground by Sinn Fein members and by the organisation as a whole in fighting on the political, social and economic issues affecting the people.

Even with two full days and an evening of hard-working sessions the range of the Ard-Fheis will be restricted by time and a number of central issues are set to dominate the weekend. The largest section of the clar deals with Health & Social Welfare and focuses on the

savage attacks being made in those areas by the Thatcherite policies of governments on both sides of the border.

ECONOMIC POLICY

The related area of economic policy will be one of the main sections of the Ard-Fheis and will be debated under the headings of Government Debt, Emigration, Privatisation, Taxation and Cutbacks.

A resolution from the Ard Chomhairle notes that the 26-County government's foreign debt "with other outflows resulting from profit repatriation and the investment of capital overseas, have brought the 26-County economy to the point where independent development has become virtually impossible".

It goes on to say that a free and independent Ireland would

be part of the movement of debtor countries around the world in repudiating the debt and calling for the establishment of "a new international economic order".

The disastrous results of economic dependence — unemployment and emigration — are major issues to be debated at the Ard-Fheis. Resolutions note that emigration has once again become a central feature of Irish life and has been used to defuse protest and "allow successive governments to pursue the same mix of failed policies time and time again".

'THE OATH'

The section in the clar on Political Policy should provide lively debate, in particular on a motion stating that the Ard

Chomhairle should be "free to tackle any efforts by the British to disqualify Sinn Fein from the electoral process", a reference to proposed British legislation including anti-violence pledges and legal sanctions against candidates.

Several motions in this section arise out of the party's experience in the campaign against the Single European Act. They call for Sinn Fein to ensure that its own policy and profile is to the fore in such campaigns while fully participating in any broad front.

The contentious issue of abortion is again on this year's clar and is sure to provide more heated debate. A long resolution from Derry Comhairle Ceantair seeks to change present policy and to effectively recog-

nise a woman's "right to choose" for or against abortion.

DISCRIMINATION

The burning issue of sectarian discrimination in employment in the Six Counties will be one of the main concerns of the Ard-Fheis, with an hour on Sunday afternoon being devoted to it. The Ard Chomhairle will be seeking endorsement of the document, *An End to Discrimination*, which was launched last week.

The 1987 Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis will be a hard-working weekend of debate and policy development and should mark a milestone in the development of the organisation as a progressive revolutionary party preparing to escalate the republican struggle in the year ahead.



Republican Publications

For further information, write to or phone:
 Republican Publications, 44 Parnell Square,
 Dublin. Tel: 726932 or 51/53 Falls Road,
 Belfast. Tel: 619404.

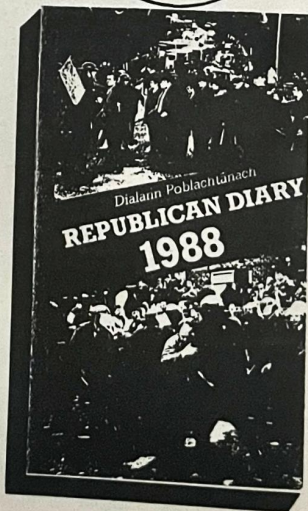


IRIS, the republican magazine, is back — with a 60-page edition!

IRIS number 11 includes, War News, features, reviews and full-colour IRA photos.

Copies are available from the usual republican outlets at £1.50.

OUT NOW!



PRICE £3

REMEMBERING THE PAST



● The meeting of the First Dail in the Mansion House, January 21st, 1919



The Mansion House

BY PETER O'ROURKE

FOR THE PAST 77 years, Dublin's Mansion House, the scene of many historic meetings, has been associated with the Republican Movement and the struggle for Irish freedom.

Prior to the 1916 Rising, many of the republican meetings in Dublin — with the exception of the Fianna Eireann Ard-Fheiseanna — were held in the Rotunda Rink, off Great Britain Street (now Parnell Street), but during the years 1916-1921 most meetings were held in either the Supper, Oak or Round Room in the Mansion House.

The Republican Movement's first association with the Mansion House dates back to 1910. In July of that year, Constance Markievicz persuaded the Mayor of Dublin to allow Fianna Eireann to hold its first Ard-Fheis in the Mansion House. For the following three years the annual Ard-Fheis was held here until 1914, when it was transferred to the Hardwicke Hall, in Hardwicke Street.

Within a couple of days of the ending of the Easter Rising of 1916, Kathleen Clarke, widow of executed leader, Tom Clarke, founded the Irish Volunteers' Dependents' Fund (IVDF) to help the families of those imprisoned and interned following the Rising. Another organisation, the Irish National Aid Association (INAA), was set up several weeks later to raise funds for the same purpose.

On August 16th, both organisations merged and became known as the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund (PDF).

Fund-raising concerts were held in the Mansion House on April 18th and June 17th 1917. A gift sale in the Mansion House on April 21st 1917 raised a considerable amount of money and indicated how widespread the sympathy and support for the republican cause was. Books were offered for

sale by such famous people as W.B. Yeats (poet), James Stephens (author), Bishop O'Dwyer of Limerick and Lady Gregory. Manuscripts and historical items were given by, among others, Mrs. Pearse, mother of Padraig and Willie; Madame O'Rahilly, widow of The O'Rahilly; and Mrs. Ceannat, widow of Eamonn Ceannat. During the 1920s and 1930s the Mansion House was again used for fund-raising events by the PDF and during the following decade by its successor, An Cumann Cabhrach (the Republican Prisoners' Dependents' Fund).

AMNESTY

After the general amnesty for all republican prisoners and internees in June 1917, the historic 10th Ard-Fheis of Sinn Fein was held in the Mansion House.

At the meeting on October 25th, attended by 2,000 delegates from all 32 Counties, the organisation was relaunched as a republican party with the aim of achieving a 32-County democratic republic by force of arms if necessary. Eamonn de Valera was elected president and Eoin MacNeill and Arthur Griffith were elected vice-presidents.

Following the collapse of Lloyd George's Irish Conscription

(1917/18), a meeting was convened in the Mansion House, known as the 'Mansion House Conference', by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Laurence O'Neill, on April 18th 1918.

