

AN
PHOBLACHT
Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



Public demonstration against extradition
11am Friday 4th December High Court Dublin

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FREEDOM FIGHTERS NOT CRIMINALS



EXTRADITION ACT CRIMINALISES IRISH POWs

WHILE establishment politicians in London and Dublin were dotting the Is and crossing the Ts on extradition, six men whose fate tells the real story of what this latest sell-out means were languishing in Portlaoise Prison.

The 26-County government has now arrested four more republicans who escaped from Long Kesh in 1983 and is holding them on behalf of the British authorities. All four are being sought by the British for extradition back to the Six Counties — political prisoners to be tried in the discredited Diplock courts of the enemy which they fought as republicans.

Dermot Finucane, the latest of the four to appear in court (in County Longford on Wednesday) is, like the others, sought for extradition by the RUC for his part in the 1983 H-Blocks break-out. Under the Extradition Act (which became law this week) the action for which he was first jailed in the Six Counties — possession of weapons used in an attack on British

soldiers — is classified as non-political. A man whose only crime was to fight for the freedom of his country is branded a common criminal by the Dublin government.

Paul Kane, who was arrested with Dermot Finucane, is officially innocent of any offence, having been exonerated after the verdict in the Christopher Black 'supergrass' trial was quashed. His ordeal continues this week and already has been one of the most disgraceful examples of the Dublin government persecuting a republican at Britain's behest (see pages 8 and 9).

Seamus Clarke, who was arrested last week with An-

thony Kelly, was, at the age of 16, in 1972, the youngest person to be interned in Long Kesh without charge or trial. He was an internee for three years. He returned to prison in 1976, this time to the hell-hole of the H-Blocks to join the blanket protest against the criminalisation of republican prisoners of war. The criminal brand which he resisted for five years of his life has now been endorsed by the Dublin government under the terms of the Extradition Act.

Similarly, for Anthony Kelly, who was only 15 years old when he was jailed by the British. He too was a

blanket man and suffered the degradation of the H-Blocks for his republican beliefs.

They have joined fellow escapees Robert Russell and Pius Clarke on the British government's shopping list of political hostages.

As the IRA said this week:

"By suppressing republicans and recognising British rule in the Six Counties Dublin governments have perpetuated the conflict rather than helped to resolve it..."

"No one but the Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army are prepared to lay down their lives, prepared to sacrifice their freedom in order to end British interference once and for all."

NATIONWIDE RAIDS AND ARRESTS



DRY RUN FOR INTERNMENT?

THE FULL EXTENT of the joint London/Dublin government's wave of repression last week has only become clear with the winding down of the operation which affected thousands of people all over Ireland and which is being seen as a preliminary to future action against republicans.

After over a week of raiding in the 26 Counties there was no sign of the huge shipments of IRA arms which Fianna Fail Justice Minister Gerry Collins announced as the pretext for the operation. Its real purpose as a massive exercise in political information gathering, surveillance and intimidation of people for their political views was clear to the vast majority of those raided. Personal letters and files, newspapers, posters and other literature were all scrutinised by Garda raiders who spread their net widely, taking in many members of the public with no political involvement and many prominent individuals unconnected with the Republican Movement.

NO WARRANTS

Widespread concern was expressed at the extent of the raids and the way they were carried out. In many cases gardai acted without warrants and used people's ignorance of their rights to invade even more homes. The Irish Council for Civil Liberties said it had been "inundated with complaints" from people whose houses were entered by armed gardai.

There were scores of cases of houses being broken into by garda intruders while the occupants were out. This was the experience of Matt Larkin, general secretary of the National Association of Tenants Organisations. He said the search for arms was used "as an excuse to go through the files of organisations they don't like. I felt terrified when I heard what happened, and disgusted."

PROMINENT PEOPLE

The raiding was also condemned by the President of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions Gerry Shanahan who was himself a victim. Among other prominent people targeted were broadcaster Donncha O'Duine, Joe Costello of the Prisoners Rights Organisa-

tion, Ita Ni Chionnaith, Uachtaran Chonradh na Gaeilge, Ann Conway of the Well Woman Centre, Labhras O Murchu, Uachtaran Comhaltas Ceolteoiri Eireann, Daithi O hGagain of the UCD Folklore Department, filmmaker Bob Quinn and Jack Bennett, assistant editor of the Evening Press.

Members of the Labour Party (including Sligo councillor Tommy Higgins) and the Communist Party also came in for harassment as did Irish language and cultural activists. This was particularly noticeable in Galway city and Conamara.

FATAL CONSEQUENCES

There were numerous instances of gardai terrorising old people and children. In Cresslough in Donegal one such raid had fatal consequences. The home of 77 year old Bridgid Sweeney who lived alone was invaded by armed gardai on Monday, November 23rd, the day the countrywide operation began. She was apparently singled out because her son James is a former republican prisoner who served time in Scotland in the Seventies. Neighbours reported that Bridgid Sweeney was in a very distressed state on

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● Mitchel McLaughlin, Jim McAllister, Gerry Doherty, Tommy Carroll and Hugh Brady at a press conference following their release last week

Monday night after the raid. The next day she was found dead, having suffered a heart attack.

WAKEHOUSE VISITED

With no regard for the grief of family or friends the gardai again raided the house on Tuesday. They returned on Wednesday while the wake was in progress and demanded to know who was in attendance. They were refused admission to the wakehouse.

Sinn Fein County Councillor Liam McElhinney speaking at a meeting of the Donegal Comhairle Ceantair on Sunday, November 29th challenged local TDs "to

state whether they accept the right to Maggie Thatcher through the Hillsborough Deal to enforce such conditions on their constituents while accepting the hardship which this exercise has imposed on the public in general in the county".

ESTATE SIEGE

In Monaghan town, Kieran Doherty Park which contains around 187 houses was completely surrounded by gardai and Free State army personnel. Half the houses in the estate were raided, just some of up to 500 raids in County Monaghan.

At Carrickree in North Monaghan on Sunday morn-

ing gardai waited until the parents of the Feeley family went to Mass before they came to the door and demanded entry. 13 year old Jacqueline Feeley was alone in the house and when she said she could not let them in until her parents returned they threatened to smash in the door.

CONDITIONING PROCESS

A week after the countrywide raids, which in the Six Counties led to the arrest of six Sinn Fein councillors and over 40 people, five of the councillors held a press conference in Belfast on Monday November 30th. Jim McAllister and Tom-

my Carroll from County Armagh, who were held in Gough Barracks and Mitchel McLaughlin, Gerry Doherty and Hugh Brady from Derry, who spent five days in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre, disclosed that throughout the time they were held the RUC did not question them about "IRA activities" but detaining them to force them to discuss Sinn Fein's political position.

Tommy Carroll revealed that RUC interrogators "laughed at the electrical damage the Enniakillers bombing might have on Sinn Fein" and made jokes about Cardinal O Fiach describing him as the "rebel priest from South Armagh who was now a Brit".

INTERNMENT

Jim McAllister Sinn Fein councillor on Newry and Mourne Council who chaired the meeting said that Sinn Fein believed the co-ordinated series of raids North and South were part of the hidden agenda of the London/Dublin Agreement and neither he nor McLaughlin would rule out the possibility of internment being introduced. "With a massive operation involving thousands of gardai and soldiers, the RUC and British Army, with the border practically sealed off — it sounds like a dry run for internment."

More particularly however the Sinn Fein councillors stressed that they felt the raids, arrests and general harassment are "part of a conditioning process" which the British and Irish establishments feel will contribute to the creation of a political climate in which the repression of Republicans becomes acceptable. McAllister said that instead of ending the nightmare the Hillsborough Agreement had become part of that nightmare.

TORTURE

Mitchel McLaughlin said that all of the councillors had remained silent throughout their detention and raised the possibility that this would be used by the British to argue for an end to an arrested person's right to silence. The Derry Councillor also showed marks on his neck which he was attacked and assaulted by an RUC detective on the first day of his arrest. He said that the same RUC man was involved in the torture of three other Derrymen Raymond McCartney, John Donnelly and Hugh Brady eleven years ago, two of whom, Donnelly and Sinn Fein Councillor Hugh Brady, were both arrested again last week. Amnesty International had confirmed the torture and a court case is expected early in the New Year.

In the Cabra area of Dublin over 30 homes were raided in a pattern repeated all over the city during the week. On Monday November 30th victims of the Garda raids picketed the local house of local Fianna Sinn TD Dermot Fitzpatrick. Sinn Fein's Tony O'Flaherty challenged him to oppose the victimisation of political activists.

