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 Republican News

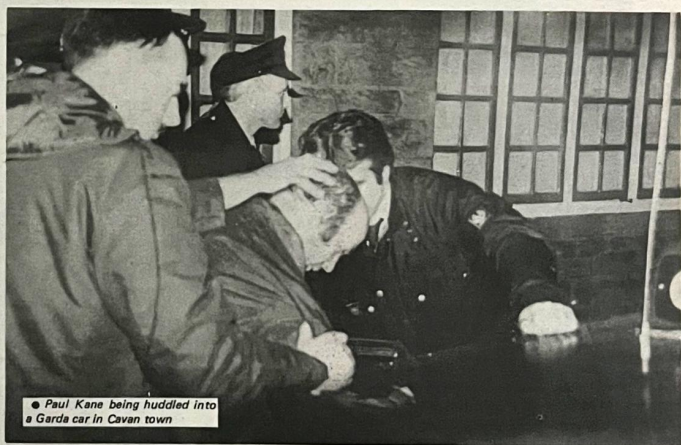
IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
 POLITICAL WEEKLY



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**LONG KESH
 ESCAPEES
 HELD FOR
 EXTRADITION
 WARRANTS**

**Doing
 Britain's
 Dirty
 Work**



● Paul Kane being huddled into
 ● Garda car in Cavan town

TWO FORMER republican prisoners of war who escaped from Long Kesh in 1983 have this week been arrested and held as political hostages by the 26-County authorities as they prepare to facilitate their extradition into British hands.

The escapees, Paul Kane and Dermot Finucane, were arrested in a raid by gardai and Free State troops in a house in Granard in County Longford on Monday morning. Both men were held for the full 48 hours allowed under the Offences Against the State Act while gardai waited for warrants to come from the RUC. Joe Cox, who was also arrested in the house, was later charged with IRA membership in the Special Court in Dublin's Green Street.

On Wednesday morning, the two escapees appeared in court in Granard. Dermot Finucane was remanded in custody on foot of warrants from the RUC seeking his extradition for his part in the break-out from Long Kesh in September 1983 by 38 repub-

lican prisoners and during which a prison officer was killed. Finucane now faces a long period in custody while he fights the attempt to send him back to the British authorities.

But in the case of Paul Kane the RUC warrants had

apparently arrived with the wrong name and gardai had to release him. Like Eibhlin Glenholmes, Paul Kane's 'release' by the gardai was not a release at all. When he left the court he was closely followed by members of the Special Branch to a car belonging to a BBC camera crew. Kane hitched a lift from the crew and was brought to Cavan town with several car-loads of gardai in pursuit.

SURROUNDED

When they reached Cavan, Paul Kane, who was by now disorientated, went to the nearest solicitor's office he could find. The office of solicitor Cormac Dunne was surrounded by gardai and troops, large numbers of



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Doing Britain's Dirty Work

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which were in the town. It was during this time that the most blatant act of direct collaboration was seen when a Garda superintendent entered the office in the company of a senior prison officer from the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The Garda officer asked the prison officer if he could identify Paul Kane and the reply was 'yes'. With the help of the gardai the RUC were now apparently making up for their bungling of the earlier warrants.

By this time Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison had arrived with many other republicans who converged on Cavan town. Kane eventually managed to leave the solicitor's office and went to the home of local man Brian McKeown. Again he was followed and, once more, the house was surrounded by the gardai.

FORCED OFF THE ROAD

At approximately 6.15pm Kane came out and got into Gerry Adams' car along with Adams, the driver Eamon McCaughey and Danny Morrison. Local Sinn Fein activist Donal Carlin followed in a van and the two cars were pursued at high speed by a Garda convoy. The chase went on for a mile out the Belturbet road from Cavan town.

When the Garda cars caught

up with Adams' car they forced it over a ditch at the roadside. Paul Kane fell into the drain and was grabbed, cut, bruised and covered in mud, by the gardai. Adams and Morrison demanded to know under suspicion of what charge Kane was being arrested again and were told "assault".

Meanwhile, the van driven by Donal Carlin had been stopped and a Special Branch member smashed the windscreen with a gun before confiscating it.

Kane was thrown into a squad car and taken to Cavan Garda Barracks where he was charged with assault of a Garda and breach of the peace. Eamon McCaughey and Donal Carlin were also arrested and charged. It was not until after 10pm that Paul Kane appeared at an emergency sitting of Cavan District Court before Judge McArdle. He was refused bail by the judge in spite of the relatively minor nature of the charges. Counsel for Kane condemned the disgraceful treatment of his client by the gardai.

A Monaghan-based Superintendent Lee testified against Kane getting bail and his word was taken by the judge. The contrived holding operation while the RUC warrants were awaited was then continued when the judge remanded Kane in custody to Mountjoy Prison in Dublin. The convoy which took Paul Kane to Dublin was to return to Cavan town today (Thursday morning) for the next court appearance.

ANOTHER GLENHOLMES

Like the case of Eibhlin Glenholmes, the persecution of the Long Kesh escapee provided TV viewers on Wednesday night with the spectacle of the 26-County authorities dashing around the country in their desperate haste to do Britain's dirty work.



● (Below) A Special Branch detective illegally seizes a camera from AP/IRN photographer during scuffles outside AP/IRN's Dublin office, on Monday and (above), Free State forces were dug in along the border all week



Paul Kane

PAUL KANE (32) is married with three children and comes from Ardoynve in North Belfast. He was arrested in 1981 on the uncorroborated word of RUC paid perjurer Christopher Black. After two years on remand he was sentenced, in August 1983, to 18 years for an alleged attempted killing and possession of weapons.

The following month, September 1983, he was one of 38 republicans who took part in the spectacular mass escape from Long Kesh. Along with Brendan Mead, he was recaptured 24 hours later when spotted by an RUC patrol on a deserted road outside Castlewellan in County Down.

Last year the Belfast Ap-

peal Court quashed the Black verdict, releasing all of those convicted on his evidence. Kane was charged with attempting to escape and was held in Crumlin Road Prison. After several months he was given bail and when the trial of those charged with escaping commenced earlier this year, he failed to turn up.

Dermot Finucane

DERMOT FINUCANE (26) is from the Lenadon area of West Belfast and was one of the 19 republican POWs who successfully eluded capture in the massive follow-up operation after the Long Kesh escape in September 1983.

A married man with a six-year-old daughter, Grainne, he was arrested in August 1981 and charged with possession of weapons used in an attack on British troops on Shaws Road in Andersonstown. He was convicted in 1982

and sentenced to ten years in prison. In April 1983, while in the H-Blocks, he was threatened with death by a senior prison officer. Finucane was told that if any warders were injured he would be held responsible and "be killed".

NATIONWIDE WAVE OF REPRESSION

A HUGE MILITARY and political police operation swung into action throughout the 32 Counties at daybreak on Monday morning as Free State forces joined with the British army and RUC in hundreds of raids, searches and arrests across the entire country.

A virtual state of emergency was declared by the Fianna Fail Minister for Justice Gerry Collins on Monday when he announced that the week-long sweep had begun. Collins' broadcast set the tone of hysteria which was to be the background for the wave of raids and searches. The Fianna Fail government claimed it had intelligence reports that shipments of arms had reached the IRA and that this was the purpose of the massive movements of troops and gardai that followed. Gerry Collins claimed that the alleged cargo "threatened the very safety and security of the State".

SCARE-MONGERING

But the saturation of the 26 Counties by 4,500 gardai and 2,000 troops and the nature of their activities belied the scare tactics of the government. Raids and searches were carried out with little discrimination and over widely dispersed areas throughout the 26 Counties. The homes of hundreds of people were invaded by armed detectives and uniformed gardai. Republicans and non-republicans, members and supporters of Sinn Fein, anti-extradition campaigners, party offices and premises were all visited.

In Donegal the home of Independent Fianna Fail TD Neil Blaney was raided as were those of several other members of his organisation. People with no connection with politics, with long-past associations with the Republican Movement or even with nationalistic leanings were all singled out for attention by the 26-County forces.

These forces acted hand-in-glove with the British army and the RUC which sealed off large areas of the border and carried out

raids and arrests of republicans. Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said that in the emotional climate following Enniskillen the move was the beginning of a "full frontal assault on Sinn Fein" and was part of the Hillsborough Agreement's "hidden agenda" of more repression against the nationalist and republican people.

DAWN RAIDS

Forty republicans including five Sinn Fein Councillors from Derry (Mitchel McLaughlin, Hugh Brady and Gerry Doherty) and Armagh (Jim McAllister and Tommy Carroll) were all arrested under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in early morning raids throughout the Six Counties on Monday.

The raids simultaneously began in County Tyrone, Derry, Strabane, County Armagh and Belfast at around 6am and lasted for approximately two hours. All of those arrested were taken to either Castlereagh or Gough Barracks. Several houses were badly damaged in Belfast and elsewhere.

In Derry and Strabane at least 17 people were arrested, including a married couple and several people with no republican connections.

Late on Monday a solicitor reported that Mitchel McLaughlin, one of the three Derry Sinn Fein councillors arrested and being held in Castlereagh interrogation centre, Belfast, was in need of immediate medical attention. The RUC denied he had requested medical assistance but according to Sinn Fein spokesperson Martin McGuinness, who was not at home when his house was raided, "the RUC and the medical officers in Castlereagh are clearly attempting to cover up what is going on because Mitchel McLaughlin has already made a number of formal com-

plaints to senior RUC personnel. It is obvious that torture and ill treatment remain the RUC's only interrogation weapon.

To date, only two people, Armagh Sinn Fein Councillor Tommy Carroll and a Belfastman have been released without charge.

By noon on Monday it was clear that the operation, far from being a search for arms based on specific intelligence information was being used to comb the country and to harass and intimidate republicans and members of the public under the bogus claim of an imminent threat to the 26-County state from the IRA.

PUBLIC OFFICES RAIDED

Just a couple of hours after Gerry Collins spoke on RTE radio cars and van loads of armed and uniformed gardai pulled up outside Sinn Fein headquarters and the offices of AP/ RN in Dublin. With what joint Sinn Fein general secretary Joe Reilly described as the "ridiculous pretext of a warrant to search for arms in public offices" the gardai entered both buildings and remained for two hours.

In the AP/ RN offices, Special Branch officers ripped a heater off a wall, rummaged through and confiscated photographic and journalists' files and threatened members of staff.

Three cameras were confiscated from the paper's photographer, who is a member of the National Union of Journalists, and he was later illegally held by a group of Special Branchmen when he took photographs of the raiders. Two other members of staff were arrested when they demanded a list of the contents of a large sackful of AP/ RN's photographs which the Branch took away and both men have been charged with obstruction and assault.

FUTILE ATTEMPT

AP/ RN editor Rita O' Hare said the raid was "a blatant attack on the freedom of the press and a futile attempt to disrupt the work of our newspaper in putting across the republican point of view".

Gardai raiding Sinn Fein's head office left carrying armfuls of posters and literature, including cash books. Eight of the Branchmen spent the entire raid writing down details of cummains and cumann members whilst other members of the gang rifled through the files of the Foreign Affairs Bureau.

During both raids people were illegally prevented from entering or leaving the buildings by plain-clothes gardai with sub-machine guns.

The Garda invasion of Parnell Square attracted large numbers of reporters and a small crowd had gathered outside the AP/ RN building before the armed gardai had left.

The blatantly political nature of the whole operation was seen throughout Monday and the next two days as this pattern was repeated up and down the country. In fact the day before the onslaught began in earnest nine Sinn Fein members attending a seminar at Spanish Point in County Clare were arrested and held for seven hours. The nine were taken by bus to Ennis after being arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act. Gardai also confiscated video equipment and tapes belonging to the Sinn Fein Education Department.

BLACK AND TAN TACTICS

In Cork city the Sinn Fein office and shop in the Ahern/Crowley Hall was raided by a large force on both Monday and Tuesday. On the second occasion a senior officer threatened to close the office if posters - including Birmingham Six posters - continued to be displayed. A Cork Sinn Fein spokesperson later referred to these as "Black and Tan type tactics by the gardai".

BLANEY GROUP HIT

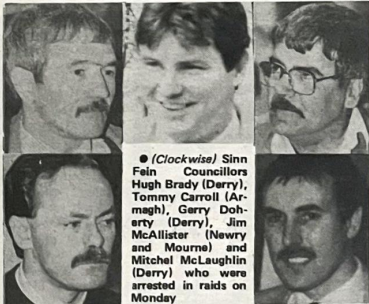
It was in the border counties in close collaboration with British crown forces that the Free State operation was most intensive. In Donegal large numbers of homes were raided including those of members of Independent Fianna Fail. Former H-Block activists were also targeted and in this and other counties sweeps across land



●(Above and below) Two victims of RUC/British army raids on homes in Belfast last Monday displaying the damage



●(Top) Gardai raiding Dublin Sinn Fein's offices on Blessington Street attract protesters from Sinn Fein members (above). (Below) A Branchman sitting through memorium notices and birthday greetings during Monday's raid on AP/ RN's Dublin offices



●(Clockwise) Sinn Fein Councillors Hugh Brady (Derry), Tommy Carroll (Armagh), Gerry Doherty (Derry), Jim McAllister (Newry and Mourne) and Mitchel McLaughlin (Derry) who were arrested in raids on Monday

were carried out through many farms.

NEW SPYPOSTS BUILT

In the border areas of North Monaghan the frontier was completely sealed off in a joint operation with British and Free State soldiers dug in on both sides. Machine-gun posts were set up during the troop movements. The real purpose of the massive operation was seen in the strengthening of British posts. No less than three new spy-posts were constructed by British army engineers in three days at Wards Cross, between Tyholland and Castleshane on the Monaghan/Armagh border.

In many areas like Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon house to house searches were carried out randomly.

ANTI-EXTRADITION OFFICES RAIDED

On Wednesday the offi-

ces of the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee in Henrietta Street, Dublin, were raided by gardai. Throughout the week anti-extradition campaigners were particularly targeted in the Garda raids. In Shannon, County Clare, many houses which displayed anti-extradition posters were picked out and this was repeated in several other areas.

ADVICE CENTRE DISRUPTED

The work of the Sinn Fein advice centre at Blessington Street in Dublin was disrupted when armed Garda raiders entered it on Wednesday for the second time in a month. Sinn Fein Councillor Christy Burke was detained in the building with other party workers while gardai rummaged through confidential constituents' files. They said they were "searching for guns". Several people seeking advice were turned away while gardai held the building for over an hour.