The conference was called to discuss the British government's proposal to introduce conscription in Ireland. The delegates represented all shades of nationalist opinion. Arthur Griffith and Eamonn de Valera (Sinn Fein); John Dillon, Timothy Healy and William O'Brien (Irish Parliamentary Party), and William O'Brien (Labour Party), drafted an anti-conscription pledge to be taken at church doors throughout Ireland on Sunday, April 21st. During the following months the delegates co-ordinated the anti-conscription campaign in Ireland.

FIRST DAIL

Undoubtedly, the most historic and symbolic association that the Republican Movement has with the Mansion House is it being the venue of the inaugural meeting of the First Dail Eireann in January 1919.

At the general election of December 14th 1918, Sinn Fein won 73 out of 105 seats and unanimously decided at a meeting in the Mansion House, on January 7th 1919, to refuse to send representatives to Westminster but, instead, convene an all-Ireland parliament.

The inaugural meeting of the First Dail, presided over by Cathal Brugha, was held in the Round Room of the Mansion House on January 21st. Of the 73 TDs, 27 were present, 38 were in prison, and 8 were unable to attend (Michael Collins and Harry Boland were in England organising the escape of de Valera from Lincoln Prison).

Brugha, in the absence of de Valera, was elected presi-

dent of the Irish Republic, proclaimed in arms during Easter Week 1916. Those present at the opening session approved the Constitution of Dail Eireann, the Declaration of Independence and the Democratic Programme.

The first republican Cabinet appointed included Cathal Brugha (President), Eoin MacNeill (Finance), Michael Collins (Home Affairs), Count Plunkett (Defence).

At the second session of the First Dail, held on April 1st 1919, de Valera was elected president and made the following Cabinet appointments: Michael Collins (Finance), Cathal Brugha (Defence), Arthur Griffith (Home Affairs), Count Plunkett (Foreign Affairs), William F. Cosgrave (Local Government), Constance Markievicz (Labour), Eoin MacNeill (Industry), Ernest Blythe (Trade & Commerce), and Sean O'Kelly (Irish — from June 1920). Non-Cabinet ministers were Sean Etchingham (Fisheries), Robert Barton (Agriculture), and Laurence Ginnell (Publicity).

Throughout the following months, a number of private and public sessions of Dail Eireann were held in the Mansion House. On September 10th 1919, the Dail was declared "a dangerous association" and prohibited by the British government, forcing it underground. Up to the signing of the Truce in July 1921, meetings of Dail Eireann were held in secret locations throughout Dublin.

CALL FOR PEACE

On June 22nd 1921, the English king, George V called for peace between the British and Irish and, two days later, Eamon de Valera, President of the Irish Republic, received an invitation from the British prime

minister, David Lloyd George, to enter into negotiations.

As a preliminary to the conference, talks to arrange a ceasefire or truce began in the Mansion House, where the republican delegates had established their headquarters, on July 4th 1921. After five days of discussions between General Neville Macready, Colonel J. Brind, and A.W. Cope (the Assistant Under-Secretary in Ireland) acting for the British army, and Robert Bruton TD and Eamonn Duggan TD acting for the IRA, the terms of a bilateral ceasefire were agreed at 3pm on July 9th. A statement issued from the Mansion House by the Dail Publicity Department announced that a truce would come into operation at 12 noon on July 11th 1921.

SECOND DAIL

At the general election of May 1921, republicans had won 130 seats throughout Ireland and the first session of the Second Dail Eireann was held at the Mansion House on August 16th 1921 to receive from de Valera reports of his meetings in London with the British prime minister.

On August 26th, the Dail assembled at the Mansion House and re-elected de Valera as President of the Irish Republic. The new Cabinet consisted of Michael Collins (Finance), Austin Stack (Home Affairs), Arthur Griffith (Foreign Affairs), Cathal Brugha (Defence), William T. Cosgrave (Local Government), and Robert Barton (Economic Affairs). Non-Cabinet members of the government were Constance Markievicz (Labour), Ernest Blythe (Trade & Commerce), Sean Etchingham (Fisheries), J.J. O'Kelly (Education), Art O'Connor (Agriculture) and Desmond FitzGerald (Publicity).

Following the Treaty and

the Civil War of 1922-23, republicans continued to use the Mansion House, despite the efforts of the Free State government to prevent them.

In 1923, an Anocht na Nollaig (Christmas Fair) sale of work was held at the Mansion House by Cumann na mBan on behalf of the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund (PDF) to raise funds for the thousands of republicans, both imprisoned and interned, and for their dependants.

During the 1920s and '30s, the annual Anocht na Nollaig was organised by Mrs Brugha (widow of Cathal Brugha) and Mrs Stack (widow of Austin Stack) for the relief of republican prisoners and their dependants and held in the Supper Room of the Mansion House. In 1953, the PDF was re-organised as An Cumann Cabhrach — Republican Prisoners' Dependents' Fund, which continued to hold the Anocht na Nollaig each December in the Round Room and Supper Room right up till December 1983.

Over the past 17 years, since the present phase of the campaign began in the six occupied counties, numerous republican meetings have been held in the Mansion House, including the H-Block/Armagh rallies between 1976 and 1981 and in recent years public meetings against Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, strip-searching, etc. Since the mid-1970s, the Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis has been held each year in the Round Room of the Mansion House.

The roots of republicanism were firmly sown in the Mansion House 70 years ago this year and since then its assembly rooms have continued to be used by the Republican Movement right up to the present day.

REVIEWS

MEDIA



● The remains of the victims of the infamous British bombing of Dresden are laid out on the German city's desolate streets

Shocks on the Late Late

BY JOE GABRIEL

The *Late Late Show* last Friday night provided some shocks for the population in general. Up there on the screen was a real live terrorist! Well, almost. Hugo Meenan is now a writer, but at one time or another he had been in the British army, the 'Official IRA' and the INLA.

In Meenan's home town of Derry back in the '70s, robbing banks was a piece of cake. Let your fingers do the walking - lift the phone and ask the manager to leave 12 grand on the Bunrana road. No-one gets hurt, no-one gets arrested, no problem. Not so down South.