"Not only are you going to cut back on people's health and education rights but you are also prepared to cut back on the right to political association. Don't you think the gardai would be better advised to attack drug-pushers rather than republicans?"

Escapees sought for extradition More hostages for Thatcher

THE RAIDS for alleged IRA arms shipments in the 26 Counties found only a handful of guns but did succeed in providing the Dublin government with more political hostages for Britain in the form of Long Kesh escapees.

Following the arrest of Paul Kane and Dermot Finucane, two more former H-Block prisoners were arrested by gardai in Dublin on Thursday of last week (November 26th).

Seamus Clarke and Tony Kelly were arrested on Thursday morning after gardai raided a house in Thornville Avenue, Kilbarrack, on the Northside of the city. Gardai kicked in the back door of the house of Kevin and Margaret Arnold. Special Branch detectives knocked Margaret and her 2½-year-old son, Robert Padraig, who was in her arms, down the stairs. On seeing this, 12-year-old Kevin Jr smashed his toy gun over the head of one of the armed attackers.

The detectives responded by wielding batons and pointing an Uzi sub-machine gun and a handgun at the mother and child.

Seamus Clarke managed to get away from the house but was chased by gardai and caught near the local shopping

centre. Both he and Kelly were arrested under the Offences Against the State Act.

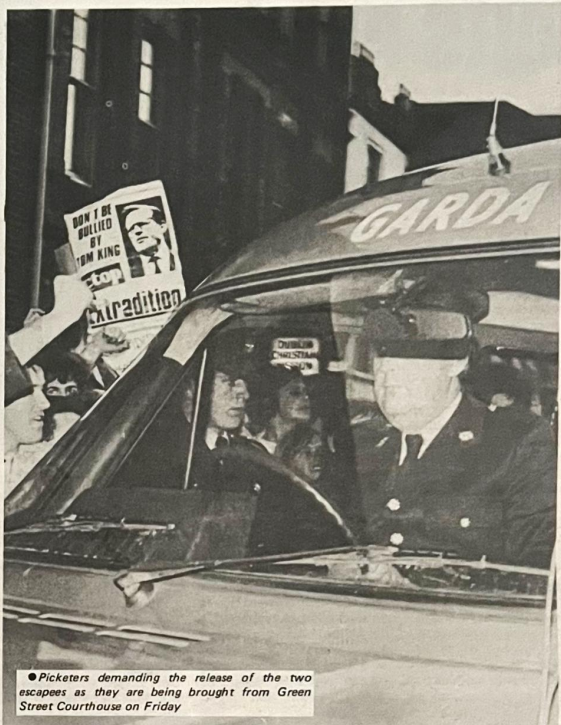
They appeared in the Green Street Special Court on Friday, November 27th. Seamus Clarke was charged with possession of a firearm and Kelly was said by gardai to have been presented with a warrant for his arrest issued by the Special Court in 1985 after he failed to appear for trial there.

PORTLAOISE

Both of the H-Block escapees were remanded in custody until December 17th. Like Paul Kane and Dermot Finucane, they could now face extradition to the Six Counties for their part in the September 1983 Long Kesh break-out and will face, at the very least, many months on remand imprisoned in Portlaoise.

During Friday's hearing a crowd of over 100 staged a picket outside Green Street Courthouse to demand the release of the H-Block escapees. There was a very large Garda and Free State army presence.

It was reported on Tuesday that the RUC had sent extradition warrants to the gardai for Clarke and Kelly and already British pressure was on the 26-County authorities to proceed with them.



● Picketers demanding the release of the two escapees as they are being brought from Green Street Courthouse on Friday



● Anti-Extradition picket in Dublin

SEAMUS CLARKE

SEAMUS CLARKE from Ardoyne in North Belfast who was arrested last week by the gardai was one of the 19 Republicans to successfully escape from the H-Blocks in the mass escape in September 1983.

Clarke, now aged 31, was the youngest ever internee in the North. He was first arrested in 1972 and at the age of 16 was interned in Long Kesh where he was held without charge or trial for three years. He was sentenced in 1976 to life imprisonment

and immediately joined in the H-Block protest which began that year with the withdrawal of Special Category Status and the commencement of the criminalisation policy.

One of a family of eight, his brother Terry spent 12 years in prison



and another brother, Gerard, is in the H-Blocks serving a life sentence.

ANTHONY KELLY

ANTHONY KELLY (27) is from a staunch Bogside republican family of nine boys and three girls. His older brother John died tragically in February 1984, less than six months after Anthony's daring escape from the H-Blocks.

Anthony Kelly was first arrested from his home in the Rossville flats at the age of fifteen and imprisoned in Millisle Borstal for two years on conspiracy charges. On May 22nd 1978, just six months after his release, Anthony Kelly was again arrested and interrogated by the RUC in Strand Road barracks. He was eventually charged on charges of alleged attempted killing and, be-

cause he was still only seventeen, incarcerated indefinitely at the "Secretary of State's pleasure". He was sent to Long Kesh where he joined the blanket and no wash protests.

After his escape from Long Kesh in September 1983, he went to the 26 Counties where he was captured two years later in Donegal. He was charged with possession of firearms and got bail in a



Dublin Court but went on the run again.

IRA units evade clampdown



MORTARS FIRED IN SOUTH ARMAGH

BRITISH CROWN FORCES have begun a major internal inquiry into how IRA Volunteers succeeded in avoiding discovery at the height of the border clampdown last week and launch a mortar attack in South Armagh.

The attack took place on Saturday afternoon, November 28th, at Glassdrummond, near Crossmaglen. On the southern side of the border a large force of gardai and Free State soldiers were taking part in a search operation, while in the North, a similar force was engaged in stopping traffic and searching the countryside.

Despite the huge presence of the crown forces and personnel from the 26 Counties, IRA Volunteers drove a tractor and trailer to within several hundred yards of a roadside checkpoint especially established as part of the cross-border operation. Hidden beneath bales of hay were three mortars, all of which fired and detonated. Two British soldiers were

injured, one of them very seriously.

CITY-WIDE OPERATION

IRA Volunteers in Belfast caused widespread disruption in the city on Wednesday night, November 25th. Almost 20 hoax bombs were placed in and around the city while several vehicles had incendiary devices on them. An incendiary was placed in a vehicle at Donegall Pass RUC Barracks while others were in vehicles left at North Howard Street Barracks and Lanark Way.

At luncheon on Wednesday, a single shot was fired at a British soldier working on an aerial at Broadway Tower. Later that night, ten shots were again fired at Broadway Tower. Seven



● A roadside checkpoint similar to this (above) established as part of the cross-border collaboration operation was successfully blasted by IRA mortars at Glassdrummond

shots were also fired at North Howard Street Barracks and an impact grenade was thrown at an RUC patrol on the Andersonstown Road in West Belfast.

RAIL SERVICES DISRUPTED

Rail services between Belfast, Lisburn, Portadown, Newry and Dublin were severely disrupted on Friday morning when IRA Volunteers placed a 10lb bomb on the line at Finaghy Halt. The bomb exploded shortly after a goods train en route



to Dundalk had passed.

Also in Belfast, on Sunday night an IRA Volunteer using a high-powered rifle

opened fire on the joint RUC/British army barracks at New Barnsley in West Belfast. The attack occurred

at 8.45pm and the RUC returned fire.

An RUC barracks in North Belfast was the target for a 500lb bomb on Tuesday night, December 1st. The bomb was in a car which was left outside York Road Barracks. A 20-minute warning was given but only the detonator exploded.

Last Wednesday afternoon, IRA Volunteers fired several shots at an RUC armoured Land Rover travelling along the Grosvenor Road.

IRA no threat to 26 Cos.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT was issued by the leadership of Oglaiha na hEireann in response to the nationwide search launched by the 26-County and British crown forces and, more specifically, in reply to the claims made by Dublin Minister for Justice, Gerry Collins, that the IRA now 'threatened the security of the state'.

“In light of recent widespread raids and the pretexts given by the Dublin government for them, the Irish Republican Army takes this opportunity to restate its attitude to the institutions of state in the 26 Counties.

“Firstly, all IRA activities are geared towards the successful completion of the struggle for independence which was thwarted by Britain foisting partition on the Irish people and setting up a sectarian state in the Six Counties. It should be noted that the British government is more active in the 26 Counties than republicans directly connected with the struggle in the North. British ambassador Nicholas Fenn, for example, has more access to premier Charles Haughey than have oppressed nationalists, victims of plastic bullets or relatives of those facing extradition to Diplock courts.