Loyalists target North Belfast

A 29-YEAR-OLD nationalist man was shot and seriously injured and a youth was slashed with a bottle on the face and neck in two sectarian attacks last week in North Belfast.

These incidents follow a wave of loyalist shooting incidents in the area which have left two people dead, one a Catholic (Tommy McAuley, who died last Monday), the other a Protestant (Adam Lambert, shot in mistake for a Catholic). Five young people from the New Lodge area were also shot and injured while in at least one other attack a nationalist newsgang narrowly escaped death.

The first of last week's attacks occurred at 9.30pm on Thursday night, November 19th, when 16-

by MAEVE ARMSTORNG

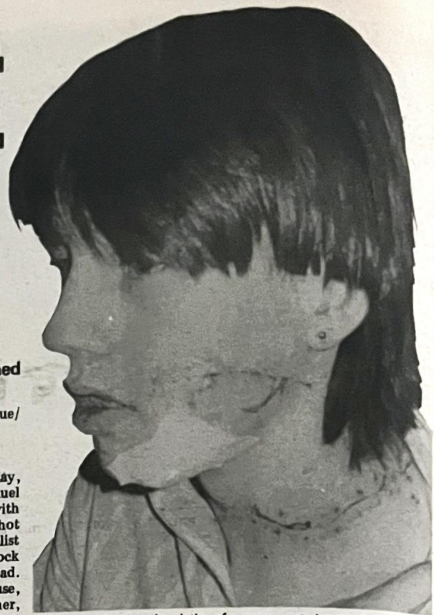
year-old Kieran Murphy from Ardoyne was confronted by two loyalists as he came from a Chinese takeaway at Brompton Park/Crumlin Road.

Murphy, who was with a friend, was jabbed in the face and neck with a broken bottle. The two assailants ran off across the road

into the loyalist Twaddell Avenue/Woodvale Area.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Three days later, on Sunday, November 22nd, 29-year-old Samuel Morrison, a clerical officer with the Housing Executive, was shot and seriously wounded by a loyalist gunman as he answered a knock on his door off the Deepark Road. Morrison had just entered the house, where he lives with his mother, a few minutes before being shot at 8.10pm.



● Kieran Murphy, the victim of a savage sectarian attack on Thursday, November 19th

WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS WAR NEWS...WAR NEWS BAR BLITZED

THE IRA in County Tyrone placed three bombs in the Kildress Inn, Cookstown, on Saturday night, November 21st, at 7.30pm.

A warning was given and the area evacuated before the bombs exploded, extensively damaging the premises. The IRA's East Tyrone Brigade said that the Kildress Inn was destroyed because it was "serving members of the crown forces".

On Thursday night, November 19th, IRA Volunteers in Belfast threw an impact grenade at RUC armoured Land Rovers in the Duncairn Gardens area of North Belfast. The grenade hit its target but failed to detonate.

Also in Belfast, a shoulder-launched grenade was fired at one of several British army observation posts guarding the New Barnsley Barracks in Ballymurphy, West Belfast, on Monday evening, November 23rd. The bomb exploded, causing damage.

PUNISHMENTS

Over the last two weeks, the IRA's Belfast Brigade has carried out punishment shootings on four men and a fifth has been ordered to leave the country.

Claiming responsibility, an IRA statement said that the men from the St James's area, Lenadon and Ormeau Road, had been involved in "criminal and anti-social activities".

"It should be apparent to the small, hardened criminal and thug element in nationalist Belfast that the IRA is determined to take whatever action is necessary to protect the community from thugs."

On Friday, November 20th, IRA Volunteers were responsible for the "punishment beating" of a 16-year-old youth in West Belfast. The following day in an *Irish News* report the youth and his family denied that he had been involved in any anti-social behaviour. In a subsequent statement the IRA said:

"Contrary to his family's denials, the IRA took action after numerous complaints about him had been received from the local community and investigated by us."

BOMB ALERTS

On Wednesday evening, there were at least 25 reported incidents of bomb alerts in an operation for which the IRA claimed responsibility. The bulk of the mostly hoax bomb attacks were directed against British army and RUC bases including RUC headquarters at Knock.

A small charge on a bus left close to Donegall Pass exploded. There was some damage and no one was injured.

A vehicle was also left at Strabane Courthouse. The centre of Belfast was totally paralysed by the IRA operation which tied up hundreds of crown forces personnel and led to the "sealing off" of virtually every RUC barracks in Belfast", according to a UTV report.

The hidden agenda

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

THE ENNISKILLEN TRAGEDY has been squeezed of the last drop of blood by the British government and supporting media.

The royal circus transported itself to Enniskillen on Tuesday, where 'Charles and Di' had a lengthy bedside photocall chatting with the injured in Ernie Hospital.

This was followed on Sunday by a three-hour superproduction, live on BBC and ITV, with no less than 'Sir' Alastair Burnett commenting for the latter, of the Enniskillen Remembrance service "as it should have happened on the day", except that this time British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, with Denis in tow, the present direct ruler Tom King, and assorted unionist politicians were in attendance.

In the absence of any SDLP representative at the service, British officials wheeled across Gerry Fitt, the former SDLP leader, former West Belfast MP, and former self-styled Irish nationalist, now a lord in Westminster. On Monday the SDLP were slapped on the wrist by an *Irish Times* editorial for playing truant. 'Disingenuous' is how it called Hume's excuse that it was a "local religious service".

NATIONALISTS RESPOND

The truth is that the political and media overkill over the Enniskillen tragedy has once again enraged many Northern nationalists. The turning point came on Sunday, November 15th with the Bishops' letter which declared as 'sinful' belonging to, supporting or voting for a republican organisation. In many churches people walked out in varying numbers. Some parishioners stood up and argued with the priest after he had read the letter, and in several cases they were applauded by the rest of the congregation. Many more stayed through the mass but went home to pen a letter expressing their disgust.

The West Belfast paper *Andersonstown News* published two full pages of such letters last week, along with a full page ad placed by "a group of West Belfast Catholics opposed to all forms of violence", which counterposes photos of the eleven Enniskillen

victims and photographs of eleven children killed by the British army and RUC, mostly by plastic bullets. The ad sums up the angry mood of many Northern nationalists that week by asking the Bishops why it is "sinful" to belong to the IRA or Sinn Fein" while they say "Co-operate with and support these forces" (the British army and RUC).

SECTARIAN ATTACKS

Even the pro-SDLP pro-Catholic hierarchy *Irish News* in its editorial on Tuesday, November 17th entitled "The shame of silence" objected to the silence with which several attacks on Catholics in the last two weeks were greeted by unionist politicians and the media generally. The *Irish News* was only echoing an opinion heard in shops, taxis and on the streets of nationalist areas in the Six Counties: if it had not served the political interests of the British government and of unionists the last week or two of orchestrated media hype would never have happened.

Meanwhile, following the Bishops by a few days, the SDLP launched its own 'ostracise Sinn Fein' campaign with a statement by party whip Eddie McGrady on Tuesday, November 17th who said that the SDLP would no longer co-operate on the councils with parties who support violence. McGrady's words were hardly directed at unionists who regularly gloat when the British forces kill some nationalist, but rather at Sinn Fein for its refusal to deny the right of Irish people to resort to armed struggle to gain their freedom.

SITUATION EXPLOITED

McGrady was backed up by some Enniskillen SDLP councillors who in the past were elected to positions on the council by Sinn Fein votes. Sinn Fein Councillor Francie Molloy denounced the SDLP's move as a "party political exploitation of the situation".

Within days the impracticalities of a non-co-operation policy had forced McGrady to significantly water down his original position. On Wednesday he redefined the SDLP's position claiming that it would only now apply to refusing to help elect to council

positions councillors who "do not condemn violence."

Francie Molloy immediately challenged McGrady to spell out if that meant the SDLP would support unionist councillors like Gregory Campbell from Derry who deny that discrimination in employment against Catholics exists or that the Stormont regime was oppressive.

Molloy said: "A policy which rejects working with Sinn Fein because of our stand on the inalienable right of the Irish people to use physical force against the British presence and yet seeks co-operation with unionists who openly endorse increased violence and repression from the British, is fundamentally flawed and will flounder on its own contradictions."

Meanwhile the London and Dublin governments swung into action last Monday to work the 'hidden agenda' of the Hillsborough Agreement: namely to try and eradicate republican resistance. Mass arrests in the North of Sinn Fein activists were obviously designed at criminalising the party in the emotionally-charged aftermath of the Enniskillen bombing, as Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams noted. And in the South a massive search operation is under way, ostensibly to find some arms shipments which were alleged to have reached Ireland for the IRA.

INTERMENT ON THE CARDS

"All the signs are that this is the start of a 32-County-wide crackdown on Sinn Fein", Adams declared. "It may well be a dummy run for further raids and for further action against our members." In particular there is a growing suspicion among Northern political activists that internment might be on the cards again.

The recent jailing for five years in Portlaoise Prison of a Cork Sinn Fein member for possession of an IRA poster certainly suggests that the hunt is on for republican political activists. Even journalist and RTE broadcaster Nell McCafferty has now been banned from RTE for refusing to join the wave of condemnations of the IRA in the wake of Enniskillen. The republican idea is being muzzled and chained. Such tactics never succeeded in silencing it before.

5 YEARS FOR A POSTER

BY TOM O'DWYER

THE POSSESSION of a poster and the hearsay of a Garda superintendent resulted in Cork Sinn Fein organiser Don O'Leary receiving a five-year sentence for IRA membership at the Special Court in Green Street, Dublin, on Thursday, November 19th.

For some years, 'evidence' of this character had been thrown out of the Special Court but the three judges under Judge Barr made use of the witch-hunt atmosphere following the Enniskillen tragedy to savagely reduce the right of free speech in the 26 Counties and to victimise a Sinn Fein activist.

Don O'Leary is a voluntary worker at Sinn Fein's Cork shop-front city offices in Barrack Street. On sale at the offices, among the books and pamphlets, are a number of posters. One of these is a picture of an IRA Volunteer with the slogan *IRA Calls the Shots*. This poster has been a bestseller.

Sinn Fein's campaigning

work among the working-class communities of Cork's Northside, in which Don O'Leary played a leading role, has angered the *Cork Examiner* newspaper and the city's TDs by showing up their lack of concern for ordinary people.

When O'Leary helped to organise a successful campaign to reduce joy-riding in the Knocknaheeny area, former Fine Gael Foreign Minister Peter Barry's response was to condemn Sinn Fein for supporting the IRA.

Cork gardai seized 37 of the *IRA Calls the Shots* poster at Easter and followed this up by arresting O'Leary on October 16th. He was immediately taken

to the Special Court in Dublin where a Free State army and Portlaoise Prison convoy awaited him. O'Leary condemned his expensive 160-mile journey under Garda escort to Dublin which coincided with major hospital cuts in Cork:

"It seems that Fianna Fail can find money when it wants to but not for hospitals."

Judge Hamilton, who presided over O'Leary's court hearing, seemed surprised that charges of this sort were being brought and showed his own opinion of the prosecution case by releasing O'Leary on his own bail to appear again on November 19th.

UNPRECEDENTED

Last Thursday's court decision was unprecedented in recent years. Garda Superintendent McKeown's assertion that O'Leary was a member of the IRA, based on so-called "confidential information", was allowed

to stand uncorroborated. McKeown did not explain to the court how trustworthy his 'information' was. He gave no further details. His word was enough to convict a man for five years. Such assertions by gardai, hungry for successful prosecutions, have regularly been thrown out by Special Court judges in the past.

Another effect of the case is that the *IRA Calls the Shots* poster has now legally become an "incriminating document" under the Offences Against the State Act. Anyone now holding such a poster could be

imprisoned for IRA membership. More than 3,000 of these posters have been sold throughout Ireland.

"Don O'Leary's conviction and savage sentencing represents a major attack on the rights of citizens to organise politically," said Danny Morrison for Sinn Fein. "No evidence of IRA membership was produced in court and the only conclusion is that it was the intention of the state to hound and harass Sinn Fein as a political party."

Morrison condemned "the extension of political persecution and censorship"

involved in the judges' summing up. "They jailed O'Leary for having a poster which they said 'publicised the IRA'."

Don O'Leary treatment should not be put down to the odd antics of some members of the judiciary, despite the difference in attitude between Judges Barr and Hamilton. It was the first sign of the major attack on Sinn Fein by 26-County state forces and was followed within days by raids and arrests all over Ireland designed to silence republicans.



PROTESTS by parents and teachers throughout the 26 Counties have briefly stalled the Fianna Fail government's £10 million programme of education cuts due to affect 1,000 schools. On Tuesday November 24th TDs voted down the 'Programme for National Recovery' under which the cuts are being made but Fine Gael came to the government's rescue by failing to oppose Circular 20/87 from the Department of Education. Under this circular cuts of up to 2,000 jobs and large increases in class sizes are being made.

O'Rourke's directive provoked unprecedented protests from parents who have already borne cuts in every sector of social expenditure. Schools in working-class areas have been especially hard hit as par-

ents have had to provide money from their own pockets for vital classroom resources.

All over the 26 Counties parents' organisations united with the teachers' unions to protest against the circular. Pickets were

organised of TDs' clinics, meetings were held and even school managers, who have seldom before taken a political stand, were drawn into the fight to save their schools. The campaigners are determined that children should not be made to pay for the financial crisis created by governments who have failed to make the rich pay their share.

MAJOR REVERSE

The wave of protest over the education cuts was the first major reverse for Fianna Fail's Thatcherite economic strategy. Although the health cuts earlier this year brought large marches onto the streets, the issue was allowed to die down because trade union leaders were unable to involve the general public. The teachers' unions were luckier in one respect — parents are already organised into parent/teacher and other school organisations and are used to lobbying on behalf of their children. It was their pressure on establishment party TDs which forced Leinster House to oppose the cutbacks.

A picket in Tallaght, County Dublin on Saturday November 21st showed the anger of the community — it was attended by over 1,500 people.

LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE

Tony McDermott, chair of the local Parents Against Education Cuts Committee, told the picketers:

"Circular 20/87 has to go — if it doesn't, the politicians have to go! I would suggest that the government collects unpaid taxes. They should forgo their ministerial pensions and their big cars. Our children will suffer so that they can have 'financial rectitude'. But leave the children alone!"