Meenan got tossed in the Portlaoise slammer for an INLA hit on the Bank of Ireland in Carlow. Meenan's sojourn down 'the Bog' led him to take up the pen and launch into his literary career. Much joy when Hugo won first prize in a contest. Much mirth when the prize of a

£70 cheque was presented by an admiring big-wig from... the Bank of Ireland.

When the laughter lapsed, Gaybo & Co wanted to get down to the nitty gritty of violence.

The panel included Colm Tobin, Spike Milligan and Maeve Binchy.

Tobin tore into Meenan about the shooting dead of Ranger Best by the Officials in Derry in 1972. We were soldiers - it's regrettable but it's a war situation, replied Meenan. Well what about the civilians killed, demanded Tobin. No, he didn't condone the deaths of

with simple claims forms what claimants are entitled to under additional payments and single payments, without the jargon of the relevant legislation.

The main addition to this updated version is a section on Social Fund payments for maternity needs and funeral expenses which come into effect on April 6th.

APPEALS

There is also a brief section which looks at social security appeal tribunals which help 'to demystify' the appeals procedure. At the back of the book there is an excellent section listing addresses, contacts and telephone numbers of a diversity of independent advice centres and welfare rights groups throughout the North. There is also a useful list of publications essential for advice centres and elected representatives who deal with DHSS queries.

This edition of *How to Get More Out of Supplementary Benefit* will be the last prior to the introduction next April of the controversial Social Fund, when single payments and additional payments will be abolished. This makes this publication even more important as there remains only a few months in which outstanding claims can be made.

John O'Neill and the Belfast Law Centre are to be congratulated on producing this booklet and Sinn Féin personnel should be beating a path to their door to purchase a copy.

● *How to Get More Out of Supplementary Benefit*, by John O'Neill, published by the Belfast Law Centre, 62-66 Bedford Street, Belfast. Price £2.

civilians. Then, to my surprise, someone cut the ground from under Tobin by putting his accusations into context - it was Spike Milligan:

"You can pick out horror incidents in any war.

"I was in one and I know for a fact that British paratroopers in North Africa, because German prisoners wouldn't talk, made them dig their own graves and stripped them naked and threatened to kill them.

"Horror stories are commonplace on both sides."

And, he continued, what about Dresden, where the Royal Air Force rained tons of bombs upon thousands of defenceless refugees, including women and children:

"The RAF bombed them to death. Women and kids. It's a war. You can't have a war without somebody getting killed."

Meenan wasn't behind the door either when he explained what was happening in the North - there is a war going on. He articulated a point of view which hasn't been heard on RTE for quite some time.

It was interesting to note the reaction of the media in general to his appearance.

Anne Harris of the *Sunday Independent* was of the view that if Section 31 was scrapped and if the *Late Late* was indicative of what we were going to have, then it would make the likes of Gerry Adams a TV star. Harris, who leans a bit towards the Workers' Party line in certain matters, seemed clearly annoyed that Hugo Meenan should even have been allowed on to publicise his book, *No Time for Love*.

PIGGOTT FALLS

So Lester Piggott has been nicked. The British and Irish media were full of his sentencing. Pics full of pathos were accompanied by copy which waxed on about whether or not he should have gone to Sing Sing for a three-year stretch. We were informed that he was forced to share a cell with two others, that he had to use a bucket as a toilet, and that he had to join the prison queue to slop out. The conditions in Norwich Prison appear as atrocious as any other prison.

Piggott has probably done more to highlight prison conditions than anybody in the preceding five years.

SICK

There was a very comforting item in the *Evening Herald* last Saturday. Pregnant women should take exceptional comfort from the story.

It was to the effect that the National Maternity Hospital at Holles Street in Dublin were sick and tired of bad debts and had handed the collecting of them over to an agency. The 'normal' procedure is for people to pay their bills before they are discharged. This is from a hospital which gets £7 million a year from the taxpayer! And the hospitals - showing what very kind-hearted institutions they are - went on record to say that they would not accommodate any people who could not pay their bills - just like that!

It's not said what they might do if they fail to get the money. The mind boggles. Do they, in a few years time, wait outside the school that the bobby attends and do a snatch when the parents least expect it? Do they then ransom the kid? Do they come around to your house and mail your knees to the wall? I think we should be told what this tax-subsidised hospital is up to.

IMEAGHTAI

IRISH ANTI-EXTRADITION CAMPAIGN PUBLIC MEETINGS

8pm Thursday 29th October
Speaker: Fr. Des Wilson
Workman's Club
DROGHEDA

Thursday 29th October
Speakers: Joe McVeigh & Jim Mitchell
Green Isle Hotel
Clonsilla
DUBLIN

Thursday 5th November
Speakers: Billy Loughnan, Neil Blaney, Aine Nic Giolla Easpaig & Joe McVeigh
SLIGO

Saturday 7th November
BALLINAMORE
County Leitrim

8pm Tuesday 10th November
Glanworth Hotel
LIMERICK

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL ANTI-EXTRADITION PICKET
6.30pm Monday 2nd November
City Hall
DUBLIN
Organised by the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee

THE MINERS AND IRELAND

A day school with videos
10am-5pm
Saturday 31st October
Doncaster Irish Club
DONCASTER
England
Taille £2 (£1 unwaged)
Organised by Doncaster LCI & Hatfield Main Branch NUM

STOP THE STRIP-SEARCHES CAMPAIGN

BENEFIT SOCIAL
Featuring: Jacket Potatoes
Tom McCann & friends, Na Buachaillí
8pm Saturday 31st October
Crown and Castle
Kingsland Road
LONDON
England
Taille £2.50 (£1.50 unwaged)

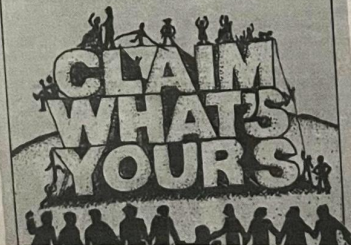
ARD-FHEIS SOCIAL

Featuring The Irish Brigade & Guests
Saturday 31st October
Wexford Inn
DUBLIN
Taille £2.50

Continued on next page

BOOK

How to get more out of Supplementary Benefit



Getting the benefit

BY JIM McALLISTER

THE BELFAST LAW CENTRE has just published an updated edition of John O'Neill's *How to Get More Out of Supplementary Benefit*.