“Secondly, all IRA Volunteers are under strict instructions, under General Army Order No.8, not to come into conflict with the armed forces of the 26 Counties. They are not the enemy. Many republicans have gone to Portlaoise Jail and other prisons in circumstances where their freedom could have been assured had they adopted the same aggressive attitude to the gardai that they instinctively have towards the British army and RUC. Of course,

there have been exceptions and some violent confrontations which have resulted in fatalities. But these incidents are seen as exceptions by most fair-minded people.

“General Army Order No.8 was reaffirmed by the IRA in Convention no later than September 1986.

“Thirdly, there is no conspiracy or armed conspiracy against the institutions of the 26-County state nor will there be. But the republican position remains that as long as successive Dublin governments continue to refuse to confront the British government's annexation of part of the national territory Dublin lacks the moral authority to lecture the IRA on how republicans should go about defeating British rule in Ireland.

“By suppressing republicans and recognising British rule in the Six Counties Dublin governments have perpetuated the conflict rather than helped resolve it.

“Every weapon possessed by the IRA has a defensive as well as an offensive use. Nationalists in the North have had 66 years to make up their minds about how far a Dublin government will physically protect them come a crisis. Is there someone in government in Dublin guaranteeing the North such protection? There is no-one.

“No-one but the Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army are prepared to lay down their lives, prepared to sacrifice their freedom in order to end British interference once and for all.

“With this in mind we make an unprecedented appeal - given the division suffered by the Republican Movement in 1926 - to the grassroots of Fianna Fail to face up to the challenge of British rule in Ireland.

“We appeal to this most powerful constituency within the 26 Counties to assert that British politicians - not the Irish people - are the root cause of division and conflict in our country.

“The IRA offers no threat to the 26 Counties other than the change which would occur anyway, whoever brought it about, between the transition from a 26-County state to a 32-County state.

“We desire peace desperately but Britain uses the gun to refuse us that basic justice. Peace could be achieved so much more quickly and with the minimum loss of life if the cause of the violence - British interference - was confronted domestically, diplomatically and internationally with the demand for a British withdrawal from Ireland.

“Signed... P. O'Neill, Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin.”



UPROAR IN COUNCILS

THERE WERE ANGRY clashes between Sinn Fein and unionist councillors at two of this week's council meetings in the North. The most heated exchanges took place at Belfast City Hall on Tuesday evening where unionist councillors failed to physically prevent Sinn Fein councillors from entering the council chamber.

Although two Sinn Fein councillors, Tish Holland and Lily Fitzsimons, were already in the chamber, DUP councillors blocked the entrance. They were pushed aside by the six other Sinn Fein councillors. Several punches were thrown during the melee.

A unionist proposal that the January meeting of the council would be held in the staunchly loyalist Highfield area in an effort to deter Sinn Fein from attending, failed to materialise because of divisions within unionist ranks. A motion from DUP Councillor Sammy Wilson calling for an adjournment only narrowly scraped through on the casting vote of the unionist mayor.

There were similar scenes at a specially-convened meeting of Magherafelt Council on Monday when unionist councillors, led by the DUP Mid-Ulster MP Willie McCrea, proposed a motion urging the council to give unequivocal support to the crown forces.

In angry exchanges between Sinn Fein Councillor John Davey and McCrea, the DUP councillor repeatedly invited Davey to strike him. OUP Councillor Junkin, seconding the motion, called on the SDLP to support the unionist proposal pointing out that Mary McSorley, the SDLP chairperson of the council, recently accepted the post of justice and the peace and was there-

fore "bound to support the RUC, UDR, British army and even the British Territorial army".

The SDLP hurriedly introduced an ambiguous worded amendment calling for support for the RUC in "impartially and without prejudice enforcing the rule of 'proper law and order' against proscribed and non-proscribed organisations.

The amendment was lost when two Sinn Fein councillors, John Davey and Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde, voted with the loyalists. In the vote on the original loyalist motion there was a 7-7 tie and it was lost. McSorley, despite having already voted against the motion refused to use her casting vote. McSorley's action was criticised by the council vice-chairperson, Lughaidh Mac Giolla Bhrighde, as "political cowardice".

DERRY ROW

Unionist councillors expecting SDLP co-operation in removing Derry Sinn Fein Councillor Mitchel McLaughlin from the chair of the council's Finance & General Purposes Committee were furious when the 13 SDLP councillors present at last week's council meeting joined with the two Sinn Fein councillors to vote down a unionist vote of no confidence.

Sinn Fein's other three councillors, including Mitchel McLaughlin, were being held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre in



● The Belfast Says No banner which has been re-erected beside the city's Christmas tree

Belfast following raids last Monday week.

Unionist hopes for SDLP support had been raised when Eddie McGrady announced last week that SDLP councillors had been instructed not to co-operate with other councillors who "refuse to condemn and reject violence". On Tuesday night, the reality of local council politics was acknowledged by the Derry SDLP councillors who refused to support the vote of no confidence, and differences within that par-

ty over its contradictory attitude towards Sinn Fein and unionist councillors are clearly emerging.

SF MOVES AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

In Strabane, a Sinn Fein motion calling on the council to monitor its own employment practices, and if unbalanced to rectify them, received all-party backing from unionist and SDLP councillors at a full meeting of the council. The motion also called for equality of opportunity in recruitment and training

and a working environment free from political or religious emblems and free from "provocation, offence, intimidation or fear".

Sinn Fein Councillor Ivan Barr also succeeded in getting the Council to agree to examining the possibility of purchasing a house in the town for use as an arts civic centre or as offices for a citizens' advice bureau and council administration purposes.

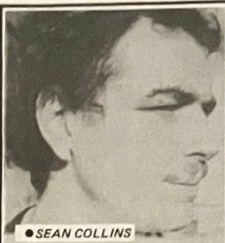
In Belfast, unionist councillors agreed under pressure from the Department of Environment to take down the "Belfast Says No" banner which has dominated the front of the City Hall for two years. However, they immediately re-erected the banner on a steel frame just inside the grounds and immediately beside the spot where the city's Christmas tree will be sited.

PLEDGE BACKED

The Association of Local Authorities, which is supposedly a forum for district councils but represents only unionist interests, has called on the British government to specifically prohibit Sinn Fein in any proposed oath. In a statement the ALA said: "The wording of the declaration proposed in the consultative paper is unacceptable, being linked too closely with proscriptive rather than with violence.

An alternative wording could be:

"I declare that I am not a member of Sinn Fein and I undertake that if elected I will not support or assist, by word or deed, any organisation proscribed by law which undertakes or advocates violence."



● SEAN COLLINS

DERRY ASSAULT

BY KEVIN MCCOOL

A 26-YEAR-OLD Derry nationalist was badly beaten by the RUC in Derry city centre on Saturday night, November 28th.

Sean Collins, of Lisfannon Park, the Bogside, was punched and questioned by an RUC mobile patrol at 7.30pm while walking through Magazine Gate with two friends. A belligerent RUC man began to forcibly search Collins, tearing his trousers pockets. When Collins offered to turn out his own pockets he was punched and thrown into the back of an RUC Land Rover.

Collins was pinned to the floor and batoned on the back of the head and ribs. One RUC man kicked him in the right eye. Collins was then detained at Strand Road Barracks on charges of assault and disorderly behaviour.

When he was eventually released by the RUC at midnight he required immediate hospital treatment for injuries which included a cut eye that needed five stitches.

Hammer attack by WP

FOUR MASKED MEN broke into a house in Poleglass, West Belfast, on Sunday morning, November 29th, and attacked the owner, 24-year-old Frankie McKenna, with hammers and batons.

The gang ran into the bedroom where McKenna, his wife, Caroline, and baby son were still sleeping. Caroline and the baby were pushed into another room and Frankie McKenna was beaten up. He needed ten stitches to head wounds and was kept in hospital overnight.

McKenna and other local people are convinced that the attack was a direct result of an argument that McKenna had with a local well-known Workers' Party member three weeks ago in a Chinese takeaway on Stewartstown Road. The Workers' Party man drew his legally-held gun and threatened him.

Local Sinn Fein Councillor Pat Rice, said in a statement that the attack was carried out by "members of the Workers' Party" and he challenged Workers' Party spokesperson Seamus Lynch to explain to the community "how such violent activities fit in with the allegedly anti-violence stance of his party".