The Leinster House vote does not mean that education cuts have been stopped. It will merely force the government to prepare another package. The Irish National Teachers Organisation plans to consider a campaign of industrial action at its delegate conference on December 12th, aware that Tuesday's vote will only postpone a major battle with Fianna Fail. The persuasion of parents is likely to be backed by a series of one-day strikes held on different days in areas throughout the state.

MONETARISTS DEMORALISED

But those fighting the education cuts have already tasted a small victory. They have demoralised the most monetarist Dublin government in recent history. One Fianna Fail TD was even forced to break the unwritten rule of his party by criticising a Fianna Fail minister publicly in the Leinster House debate. Charlie McCreery called on O'Rourke to maintain class sizes as they were and condemned her "slide-rule approach" to the economics of education.

SCHOOLS REBELLION

Diplock—the conveyor belt

BRITISH GOVERNMENT CLAIMS that statistics released last week on the Diplock court acquittal rate reinforce its argument that the judicial system within the Six Counties is fair, have been dismissed by Sinn Fein spokesperson Danny Morrison as "deliberately misleading" and a selective interpretation of information presented by the NIO.

According to the statistical breakdown which covers the first six months of this year, 47% of those pleading not guilty in the Diplock courts were acquitted. However, a closer examination reveals that only 38 out of 390 actually pleaded not guilty, of whom 18 were subsequently acquitted. In reality a staggering 95% of people charged and tried under the Diplock system were convicted. In addition, of 77 cases which went to the Court of Appeal only one was quashed.

These figures and others released in August show that 567 were convicted out of 596 in 1986 and demonstrate the lack of confidence many prisoners have in the fairness of the judicial system.

It is clear that the vast majority of men and women facing trial in the North before an Orange judiciary noted for its bias and severity in sentencing, are plea bargaining in an attempt to minimise heavy sentences.

Commenting at the weekend Sinn Fein spokesperson Danny Morrison said: "Rather than demonstrating the fairness of the

judicial system the statistical rundown on Diplock courts serves to strengthen the belief that they are part of a conveyor belt designed to imprison opponents of Britain's presence."

Morrison pointed out that the legal system in the Six Counties is subordinate to British political needs to dominate this part of Ireland. Cosmetic changes introduced over recent years in the administration of British justice in Ireland have all been geared to streamlining the process of imprisoning political opponents.

This process was most clearly spelt out in 1977 by Britain's foremost counter insurgency expert Brigadier Frank Kitson who said of the law: "Everything done by a government and its agents in combatting insurgency must be legal. But this does not mean that the government must work within exactly the same set of laws during an insurgency as existed beforehand..."

The Diplock system was introduced after the establishment of direct rule to rid Britain of the internationally condemned Special



Powers Act. However it was a political move aimed at changing one legal form of repression for another which it was believed would be more acceptable.

Diplock's proposals, incorporated in the Emergency Powers Act, 1973, were designed to negate the need for internment by making it easy for courts to sentence

political activists. Diplock recommended the abolition of jury trials and gave the green light for increased torture by making it easier for interrogators to use brutality to obtain confessions.

Unlike British common law where confessions are invalid if acquired by "threats, inducements or opp-

ressive conduct", defendants in Diplock courts have to prove that confessions were made as a result of "torture, inhuman or degrading treatment."

Equally important is the inherent political bias of a judiciary dominated by ex-Unionist MPs, former ministers, and the sons of the Unionist establishment.

Britain's involvement in the North has led to the development of a perverted system of justice which has no credibility within the nationalist community. Whether one Unionist judge or three Unionist judges sit on Diplock courts it will not change a system which is fundamentally and irreparably flawed.

NEW DEFENCE WITNESS REFUSED

THE THREE JUDGES hearing the appeal of the Birmingham Six refused to allow defence council to call a new witness on Tuesday, November 24th, who, the defence said, had "highly relevant" evidence.

Lord Gifford, QC for the six men, asked leave to call on a taxi driver who had made a statement about events on the night of the Birmingham bombings in November 1974. The taxi driver was helping in rescue work at the scene of the bombings and had made a statement on November 4th last to gardai in Dublin, where he is now living, about remarks made to him by a police officer. Lord Gifford said that there was "considerable delay" on the part of the Garda in relaying the statement to the trial and it had only come to their notice the day before, Monday, November 23rd.

The three judges — Lords O'Connor, Lane and Brown — refused to allow the witness to give evidence, saying that it was "mere gossip" and "not credible".

POLICE COVER-UP

Lord Gifford accused Birmingham police of engag-

ing in a cover-up in order to convict the six men.

In his final submission (which he started last week) before the three Appeal Court judges, Gifford claimed that the police had forged evidence to cover up the fact that the men had been beaten.

"In the horror of the aftermath of the bombings, once it was apparently established by the scientist that nitroglycerine was on the hands of Hill and Power, it is, in our submission, a powerful incentive to officers to twist the truth, use violence against suspects, and make-up interviews in which there is no hint of violence."

Gifford also referred to new evidence which had emerged during the appeal, in particular that given by the two former police officers, Joyce Lyness and Tom Clarke. The defence lawyer pointed out that Lyness had returned to court a second time despite alleged threats made

against her by former colleagues.

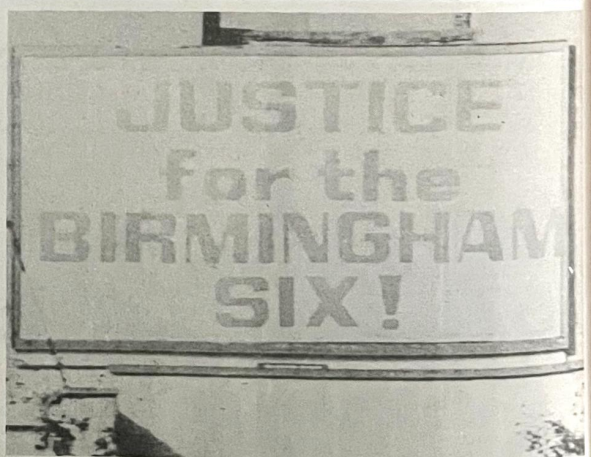
On Monday, as the appeal entered its 16th day, Gifford said that the six men had suffered "considerable prejudice" by being put on trial with three others who he claimed were members of or gave assistance to the IRA but who were charged with offences unrelated to the bombings.

A second defence lawyer, Richard Ferguson, challenged the alleged confession of Hugh Callaghan, describing it as a "remarkable" document. He pointed to the two contrasting pictures of Callaghan. The prosecution case described a man who was a "callous terrorist" while, on the other hand, "he was painted as a snivelling, grovelling apology of a man".

FORENSICS

The evidence given by Frank Skuse, the Home Office forensic scientist who carried out the forensic tests on the six men, was again the target of considerable criticism by a third defence lawyer, Michael Mansfield. Skuse had, said Mansfield, "shown himself impise in his language."

"He had omitted to



tell the court things and had admitted that he had given contradictory answers to the Appeal Court and to the lower court. He had been less than full and frank. He had not revealed particular details of the Geiss test to the lower court, though he had had every opportunity."

Defence council also criticised the original trial judge, Lord Bridge, especially his hostility towards Dr Black, a forensic expert who had sought to raise doubts about Skuse's forensic evidence. Mansfield said that Bridge had denigrated Black "not just in his summing up but also during his evid-

ence". In conclusion, Mansfield argued that: "The case is that the scientific evidence is the stage on which the subsequent events were played out. We say that this stage has been destroyed. The boards are no longer safe to walk upon."

PLANNERS IGNORE COMMUNITY NEEDS

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE recently-published draft form of the Belfast Urban Area Plan has been given the thumbs down by a wide spectrum of community groups, tenants' associations and other groups who met on Wednesday, November 25th, to discuss ways of collectively opposing certain aspects of the plan before the public inquiry next March.

Tens of millions of pounds have been earmarked by the British government to take Belfast, it says, "into the 21st Century" as a city "which (its people) can proudly bequeath to future generations". It all sounds very nice but in reality the draft plan shows that, despite over a thousand submissions opposing its short-

falls, the needs of communities have been ignored once again. Instead of providing essential facilities, jobs and housing to deal with the high levels of poverty, unemployment and housing shortages, the plan has instead prioritised the development of the city centre and the Laganside scheme, two high-commercial ventures

which will cost in the region of £30 million.

While 9.25% of all the North's unemployed live in West Belfast, there are no concrete proposals in the plan for industrial development of industrial sites already there. The West Belfast Steering Committee for the Urban Area Plan expressed its anger at this, particularly when millions of pounds have been designated for the Laganside development and a special government select committee has been set up to ensure its success.

Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Mairtin O Muilleoir said:

"The city centre and Laganside developments are

purely for the benefit of private speculators while the social and economic needs of working-class communities are ignored. Thousands of pounds have already been spent on special consultants' reports into proposed developments at Laganside and the city centre. Why were similar surveys not commissioned into the high levels of unemployment in West Belfast?"

Several small sites have been proposed for new housing developments in West Belfast but these would only provide some 700 'new build'. The only major housing development is the Lagmore site at Poleglass with 1,000 'new build'.

O Muilleoir also pointed out:

"The Irish language is totally ignored in the plan despite the fact that West Belfast has been judged the area in Ireland doing the most for the promotion of Irish. Submissions demanding planning for a new Irish-language primary school, a secondary school and for the area to be recognised as a bilingual district have been rejected out of hand in the draft plan."

There are also no proposals for the development of shopping facilities in nationalist areas or for play facilities in West Belfast where 40% of the population is under 16. Improved



● MAIRTIN O MUILLEOIR

health facilities, sites for the travelling community and the provision of adult education facilities are also out of the plan's scope.

Overall, O Muilleoir described the draft plan as "a classic case of private greed taking precedence over public need". He went on to rap "the lack of consultation with working-class communities in its creation". He added that it was "shameful" that the 1,100 objections to the plan's preliminary proposals which were submitted to the Department of Environment had seemingly "been totally ignored".

Will Fianna Fail sink B+I?

THE B+I CRISIS continued this week as ships' officers rejected a 'survival' plan which would savagely reduce their living standards. The irony was that while the workers were presented in the media as "unreasonable", the source of the problem at the ferry company is a set of lunatic investment decisions taken by an overpaid management team. How else could the company's competitor Sealink give better pay and conditions while making a profit?

The plan, recommended by the Dublin Labour Court, meant that the officers would lose 24 posts out of 129 (a 20% job cut), and that their pay would permanently drop 5% on top of the general (temporary) 5% pay cut for all B+I workers. The 129 FWUI members voted it down overwhelmingly.

Overall staff numbers are to be cut under the plan from 1,464 to 900 and, when the cuts in wages and conditions are taken together, the remaining staff will see a 35% drop in their living standards. But the Fianna Fail government has ordered them to reach agreement with management on a survival plan or face the closure of the company.

Alex Spain, company boss for the last three years, receives £80,000 per year. His contract (which is soon to run out) was to make B+I profitable. His solution is to make the workforce pay for that.

In the ships' officers' case this is extremely noticeable. While B+I crews get eight days off after eight day's work, their Sealink colleagues are on a 24 hours on/48 hours off shift system. Sealink gives over twice the annual leave offered by B+I. The plan rejected by the ships' officers would mean a considerable worsening of these conditions.

Fianna Fail Minister for Tourism and Transport, John Wilson, has threatened to close the company in a week's time if the workers don't toe the line. Yet the government believes that the company can be made profitable within a few years. What brought the opposition of the marine officers was the additional pay cut they were expected to carry. The workers as a whole have offered to make large concessions to keep the company afloat. The danger is that Fianna Fail will sink it.



● Fianna Fail threatens B+I workers to toe the line or lose their jobs



● Dublin Bus by forcing the introduction of one-person operated buses in delaying buses

COSTS OF SAFETY?

The financial crisis is causing accidents at work and in some cases endangering workers' lives according to a report from the Six-County Health and Safety Inspectorate. The report, issued on Monday, November 23rd, says that safety standards in the North's factories are declining as firms face increased economic problems.

Forty-five people died through industrial accidents in the Six Counties in the 1985-86 period covered by the Inspectorate. In 50 cases companies were prosecuted for low safety standards. Major problems included the absence of protection on dangerous machinery and the failure to give workers dealing with asbestos the correct clothing and breathing equipment for this highly dangerous job.

DUBLIN BUS STOPPED

The haste of Dublin Bus management to force the introduction of one-person operation (OPO) at the city's Donnybrook garage broke a union-management agreement and stopped CIE services to 100,000 people on Monday, November 23rd.

The agreement that OPO would not be introduced on a route without the approval of all the staff on that route was broken when drivers were ordered to go OPO on the 45A although a staff-member objected. When the National Busworkers' Union took industrial action management relented by temporarily suspending the route and redeploying the staff concerned.

Dublin Bus strategy is to force OPO on a number of other routes and may result in strike action in the near future. They plan to cut the 51A route serving the newly opened Beaumont Hospital because staff refuse to accept OPO.

Management isn't trying to provide increased services to the public through OPO — the changes are purely cost-cutting measures. By forcing its introduction CIE is delaying buses as commuters queue up to pay the driver before the bus moves off.

TAXATION ONCE AGAIN

New service charges caused by government cutbacks in funding are likely as 26-County local authorities prepare their budgets over the coming weeks. Tony O'Toole of ACRA, the residents' co-ordinating organisation says: "I've no doubt that the service charges could go as high as £500 to £600 per house." Both ACRA and NATO (the tenants' organisation) are opposed to the introduction of service charges because they mean double taxation on the lower-paid while much tax owed by the rich remains unpaid.

STRABANE

A community f

IN THE nationalist town of Strabane, on the Tyrone/Donnegal border, a staggering 4,000 of 12,000 population are unemployed. But Strabane has never figured in the British colonial authorities' list of priorities. And why should it? Its history is dominated by chronic unemployment, emigration and endemic poverty which British establishment politicians have remained oblivious to. The recent publicity-seeking visits of British direct-ruler Tom King after the town's flooding disaster and three weeks earlier by Labour spokesperson Kevin McNamara, are text-book examples of the establishment politicians' disregard of Strabane people. As always there were promises and public displays of concern but afterwards — nothing.

Strabane people have learnt from experience to see through opportunistic remarks like McNamara's, that the town's problems are "a sad tale of Thatcherism". Strabane has always been deprived socially, economically and culturally. Its criminal neglect by successive British governments predates partition.