Advice centre workers and elected representatives view this regular publication as invaluable because it enables us to tackle the complexities of social security legislation

and to structure claims forms for benefit take-up campaigns. This book is aimed at supplementary benefit claimants, advice services and individuals. The book explains



IMEAGHTAI

Continued from previous page

ANNUAL NOVEMBER CEREMONIES

Sunday 1st November
 11.30am: Visit to Patriot Graves
 Mountjoy Prison
 12.15pm: James Finlay Lalar
 Commemoration
 Speaker: Seamus MacClairnain
 Glasnevin Cemetery
DUBLIN
 Organised by the
 National Graves Association

SOCIAL NIGHT

Featuring the Irish Brigade
 8pm Thursday 5th November
 Newry Town Hall
NEWRY
 Taille £2

IRISH SOLIDARITY GROUPS FUND-RAISER

Music by Red Smed & The Hot Trots
 Friday 6th November
 Western Star Domino Club
BRISTOL

IRISH SOLIDARITY GROUPS FUND-RAISER

Music by Red Smed & The Hot Trots
 Saturday 7th November
 Bristol Polytechnic
BRISTOL

WORLDWIDE STRIP-SEARCH RALLY

Sunday November 8th
PHILADELPHIA
 For help or information contact:
 PO Box No. 14648
 Philadelphia PA 19134 or phone
 area code 215 637 3728
 or 215 242 1522
 Information packs available

GUATEMALA: A PEOPLE IMPRISONED

A photographic exhibition by Joe Fish
 11am-7pm
 Monday 9th-Saturday 14th November
 Project Arts Centre
 Essex Street
DUBLIN

SOCIAL NIGHT

Featuring: The Hairy Mays & the
 Hooligan Brothers
 8pm Friday 13th November
 The Green Room
 54/56 Whitworth Street West
 Manchester
ENGLAND

Taille £3.30/£2.30

An IBRG/Green Room Promotion

HEARTS & MINDS

THE IRISH IN BRITAIN TODAY

Seminars by: Desmond Greaves,
 Steven Fielding, Mary Lannon,
 Liam Clarke, Sister Anne, Gearoid
 Mac Gearailt, Patrick Reynolds, Mary
 Hickman, Dr. Maire O'Shea, Moy
 McCroy and Michael O Riabhalg
 9.30pm-6pm
 Saturday 14th November
 Manchester Town Hall
 Manchester
ENGLAND

Creche and refreshments available

Taille £2 (£1 unwaged)

Organised by the IBRG

IRELAND: CAUSE OF LABOUR

Patron: Sean MacBride SC
 Hon. Treasurer: Ken Livingstone MP
 Saturday 28th November
 The Camden Centre
 Bidborough Street
 LONDON NW1
 England

WORLD VIEW

Mythconceptions

THE MAGAZINE, *New Internationalist*, which reports on World World issues, has identified six misconceptions about world population and fertility. All of them tend to blame the poor and to cover up the unjust relationship between the colonialist rich countries and those in the Third World. There are all based on the false assumption:

"Over-population is the Third World's worst problem. Therefore the poor have only themselves to blame for their poverty. Therefore the solution should always begin with a major family-planning programme."

MYTH 1

"Birth rates are rising in the Third World - population growth is getting out of control."

Population growth rates are slowing down everywhere in the world. They reached their peak in 1970 and are now dropping with increased speed. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities expects the world population to stabilise in about 60 years at around ten billion, which is roughly twice what it now is. That is, of course, a massive figure but it's one which the world could cope with if the right economic decisions were taken.

MYTH 2

"Without contraception, people have as many children as possible."

Women have practised contraception in its many different forms for centuries. In Mauritania, where only 1% of women use

a contraceptive device or pill, the average number of children born to a woman is only 6.25. Each woman could theoretically have up to 15 children spaced at two-year intervals. Instead methods which as withdrawal, abstinence, non-penetrative sex, douches and abortions are used. In the Philippines, women tend to delay marriage until they're over 24. These methods may be uncomfortable or unsatisfying but they contradict the widely-held notion that Third World women are 'careless about contraception'.

MYTH 3

"If we prevent children dying in infancy they will just grow up to have children of their own and population will increase even faster."

Every day more children die in the Third World than are born in the rich world. Their deaths are even more than a tragedy - they cause insecurity which leads parents to have more children. In the Philippines, couples who have lost a child tend to have larger families than those whose babies all survived. The United Nations believes that saving the lives of seven million babies a year would prevent



between 12 and 20 million births before the end of the century. Parents who know they'll have to depend on their children in later life would thus realise they can reduce the number of babies they have.

MYTH 4

"Poor people would be much better off if they had fewer children to feed and clothe."

This is true in the rich world, where the costs of supporting a child can be enormous, but it just isn't true in the Third World. In Bangladesh, boys are already producing more than they consume by the age of 10 and have repaid their parents' investment in their upbringing by the time they're 15. In Java, Indonesia, children are net-income earners by the age of 9. In Mexico, 72% of parents said they had children so as to have a future means of support while only 16% gave 'love' as a reason.

MYTH 5

"Population growth causes poverty."

It's merely a coincidence that a number of countries with large population growths are poor and that rich countries have low population growth. Africa's ten richest countries have similar population growth rates to the

continent's ten poorest. In Indonesia and the Philippines, where incomes have grown 3% a year over the last few decades, population growth has been particularly high.

MYTH 6

"The world cannot support all these extra hungry mouths. There aren't enough resources to go round."

This is the biggest lie of all. The average American consumes the same amount of energy as 300 Bangladeshis. The 16 million babies born each year in the rich world will be four times as great a drain on the world's resources as the 109 million born in the poor world. The real problems are the ownership and distribution of wealth and land. The Netherlands (one of the world's richest countries) is twice as densely populated as India. Britain is 2½ times as densely populated as China.