Pat Rice also said that there had been a series of such attacks recently "all of which have occurred following personal arguments between Workers' Party members and local people". He added that the shootings and beatings had been misrepresented as "punishments".



● Frankie McKenna who needed stitches to a head wound after Workers' Party members attacked him with a hammer

1916 man raided

MORE THAN 70 YEARS after he joined the Republican Movement (in 1916), Galbally, County Tyrone, man Hugh Nugent (92) is still clashing with the British crown forces.

Hugh's home - which he shares with his granddaughter, Kathleen Quinn, and her three children - was raided by a helicopter-borne UDR patrol on Thursday morning, November 24th. The house and outbuildings were also thoroughly searched just nine hours later by the RUC.



● Hugh Nugent and his great-granddaughter Kelly Ann Quinn (3)

CUTS ANGER CONTINUES

SCORES of national school children besieged the mansion of Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey on Saturday in protest against his government's education cuts. Songs with words that children didn't learn in school deafened uniformed gardai and Haughey's Special Branch bodyguards. Although the Leinster House premier failed to meet the protesters he couldn't fail to get their message - anger over the cuts will just not go away.

Circular 20/87 will not go away either. This is the letter from Education Minister Mary O'Rourke detailing the loss of 1,800 primary teaching posts affecting over 1,000 schools, halving the money for school building and freezing (in more ways than one) school running costs. Fianna Fail remains determined, despite protests the length and breadth of the 26 Counties, to make children pay for Thatcher policies.

During the week it emerged that O'Rourke was still considering the raising of the school entry age as an alternative to the current batch of cuts in spite of recent statements to the contrary.

The present plan will create classes of over 40 pupils in many cases. When this is combined with the lack of teaching materials due to this and previous government cutbacks it will create chaos in the schools. Weaker pupils will be forgotten as harassed teachers are forced to concentrate on disciplinary problems.

Embarrassed by the oppo-

sition to her plans, O'Rourke announced during the week that the circular wouldn't come into effect till September 1988 - a six-month stay of execution. The classes wouldn't exceed 40 children "in the main", she said. But this assurance satisfied neither parents nor teachers' organisations.

26-County schools have the worst primary pupil/teacher ratio in Europe. It currently stands at 27:1 and O'Rourke's axe would raise it to 30:1. In England, even after severe cutbacks, it is 22:1, and in Denmark there are on average 10.6 pupils per teacher. The number of school-age children is dropping in Ireland and this could reduce the pupil/teacher ratio to manageable proportions over the next few years - but only if the present number of teachers is maintained. Even the Six-County state, where educational spending is also low, the pupil/teacher ratio is considerably better than south of the border. With the present number of teaching posts in the 26 Counties, and taking into



● Tallaght Sinn Féin members picketing the clinic of Fianna Fail TD Chris Flood, who says that he 'believes in the cuts'

account the drop in numbers of school-age children, it would still take until 1995 for the pupil/teacher ratio in the South to come close to that in the North.

WORKING-CLASS AREAS HIT

An interesting aspect of the cuts is that they will have far more effect in working-class than well-off areas. The government pays the entire salaries of teach-

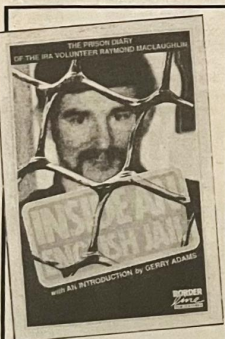
ers in the private schools - the vast majority of their costs. It could save £10 million (the present cuts are due to save £20 million) by making the rich parents pay for their private teachers.

The Irish National Teachers' Organisation decided on Friday, November 27th, to accept nothing less than the withdrawal of Circular 20/87. Gerry Quigley, lead-

er of the primary teachers' union, rejected an invitation from Mary O'Rourke to participate in a committee to oversee the cuts. The INTO has already distributed a quarter of a million leaflets on the cuts and is planning a major demonstration and march to Leinster House on Wednesday, December 9th.

Parents and teachers are well organised to fight these cuts and they pose a direct

threat to politicians in marginal constituencies. The campaign against Circular 20/87 has very broad support. But it's very unlikely that Fianna Fail will be forced to withdraw it by anything less than a firm programme of industrial action by the teachers. The future of tens of thousands of children depends on dropping these cuts. Haughey and O'Rourke may well be taught a lesson on the education issue.



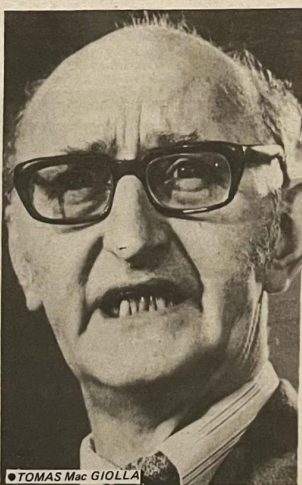
BOOK LAUNCHED

IRA VOLUNTEER Ray McLaughlin died tragically in an accident in September 1985. He had enjoyed only two years of freedom after spending nine years in prison in England.

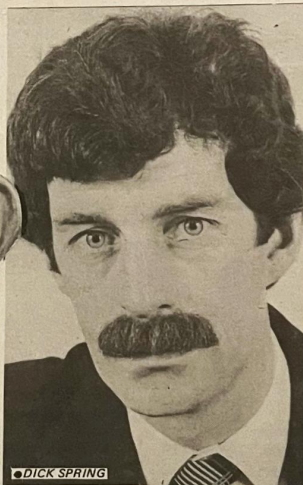
On Wednesday, December 2nd, Ray's prison diary was launched in Dublin. Inside an *English Jail* is his record of those nine years, of his determination not to be crushed by the system and the particularly harsh treatment of Irish political prisoners.

The book has an introduction and prefaces by Gerry Adams and brother.

Inside an *English Jail* is available from Republican Publications' outlets, price £4.25.



● TOMAS Mac GIOLLA



● DICK SPRING



● JIM KEMMY

Shoneen socialists

THE FURY of Dick Spring, Tomas Mac Giolla and Jim Kemmy over continued links between Sinn Féin and members of the British Labour Party burst into the open this week to Labour leader Neil Kinnock in a public letter attacking, among others, Ken Livingstone, the British MP.

The three shoneen 'socialists' were especially hurt because Labour supporters were "ignoring the voice of elected socialist public representatives in Ireland". Presumptuously they claimed to speak on behalf of all Irish socialists, saying that Sinn Féin "is strongly opposed by the overwhelming majority of

Collectively, the parties represented by Spring, Mac Giolla and Kemmy achieved less than 11% in the last 26-County general election and Spring himself came

within four votes of losing his seat. Only the Workers' Party dared to stand in the Six Counties and there they received only 3%. Around 120,000 Irish working-class people backed Sinn Féin's socialist policies in the two 1987 general elections. The 'overwhelming majority of socialists' amounted to only a little more than this.

FALSE CLAIM

What really irks the three party leaders is that their false claim to the word socialist comes under

question in Britain when Labour radicals listen to Sinn Féin. They clearly allied themselves with the most right-wing elements in Kinnock's party by attacking those such as Ken Livingstone as "deluded or opportunist". They even promised to assist the Tory media campaign against the London MP by laying the "blame" for IRA actions at his door.

The letter predictably failed to explain how the vast majority of Irish working-class people give their support to the verbally

nationalist Fianna Fail rather than their own imperialist parties.

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP said that their letter had "no credibility with the nationalist people of the Six Counties". The three leaders "have repeatedly called on the nationalist community to support the RUC and the British army, the very forces that oppress them. How can anyone who supports imperialism call themselves socialist and expect to be taken seriously?"

MASKEY EXCLUDED

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

THE ARREST by British police at London's Heathrow Airport on Monday morning, November 30th, of Belfast Sinn Fein Councillor Alex Maskey could have cost him his council seat. A councillor who does not attend any meeting for three months is automatically disbarred.

Maskey was due to attend a Belfast City Council meeting on Tuesday night at which unionists were expected to adjourn all meetings until January. But there was discussion among unionists and they only agreed to adjourn Tuesday night's meeting, leaving Maskey the opportunity to attend a committee meeting before December 22nd. He had been shot and seriously injured by loyalists in May. Maskey was arrested as he was returning from a short period of convalescence in the Channel Islands. He was taken under the Prevention of Terrorism Act to Paddington Green Station where he was questioned on Monday on three separate occasions. Each interrogation period lasted more than an hour. Only four weeks ago Maskey underwent a further operation and still needs medical supervision.