For what little prosperity it has ever enjoyed, Strabane has depended on low-paid women workers, employed in the town's shirt factories in the early part of the century and in the Adria nylon factory today.

Permanent male unemployment, and had always been, virtually non-existent. The Stormont parliament did establish advanced factories on industrial sites in the town in the 1950s in what appeared at first to be a genuine attempt to attract industry to Strabane. But later in the same decade it arbitrarily closed down the railways in Strabane and failed to build the promised major road structure M15 which was to run from Belfast through Strabane to Derry. Instead it was stopped short at Dungannon, and the town was left cut off and isolated without an adequate transport system. Hence the lack of industry.

What has been given to Strabane on the one hand therefore, has been taken away with the other. Today the town's population is almost entirely dependent for employment on the Adria plant, the only large industrial company to have come to Strabane, and remained. It employs 750 people, mainly women.

DEMEANING SCHEMES

Adria aside the only existing employment is in shop services, a few council work schemes and ACE schemes, or on the demeaning YTPs in a converted factory on the otherwise derelict Ballycolman Industrial Estate. It is for this reason that the people of Strabane, young and old, treat the suggestion

that the IRA's armed struggle is the cause of the town's economic hardship with disdain. They have had to bear the brunt of state-sponsored unemployment for as long as they can remember.

And the dishonesty and duplicity of their own so-called 'nationalist' politicians has been no different from that of the power-brokers of Stormont and Westminster. Though nationalist councillors have controlled Strabane council (first Urban, now District) continuously since partition the people who elected them in good faith have little to show for it.

Instead of challenging Stormont/British rule and confronting the pressing issues affecting the impoverished nationalists of Strabane, some SDLP and Independent nationalist councillors have, over the years, cost the taxpayers some £200,000 in contracts to outside businesses, many of which were gained by very dubious means.

It is an acknowledged fact locally that up until 1973, when the council lost its responsibility for housing, homeless nationalist families had to grease the palms of a nationalist councillor. Abuse of council expenses by both nationalist and unionist members was also widespread.

Though the jobbery and corruption in Strabane Council was dramatically exposed after the election in May 1985 of three Sinn Féin councillors — Ivan Barr, Charlie McHugh and Tommy McNamee — and the council chambers have been since used as a public platform to raise a wide range of crucial issues from cuts in social welfare to the crown forces shoot-to-kill policy, Strabane people are still loth to return their confidence and trust to a council which repeatedly abused that trust in the past.

Decades of corruption at local level and neglect at government level has naturally

by KEVIN McCOOL

bred apathy and despondency, with many working class Strabane people, especially the young, simply switching off from establishment politics altogether. Unemployed young people stay in during the week saving what little money they have for the weekend when it stretches no further than a disco or dance at one of the local parish dancehalls or across the border in Lifford or Letterkenny. Others simply pour their supplementary benefit into the nearest gaming machine.

The media, of course, feeds on this image in its efforts to portray Strabane as a dead-end town. And it has worked. Emigration has offered the traditional escape route to generations of young Strabane people from a soul-destroying subsistence on the dole. The majority of those who have gone have never returned.

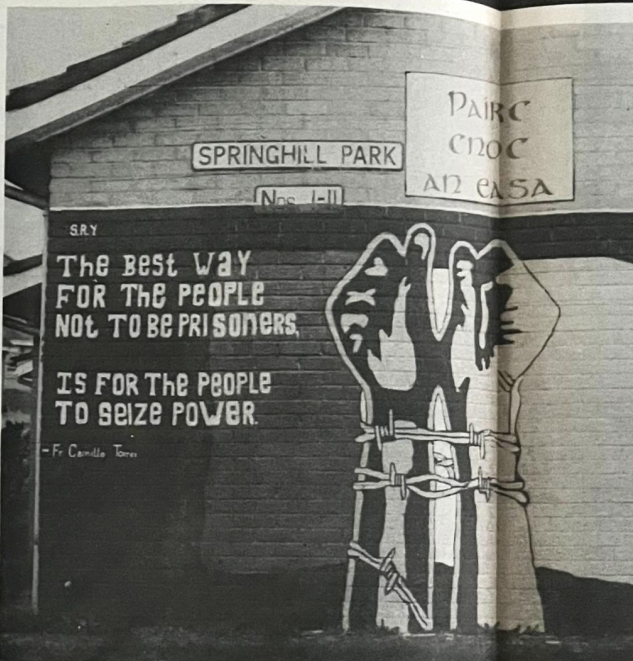
YOUNG PEOPLE PUSHED OUT

Today with a steady stream of young people leaving Strabane with little more than a boatfare or plane ticket in their pockets, emigration continues to be a drain on the talent, the skills and the enthusiasm of Strabane — the life-blood of their community. The local Job Centre contains scores of advertisements for jobs overseas, in London, Jersey or further afield. Anywhere, in fact, but Strabane.

But there is a pressure more sinister than the job ads, being permanently skint and having nowhere to go. "Anyone who is thought to be politically aware is harassed to make them get out. The boot is put on you before you become politically developed to force you to quit the town" 22-year-old Colman McCrossan, one of those on the receiving end, told AP/RN.

Everyone is fair game, as Martin Duffy explained. "Basically if you're around 20 and unemployed, the RUC consider you a provo."

Much of the systematic harassment of young people — P-checks, body searches, death threats and beatings — happens at night. After 8pm each night a curfew is put on the town centre into which young people venture at their peril. The weekend buses of young people travelling the ½ mile distance across the border to Lifford are invariably held and searched by the UDR at the Camel's Hump



• Signing on in Strabane

checkpoint. Often the gardai are waiting on the other side to carry out a second search. This officially-sanctioned repression, coming on top of the oppress-

ion of enforced unemployment, has also bred resilience and defiance.

One of those who emigrated to London in the '50s to find

work, but returned to lead the Civil Rights Movement in Strabane, Sinn Féin Councillor Ivan Barr, says:

"Young people have the choice whether to go to England and struggle over there or to struggle here. Most people, I think, would rather stay and fight here."

ANTI-HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN

During last year's anti-harassment campaign, young people demonstrated their determination to stand up to the intimidatory tactics of the crown forces. A series of white-line pickets, public meetings and protest marches with the Strabane Martyrs Memorial Band eventually brought several thousand people onto the streets in resistance to repression. Organised by young people, it made many older people aware of exactly what is happening. Its momentum finally forced Bishop Daly of Derry to publicly castigate the RUC. The incidents of harassment which Daly cited in his statement of October 1986 were provided from detailed records kept by the anti-harassment campaign, though Daly conveniently declined to mention his source.

STRABANE

fighting back



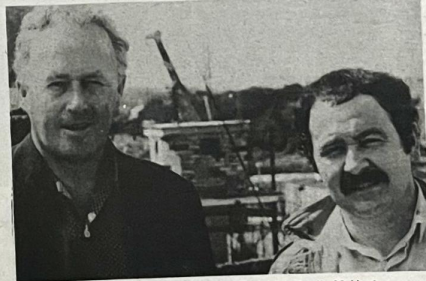
● Strabane — torn from part of its hinterland by the border and from the East of Ulster by geography and British government communications policy

rein to run riot in the estate. The area became rat-infested and its derelict houses the haven of under-age drinkers. A block of seven houses in Drumrallagh was completely gutted by vandals (as reported in AP/RN in October 1985). The Housing Executive refused to even touch it and it became an illegal dumping ground and a major health hazard.

GOVERNMENT STRATEGY DEFEATED

The clear purpose behind this strategy was to sap the community's morale, destroy its strong communal spirit and punish it for its support for the republican struggle. And it appeared to be succeeding until two years ago when people from Drumrallagh and Patrician Villas took matters into their own hands. A tenants group got underway and forced the Housing Executive to demolish the derelict block in Drumrallagh when the Housing Executive refused to do anything about the rat infestation, a group of local women took a bag of dead rats found in their homes to the Executive's offices and laid them on the counter.

In the face of a community speaking up for itself and voicing its needs, the statutory bodies were forced to take heed. A pattern has now been firmly established of Housing Executive consultation with tenants. Through their own efforts Strabane people have won for themselves a say in what happens in their area. As community activist and shop-



● Strabane Sinn Féin Councillors Ivan Barr and Charlie McHugh

steward at the Adria factory Aldan Hartan says:

"People are looking up and realising that they are the community — and saying we can't sit back and hope that Strabane Housing Executive demolishes that block of houses or removes that graffiti on the wall. We have to get ourselves together, organise ourselves, and tell them what we want done."

Instead of graffiti, the walls of the estate are now decorated with colourful republican wall murals painted by unemployed teenagers some of whom were previously involved in anti-social activities. There is a definite sense of pride by people in their estate. An imaginative mural on a gable wall in Spring Hill Park bears

the revolutionary slogan: "The best way for the people not to be prisoners is for the people to seize power."

COMMUNITY PRIDE

This new-found sense of community pride has solidified into a unanimous demand for adequate community facilities which are virtually non-existent at the moment. In the Head of the Town Women's Centre educational classes have been set up in a converted derelict house in Drumrallagh. The Fountain Street Community Group has pressed Strabane District Council to put money into the purchasing of facilities. A pre-fabricated Community Centre will soon replace the derelict hut in

Inisfree Gardens. The Fountain Street Group is determined that it will serve the needs of all the community, running functions for all ages — youth clubs, creche facilities, dances for the elderly. "We hope it will create an atmosphere for kids and families" Seamus Breslin of the Fountain Street Group told AP/RN.

"This honest attempt by residents to bring about an improvement in their lives is being fiercely resisted by the crown forces and the unionists on Strabane District Council.

Last month the Women's Centre in Drumrallagh was raided by the RUC at the same time as the newly opened Sinn Féin Centre on the estate. A few days later the derelict hut at Inisfree Gardens was visited by RUC raiding parties. When the issue of community facilities for the Head of the Town came up at the next meeting of Strabane District Council the unionists used the fact of the RUC raids to label those demanding facilities as "republican subversives". The crown forces and the unionists don't want to see this community group getting off the ground.

This, of course, is little more than is expected by a people with as long experience of British 'justice', 'normality' and 'concern' for whole communities consigned to a lifetime on the dole. It is one more reminder to Strabane nationalists that Britain has no interest in them whatsoever, other than to crush their aspirations and to trample on their hopes. But as Ivan Barr says: "The chief differences between this generation and past generations of Strabane people is that this stark realisation has fully hit home.

"All the waffling that the establishment politicians will do, all the promises of what they will do in the short-term, doesn't wash with the young people today. The Hillsborough 'promises' of American dollars don't fool anyone.

"Young people realise that the British government are not going to improve their lot, rather they are slowly but surely taking away their day to day subsistence with the gradual erosion of the welfare state and the introduction of the Social Fund. They see that the British government never had any intention of looking after their interests.

"If you ask young people what they believe is the ultimate solution which can offer any hope for them they say 'the Brits out' — more and more this realisation is coming to people."

turned to lead the Movement in Strabane. The Sinn Féin Councillor... people have the... to go to Eng... there. Most people, I... rather stay and

ANTI-HARASSMENT CAMPAIGN

years anti-harassment, young people... their determina... up to the intimid... of the crown... meetings and... with the Stra... Memorial Band... brought several... onto the... assistance to repress... by young peo... many older peo... what is happ... momentum finally... up Daly of Derry... the RUC. ... of harassment... 1986 were... detailed records... though Daly conve... to mention his

The massive social problems caused in Strabane by gambling addiction is another area in which young people are leading the fight back. A recently-formed anti-gaming machine campaign has attracted widespread community support and has already succeeded in forcing Strabane District Council to review its policy of handing out licences freely to gaming arcades. As well as highlighting the suffering and hardship caused by excessive gambling, it has taken positive steps to aid those addicted (which include single parents, and the middle-aged long-term unemployed, as well as unemployed teenagers) with the setting up of a branch of Gamblers Anonymous.

The anti-harassment and anti-gaming machine campaigns are but symptoms of a massive resurgence of interest in community politics in Strabane's Head of the Town and Ballycolman working class estates, after a prolonged period of apathy and inaction. Over the years the nationalist Head of the Town estate had been deliberately allowed to deteriorate by the Housing Executive, who refused to repair houses wrecked by vandals, and by the RUC, who allowed vandals free

Radiation level two to three times more dangerous than previously believed

CLOSE SELLAFIELD!



THE British National Radiological Protection Board has revealed that radiation is two to three times more dangerous than previously believed and has demanded that present accepted levels radiation be lowered dramatically.

The NRPB announcement made on Wednesday, November 18th, follows a report by the International Commission on Radiological Protection which accepted a recent study carried out on survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The study on victims of the two Second World War atom bombs disclosed that cancer is more likely to occur than previously thought.

The director of the NRPB, Dr Roger Clarke, explained that the yearly

risk faced by radiation workers of a one in 2,000 chance of contracting a fatal cancer must now be lowered to one in 700. Workers who are employed in the industry for 40 years face a one in 18 chance of dying from cancer.

The board has proposed that the maximum dose permissible must be lowered from 50 millisieverts (mSv) a year to 15 mSv. It also suggests that no member of the public should receive more than 0.5 mSv a year.

Rogers said: "Continued exposure near the current dose limits represents a level of risk which verges on the unacceptable."

SELLAFIELD

This information prompted Sinn Fein once again to demand the closure of the Sellafield reprocessing plant which each year dumps vast amounts of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea and which, with its innumerable accidents, presents a grave risk to the environment.

The recommendations by the NRPB for a three-fold reduction in legal maximum dose limits for radiation

workers and a halving of limits for the general public have been welcomed by Sinn Fein's Downpatrick Councillor Geraldine Ritchie:

"This reassessment of the risks of radiation exposure causing cancer has once again raised the issue of the

danger to people in this country posed by Sellafield and other nuclear power plants on the west coast of Britain.

"The recognition by the NRPB that present acceptable limits of radiation exposure are too high reflects the serious lack of

scientific knowledge available about the danger of cancer from radiation.

"This report underlines the risks created by the construction and development of nuclear power and reinforces the urgency of the demand for the closure of Sellafield."

BY EAMON TRACY

THE LACK of somewhere to live has long been a major problem for many in the Six Counties, particularly nationalists who still suffer disproportionately because of the legacy of years of institutionalised discrimination in the construction, allocation and repair of housing.