Multinational companies rob the resources of the Third World for profit using corrupt and repressive regimes to keep the poor 'in their place'. In Latin America, 2% of the population owns 47% of the land. In Africa, crops are grown for export rather than for feeding Africans and there are often too few people to grow them.

LEEDS ARRESTS

THE ARREST of Sinn Fein representative Aengus O Snodaigh and Graham Hellawell (Labour Committee on Ireland Youth) marred an otherwise highly-successful Sinn Fein speaking tour in Britain. Both were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for 3½ hours at Leeds/Bradford Airport as O Snodaigh was returning to Dublin on Wednesday, October 21st.

The tour began on Saturday, October 17th, in Sheffield with a day-school organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland Youth section. Over 50 people attended to hear speakers from the Kirklees Black

Workers' Group, West Yorkshire Against Plastic Bullets Campaign, Labour Committee on Ireland, and Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn. Corbyn outlined the reasons behind the PTB and current British strategy in Ireland, and

attacked the proposed electoral oath in the Six Counties as being against any democratic principles.

In the afternoon two workshops were held on the Stop the Strip-Searches Campaign, addressed by Joanne Goodwin of Doncaster LCI, and on Working for a British Withdrawal addressed by O Snodaigh.

O Snodaigh also addressed meetings of local LCI groups in Huddersfield and Doncaster and on Monday he spoke at a public meeting in York University on repression in Ireland. After listing the repressive measures used by the British government in Ireland, he said:

"Repression in Ireland is carried out in the name of the British people and unless you are actively campaigning against this repression then you, as British people, are responsible for the deaths, beatings, degrading

treatment, imprisonment and torture of Irish people."

ANTI-REPRESSION GROUPS

O Snodaigh outlined the need for universities to set up anti-repression groups and outlined how they could highlight the question of Ireland. The organisers said afterwards that it is now hoped to set up such groups in Hull University, York University and Sheffield University.

Later on Monday night, O Snodaigh spoke at a public meeting organised by the Troops Out Movement in York, where he outlined the different measures used by the British government to disfranchise the nationalist people of the Six Counties, the increased repression since Hillsborough, and the need for people in Britain to campaign on the issue of a British withdrawal.

Plastic Bullets Campaign in Holland

TWO MEMBERS of the Belfast-based United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets arrived at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, recently to begin a week-long tour of Holland. The delegation consisted of Eileen Kelly, mother of 12-year-old Carol Ann Kelly, killed by a plastic bullet in May 1981, and Paddy Kelly, a lawyer working with the UCAPB.

The Dutch tour, organised by the Ireland Informatic Centrum, was part of a series to European countries, including France, Italy, Sweden and Norway. The aim of the tour was to make more Europeans aware of the nature of and physical damage caused by the use of plastic bullets to people in the North of Ireland, and to draw attention to the fact that a motion passed by the European Parliament in 1982 calling for a ban on the use of plastic bullets in all member states of the EEC has been ignored by the British government.

While in Holland the UCAPB delegation met with representatives of Dutch political parties at local and European level, as well as ecumenical, human rights, and medical organisations. A petition signed by more than 1,200 Dutch citizens was delivered to the British Embassy in The Hague, and the tour received considerable attention in the Dutch media. A spokesperson for the Ireland Informatic Centrum pointed out:

"In one week, the Dutch national and international media paid more attention to the continual use of

plastic bullets in the North of Ireland than at any other time since the introduction of the weapon in 1973."

BISHOPS' SUPPORT

The campaign in Holland has been encouraged and supported by many influential organisations including the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference, chaired by Cardinal Simonis; Pax Christi, who requested the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs to contact his British colleague to express their concern about the use of plastic bullets; the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions, including the Dutch Police Union, which represents almost 500,000 workers in all sections of commerce and public service; and the Dutch National Women's Movement.

The IIC spokesperson pointed out that the campaign does not end when the UCAPB delegation has returned to Belfast:

"Many more ideas and proposals have to be developed within the political parties before they are made public. We intend to take this issue back to Strasbourg."

Commenting on the tour, Paddy Kelly said she was surprised at the lack of information about plastic bullets among Dutch people, and how shocked they were when they saw and heard about their use in Ireland. She said the UCAPB delegation was pleased with the support and the response they had received, particularly with the initiative to raise the issue again at the European Parliament.

NATIONAL DRAW

Week 9
 £300: Eileen Groarke, c/o Regan's Bar, Ballinacree, £250: Denis O'Sullivan, Clondalkin, c/o Tony Flannery; £150: Card 978, Line 1, South Armagh; £100: Tommy O'Connor, O'Neill Park, Clones, County Monaghan; £50: Card 1591, Line 2, Belfast; Frank Sheppard, Newcastle, c/o Tony Flannery; Card 2162, Line 5, Leitrim; Mike, c/o Ernie O'Malley Cumann, No.5 Blessington Street, Dublin.

OBITUARY

IVAN BESHOFF

IVAN BESHOFF, the only person to have played a part in both the Russian and the Irish revolutions, died aged 103 in Dublin last Sunday, October 25th.

Beshoff, who was the last survivor of the mutiny on the battleship Potemkin, when Russian conscript sailors, who suffered appalling conditions, shot their officers, took over their ship and raised the red flag for the first time.

He made his way to London where one day he met two men. "You'd give them a penny they looked so poor - like tramps," Beshoff told *AP/IRN* in 1982. The two turned out to be Lenin and Jim Larkin. He became very friendly with Larkin and came to Ireland on the Irish union leader's invitation.

He took part in the 1916 Rising in Dublin and later supplied the IRA with guns. He would buy the guns from the British soldiers who went to his fish and chip shop in Parkgate Street, which the IRA had set up for that very purpose. When this role was uncovered he went on the run to the

Caltee Mountains in County Tipperary where he met his future wife.

In the 1920s, Beshoff went back to Russia for some time but returned to Ireland because his wife was homesick.