BRIBE ATTEMPT

On Tuesday, just before he was served with the exclusion order his interrogators introduced him to "two senior Scotland Yard officers". Maskey told AP/RN:

"They offered me substantial sums of money to provide information. They made a big play about my record and about my 'life expectancy not being that long', and they said they could set



● Alex Maskey, now excluded from Britain, being given a standing ovation by councillors during an earlier visit with Sinn Fein's Bairbre de Brun

up a very large pension fund for my family." Maskey refused to talk to them and an hour later he was served with the exclusion order and put on a plane at 7pm, handcuffed to a plainclothes Special Branch man until he landed at Aldergrove.

British police refused to confirm to his family that he had been arrested and in fact denied he was being detained by them. Sinn Fein's West Belfast MP, Gerry Adams, protested to the British Home Office and spelt out that Maskey's detention by British police using

the PTA was "facilitating their anti-democratic attempt to debar Councillor Maskey". His arrest, he added, "cannot be justified in any way and is a further example of the racist and political use of the PTA and an attempt to disenfranchise nationalist voters."

Be careful

THE THEFT of an unspecified number of RUC uniforms last week and the arrest of several loyalists attempting to smuggle explosives into the Six Counties from Scotland has raised the likelihood of an increase in sectarian attacks.

In releasing information about the loss of the uniforms the RUC refused to give any details about the number taken or where they were stolen from. However, it is accepted that they are now in the hands of a loyalist murder gang.

Several months ago, a considerable number of weapons were taken from the armoury at Palace Barracks, one of which was used on Sunday night, November 8th, in a sectarian attack. Five Catholic youths were shot from a passing car standing outside a shop on the Antrim Road; two were very seriously wounded.

Sinn Fein spokesperson Martin McGuinness said:

"There is no doubt in my mind that whoever has these uniforms intends to use them in sectarian assassination attacks."

PLUGGING HOLE IN B'HAM 6 CASE

THIS WEEK the Birmingham Six suffered a re-run of the complex, co-ordinated fiction that ensured their conviction 13 years ago. The crown prosecution, Igor Judge, started his task of plugging the massive holes that have appeared in the case against the Irishmen.

Aware that the 'scientific' evidence of Dr Frank Skuse, the centrepiece of the prosecution case at the 1974 trial, had been blown apart in the years since, Judge concentrated on circumstantial evidence, innuendo and what defending counsel Tony Gifford called "guilt by association".

The frequent interruptions by the appeal judges which dominated proceedings while lawyers for the Birmingham Six made their case were absent during Judge's submission. Judge O'Connor intervened on Thursday, November 26th, to back the suggestion by the crown that Skuse's evidence wasn't so central after all.

The crown case opened on the 19th day of the hearing with statements designed to crush the hopes of the six. Robert Hunter, John

Walker and Dick McKenny were "in sympathy with the IRA", according to Judge. He was suggesting that 'sympathy' meant 'membership' and 'membership' meant 'guilt'.

Totally insignificant details were suddenly given a sinister meaning. A black tie borrowed by Walker (or was it McKenny?) didn't appear in their possession when they were arrested. Judge used this tiny, unexplained fact to suggest, in the back of the Appeal Court judges' minds, that there was something fishy in the men's accounts of their actions.

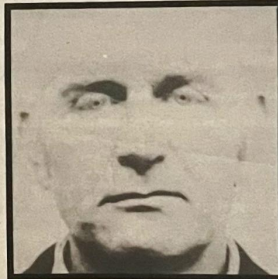
NO EXCUSE FOR SKUSE

Crown counsel steered carefully around the discredited evidence of Dr Frank Skuse. Skuse's blundering performance in the witness box earlier in the hearing only

deepened disbelief in the accuracy of his scientific tests which found that some of the men had been in contact with explosives. There was no point in trying to rescue him as a credible witness so Judge blandly stated that the crown case was so strong it "did not need forensic evidence" at all.

Instead the crown spent most of its time discrediting witnesses for the six and suggesting that their activities on the day of the bombings were so "very odd" that they must have been doing something wrong. Tiny contradictions in the evidence of ex-policeman Thomas Clarke who witnessed the false confessions being beaten out of the six in Queen's Road police station were jumped upon. Joyce Lynnass, another former police officer, who changed her testimony about the same events in the course of the trial, was labelled a "liar".

Judge tried to put scorn on the injuries received by Patrick Hill, suggesting that



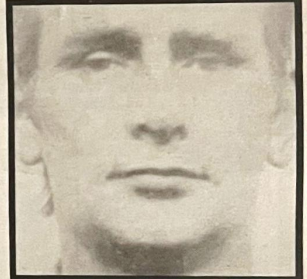
● JOHN WALKER

because they weren't visible they were non-existent. He questioned why Hill hadn't immediately reported the injuries to doctors in prison.

READING THE SCHEDULE

Igor Judge's treatment of the 'Reade schedule' also depended on the bias in the judiciary. The Reade schedule is a timetable prepared by Superintendent Geroge Reade to tie together and explain the various, and often conflicting, parts of

the crown story. Reade had to make it seem as if the statements forced by police on the six men had really been drawn out of them bit by bit under questioning. Everything had to be made to coincide with the forensic report and with other reports. Earlier in the hearing the written timetable was produced in evidence and the six men's lawyers explained how the massive forensic conspiracy was constructed. Judge was faced with a major problem in explaining



● RICHARD MCKENNY

away this evidence. His answer was to suggest that such things couldn't happen in Britain. The Reade schedule wasn't a schedule because "over 30 people had to have been involved in it" in some way.

The Appeal Court hearing for the Birmingham Six has taken 23 days as AP/RN goes to press. The Irishmen's ordeal is likely to continue for up to another week. It has already shown many examples of British injustice evident in their 1974 trial.

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GET THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LIES

THE PURSUIT OF PAUL KANE

BY ALEX WEST

NIGHTMARE SLIPPED INTO reality on Monday morning, November 21st, as people all over Ireland awoke to the whining tones of Fianna Fail's Gerry Collins on RTE Radio's *Morning Ireland*.

The IRA, he claimed, had already received four massive shipments of Libyan weapons including surface-to-air missiles. The IRA represented a major threat to the state and he was determined to find the 'Provo arms cache'. 'Operation Mallard Duck' had been launched, involving about 7,000 gardai and Free State troops. Mr Collins evidently didn't think that telling *Morning Ireland's* one million listeners would take away the element of surprise or warn the IRA in advance.

That day, armed gardai raided the offices of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* in Dublin, Sinn Fein Head Office and hundreds of other offices and houses throughout the 26 Counties. In the North, British troops and RUC personnel raided homes and arrested 40 people, including five Sinn Fein councillors.

When the Garda Special Branch raided the home of Joe Cox in Moyny, County Longford, they arrested the three people that they found there - Joe Cox himself, Dermot Finucane and Paul Kane - under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act. They were taken to Granard Barracks.

AGGRESSION

The gardai continued to raid up and down the 26 Counties on Tuesday. By Wednesday morning the estimates of the numbers raided ranged between 600 and over 1,000. The Special Branch were becoming more aggressive as Operation Mallard Duck continued. Photographers had been threatened with arrest, cameras had been confiscated, and journalists found themselves being jostled by armed men. Those being raided were treated roughly.

At 11am, Joe Cox was brought from Granard Barracks by a cavalcade of Special Branch cars and Free State jeeps to Dublin's no-jury Special 'Criminal' Court at Green Street and charged with possession of three firearms and with IRA membership. He pleaded not guilty. At that moment, 300 yards up the road from the court, the Special Branch were raiding the Head Office of the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee.

It had now emerged that the two men who had been arrested along with Joe Cox were wanted by the RUC for escaping from Long Kesh, along with 36 others, in September 1983. The RUC sent a warrant under the 1965 Extradition Act to the Garda for the arrest of Dermot Finucane and it was

served on him. He was brought to Portlaoise Prison where he will be kept during the lengthy extradition proceedings.

But no warrant was sent for Paul Kane. The Special Branch knew that they would be legally obliged to release their prisoner after 48 hours, and they began to panic. At 1.15pm - 48 hours after his arrest - Paul Kane was officially released from Garda custody. On leaving Granard Barracks he found himself accompanied by about a dozen Special Branch men.