177,000 dwellings (35% of housing) in the North are under the control of the Housing Executive, the North's sole agency responsible for the provision of public housing. Of these, 75% are to be found in the larger urban settlements with one third in the Belfast urban area alone. Apart from the serious problem posed by the severe shortfall in housing for the 30,000 families and individuals on the North's waiting list, an additional area of concern is the poor condition of much of the public housing stock.

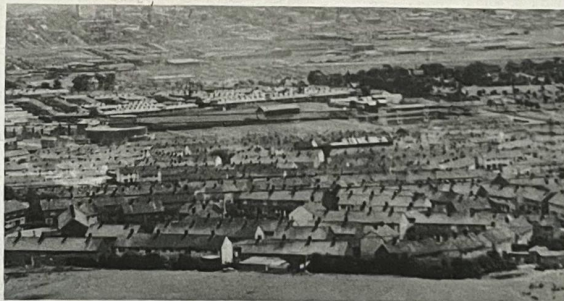
The results of a recent Housing Executive survey were published several months ago and made depressing reading. The report estimated that to bring public housing up to modern standards of design and construction, around £875 million would have to be spent. Of this, £641 million would be needed for works of improvement and repair associated with the installation and upgrading of basic facilities, while £234 million was required for works of general repair to the external shell, mechanical and electrical services.

The report looked at 13 items which would be regarded as essential for a structurally sound dwelling (e.g. proper heating and cooking facilities, good ventilation, and an absence of dampness and so on). It was estimated that 131,000 (75%) dwellings were below standard for thermal insulation, a significant figure in view of the North's poor record in regard to winter deaths among the elderly and sick from cold-related illnesses.

81,500 of dwellings (46%) lacked adequate facilities for the provision of food while heating problems affected an estimated 75,500 (43%) of dwellings. 25,000 homes (14%) of the Executive's stock had problems with dampness. To conclude this depressing picture, 75% were affected by more than one item while over a quarter were affected by four items.

The age of the property obviously plays a significant role in the problems

SOMEWHERE FIT TO LIVE



experienced, and their distribution inevitably affects the local environment. For example, 15,000 houses constructed prior to 1944 are to be found in Belfast.

RURAL HOUSING

The condition of rural housing is particularly depressing. A recent Housing Executive study of rural housing in the Roslea area of County Fermanagh concluded that there has been "no coherent co-ordinated approach to rural areas".

Roslea was chosen as the study area because "there is evidence to show that the physical housing problems experienced in Roslea are typical of the region as a whole". Fermanagh experiences the worst level of fitness in the Six Counties with 27% of homes in serious disrepair.

One of the reasons the study was undertaken was a realisation that while housing renewal policy has had an impact in urban areas, the same does not hold true for rural areas. It was noted that in urban areas, "94% of unfit dwellings are in action areas. In rural areas, such as West region, quite the reverse: 95% of unfit dwellings are owner-occupied single homes, each of which must be tackled individually."

A composite picture of rural housing was compiled with most unfit rural

housing being pre-1919 detached dwellings with rateable value under £60, owner-occupied and situated on a small land holding. Such houses lack amenities such as a bathroom and adequate kitchen and suffers damp and disrepair. They are usually located away from the main road and the occupants rely, at least in part, on benefits.

But as the report pointed out: "Rural unfitness is not just associated with disrepair, a problem that affects every area but more so with a lack of basic amenities and dampness. In this, it is not simply a housing problem but a health problem too."

It was found that 28% of private housing lacked three or more basic amenities and that 48% of the worst-off homes are occupied by pensioners.

The study concluded that several key points arose which must be attended to if unfit levels are to decline. It points out that "the depopulation of rural areas is slowing down... the number of households is often increasing" and that housing policy cannot be isolated "from jobs policy, social policy, physical planning policy, etc. Each affects the other."

The myth that rural dwellers are more likely to be satisfied with unfit housing conditions is dispelled. Nearly a third of households are dissatisfied with

their present housing. Significantly, the largest single barrier to improvement is "the high cost of building works coupled with an inability to raise private finance". It was also discovered that the grant system is often too daunting for many people and not flexible enough to meet the household's needs.

RADICAL CHANGE

Overall, a radical change in policy is urgently needed by the Housing Executive, along with a massive increase in funding by the British government. In particular, the problem of grants in rural areas, the amounts available, and the rigid manner in which they are allocated must be addressed. Unfortunately, such a change appears at this stage a long way off. Last month, the Executive published the housing strategy review for the years '88, '89, '90 and '91 which has been submitted to the Department of the Environment. Predictably, the emphasis is for the private sector to build the bulk of new housing. The review estimates that around 6,000 "new private-sector houses will be started each year, and 750 by the housing association movement". The Executive wants to build 1,750 houses each year.

Sinn Fein's Belfast housing spokesperson, Councillor Sean Keenan, pointed out that most of those on the waiting list are there because they cannot afford to buy a house and are dependent on public housing:

"The 7,000 dwellings built over four years by the Executive don't begin to tackle the lengthy waiting list."

But this modest target has had to be dropped because the difference between Housing Executive estimates and British government expenditure plans mean that there would be a large gap in available finance in 1989/90 and 1990/91. The Executive has therefore dropped its target of 'newbuild' to 1,650 and increased by two years to 12 its programme of improvements. Even this reduced strategy will be more expensive than present British government expenditure plans allow for. As expected, on Tuesday, British direct-ruler Tom King announced a £40 million cut in the Executive's budget. Condemning the decision, Sean Keenan said:

"The housing shortage is desperate, the extent of urban and rural unfitness is staggering, and yet no serious effort is being made to confront this issue. As ever, the British government, through its housing agency, tinkers with rather than tackles the housing problem."



THE FLYING COLUMN



● The Wacky Windsors on parade at their Highland retreat. With *The Royal Family Pop-Up Book* one can guide one of the jolly prince's balls into the jaws of a corgi!

ONE OF THE ARMED Garda gang who raided AP/RN's Dublin Offices on Monday took a great interest in a particular book as he rooted through one hack's desk. With wide-eyed wonder the snooping sleuth lovingly leafed through the pages, softly murmuring to himself:

"Jayus, isn't that the stupidest thing ever? Would ye just lookit that."

And the source of his fascination? *The Royal Family Pop-Up Book!*

THE UNIONIST MP for Strangford, John Taylor — who survived an attack by peace-loving Workers' Party gunmen in the early '70s — is, when in Europe as an MEP, a member of the extreme right-wing Group of the European Right.

And his unfortunate constituents can expect an unusual Christmas present from John, for the group has produced its own champagne, complete with label... a photograph of notorious French National Front fascist, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

PRIVATE PROTECTION. Looking for the ideal Christmas present for the man who has everything. My friend Chucky tells me that *Handgunner*, the firearms journal, is advertising the

latest body protection (or parts thereof) — armoured codpieces!

UDR SOLDIER Robert James Harrison of 'C' Company, 8 UDR, Cookstown, was ordered to pay £100 compensation to Dungannon solicitor Francis Rafferty by Cookstown Court last week. The solicitor told the court that when he was stopped by a UDR patrol last May he had been headbutted by Harrison who was wearing a helmet.

EVEN IN THEIR disgusting clamour to use the Enniskillen tragedy to make political capital, British establishment politicians were trying to score points off one another.

As soon as Labour's Neil Kinnock heard that Thatcher intended to fly to last Sunday's ceremony in Enniskillen, he and his Irish affairs flunkey, Kevin MacNamara presented themselves to attend also.

But would Thatcher miss the chance to be the only focus of the news reports? The two self-promoting Labour Party men were told by Tory government officials that, sadly, there was no room for them on the aeroplane because Thatcher and her entourage filled it up completely.

AND MARGARET THATCHER is said to be furious with her one-time cronie Sir Richard Attenborough over his new film *Cry Freedom* — the story of South African leader Steve Biko, who was beaten to death by white police.

According to newspaper reports, Thatcher stormed off after telling Attenborough to stick to showbiz and leave politics to politicians. Her overwrought sidekick Denis, then explained to all who would listen that she still privately refers to Zimbabwe as 'Rhodesia' and that the Thatchers have often visited relatives in Durban, South Africa.

DID YOU KNOW... that the Robert Emmet Sinn Fein Cumann in Dublin's Inchicore is masochist?

Yes, you've guessed it, they're at it again. For a record-breaking tenth year in a row cumann members and supporters will go for a swim in Dublin's Grand Canal on Christmas morning. The swim is to be sponsored, by those who choose to stay dry, and is in aid of republican prisoners' dependants.

Whether you go along to jeer or cheer, it will be great crack at the Third Lock Bridge at 11.30 on Christmas morning — and it's all in a good cause!

FOLLOWING THE RECENT eviction of several drug-pushers by Ballymun people, one pusher, Geezer Wright, managed to find himself somewhere else to stay in the area. At a meeting held last Wednesday, Concerned Parents voted 496 to four to evict him again.

'Who were the four — his cronies?' I hear you ask. Well, not exactly. One of those who voted to let the pusher stay on in the community was Fergal de Rossa, son of Sticky supremo Proinsias.

Another Workers' Party member accused the CPAD of not caring about addicts but his rant was cut short by CPAD man Niall Donnelly who informed him that the CPAD addiction committee was set to open a special clinic in Ballymun shortly.

But lurking in the shadows at the back during all this was Proinsias de Rossa himself, the man who attempted to smear the CPAD from inside Leinster House last week as "a front for the Provisional IRA" and "like the Ku Klux Klan".

At the end of the meeting de Rossa found himself surrounded by about 60 of his constituents who chanted their message to him: "De Rossa out! De Rossa Out!"

A FORMER ULSTER unionist councillor was remanded in custody when he appeared at a special court in Magherafelt following an arms find at Ballygowan, Desertmartin.

Thomas James Johnson, of Tobermore Road, Magherafelt, is charged with possessing a sub-machinegun pistol, a .22 rifle, a 9mm pistol and 300 rounds of ammunition.

And when he appeared in Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday (Thursday) the judge released him on bail.



NOTES
It's rather disturbing... I seem to be losing my memory...

And somehow the memory loss appears to be selective. I can recall any ill-advised incident that can be laid at the door of the Republican Movement...

But I cannot recall one unpleasant action carried out by loyalists! I cannot think of one crime committed by British soldiers...

Don't worry about it... It's a type of amnesia which afflicts many bishops, journalists, politicians...

Anyway, how long have you had this problem? What problem?

DÚIRI SIAD

I would not extradite a dog to Britain.
— Fianna Fail Senator Don Lydon.

This is what the Anglo-Irish Agreement was designed to produce.
— John Stanley, assistant Six Counties director, on the nationwide Free State/crown forces search operation.

The [IRA] will be beaten by a combination of political disassociation from them and security co-operation.
— John Stanley.

The last time this house was raided was by the Black and Tans.
— Donegal Councillor Harry Blaney who witnessed the Garda Special Branch raid on the home of his brother, Neil Blaney TD.

Republican Publications



Christmas Cards 20p each.

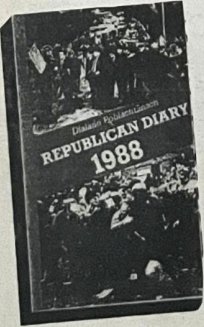


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Máiréa Poist

AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

HOLDING OUR HEADS HIGH

A Chairde,
In the present political climate, uncomfortable as it is, there is an atmosphere of hostility towards anyone of any religious denomination who might actively work towards the dissolution of the 'Northern Ireland' state. The aspirant is frowned at because his or her vision of the future might just possibly be preceded by a degree of inconvenience for those who would prefer to see injustice prolonged, so long as the thick end of the wedge eludes them.

It doesn't seem to matter if the United Irlander argues his or her case on grounds of morality and truth because 'the haves' and the 'I'm-alright-Jacks' are the attitude-shapers in our society, despite finding themselves in the minority.

And this minority happens to be in control of the media and the education system too and this is where the anti-national rot begins. It is increasingly the practice of Catholic (but not necessarily nationalistic) teachers to implant the anti-national seeds in young minds in their formative years.

The historical integrity of Derry is doubted with endless reference to 'London-derry' or some other distortion like Stroke City. Britain is endlessly labelled the paternalistic 'Mainland' and the partitionist 26-County state is allowed to hijack the title of republic. The RUC are invited to our schools to give lectures on road safety and hill-walking and no mention of their horrible anti-nationalist record is made. The battering of republicans at parades and funerals is excused and neglected in

the name of no protest. Allow them to rule us!

The rot is intended to set in at an age beyond which recovery is extremely unlikely and the concept that is peace has little meaning other than the submission of the discriminated-against and the absence of unlicensed gunfire. Justice is deemed to be ultimately desirable but only if fate drops it upon us in the misty and distant future. It is said to be the concern of future generations. That is what Bishop Edward Daly intimated in the aftermath of Enniskillen.

In schools in Omagh within the past week or so and doubtless in other areas - pupils of primary, secondary and grammar level have been besieged with feelings of inferiority and complexes of guilt and in some schools seven and eight-year-olds have been asked to write compositions on the implications of Enniskillen. No such similar homework was prescribed on the legacy of Loughgall, and no pupils were asked to write letters of sympathy to the families of those brave men cut down by foreign forces. It is all so utterly one-sided, and unacceptable.

No-one should be ashamed to be a United Irlander and no-one should fear the workload ahead, and its probable accompanying setbacks, on the path to the Irish republic. Republicanism can never lose its appeal and its implementation remains the only answer to Ireland's English problem, despite the tragic and sad consequences of any individual happening. Onwards to victory.
Barra Mac Giolla Dhuibh,
An Charraig Mhor,
Thír Eoghain.

REALITY

A Chairde,
I do not justify the tragedy of Enniskillen. It was wrong and should not have happened. But I would like to comment on the hypocrisy of politicians and certain church leaders on their one-sided attacks on the kick-back violence of the oppressed.

We hear politicians who condone Section 31 shed crocodile tears for democracy. We hear sectarian politicians who condone loyalist murders and condemn the IRA and worse still, they are given prominence on RTE. It is one-sided, cynical and ghoulish. We also hear the national inferiority complex which is a result of the colonial occupation of this country with the statement by people that they feel ashamed to be Irish.

Forgotten are the tragedies of successive pogroms, Bloody Sunday, McGurk's Bar, the Miami Showband massacre and the terror inflicted on the nationalist population by successive British administrat-

ions and loyalist thugs. Forgotten is the misery inflicted on the Irish people in the 26 Counties by many of these politicians through enforced emigration, poverty, cut-backs effects such as broken marriages, wife and child-beating, rape and suicides.