RED SCARE

Before the 1932 general election the Cumann na nGaedheal government started a 'red scare' and Beshoff got word that the Special Branch was looking for him. He was eventually arrested in a Nenagh hotel as a Russian spy. He was charged in the local barracks by a sergeant who was an old acquaintance from his Tipperary IRA days and whom he had beaten many times at poker. He spent a month in Limerick Prison.

When Beshoff saw Hitler's Germany threatening his homeland during the Second World War he asked the Soviet government should he go back. They



told him to stay in Ireland and care for his family: "There are enough young men to fight for Russia."

Beshoff remained in Ireland until his death on Sunday. A man of unique experience and progressive politics, he will be missed by many.

TURF LODGE COMMEMORATION

LED BY A COLOUR PARTY, about 80 people took part in the annual Turf Lodge commemoration at the Republican Plot in Milltown Cemetery in West Belfast on Sunday. The memorial service is held each year on the anniversary of the death on October 24th 1971 of IRA Volunteer Martin Forsythe.

In bright sunshine the colour party led the marchers from the gates of the cemetery to the Republican Plot, where local Sinn Féin Councillor Lily Fitzsimons gave a short oration:

"We are gathered here to pay tribute to Martin Forsythe and his fallen comrades who valiantly gave their lives in the struggle for Irish freedom, a just and honourable cause."

Councillor Fitzsimons slammed the British presence and reminded those gathered around the republican memorial:

"It is that presence which divides our country and divides our people. To dominate our nation the British

have used murder, imprisonment and repression. However, in centuries of struggle such repression has only strengthened our determination and resolve to defeat Britain and remove its divisive presence."

In conclusion, the Turf Lodge councillor recited a short poem by IRA Volunteer and hunger-striker Bobby Sands:

"For 'tis not sleeping graves these English knives have made

"But unquenchable stars of freedom light.

"We oppressed people, men and women of no property,
 Shall realise the Irish socialist republic."

EASPA GAELIGE

A Chaire,
 Bím ag léamh an *Irish Times* go rialta g' n'ach mbíonn sé agam go dtí an lá ina dhiaidh a fhoilsiú. Tá a lán lochtanna ag baint leis agus tá roinnt de na tuarascálaithe go holt ar fad ó thaobh náisiúnta de. Ina dhiaidh sin is uile tá céim ar aghaidh ach mairid leis an Ghaeilge.

Ní bhíonn deis agam *AP/IRN* ar fail ach anois is arís agus is doigh loim go bhfuil an ceart ag an Deagáin de *Brannán (Irish Times)*, August 31st, 1987) mairid leis an nGaeilge nó an easpa Ghaeilge ar *AP/IRN*. Muna mbíonn *AP/IRN* agus go rialta bíonn *Nuacht* agam gach seachtain (g'f gur aith teacht le déanaí, buíochas don tighchán áitiúil, b'fhéidir) agus *Saoirse* gach ráithe.

Ba éacht mór ag Sinn Féin le Slegadh mí o shin agus anruaidh. Nuair a chuirtear an méas sin ar son na Gaeilge san áireamh is tríá nach bhfuil *AP/IRN* ag cuidiú leis an mbordadh sin.

Tuigim gurb é an Béarla an meán cumarsáide, ach nach féidir an Ghaeilge a bheith beagáin níos sofhéice? Muna bhfuil sí le féiceidí measain g'f mairid *AP/IRN* ag deamh dochar d'obair Shíon Féin ar son na Gaeilge. Ní bheadh sé go-dheacair an



THE PRISONERS' PINT

A Chaire,
 Now Christmas is almost here again, I think that we should make December the prisoners' month and every member and supporter of the Republican Movement should donate the price of a pint, a packet of cigarettes or whatever to An Cumann Cabhrach.

It's not too much to ask, especially when you think of the sacrifices our POWs are making as a result of fighting our war.

Joe Lynch,
 Limerick.
 Editor's note: The Sinn Féin POW Department has already designated December of every year to be the prisoners' month where pickets, vigils and information displays will be held throughout the country.

The 'Prisoners' Pint' pledge is something that can be done by people who are sympathetic but not active republicans. Suggest it to your friends and send the proceeds to An Cumann Cabhrach, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1; Green Cross, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast; or to *AP/IRN* and we'll pass the money on.

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.

ALL GREETINGS to republican prisoners for publication in the Christmas edition of *AP/IRN* must reach our Belfast or Dublin offices no later than 5pm on Thursday, December 3rd. Due to restrictions of space, we may have to shorten or combine greetings to individual prisoners so that all greetings received can be included. Please bear this in mind when writing out your messages. There is no charge for greetings insertions but all donations to either An Cumann Cabhrach or Green Cross, the prisoners welfare organisations, would be gratefully received.

OBITUARY

BLAKE, Peter; McGOLDRICK, Tom (17th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter Blake and Tom McGoldrick, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died in a collision while returning from army training on October 27th 1970. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

BLAKE, Peter; McGOLDRICK, Tom (17th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Peter Blake and Tom McGoldrick, who died on October 27th 1970. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFéil.

CORRIGAN, Peter (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my husband Peter Corrigan, Sinn Féin, who was murdered by loyalist paramilitaries on October 25th 1982. "Lay him away on the hillsides, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame in letters of purest gold." Always remembered by his wife Jean, and children Stephen and Brendan.

CORRIGAN, Peter (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our father Peter Corrigan, Sinn Féin, who was murdered by loyalist paramilitaries on October 25th 1982. Always remembered by his sons-in-law Robbie, Patsy, Gerard and Brendan.

CORRIGAN, Peter (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our father Peter Corrigan, Sinn Féin, who was murdered by loyalist paramilitaries on October 25th 1982. Always remembered by his daughter Catherine, son-in-law Oliver and daughter-in-law Caroline.

CORRIGAN, Peter (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear brother Peter Corrigan, Sinn Féin, who was murdered by loyalist paramilitaries on October 25th 1982. Always remembered by his brother Frank and Kathleen.