BBC TAXI

He met a Belfast-based TV crew from the BBC and promptly promised them an interview in exchange for a lift in their green Opel car to Cavan town. They were followed all the way by a convoy of Special Branch cars and Garda patrol cars. When they got to the town's Main Street Paul Kane ran from the car into the offices of a solicitor, Mr Cormac Dunne. The BBC crew were dismayed that they had been unable to escape from the Special Branch for the interview. The BBC cameraman later told *AP/RN*:

"We're going to be criticised for giving Mr Kane a lift, but he was supposed to be a free man. Besides, if we had got the interview we would be the heroes of the day."

Cormac Dunne's offices, above the Trustee Savings Bank, were immediately surrounded by scores of machine-gun-wielding detectives. Paul Kane spoke to Sinn Fein's Dublin Head Office on the telephone, relaying the exact details of the siege. The news was passed on to the media. Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison and Eamon McCaughey who were in the office at the time, left for Cavan.

At 4.30pm, Paul Kane left the solicitor's offices by the back door, accompanied by local Sinn Fein activist Brian McKeown. They drove the two miles to McKeown's farm at Lower Swellan, followed every inch of the road by the



● Anti-Extradition picketers at the High Court on Sunday, November 29th

huge posse of Special Branch men. As soon as they went into the house gardai surrounded them. Powerful arc lights were directed at the house by the gardai. Eyewitnesses compared the scene to 'an over-the-top episode of *Miami Vice*'. Detectives were standing with splayed legs, aiming over the roof of their cars at the house with sub-machine guns.

PROSTRATE

At 5.30, Paul Kane and Brian McKeown made an attempt to leave the house but gave up in the face of the massive Garda presence and returned. Eamon McCaughey drove up to the house with Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison. Other people began to arrive on the scene, including a number of photographers. At 7.15, Paul Kane went to leave the farmhouse with McCaughey, Adams and Morrison. Gardai tried to prevent their car from leaving with one detective prostrating himself on the bonnet. At one point the car was forced to a halt by a Garda car being driven erratically in front. The *An Phoblacht/Republican News* van, driven by Donal Carlin, followed behind the car containing Paul Kane as they made their way through the town and out on the road towards Butler's Bridge and Belturbet. They were pursued by the Special Branch cars.

Donal Carlin was forced by gardai to stop his van. Before he could even get out he found himself surrounded by armed Special Branch men. One gardai used his Uzi machine gun to smash the wind-

screen of the van. Carlin was later charged with dangerous driving and assaulting a Garda and taken away to Cavan Barracks.

The car driven by Eamon McCaughey was also forced to stop. Paul Kane ran from it to the side of the road and was chased by five or six armed detectives. He fell into a ditch with gardai jumping in on top of him and dragging him out.

The gardai did not, at this time, have any warrant for Paul Kane's arrest, nor had they any reason to suspect him of any offence. Kane offered no resistance to them but his face was cut and bloodied when he was dragged by gardai from the ditch. He was charged with committing a 'breach of the peace', assaulting a Garda and damage in excess of £100 to a Garda's watch. The last charge is significant because it relates to a scheduled 'Offence Against the State', allowing that Act to be used again against him. He was taken away to Cavan Barracks.

Eamon McCaughey, whose car had been almost forced into the ditch by the Garda cars, was charged with dangerous driving and he too was brought to Cavan Barracks.

Within minutes of their arrival, the small barracks was surrounded by gardai and troops. Five uniformed gardai crowded the porch of the station while armed troops took up positions at both ends of the street. Branch men meandered about with Uzis or handguns. The crowd waiting outside the barracks grew as more journalists, photographers, television crews, local anti-extradition campaigners

and others arrived.

STROPPIY

As the temperature fell, the pressure rose. There was no sign of the RUC warrants. No one knew for sure what was happening. The uniformed gardai crammed into the porch were stamping their feet and rubbing their hands with the cold, and getting stroppiy with anyone asking questions. A little game of cat and mouse sprang up between the press photographers and the armed Special Branch men and troops. A photographer would try to get a picture before the Garda or soldier could turn away. The local anti-extradition campaign produced banners and posters and mounted a picket in the middle of the road. More and more people joined the silent protesters. Gerry Adams demanded, with quiet authority, to be allowed see Paul Kane and he was allowed in. He emerged some time later with the news that a private court hearing was likely to be held later on that night. Nobody knew if the warrants had arrived or not.

At around 10pm, a large number of gardai emerged from the barracks and started trying to get the pickets and the press over to the other side of the street. It seemed reasonable to assume that they wanted everyone on the far side of the street because they were about to bring out their prisoners, and for that reason everyone wanted to be as near as they could.

Ten minutes later, the three men were bundled into Garda cars and driven 80 yards up the road to the county council chamber, where a special court had been set up. The gardai

● The scene in the street before gardai re-arrested extradition warrants

were accompanied by six full of armed troops of the public wing gain entry to were stopped by a Branch men. Ju McCauley, who had been contacted by the gardai at the trial, guard Carlin but was arrested. Paul Kane and Eamon to Mountjoy Prison following morning hear details of the arrest. Many people this decision as an erately-engineered stalling for time RUC warrants had arrived in the morning

REAR
At 11am on Tuesday court sat again. Some members were allowed in. Donal Carlin was surrounded by gardai and charged with personating a Garda. McCaughey was arrested and handcuffed gardai, he was arrested and second count of driving. Paul Kane and with a similar brought into the court. The crowd outside the court was sitting on the ground. There was a lot of the warrants from the Justice McAuley. The local case take local case. Two people were



at the steps of Cavan Court House seconds before Paul Kane on the foot of RUC warrants on Thursday, November 26th

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PRESTS

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... the side.

... still no sign of
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... McArdle began to
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ing licences granted back to them. They were sworn in and promised to be very good indeed in future. Justice McArdle hummed and hawed, then granted them the licences. Other cases came up and they were adjourned after some discussion. Paul Kane calmly watched all this. Every now and then he would wink at someone he knew or raise a handcuffed hand in recognition.

At 11.35, Paul Kane's solicitor, Ann Rowland, eventually obtained permission to consult with her client, but gardai refused to take off his handcuffs. A consultation took place at the back of the court between Ann Rowland and Paul Kane with seven uniformed gardai in attendance. Superintendent Michael J. Lee was running around during all this. He had whispered conversations with many people. At 11.50, Justice McArdle said he thought he should adjourn for a wee while, say 20 minutes, and Superintendent Lee looked somewhat relieved.

SPOT OF LUNCH

Forty-five minutes later, Justice McArdle returned, but the judge thought that, really, the court should adjourn again, until after he had some lunch. Ann Rowland pointed out that there had already been a considerable delay and that her client, Paul Kane, was still in custody. Superintendent Lee jumped up to say that a spot of lunch was just the thing, because coincidentally,

the state solicitor was "on the telephone" at that very moment. Ms Rowland asked Superintendent Lee to indicate to the court the nature of the phone call, but before the poor man could reply, the judge cut across him with a loud shout of, "No!"

There was still no sign of the warrants.

When Justice McArdle returned from lunch at 1.43pm he was smiling. The case of the DPP and Paul Anthony Kane could now commence, he said. The state solicitor rose and asked for an adjournment to allow gardai to get their statements together. He asked for the men to be remanded in custody. Ann Rowland said that her attitude to the request for an adjournment would be coloured by the judge's attitude to bail. The judge set bail and proceeded to listen to bailpersons for Paul Kane and Eamon McCaughley, and then granted bail of £2,500 and £1,500 respectively.

FREE TO GO

"Is Mr Kane free to go now?" Ann Rowland asked Justice McArdle. Paul Kane was free to go.

He got as far as the steps of the building and was arrested by gardai on foot of RUC warrants. He was brought back into the court where Justice McArdle remanded him in custody. He was brought to Portlaoise Prison.

The following day, Friday, Justice Egan agreed to hold

a High Court inquiry under Article 40 of the 26-County constitution into the detention of Paul Kane. Mr Patrick McEntee, Kane's senior council, said that the gardai had behaved in a "bizarre" fashion and that they had followed a "conscious and deliberate, illegal and unconstitutional course of action", depriving Mr Kane of his freedom. The inquiry began on Sunday afternoon. A huge armed convoy carrying Paul Kane was driven at high speed into the Dublin High Court. Outside, 300 people silently protested against extradition. Justice Egan heard some of the evidence and said that there was a conflict between what the gardai were saying and what everyone else was saying. He adjourned the case until tomorrow (Friday, 4th).

Paul Kane is married with three children. In 1981, he was arrested and remanded on the word of the infamous paid-perjurer Christopher Black. After two years in jail he was sentenced to 18 years in jail. The next month, September 1983, he escaped from Long Kesh along with 37 other prisoners but was recaptured the next day. Last year the Appeal Court quashed his conviction but he was then charged with escaping from Long Kesh. He was given bail but failed to appear when the trial began.