The unfortunate reality is that tragedies will remain with us while the financial and military control of our country is in foreign hands. Those who want to prevent violence would do well to look at the causes and as a result campaign for a British withdrawal and the establishment of a just, equitable and caring society.

Oisín Breatnach,
Baile Átha Cliath.

EMIGRATION

A Chairde,
Having read the rantings of Brian Lenihan in the current issue of *Newsweek* I felt I had to put pen to paper to state a few facts. Whilst Brian Lenihan may feel

it is 'refreshing' for so many to leave Ireland, I doubt if the friends, relatives and parents of those who leave find it so.

Brian Lenihan gives the impression that we came here for the crack and to enjoy ourselves before returning home to settle down. That may be true for some, especially the young of the middle class and politicians who all ways had jobs, comfort and security in Ireland, but does Brian Lenihan realise how many illegals there are in the US? *Catholic New York* newspaper estimates that there are 120,000 illegal Irish in the New York area alone. Most of these are working class and have nothing to return to only longer dole queues than when they left. They will stay here for as long as they can evade the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) and the Immigrant Control and Reform Act of 1986 and its dreaded by-product 1-9 form.

A case highlighted in the October 24th issue of the *Irish Echo* concerned an illegal Irish family - with two parents and three children - living in a small basement. All the kids had contracted scarlet fever, the father was unemployed and the family was penniless. Due to their illegal status they were afraid of seeking medical help. They had no money to purchase over-the-counter medicine or even food. This according to Brian Lenihan's warped mentality is probably 'refreshing' also.

For Brian Lenihan to say that it's refreshing to see so many leave Ireland exposes the sick nature of the Free State, which must be replaced by the socialist republic. I find myself in total agreement with Fr John Gavin, secretary of the Bishops Commission for Emigrants, when he said the remarks were merely confirmation of a "hitherto unpublished government policy".

Brian Lenihan said that "we can't all live on a small island". I agree. Why doesn't he and his political cohorts get off it. Then in Bobby Sands' words we'll see "the rising of the moon", and we'll have a society in which the leaders won't feel it is refreshing to see tens of thousands leaving.

Oh how I wish those words would haunt Brian Lenihan for the rest of his life!

Maurice,
Undocumented alien,
New York.

'BAD TASTE'

A Chairde,
At the risk of being branded a sorehead I feel obliged to object to the inclusion of items about British soldiers et al dying in road accidents in the *Flying Column*.

Not only are such items in bad taste and of dubious news value but they also undermine our credibility as an organisation which doesn't gloat over enemy deaths. They also bring an element of the gutter press to a serious newspaper.

Might I suggest information about suicides of RUC men etc, which illustrates morale problems within enemy ranks, be presented as straightforward snippets of news.

Martin O Muilleoir.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

A Chairde,
The historians of Stalinist Russia used an air brush to remove the disturbing image of Trotsky from photographs of great revolutionary events: Tom O'Dwyer seems to have

used a giant Tipp-Ex to do the same in his otherwise excellent account of those events (*AP/RN* November 12th 1987).

It is ironic that in the days of Glasnost when the possibility of rehabilitating those leaders of the revolution who fell victim to Stalin's purges and show trials, is once again on the agenda, *AP/RN* should give expression the same historical nonsense.

Writing Trotsky out of the history of the Russian revolution was not done to distort an individual, but to justify the unprecedented power centralised in the hands of a most barbaric bureaucracy which arose from the isolation of that revolution. The identification of socialism with Stalinist Russia has weakened the cause of free thought everywhere. Why risk your life and that of your friends and family in a struggle against landlords and capitalists if all that is going to replace the present system is bureaucracy, thought police and detention camps?

When Lenin returned to Russia in April 1917 and argued that Bolsheviks should fight for the overthrow of the provisional government, the idea was not 'his alone', as Tom O'Dwyer says. It is unlikely that such a large and well-trained political party could change its views on such a life or death issue on the suggestion of an individual party leader - even someone with the prestige of Lenin. In fact, Trotsky, who was to play a vital role in the revolution as the elected leader of the largest soviet (workers' council) in Petrograd had been warning of the dangers of the 'stages' theory of revolution for some time.

Bolsheviks like Stalin and Kamenyev stuck to the old theory that society had to evolve through distinct stages - feudalism, capitalism and only then to socialism. Trotsky said that whereas this did apply on a world scale, individual countries did not have to go through such rigid steps, it was quite possible to 'skip over' stages very quickly. At some points in history, he said, capitalist could play a progressive role. But in the Russia of 1917 they could provide none of the social ills people wanted. They could not feed the hungry, give land to the landless or stop the slaughter going on in the battlefields of Europe. Trotsky argued that workers and poor peasants had to seize power themselves. This has become known as the theory of 'permanent revolution'.

Lenin's genius was not to have been 'right all along', but to instantly grasp in April 1917 that the old stages theory was not worth the paper it was written on. He didn't sit down in a seminar and discuss it all out with Trotsky and his friends like some abstract question, he took immediate action to re-orientate the party in the required direction and on to victory.

The idea that freedom could be won only by going through a series of stages should have ended there. Unfortunately communist parties around the world did not drop. Unless the workers and poor people of Russia seized power in 1917, millions would have been killed by the capitalist class. That fundamental truth could have saved millions of lives in Indonesia, Chile and a score of other countries when the Soviet advisors and CPs told the workers they would have to wait! In China, Yugoslavia and Vietnam, revolutionaries ignored that advice and did indeed 'skip a stage'. Connelly did not argue: first an Ireland under British rule, second an Ireland under Irish

capitalist rule, then the socialist republic. He argued that the Irish capitalist class was totally subservient to their imperialist masters and if the people of no property defected the British, they should set about building a socialist republic.

We all have to study and learn the lessons of history honestly. Trotsky's role in the Russian revolution has been erased from the history books by supporters of the 'stages' theory. Leave that to the Workers' Party, it makes no sense for republicans.

Martin Collins,
London.

MORE NIT-PICKING

A Chairde,
In answer to Mr Clarke's *Nit-Picking?* letter (*AP/RN*, October 15th), my, but he seems a wee bit upset. I would like to point out that I thought that I saw many errors in his book but thinking it might have made a mistake he would most certainly do to me what he is accusing one of trying to do to him.

While he does not concede that saying "apparently innocent Julie Livingstone" was misrepresenting the incident, he says on reflection "apparently" could have been left out. Fair enough - if he then puts apparently in front of the "soldier who was seriously wounded". In a country where we have apparently-wounded soldiers who have been struck on the leg with a brick and we could also have another apparently wounded soldier who has had a comfortable night in hospital in his bed but thinking it might be somewhere in a ditch in Armagh. Does it really matter to the point of inclusion if a soldier is wounded?

Secondly, in relation to the Miami Showband massacre, he states in his book that members of the Miami Showband were killed by a premature explosion. In his letter he attempts to state that no members of the band was killed in the explosion.

Finally, he now takes us through the scenario of the UDR/UVF men in UDR uniforms on a "bogus" UDR patrol, stopping the Miami Showband, taking them up the road to a hedge, and searching them at the same time two UDR/UVF men are killed when the bomb prematurely explodes. He then goes on to say the band was fired upon "though there is some dispute as to who fired" and "that there are some conflicting reports of another group of people in the area".

This explanation must compare "unfavorably" with what while trying to escape and I did not know the gun was loaded. Who are these other people in the area? The RUC, SAS, the Workers' Party, or the Ardoyne Celtic Supporters' Club.

Mr Clarke, your letter (never mind your book) shows how anti-republican you are, and hopefully it should help stop any republican buying it. And as for calling me a nit-picker I must ask you, surely we are a bit grown up for name calling... "sticks and stones". Although, on second thoughts, looking back to the original review this could be tempting fate.

Thomas Brawley,
Bellshill,
Strathclyde.

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

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

REVIEWS



MEDIA

Dark days ahead

BY JOE GABRIEL

THE FACT that journalist Nell McCafferty has been banned from RTE radio and television has not been a big deal as far as most of the media is concerned.

The ban on McCafferty brought, instead, under Section 18 of the Act, which deals with people who are likely to incite, etc., etc.

An interview Nell McCafferty did with *Hanly's* *Passing* was, first of all, deferred, and then later, banned. An appearance by McCafferty on *Lieline* was also stopped because of her views on the North. Neither banning has caused any great wave of condemnation or expressions of unease at the way in which censorship is now working. It should be noted that she has not been completely banned. She can go on and talk about anything else - just don't mention the North!

that, with the exception of passing mention in most of the papers, it was not considered worthy of exposure further. (To be fair, the *Sunday Tribune* did deal with it.)

The banning of McCafferty is the start of something completely different. Up to now, RTE have had it all their own way and they can throw Section 31 at anyone as and when they please. And generally, when they are extending this, they don't bother to explain what has actually happened. Irish Northern Aid's Martin Galvin is a case in point. He was due to appear on RTE a couple of years ago. He appeared at an IRA funeral in Derry and was then dropped

EXTENDING CENSORSHIP

The move against McCafferty is significant in that it represents a further extension of censorship. It is even more significant

from RTE. "The changed context of events" was the reason given at that time.

Now all of that is changed. The present situation is that anybody who expresses a view on events in the North contrary to the current wisdoms being circulated by the government leaves themselves open to banning under Section 18.

This is being done at a time when the government in the South is carrying out massive expenditure cuts without any real criticism from the media. The political context of the banning is one of general repression. The banning of Nell McCafferty is a big deal, and despite the fact that the media might court unpopularity, the media should make a big deal about it.

BLOODY SUNDAY

McCafferty represents a point of view that is seldom enough heard on RTE. She was there on Bloody Sunday when British soldiers took a decision to kill people, to make them lie down. The logical conclusion of the current banning, if it had been in operation on Bloody Sunday, is that RTE would not have been able to interview anyone who attended that march that fateful day.

The logical extension of that general banning means that RTE cannot now talk to anyone who marches on the streets. If the RUC baton charges a crowd of mourners, for example, they will not now be able to talk to those who have been batoned. For, naturally enough, those who have been batoned will be expressing views that run contrary to the government's in the South.

We are in for a period of covert fascism. Nell McCafferty told the truth. She put her life and her livelihood in jeopardy by so doing. She received very little back-up from her colleagues in the media. What all of this amounts to is a situation where freedom of expression, and freedom of the press, is being eroded and nobody is shouting 'stop'. There are dark days ahead indeed.

thought within our scope, how much we dreamed and dared to hope!

In Sixties Flangas, I recall days of scarce food, or none at all;

I see my mother go to bed sick, because she was not fed.

Noting the power of revisionism today he says of the 1966 jubilee celebrations:

On TV then, at children's hour, they lauded well the bullet's power; told tales of Constance Markievicz and others who would shoot to bits.

The ballad finishes up as "the North struck again" asking the question "is this not Chile, Bangladesh?"

The author spends no time with what-might-have-beens, but stops abruptly at 1970. For me, that's one of the main disappointments of the book. The other one is the price - £1.75 for a very soft back 20 page volume!

LEABHAR

Ode to the Free State

BY BRIAN O'DEE

JOHN GRUNDY'S *The Grocer's Republic* is a brave attempt to tell in verse the history of this half-nation - the 26-County state - from 1922 to 1970.

Born and reared in a Dublin alum he unashamedly dedicates his 'Ballad of the South' to the urban poor who were lost and forgotten by the machinations of successive conservative administrations. In telling the sad story of the state -

This is a catholic state of course; clean books, clean films, no divorce. - he tells also of his parents' generation and their woes. Thus: Catholic Dublin,



captures the full horror of the slaughter of republicans, by using the words of the soldiers of the Grocer's Republic. In Kerry, the crows eat choicest bits of men scattered to the trees by the government's mines. "we tied them tight - was that going too far? but such things happen in civil war..." Having described the arid conservatism of the Free State Twenties Grundy's verse turns to the hopes of those who, for

the first time, looked to Fianna Fail as the solution only to have those hopes dashed. After de Valera's coming to power in 1932, and throughout the long reign of Fianna Fail nothing changed for those who skivvied and slaved. The first Coalition (1948) again brought hope to the hearts of the people, but:

The government before McQuaid was jam or jelly marmalade:

oh, gentle Jesus, meek and mild will care for mother and for child.

The criminal behaviour of the Catholic hierarchy is emphasised in his descriptions of his school-days which will probably ring a bell with most older readers.

Leaving school at 14 to "help sell Johnston Moon-ey's bread" he describes the achievements and failures of the '60s.

Oh, Sixties of the nouveau riche, the Beatles, Cassius, the Beatles, Cassius, how much we

IMEACHTAI

DEFEND THE CLINICS CAMPAIGN
PUBLIC MEETING
Speakers: Louise Aarnal (ICCL), Ursula Barry, Patricia Hegarty (USI), Michael Brennan (EPTU), Mary Gordan (Counselling Group).
7.30pm Thursday 26th November
Liberty Hall
DUBLIN

PICKET AGAINST THE PTA
5-7pm Friday 27th November
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
England
Organised by the IBRG

ANTI-EXTRADITION RALLY
SHANNON UNDER THREAT
Prominent speakers
2.30pm Saturday 28th November
SHANNON
County Clare
Organised by the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee

CONFERENCE ON MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES
Speakers: Kevin MacNamara, John Carroll (ITGWU), Inez McCormack, Noreen Green (ITGWU), Ken Livingstone and John MacBride
Saturday 28th November
The Camden Centre
Bidborough Street
LONDON
England
Organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland

KILMICHAEL COMMEMORATION
Speaker: Fr Des Wilson
12noon Sunday 29th November
KILMICHAEL
County Cork

JAZZ NIGHT
9pm to 1am Wednesday
2nd December
Gatsby's Night Club
NEWRY
Taitle £1.50
Guest speaker: ANC ex-prisoner
Organised by Newry & Mourne Anti-Apartheid Movement

CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION
7.30pm Friday 4th December
Assemble Denny Street
TRALEE
County Kerry

PETER CAMPBELL WELCOME HOME DANCE
Featuring the Irish Brigade
Friday 4th December
BORDER INN
County Louth
Taitle £3

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring Irish Brigade
Saturday 5th December
Wexford Inn
DUBLIN
Taitle £2.50
In aid of Portlaoise Prisoners Relatives Bus Fund

CONFERENCE ON STRIP-SEARCHING
10am-5pm Saturday 5th December
Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill
LONDON
England
Organised by the London Strategic Policy Committee & the Association of London Authorities

BALLAD SESSION
The Irish Brigade
Sunday 13th December
Wexford Inn
DUBLIN
Organised by the Naomh Padraig Celtic Supporters Club in aid of Scoil Seachtia Laoch
Taitle £3

WELCOME HOME DANCE
(for Paddy Boyle)
Music by Spailpin
Speaker: Cyril MacCurtain
9pm Thursday 17th December
Banner Hotel
TRALEE
County Kerry

Sinn Fein AGMs

Carroll/Asha Cumann, Bailé Atha Cliath.
Cathaoirleach: Fergus McCann;
Rúnaí: Anne Speed; OCP: Niall Meehan; Airgeadas: Fergus McCann; Comhphobal: Tony Flaherty.