DRUMM, Marie (11th Anniversary). The Republican Movement remembers with pride, Marie Drumm, Sinn Féin, who was shot dead by loyalist gunmen, as she lay in a hospital bed on October 28th 1976. "For dearer the grave or the prison illumined by one patriot name, than the trophies of all who have risen, on liberty's ruins to fame."

DRUMM, Marie (11th Anniversary). In loving memory of Marie Drumm, who was murdered on October 28th 1976. Mass offered. Always remembered by Pol, Patricia and Marie Óg, Belfast.

GAYNOR, Sean (67th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Sean Gaynor, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died on September 26th 1920. Fuair sé bás ar son na tíre. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFéil.

McCKER, Seamus (12th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Seamus McCusker, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who was shot dead by Workers' Party gunmen on October 31st 1975. "They may kill the revolutionaries, but never the revolution." Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

McKENNA, Maureen (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Maureen McKenna, Belfast Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died on October 23rd 1979. Tús sé a rálb aige ag troid ar son saoirse na hÉireann. Deeply regretted by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFéil.

COMHBHRON

MGRATH, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paedag McGrath on the death of his brother. From Boyle Sinn Féin.

MAQUIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Maureen de la Maquire family on the death of Colm. From Gerry Cunningham and the Irish POWs, Long Larin, England.

MAQUIRE, Deepest sympathy to Maureen and the Maquire family on their recent bereavement. From the West London Republican Support Group.

MAQUIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Maureen on the death of Colm. "Victory in the cause of the freedom of mankind lives the sorrows of individual lives and deaths." From Ruairi.

MAQUIRE, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Maquire family in Canada and Liverpool on the very sudden death of Colm (Portlaoise) and also to his wife Maureen on this very unexpected

MAGUIRE, Dorothy; MEEHAN, Maurea (16th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Dorothy Maguire and Maurea Meehan who were killed by British forces on October 23rd 1971. The sign a rálb acu ar son muintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFéil.

MAGUIRE, Dorothy; MEEHAN, Maurea (16th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vols Dorothy Maguire and Maurea Meehan who were killed by British forces on October 23rd 1971. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh siad. Always remembered by the Dorothy Maguire Sinn Féin Cumann, Walkinstown, Dublin.

MEEHAN, Michael (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Michael Meehan, Derry Brigade, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died while on active service on October 30th 1974. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

MEEHAN, Michael (13th Anniversary). In loving memory of a dear son and brother Vol Michael Meehan, who died on active service on October 30th 1974. RIP, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Farewell my friends and do not weep for me, I will be with you, I gave my life that you should be free, now all I ask is you pray for me. Always remembered by his loving brother Joe, sister-in-law Lynn and nieces Orla and Ashleen.

MEEHAN, Michael (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of a dear brother Vol Michael (Ben) Meehan, who died on active service on October 30th 1974. RIP, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Farewell my friends and do not weep for me, I will be with you, I gave my life that you should be free, now all I ask is you pray for me. Always remembered by his loving brother Joe, sister-in-law Lynn and nieces Orla and Ashleen.

MEEHAN, Michael (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of a dear brother Vol Michael (Ben) Meehan, who died on active service on October 30th 1974. RIP, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Farewell my friends and do not weep for me, I will be with you, I gave my life that you should be free, now all I ask is you pray for me. Always remembered by his loving brother Joe, sister-in-law Lynn and nieces Orla and Ashleen.

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CUMHNI BREITHELA

McKENNA, Finbar. Birthday memories of Vol Finbar McKenna, who was killed in action on May 2nd 1987 and whose birthday would have occurred on October 30th. I measc na rudaí a bhí agam go dtí an lá ina dhiaidh sin is uile tá céim ar aghaidh ach mairid leis an Ghaeilge.

McKENNA, Finbar. Birthday memories of Vol Finbar McKenna, who was killed in action on May 2nd 1987 and whose birthday would have occurred on October 30th. Always remembered by his sisters Róisín, Mary and Nuala, his brother Eugene, his sisters-in-law, nieces and father Ben.

McKENNA, Finbar. Birthday memories of Vol Finbar McKenna, who was killed in action on May 2nd 1987 and whose birthday would have occurred on October 30th. RIP, Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Finbar, when we think of you, I say a prayer to Jesus we will say. Always remembered and sadly missed by the Hall family.

death. From Anthony, Boston, USA. MAGUIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the wife and family of Colm Maguire on their tragic loss. From Eddie, Armagh.

MAGUIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Colm Maguire on their recent tragic loss. From Annette and Michael, London.

MAGUIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Colm Maguire, who died recently. From Mickey and Angela Kinane and family.

MAGUIRE, Deepest sympathy is extended to Maureen on the death of Colm. From Rusty, Brenda and family.

MAGUIRE, Deepest sympathy to Maureen on the death of Colm. From Martin and Mary Kinane.

REAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Sean Reagan and family on the death of his father John Reagan. From Pancho. All the best on Friday, October 17th. From Lougalhail Martyrs Sinn Féin Cumann, Cushendall.

SEANNACHTAÍ

DUGGAN, Harry (England). Happy birthday on the 31st Harry. All the best from the McDaid/Gaughan/McLoughlin Sinn Féin Cumann, Buncrana, County Donegal.
 DUGGAN, Harry (England). Happy birthday Harry. Best wishes. Iobh.
 DUGGAN, Harry (England). All the very best on your birthday. Regards to all POWs with love. From Mary and Patrick, Buncrana, County Donegal.
 FEARON, Martin (Long Kesh). Be-

lated birthday wishes Pancho. Hope you got the cards on the 22nd. All our love. Phyllis, Kildoo, Paula and Rose.

FEARON, Martin (Long Kesh). Belated birthday greetings Pancho. From Lorraine, Gerry and family.

FEARON, Martin (Long Kesh). All our love Pancho. From all of you. Always. From, wait for it... Martha, Peter, Janey, Tommy, Geraldine, Bridie, Ires Carpenter, Pam, Jimmy, Benny, Catherine, and all your friends in Glanmore Park.