The only reason that the RUC want Paul Kane is because he escaped from Long Kesh — where he should not



The message was clear outside Dublin District Court on Friday night, No Extradition

have been in the first place. He is not wanted for any other 'crime'. Why have the gardai proved so willing to comply with such a request that they would fall over themselves, and perhaps even break the law themselves, in pursuing an innocent man? The answer to that question

lies in the increasing politicisation of the 26-County police force that sees its function not even to uphold a biased set of laws but to pursue a particular political direction, regardless of those laws.

With the Fianna Fail government quite happy to look on, who will guard the guards?

FF jobs graveyard

THE FIANNA FAIL AXE hangs over the B+1 line in Dublin and the Thurles Sugar Factory this week as AP/RN goes to press.

Threats by Transport and Tourism Minister John Wilson to close the ferry company by December 4th look suspiciously like punishment over the refusal by some of the workers to accept cuts in pay, jobs and conditions.

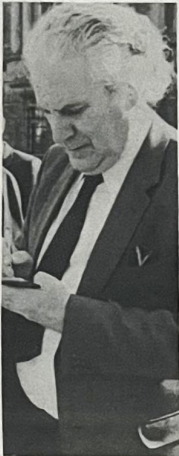
One hundred and fifty County Tipperary sugar workers are likely to lose their employment as Agriculture Minister Michael O'Kennedy reneged on an election promise to keep the factory in Thurles.

It's clearly time to bury any remaining illusions in the Fianna Fail Plan for 'National' Recovery which even Leinster House has voted down.

Wilson is demanding agreement to 563 redundancies at B+1 out of a total workforce of 1,464 before he agrees to keep the ferry company afloat. The marine officers' objection to the deal - which also means a 5% pay cut all round and an extra (though temporary) 5% cut for themselves - is being used by the government as an excuse to close the company.

What makes the closure threat even more outrageous is the fact that analysts believe that the semi-state body could be made profitable within a few years. Its financial problems are entirely due to a set of incomprehensible management decisions over the past number of years.

IRONY
Comhlucht Siuicere Eir-



JOHN WILSON

cann's Thurles plant is due to close under a five-year plan, concentrating production at its remaining factories. The irony is that O'Kennedy, who as minister oversees the Sugar Company, is also a local TD. During the February election he issued a circular saying, "Fianna Fail brought the Sugar Factory to Thurles and Faíanna Fail will keep it there." Today that promise, like many others made by his party on the way to power, lies in a very crowded graveyard.



Obstreperous Oblates

BY
TOM
O'DWYER

FIVE women workers at the Oblate Fathers' retreat-house in Dublin have been abused, assaulted and victimised. After a month on strike they received the backing of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on Monday, November 30th, when it ordered an all-out picket on the

Oblates due to start on December 8th.

Tension at the Oblate centre in Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, began earlier this year when Fr McSherry became superior and bursar. McSherry is a member of the 'dynamic and abrasive' school of management. After 17 years service, the catering managers/cook was suddenly demoted and Pat

Lee, another catering worker was told she was fired "because you're married".

The women had joined the FWUI and a union representative met with McSherry on October 21st. They agreed that McSherry would make no staff changes until further negotiations could be arranged. But the following day the Oblate boss suffered a change of heart. He summoned Pat

Lee, the workers' shop steward, and demanded to know "What kind of union crap" was going on. He could "do as he liked in his own house".

The following weekend showed that McSherry wasn't the only obstreperous Oblate. One of the women was injured when a trolley loaded with delf was pushed at her by a member of the religious community. She reported the incident to the gardai.

On October 27th the catering managers was instantly and illegally fired when she refused to accept her demotion. Adding financial insult to injury, McSherry offered her a mere two weeks' wages instead of notice. The staff went to their union office to get advice about how to proceed and when they returned two hours later, McSherry locked them out.

The FWUI declared a strike on October 31st.

The Oblates' pay rates do not set an example of charity. The women get £65 for a 40-hour week. When it comes to caring for its own members, however the order is more generous. Three new cars have been recently purchased for their use.

The workers have arranged on six occasions to meet with Fr McSherry at the Labour Court and six times he refused. When he finally appeared, he informed the court that he was no longer interested in taking back the staff as he had got along "quite well without them". Their work has been done by scabs and by other members of the order.

Pat Lee told AP/RN that McSherry "just doesn't want to settle this dispute". "He's not regarding our rights. He's used to having things done for him. When this began he thought it was just going to be a case of 'Yes Father'. These are our jobs, even if they're low paid. Even slaves years ago had some rights."

HEALTH SERVICES UNDER THREAT

HEALTH UNIONS in the North have called for the scrapping of the Eastern Health & Social Services Board's operational plan, which they claim will severely affect the provision of health care to the 700,000 people helped by the board.

At a meeting on Thursday, November 26th, held in Dundonald, 80 representatives of the National Union of Public Employees criticised the board's plans. The general manager for the board, Patrick Kinder, revealed that even if the British government was to allocate a proper proportion of the development money announced last week, the board would still need £9 million to meet its targets

for next year. Inez McCormack, NUPE and ICTU official, addressed the board's meeting:

"Thousands of staff members in the Eastern Board areas are bearing the brunt of the cuts and communities are experiencing a deteriorating service. Pretty pieces of paper do not provide company for the lonely, elderly person in the community or clean their houses. "Pretty pieces of paper

do not replace community care for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped. They do not put nurses on a ward at night where they are desperately needed."

For another union, the Confederation of Health Service Employees, Jimmy O'Reilly argued that the time for consultation had been too short. He also pointed out: "Ward closures and hospital closures become more and more the likely vehicle by which changes will be delivered. That is clear from the operational plan document."

WAITING FOR TREATMENT

Figures released last week show to what extent cut-backs are already affecting hospital services in the Eastern Board area. According to the statistics, in March of this year 761 more people were waiting for in-patient ear, nose and throat treatment than in 1986, 492 more were waiting for general surgery, 258 more for trauma and orthopaedic treatment, 233 more for ophthalmology, and 220 more for plastic surgery.

Despite the warnings and the evidence presented, the board voted to approve its plan for 1988-89.

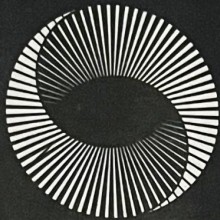


Belfast City Hospital



THE FLYING COLUMN

Alternative



Neighbourhood Watch

WITH THE GARDAI raiding up and down the country, *The Flying Column* has been whipped into a public-spirited frenzy of activity. This week *The Flying Column* joins the gardai on patrol, as sort of alternative Neighbourhood Watch...

WHEN SPECIAL BRANCH men arrived at the home of Nenagh Sinn Féin Urban District Councillor Jimmy Nolan at a despicably early hour they were greeted by a shaken but not stirred Jimmy.

Residents of Portlaoise Prison will recall that, as a POW, Councillor Nolan never took too kindly to being disturbed when asleep and was several times forced to "deal" with Screws who attempted to rouse him. So, on the morning of the raid, he examined the warrant — and went back to bed!

As the Special Branch left the house, empty handed, an hour and a half later, they heard from Councillor 'Rip Van' Nolan's bedroom a barked order:

"Slam that door behind you!"

AND A MANORCUNNINGHAM, County Donegal, republican was raided last week on the second day of a sweep of the Donegal area. The previous day he had killed a large rat and for some unfathomable reason had placed it in the pocket of an old combat jacket.

No sooner had the Special Branch barged through the door when one beady-eyed sleuth spotted the suspicious bulge in the jacket pocket and made a lunge for it.

"No, stop, don't look in there!" cried the repulsed republican. But it was too late.

The zealous detective plunged his grasping hand deep into the bulge and squeezed, saying "Aha! What do we have here?"

There was a split second's dead silence before the Branch man realised what he had there. He pulled out his blood-covered hand and went screaming out the door and up the yard looking for a tap.

ARMED DETECTIVES were also down in Kerry, where they raided the home of Churchill republican Brian Ferris.

Aha! (Again!) What had they there? Amongst many other documents the Branchmen found a very long list of serial numbers. For the best part of an hour, demented detectives poured over the list, carefully transcribing each number.

And Brian Ferris, observing this pitiful sight, just couldn't bring himself to spoil their day by telling them that the serial numbers referred to farm bullocks.