Clarke/Smith Cumann, Atha Cliath.
Cathaoirleach: Brian Kenna; Rúnaí: Christine Scanlon; Leas-chathaoirleach: Liam Doyle; Airgeadas: Harry Fleming; Cisteoir: Stephen Duggan; Eagraí: Alan Moore; Oideachas: Brian Kenna; Comhphobal: Harry Fleming; Mna: Tracey Murphy; Oige: John Daly; Cimi: Noel Ellis.

Dublin North Comhairle Ceantair.
Cathaoirleach: Albert Kane; Rúnaí: Dáithí de Bru; Leas-chathaoirleach: Joe Dillon; OCP: David Walsh; Airgeadas: Liam Redmond; Eagraí: Johnny Johnson; Oideachas: Michael Mac Donncha.

Dublin Central/Dublin North West Comhairle Ceantair.
Cathaoirleach: Sean Marlowe; Rúnaí: Brendan Kelly; OCP: Liam Doyle; Airgeadas: Brenda Enright; Eagraí: Brian Dowling; Oideachas: Niall Meehan; Mna: Christine Scanlon.

George McBrearty/Charles McGuire Cumann, Letterkenny, County Donegal.
Cathaoirleach: Dennis Carroll; Rúnaí: Veronica Molloy; OCP: Sean Gallagher; Cisteoir: Rosie Diamond; Oideachas: Johnny White.

Louth Comhairle Ceantair.
Cathaoirleach: Hugh McShane; Rúnaí: Angela Teggart; Leas-chathaoirleach: Shay Rooney; OCP: Christopher O'Donnell; Airgeadas: Matt Kane; Cisteoir: Ann Sheikhs; Eagraí: Pearse McGeough; Oideachas: Arthur Morgan.

Maurice McGrath Cumann, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary.
Cathaoirleach: Liam Walsh; Rúnaí: Eddie Doherty; OCP: Michael O'Doherty/John O'Shea; Airgeadas: Michael Burns.



MACOUTES RAMPAGE

THE BATTLE for power in Haiti, where dictator Jean-Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier was overthrown early last year, has become a three-part fight between Duvalier's former pals, a radical opposition closely linked with the Catholic Church and a set of middle-class politicians backed by the United States.

Presidential elections due on Sunday have been largely paid for by the United States but offer little hope for this poverty-stricken and brutalised Caribbean country.

From 1964 until early 1986 Haiti was governed by the Duvalier family through armed gangsters known as Tonton Macoutes. Jean-Claude's father 'Papa Doc' creamed off enormous wealth and this tradition was passed on to the son

who took power in 1971. In 1984 the Macoutes' brutality sparked off riots in the South of the country and 'Baby Doc' was unable to stem the rising discontent of his people.

PROTECTED BY US

The Duvalier dictatorship was protected for years by US governments but by the '80s it had begun to embarrass American diplomats. 'Baby Doc's' regime symbolised corrupt brutality but

what was more important for Washington was that it seemed unable to crush the opposition.

The Duvalier family rip-off of Haiti created jealousy among the business classes and the US decided to shift its support from 'Baby Doc' to his well-off enemies. Throughout 1985 protests continued to grow. Small farmers and urban workers were standing up in ever greater numbers against the feared Macoutes and looked set to overthrow Duvalier. But they had yet to develop their own leadership and organisation.

The US policy was to encourage its allies within the army and the business class to take over before a radical revolutionary alternative could develop.

PEASANTS GUNNED DOWN

When Duvalier fled the country in early 1986 the Haitian army took over under General Henri Nam-

phy. But the vast majority of 'Baby Doc's' accomplices remained behind. In the rural areas the Macoutes continued to hold sway. In July 300 peasants demonstrating in favour of land reform were gunned down by former employees of the dictatorship and nothing was done to bring them to justice. On August 3rd presidential candidate Louis Athis was also murdered.

A Provisional Electoral Commission was set up to oversee the presidential elections. It received five million dollars from the US government and a further two million from France, Canada and Venezuela. When the factory printing ballot papers was burned down in an arson attack the US promised "We'll see that no shortage will delay the election."

The danger of Duvalier's former gun gangs made it impossible for left-wing candidates to stand. In any case 10,000 troops have been

massed on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic under an agreement with the United States to put down any left-wing take-over.

CANDIDATES MURDERED

Two presidential candidates were murdered by 'Baby Doc's' former gun-gangs in the early weeks of the election. One of them, Yves Volé, was a persistent critic of Namphy's government and was shot dead by police in the full view of reporters and a television crew.

A broad left coalition has been set up demanding a boycott of the elections on November 29th. The National Popular Assembly the Federation of Neighbourhood Committees and Christian groups led by Fr. Bertrand Aristide have denounced the poll as a 'farce'. For the last three weeks opposition predictions that the poll would create greater repression were proved correct. The Electoral Commission disqualified 112 members of the Duvalier regime from the elections on November 3rd and this act was immediately followed by wide-scale gun-attacks and arson.

Macoute attacks continued up to Monday November 23rd when the market in the capital Port-au-Prince was burned down.

The pro-Duvalier forces are unlikely to stop the elections but they will almost certainly force a compromise on whoever wins Sunday's vote. Their power in the countryside is shown by the fact that only 242 candidates could be found for the 1,600 elected posts in rural areas. The Haitian people who overthrew Jean-Claude Duvalier have yet to settle accounts with his followers.



From Pirates to Profiteers

THE Fianna Fail government published the long-awaited Radio Bill last week and proposes a system which will be totally dominated by commercial interests with no statutory provision for community involvement or for the Irish language.

Communications Minister Ray Burke unveiled the Dublin government's plans as the response to the proliferation of pirate radio stations which has grown since the mid-70s. The Fianna Fail bill proposes a 26-County-wide independent commercial station, local channels on a county basis, and up to 100 smaller local stations.

Control of the new stations will be decided by application for licences and the final decision on these applications will be made by the Minister for Communications. RTE will not be allowed to apply for licences but, apart from this and political and religious groups, there are no restrictions on who can apply.

There are also no guidelines for choosing between several applicants. The fact that existing pirate stations are free to apply and that the financial ability to run stations will dominate the decision it is inevitable that the local radio net-

BROADCASTING ACT

All the new stations will be governed by the Broadcasting Act which controls RTE, including the censorship of Section 31. On the other hand, there is absolutely no provision for the Irish language or for the cultural content of programmes. The only regulation is that news and current affairs must constitute 20% of the output. That news output,

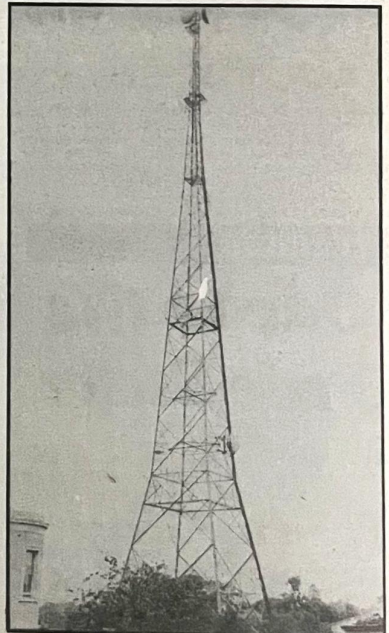
operating under Section 31, will be as biased and anti-nationalist as RTE itself.

The lack of any place for the Irish language on the proposed new networks was condemned this week by Conradh na Gaeilge. The organisation said that at least 15% of programmes should be in Irish. This is the statutory obligation on RTE but even this is not adhered to.

Sinn Fein policy on broadcasting, both national and local, was outlined in the 1985 local election manifesto. It says:

"Sinn Fein believes in independent public service broadcasting financed directly by licence fee, or where necessary from public funds. Local broadcasting financed in this way should be under community control. While we oppose the non-unionised and private enterprise nature of present 'illegal' radio stations, we realise that they are filling a vacuum left by RTE and in many instances providing an essential service to the communities.

"The highest percentage



of output possible should be of a home-produced nature. This would provide employment for many Irish artists and, while it would mean spending more money in the short-term, it would make for greater savings in the long-term.

"Long broadcasting should be firmly based in the community it serves, employing local people and with a fixed proportion of community access programmes."



OUT NOW! STOP STRIP SEARCHING

A new and up-dated edition of the Stop the Strip Searching booklet is now available.

The new edition includes a statistical breakdown of the strip-searches carried out in Arraigh Jail and in Maghaberry, a list of the supporters of the campaign, as well as evidence of the physiological effects of strip-searching on women, the history of strip-searching and what a strip-search is.

Copies are available from the usual outlets. 70p each.

REMEMBERING THE PAST MANCHESTER MARTYRS

BY PETER O'ROURKE

NO TRIAL' and execution of Irishmen in England, during the 19th century, aroused such widespread indignation in Ireland than that of the Manchester Martyrs in November 1867.

Following the failure of the Fenian Rising in Ireland in March 1867, Captain Timothy Deasy travelled to England where during the following months he worked with Colonel Thomas J Kelly, head organiser of the IRB, in purchasing arms for another rising in Ireland.

Betrayed by an informer, John J Corydon, both were arrested in Manchester on September 11th. While en route from the court-house a week later, they were rescued from the prison van by a number of Fenians, during which a police sergeant, Charles Brett, was fatally wounded. Deasy and Kelly eventually made their way to the US.

Following the rescue some sixty Irishmen were rounded up by the police. Twenty-one of these were charged with riot and assault while five, William Philip Allen, Michael Larkin, Michael O'Brien, Edward O' Meagher McDonn and Thomas Maguire, were jointly charged with Brett's death.

Even before the case was heard, due to widespread anti-Irish feeling in Manchester, the outcome was a foregone conclusion.

The five, who were held in chains during the 5-day 'trial',

were found guilty on the most dubious of eyewitness evidence and sentenced to death.

Of the other 21 people charged before the "Special Commission", eight were released while the remainder were found guilty of riot and assault and sentenced to penal servitude.

On November 21st, two days before the date of execution, Maguire was given a "free pardon", the traditional method of acknowledging a miscarriage of justice in England, and Condon's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was released in 1878.

Despite appeals from many quarters, including the journalists who had covered the case, for a pardon for the other three men, all petitions to the Home Secretary were rejected.

Allen, a native of Tipperary; Larkin, from Lismagh, County Offaly and O'Brien, of Ballymacoda, County Cork, were publicly hanged at Salford jail, Manchester and buried in a quicklime grave.

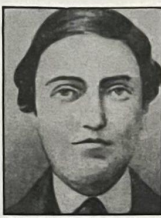
The execution of the Manchester Martyrs, as they became known, alienated Irish nationalist opinion from any belief in British justice and helped to increase recruitment into the IRB.



●MICHAEL LARKIN



●WILLIAM ALLEN



●MICHAEL O'BRIEN

The words "God Save Ireland," which the condemned men had called from the dock, became the title of a popular ballad by T.D. Sullivan and the unofficial anthem of nationalist Ireland for almost 50 years.

The Manchester Martyrs were hanged on November 23rd, 1867, 120 years ago this week.

lugh, and was Britain's response to the Armagh women's fight for political status on the no work and no wash protests and the hunger-strike of 1980. Throughout the subsequent five years, Britain has failed to crush that spirit of resistance in Irish women POWs. Britain has also lost the propaganda battle, with few convinced that strip-searching has any relevance to security in Armagh, much less in the high surveillance Maghaberry and Durham prisons. Five years and thousands of strips have failed to turn up anything of note. Continuation and extension of the practice proves that strip-searching is thinly disguised torture of Irish women political prisoners.

MONTHLY PICKET

Mary McCaughey (Newcastle Women and Ireland) condemned strip-searching and called for greater efforts to fight against it. Newcastle Women and Ireland continue to hold regular pickets at Durham Gaol, in solidarity with Martina and Ella, on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

The picket concluded with a message of thanks by Eddie Caughey on behalf of the Irish Republican POW Campaign in Britain, with a reminder that some of the POWs incarcerated in British gaols in England were nearing their 15th year in prison. Caughey called for as much support as possible for the POWs.



PICKETS HIGHLIGHT STRIP-SEARCHING

Picket pickets were held at Frankland and Durham Prisons in England on Sunday, November 15th. The pickets were called by the Irish Republican POW Campaign in Britain to mark the fifth anniversary of strip-searching of Irish women political prisoners in British gaols. People travelled from North England and Midland towns to support the event.

The demonstration commenced at the isolated location of Frankland where calls of solidarity with Irish republican POWs were greeted with cheers from within the forbidding walls which characterise modern British 'high security' prisons. The picket then moved to Durham gaol where two Irish women POWs, Ella Ni Dubhair and Martina Nic Andreas are imprisoned. The

two women, who have suffered over 900 'strips', asked, in a message to anti-strip-search marchers in June this year. "How long will this psychological torture continue? We have been sentenced to life imprisonment, does that mean a life sentence of sexual torture?"

Strip-searching was introduced to Armagh Gaol in November 1982 by Governor Thomas Mur-

The Manchester Martyrs commemoration

THE annual commemoration for the Manchester Martyrs, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien was held in Toome on Sunday, November 22nd. A crowd of approximately 100 accompanied by three bands from Toome, Clooney and Dungeniv marched the mile long route in driving rain from the Elk Bar to the Roddy McCorley Monument next to the bridge at Toome.