FEARON, Martin (Long Kesh). Happy birthday Pancho. All the best on your 21st. From Marie McEvoy and kids, Dundalk.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

REPUBLICAN COMRADES KILLED IN ACTION

Paddy Deery

VOLUNTEER PADDY DEERY was 31. He and his wife, Colette, had three young children, Patrick, Gavin and Seana.

As a young man, Paddy Deery experienced at first hand the violence of the British presence in this country. When he was 15 he lost an eye when struck by a rubber bullet fired by a British soldier. On Bloody Sunday, Paddy's mother was shot and seriously wounded by a British paratrooper.

Paddy joined the IRA in late 1971 and within the space of a few months was on full-time active service. After Operation Motorman in mid-1972, Paddy went on the run and for two years was active in operations around the Derry/Donegal border.

Returning to Derry in 1974, Paddy, despite constant arrests and

interrogations, continued to be an active and determined republican. Paddy was one of those named by paid-perjurer Robert Quigley and was again forced to go on the run. Living in Donegal for four years, he was one of two men illegally handed over to the RUC at the Muff customs post in June 1986 by gardai working in close collaboration with the RUC Special Branch. He was immediately imprisoned on the word of Quigley and held on remand in Crumlin Road Prison until the collapse of the Quigley show-trial.

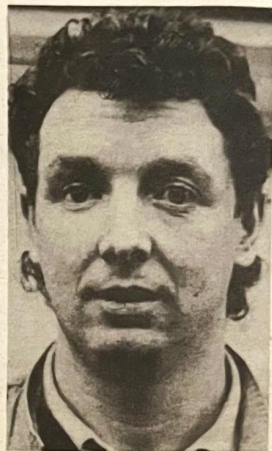
SINGLED OUT

During his four-year stay in Donegal, Paddy's wife and children were willing to join him there but he was adamant that they should not have to endure that

disruption for his sake. After his release from Crumlin Road, Paddy and his family were singled out by the RUC and British army for a systematic campaign of harassment and intimidation. In January of this year, only three months after his release, Paddy had a gun put to his head at Strand Road Barracks and told that his head would be blown off. But he ignored these threats; his only concern was for his family, and the harassment they were receiving because of his involvement.

During Volunteer Paddy Deery's young life he had known imprisonment and the hardship of life on the run. That did not deter him from reporting back again for active service with his comrades in the Derry Brigade. Right up until his tragic death, Paddy fought the enemy with the military skills he had perfected over the long years of struggle that began for him as a teenager in 1971.

An extrovert, Paddy's practical joking, keen sense of humour and personal capacity to make



Little of his own sufferings ensured that his comrades' morale remained high.

Eddie McSheffrey

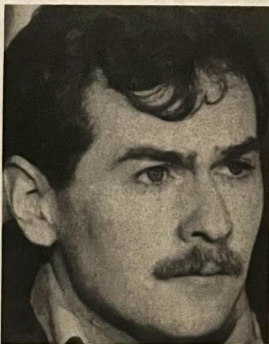
EDDIE MCSHEFFREY was a dedicated family man, always concerned about his wife, Mary, and their two young children, Charles (6) and Aisling (6 months).

He had a keen interest in the political dimension of the struggle and, despite his quiet demeanour, was able to articulate his politics quite forcefully.

"Basically if you are working class and Catholic the system is against you. It's geared to get you. If you are on the dole you are on the streets, you get arrested and they will be coming back for you again and again. It's a way of life around here. I've been arrested about 30 times, maybe more. I've just lost count," he said in an interview in June this year.

The eldest son of a staunchly republican family from the Brandywell, in 1971 Eddie McSheffrey saw his father being dragged from his home in handcuffs and transported to an internment camp by the British army.

Eddie was one of the founder members of the Derry Fianna, and joined the IRA in 1974. He began a life of hardship which was marked by sacrifice and frequent tragedy.



Eddie's best friend, IRA Volunteer Brian Coyle, was killed on active service in the Bogside in June 1976 and Eddie was arrested soon after for being a member of the firing party at Brian's funeral. After serving two years of a three-year sentence in borstal and Crumlin Road Prison he returned to active service until he was arrested on the uncorroborated word of paid-perjurer Raymond Gilmour on August 24th 1982. After two years on

remand on A-Wing in Crumlin Road, Eddie stood trial with 37 other Derry men and women, conducting his own defence. He returned to Derry in December 1984 when the show-trial collapsed.

REFUSED ANAESTHETIC

During a gun and grenade attack on an RUC patrol in William Street on the night of August 6th 1985, Eddie suffered serious leg injuries in a premature explosion which killed his comrade, Charles English. He was taken to Altnagelvin Hospital, where a surgeon recommended that the leg be amputated because of the severity of the injuries. McSheffrey refused to allow this and, in spite of the pain, he refused an anaesthetic until the RUC had left the operating theatre. He underwent several more operations in Musgrave Military Hospital in Belfast and had to wear a caliper. He was then moved to Crumlin Road Prison but the charges were dropped and he was released after nearly a year in custody.

Although they could not make the charges against him stick, the crown forces began a relentless campaign of harassment, arrest and

detention against Eddie. Between November 1986 and April 1987 he was arrested on three occasions on seven-day detention orders and subjected to brutality in Castle-reagh (See AP/RN December 18th 1986 and April 9th 1987). During the last two detentions, separated by one week, Eddie was deprived of his caliper, stripped of his clothes and forced to go through interrogation naked except for his underpants. He was kicked and punched by the RUC.

The constant hardships that the McSheffrey family suffered during his incarcerations is demonstrated by the fact that his daughter, Aisling, was born the day he was released from one period of detention and christened the day after he was again arrested.

WOULDN'T TAKE A BACK-SEAT

Although partially disabled, with a permanent limp, Eddie McSheffrey refused to give up his role in the armed struggle. Reporting back after his release he was given a non-combat role in the IRA but he constantly argued against this.

A comrade of Volunteer McSheffrey accurately described him as:

"Always a wee man for getting out there. Though suffering constant pain from his injuries such was his courage and daring that he could not accept a back-seat in the struggle for liberation. He had to be out there, playing his part to the full."