Under the constant gaze of RUC detectives and British army surveillance cameras from the overlooking observation posts of

Toome Barracks, the proceedings took place chaired by Antrim Sinn Féin Councillor Henry Cushin. The Roddy McCorley band

played the National Anthem, and Cushin then introduced the guest speaker, ex-hunger striker Brendan Hughes.

In his oration he reminded those present that little had changed with the British judicial system since the days of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien who were the last people to be publicly hanged in England.

CHUIMHNE

BRADY, John (15th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol John Brady, Derry Brigade, O'Connell's, who was killed in an accidental explosion on November 28th 1972. I measc laochra na nGael go raib sé. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

BRADY, Paddy (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Paddy Brady, Sinn Féin, who was murdered by loyalist assassins on November 16th 1984. Always remembered by the Martin Forsythe Sinn Féin Cumann, Dublin.

CARR, James (15th Anniversary). In loving memory of Vol James Carr, Derry Brigade, O'Connell's, who was killed in action on November 28th 1972. Fuair sé bás ar son muintir na hÉireann. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

DUFFY, Patrick (9th Anniversary). In loving memory of Vol Patrick Duffy, O'Connell's, who was shot dead by the SAS while unarmed. I measc laochra na nGael go raib sé. "They may kill the revolutionary, but they cannot kill the revolution." Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

McCADE, James (13th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol James McCade, who was killed in action on November 14th 1974. I measc laochra na nGael go raib sé. Always remembered by Tommy and all his brothers and sisters in Shannon.

McVERRY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Michael McVerry, South Armagh Brigade, O'Connell's, who was killed by British forces while fighting for his country on November 15th 1973. RIP. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Lay him down by the hillsides, along with thv brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame in letters of purest gold. Always remembered by Francis McElroy and family, Wishaw, Scotland.

McVERRY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Michael McVerry, South Armagh Brigade, O'Connell's, who was killed by British forces while fighting for the freedom of his country on November 15th 1973. RIP. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. "Soft be the soil

that covers his grave, proud be the country that bore him, green be the memory of his soul, that has gone on to join the soldiers before him." Always remembered by the Crossed-Arms with Republican Flute-magicians Patriots Republican Flute-magicians with Scars.

MARLEY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In proud memory of Michael Marley, who was shot dead by British soldiers while on active service on November 24th 1973. Fuair sé bás ag troid ar son na saoirse agus comrades in Flanna Éireann.

MARLEY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In loving memory of Michael Marley, who was brutally murdered by the Royal Greenjackets on November 24th 1973, aged 17 years. "Scouts of Na Flanna, advance o'er you with joy and delight! May God give you strength for to love Him and Ireland. And when the day comes give your courage to fight, and never forgotten and never forlorn."

MARLEY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In loving memory of Michael Marley, who was brutally murdered by the British army on November 24th 1973. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Tyrone.

MARLEY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In loving memory of Michael Marley, who was shot by the British army on November 24th 1973. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Tyrone.

MARLEY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Michael Marley, who was shot dead by British forces on November 24th 1973. Thug sé a dháirde alge ar son saoirse na hÉireann. Always remembered by Sinn Féin Bun na bhFiá.

MORGAN, Desmond (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Desmond Morgan, O'Connell's, who was shot by British forces while on active service on November 26th 1973. Fuair sé bás ar son saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Tyrone.

COMHBHRÓN

BYRNE. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Byrne family, on the death of their father, from the Casement/Noian Sinn Féin Cumann, Stillorgan, County Dublin.

CUMMINGS. Deepest sympathy is extended to Anne and family on the death of their father. From Des (Portlaoise).

DEERY: McSHEFFREY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the wives, children, families and friends of Vol Paddy Deery and Eddie McSheffrey, Derry Brigade, O'Connell's, from Johnny, Mariana McLaughlin and family, Bunrana.

DEERY: McSHEFFREY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the wives, families and friends of Vol Paddy Deery and Eddie McSheffrey, Derry Brigade, O'Connell's, from Michael, Loughlin, USA.

GREGORY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Gregory family, Ballybrack, on their recent bereavement. From the Casement/Noian Sinn Féin Cumann, Stillorgan, County Dublin.

HARDY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Len, Portlaoise, and family on the death of their father. From Tommy, Aine and Leo.

HARDY. Deepest sympathy is extended to our comrades Leonard (Portlaoise) and Basil (Long Kesh), and their other family, on the death of their father Patrick. From Gooce, Eugene, Marto, Frank and Barney Martin (Portlaoise).

HARDY. Deepest sympathy is extended to 'Hardy' and family on the death of his father. From Angela, Gerry, Karen, Shauna and Barry.

HARDY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Hardy family on the recent death of Patrick. From the Louth Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

CALLAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Kenna and McKewen families on the recent death of Emily Callan. From the Louth Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

CALLAN. Deepest sympathy is extended to the Kenna and McKewen families on the recent death of Emily Callan. From Gerry, Angela, Karen, Shauna and Barry.

BEANNACHTAÍ

CROSSETT, Art (Portlaoise). Happy birthday. Art. From sister Eithne, Franke and Eoin.

CROSSETT, Art (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings. Art. From Barbara, Terence and Arthur.

CROSSETT, Art (Portlaoise). Happy birthday. Art. From Brendan and Jane Curran and baby Conall.

CROSSETT, Art (Portlaoise). Happy birthday. Art. From sister.

McCONVILLE, Gerard (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday. Gerard. Hope to see you soon. Hugs from your friends Jean, Hugh, Lisa and Kevin. Tíocfaidh arís.

McCONVILLE, Gerard (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday. Dirty Den.

From all your friends Big Gerard, Noel, Onion, Dicky, Bapper, Andy, Bobby, Eamonn McBride, Chips, B/C, Seosamh, P/M, Alex, Kipper, Mervyn, Burney and Nory.

McCONVILLE, Gerard (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday Gerard from the committee of An Sean Mhuillean. P Loughran (sen), P Loughran (jun), P Hennessy, Dickey, Big Gerard, H Carson, M McIlhorne, P/Pyper, Noly. Sorry we had a drink on you at members night. Drink your tickets.

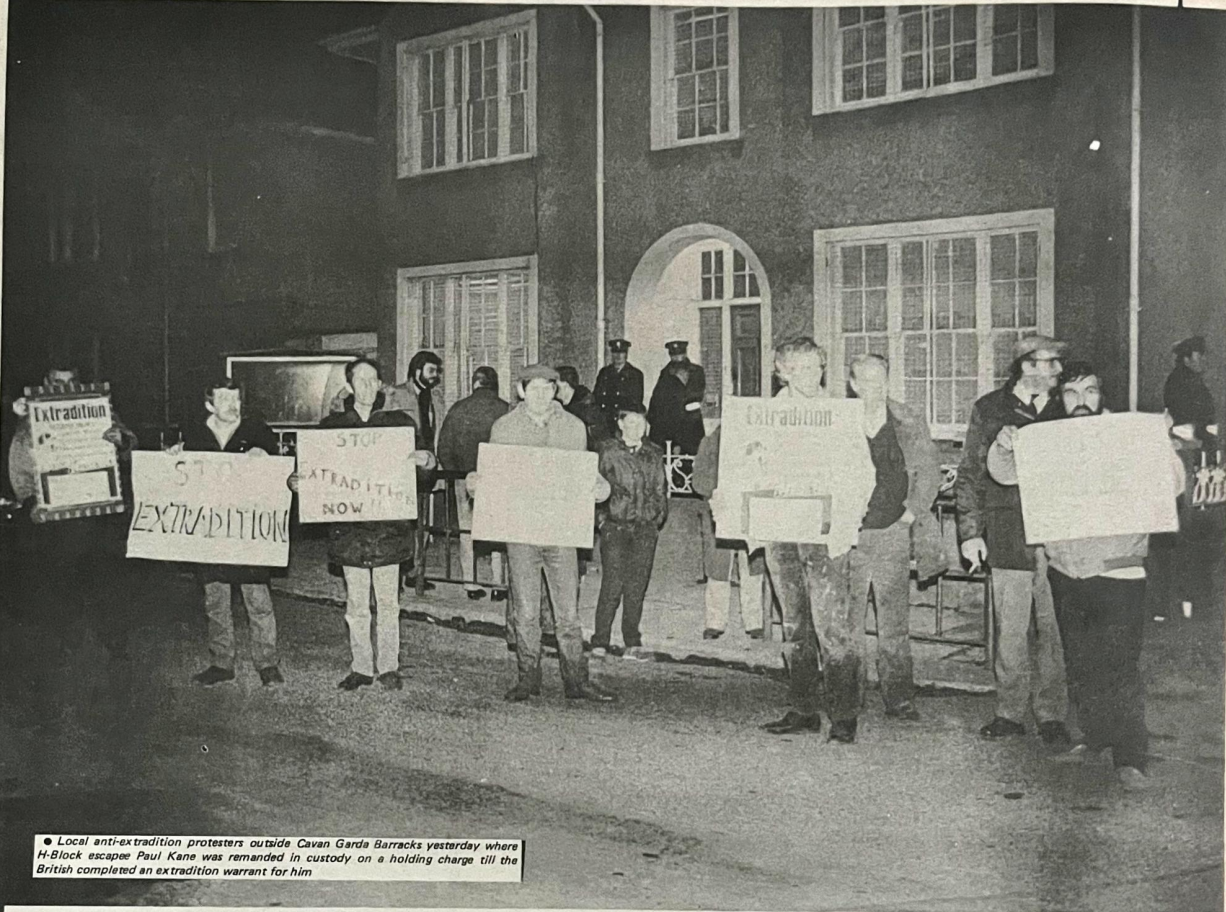
McCONVILLE, Gerard (Crumlin Road). Happy birthday Gerard, from all the staff of An Sean Mhuillean. Chris, Jean, Eithne, Noly, B/K, Oatsy, Micky, H. Bill, Noly, Andy and William. Hope to see you soon.

RYAN, Nobby. Congratulations to Bill Ryan, Tipperary Brigade, on your 90th birthday. Best wishes from Colin and family, England.

GREETINGS

GREETINGS for publication in the Christmas edition of AP/RN must arrive at our Dublin or Belfast offices by 5pm next Thursday,

December 3rd



● Local anti-extradition protesters outside Cavan Garda Barracks yesterday where H-Block escapee Paul Kane was remanded in custody on a holding charge till the British completed an extradition warrant for him

Ugly face of extradition

THE DETERMINATION of the 26-County authorities to hound republicans and to prostitute their own laws at the behest of Britain and at the expense of civil rights was seen clearly this week with the arrest of two Long Kesh escapees and with the continuing battle over the Extradition Act.

The scenes around the pursuit of Paul Kane by the gardai and Free State army throw sharply into focus the reality of extradition and the treatment people have experienced and will continue to suffer.

The Fianna Fail government tripped over itself in its headlong rush to please the British and ensure the coming into force of the Extradition Act next week.

SET TO BECOME LAW

But in spite of parliamentary wrangling over the issue, the Act is set to become law after Charles Haughey bought off his opposition in his own party with the promise of spurious safeguards. These are to take the form of hurried amendments to the 1965 Extradition Act involving the 26-County Attorney General in scrutinising extradition warrants from the British. The Fianna Fail leadership succeeded in persuading backbench TDs to support the flimsy safeguards and hoped to rush through the legislation before the December 1st deadline for the 1986 Extra-

dition Act. Opposition parties in Leinster House would not agree to an immediate debate and this means that the safeguards will not go through until after the Extradition Act comes into force automatically on next Tuesday.

This now seems almost certain unless Fianna Failers have a last-minute crisis of conscience and support the resolution for the Act to be deferred.

CONSTITUTIONALLY DUBIOUS

Another complication is the dubious legal and constitutional nature of the so-called safeguards. Technicalities apart, they offer little or no real protection to political extraditees and the abolition of the political exception will stand totally unchanged. There is no provision for a requirement on the British to present a prima-facie case against those sought even though the scrutinisation of warrants by the Attorney General has been portrayed as such. Unlike in a court hearing, the defence will be unable to examine the evidence or influence the decision of the Attorney General.

Leading barrister Patrick McEntee SC said that it was "most inappropriate that our Attorney General be asked to certify that a prima-facie case exists. This is a judicial not a political function.

"A statute empowering the Attorney to send persons for trial has been found unconstitutional. A proposal for extradition on his certificate would be, at least, constitutionally dubious."

It was opinions such as this which fuelled speculation this week that the dubious Fianna Fail safeguards would flounder.

The British government expressed its dismay when the proposals were announced, seeing them as a threat to the smooth running of conveyor-belt extradition as enshrined in the 1986 Act.

DERRY

Derry nationalists held a march in the city on Saturday, November 21st, against extradition. Several hundred people marched from the Bogside to the Guildhall bringing busy city centre traffic to a standstill.

At Guildhall Square, Eamonn McCann, from the local-based campaign, said the case against extradition was as strong and as logical as it had been before the Enniskillen bombing. The tragedy was being politically and cynically used to have the Extradition Act passed, he said, just as the Birmingham bombings had been used to rush through the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

"When it comes to kicking corpses around like political footballs, no one can match the Thatcher and Haughey governments for fancy foot work," McCann contended.

Joe Austin, speaking on behalf of Sinn Fein, described the task of breaking extradition as an immense one which must be escalated even if the Act is ratified. He reminded his audience, "A few years ago, there were those who said the paid-perjurer system

couldn't be broken, yet it has been."

SHANNON UNDER THREAT

The concerns of those most likely to be directly affected by extradition was seen in Shannon, County Clare, where over 1,500 people signed a petition in two days last week against the Act. Many of the townspeople are refugees from the Six Counties in the early 70s.

A delegation led by Fianna Fail Town Commissioner Geraldine Lambert, Sinn Fein's Michael McKee and Independent Brigid Makowski handed the petition to Deputies Tony Gregory, Síle de Valera and Neil Blaney at Leinster House on Wednesday.

Síle de Valera and other Fianna Fail TDs who had backed down in their opposition to extradition after the 'safeguards' were pulled out of the hat by Haughey were urged to take a stand on this issue of principle.

But if Fianna Fail backbenchers were vacillating, opposition in the country was unchanged with the Clare Fianna Fail constituency party, Waterford County Council and Cashel UDC coming out against it in the last week. A strong editorial in the *Northern Standard*, the County Monaghan/Cavan newspaper, again called for postponement.

"If the Fianna Fail government brings the new Extradition Act into operation on December 1st, one cannot thereafter use the word sovereignty without the inverted commas in relation to the 26-County state."