DUBLINER BRIAN DOWLING also found himself the victim of a Garda gang raid.

Following the usual pattern, the Special Branch rooted through documents and read personal letters while pretending to search for the Massive Provo Arms Cache. Looking through Dowling's passport, the eyes of one of the 'Security & Intelligence' Branch's finest began to bulge with excitement. Pointing at an immigration visa which was not in Roman Script, he gasped: "Look here, sergeant! Libya! Libya!"

The super sleuth was gently informed that the hieroglyphics he indicated were merely a holiday visa — for Greece!

WE NOW RESUME 'normal' service.

Big P's son, James Kyle Paisley (20), was given a conditional discharge at Belfast Court on Tuesday, December 1st, when he admitted assaulting an RUC inspector during a loyalist protest outside a meeting of the Maryfield Secretariat at Stormont last April. As Big P was being led away by the RUC, little P, a bible college student from Cyprus Avenue, Belfast, kicked the inspector twice in the lower part of the body.

AFTER THE IRA attack on the British army spy-post at Glassdrummond, County Armagh, last Saturday, the Brits swooped on a nearby filling station.

The owner, Kevin Tumelty, and another man who was filling his van with Northern petrol, were captured, had plastic bags put around their hands and then bundled into a helicopter and taken off to Gough Barracks.

And who was the other man, I hear you ask? None other than Robert McGahon the wayward son of self-confessed 'hang 'em and flog 'em brigade', Louth Fine Gael TD Brendan McGahon.

Perhaps young Robert — who was banned from driving in the 26 Counties — just needs a good whipping to stop him being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

EXMAGHERAFELT UNIONIST Councillor Thomas James Johnson (77), who was recently charged with possession of arms found at his Desertmartin home (see last week's *Flying Column*), is well known for his bigoted sectarianism. His long history includes shooting at Catholic workers in a Protestant school 30 years ago. In the early 70s, when two loyalists were blown up in Johnson's farmyard by their own bomb which was destined for a local Catholic chapel, Johnson managed to evade all charges by claiming that he had rented out the property — his wife received compensation for shock.

WHEN THE SDLP's Cormac Boomer (always good for a laugh) was wheeled onto RTE Radio 1's *Morning Ireland* show yesterday he didn't let republicans down.

He described with gusto the physical attack by DUP councillors on Sinn Féin councillors in Belfast City Hall the previous evening. The interviewer asked whether the SDLP members had been involved in the fracas and an apparently shocked Cormac replied:

"Oh no, we would not go down to their level!" But those listeners with memories will recall how Cormac physically attacked former SDLP councillor Paschal O'Hare in the council chamber... How Cormac's reaction to former People's Democracy Councillor Fergus O'Hare's petition against plastic bullets was to punch him in the face...

But sadly the evidence of Councillor Boomer's humbug eluded the memory of RTE's presenter.

LAST TUESDAY, British Labour Party MPs tried to introduce a Bill in England's House of Commons to make life easier for Britain's old age pensioners, but speakers

were cut short by Tory MP Neil Hamilton who heckled:

"The IRA ought to be brought in to do away with them."

Hamilton, who got £2,000 in damages when BBC's *Panorama* alleged he had links with the National Front, later claimed the comment was "a joke".

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS. The Ulster Council of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association had no authority to issue their post-Enniskillen ban on members of Sinn Féin and the IRA, according to the Pioneers' Dublin headquarters...

DÚIRI SIAD



No Irish person will get a fair trial in Great Britain or Northern Ireland.

— Renewed US constitutional lawyer and civil rights campaigner Paul O'Dwyer.

I'm not a member of any political organisation and certainly was never involved in the H-Block [campaign] or the like. But the guards took my name and address at a Birmingham Six protest in the Royal Hospital last August when I was one of the people giving out roses to the public.

They were very hostile and intimidating during the search.

— Birmingham Six Committee activist Maureen Moynihan.

What I have seen here over the last few days is very reminiscent of Mussolini's rise to power in Italy.

— Paul O'Dwyer on the massive Free State/crown forces operation against republicans.

When I lived in the North, during some of its worst times, I was never raided by the RUC, even though my political sympathies were well-known when I worked for the Belfast Telegraph and the News Letter. They conducted a perfunctory search through drawers, files, but didn't make the slightest serious attempt to search for anything. They even looked in my wife's sewing basket where she keeps her knitting patterns — she asked them if they were looking for rocket launchers.

— Evening Press journalist Jack Bennett.

They broke in the window. Four of them were armed and they went through the National Association of Tenants' Organisation's files.

As far as I can see, they used the search for arms as an excuse to go through the files of organisations they don't like. I felt terrified when I heard what had happened, and disgusted.

— NATO General Secretary Matt Larkin.

Sure, he wouldn't listen to me.

— Fianna Fail TD Dermot Fitzpatrick responding to civil liberties protesters' suggestion that he complain to his party colleague, Justice Minister Gerry Collins.

Ah, sure, I think we'll leave them on.

— Justice Donal Mc Ardle's response to a request by Paul Kane's solicitor that his handcuffs be removed while he was in the witness box.

Through all the physical hardships, the privation of food and comfort, there was a compensating fulfilment of knowing I was pursuing a course expressing loyalty to an ideal of freedom.

— Govan Mbeki, an African National Congress leader who was recently released after 23 years in a South African prison.

I've put up with being attached to Wales, but the thought of being attached to the French is beyond belief. The thought of rabies, terrorism and the French, God preserve us from it.

— An Englishwoman testifying before the House of Commons & Lords Select Committee on the Channel Tunnel, which will link England and France by 1993.

British troops are legitimate targets for the IRA.

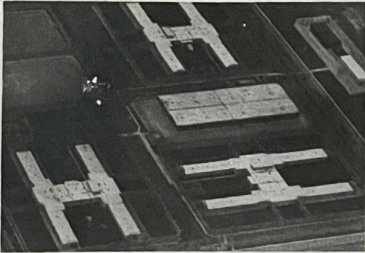
— The Pogues' lead singer, Shane McGowan.

Mála Poist

AP/RN, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

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.



MAGILLIGAN TRICKS

A Chairde,
Periodically your newspaper carries prisoners' letters attacking the dirty tricks department of the Magilligan Prison administration.

For too long the despicable practice of Screws falsifying charges went unchallenged and many men suffered huge losses of remission, visits and 'privileges'. There was little alternative other than to grin and bear it, but no effort was spared in attempts to expose this and, eventually, we have been rewarded.

It was decided by the Magilligan dirty tricks department that a republican nearing the end of his sentence ought to spend a further period incarcerated and a principal officer in H2-Block instructed a Screw to put him on a charge. But the principal officer, not satisfied with the severity of the trumped-up charge, proceeded to write an account of 'How to Stitch Up a Prisoner and Make it

Stick'. This was delivered to the Screw, who dutifully complied.

The republican prisoner was brought before the governor and lost three weeks' remission, but, unknown to the authorities, republicans had got hold of the signed instructions and passed them on to a solicitor. They were then produced in court, whereupon the immediate release of the prisoner was ordered.

If further evidence of the vindictiveness against nationalist and republican prisoners in Magilligan is required, consider the contrast in the slaps on the wrists given by the Board of Visitors to loyalists who have seized hostages while republicans lose a month's remission for 'abusive language'.

Serious questions must now be asked. The dirty tricks department has been exposed. What chance have republican/nationalist prisoners who are brought before the 'impartial' governor and the Board of Visitors?

Furthermore, the Board of Visitors - which is supposed to safeguard prisoners' rights

- must re-examine its role. Is it a mere coincidence that these people are only seen when remission is there for the taking?

PRO,
Republican POWs,
Magilligan Prison.

ENNISKILLEN

A Chairde,
May I have space in your letters page to offer my sympathy to the families of the dead and injured in the tragic accident at Enniskillen.

Like many mothers, I had a son murdered by the British army, but there was no outcry about my son, no service, no fund, no condemnation from any pulpit. My tears and heartache are as real as anyone else's.

Irish Mother,
Belfast 12.

A CHILD'S LETTER

The following letter was sent to RTE Radio's Gay Byrne Show.

Dear Mr Byrne,
My name is Tanya and I am 10½ years old. I live down here but I visit my daddy up in Long Kesh. He went there when I was a baby.

My daddy is not a bad man. He always tells me to be good and clean my teeth and say my prayers. But because of what happened in Enniskillen, the priest says the IRA is bad and anyone who cares is bad. My daddy is not bad and he tells me to be good but the priest said I am bad. It's not my fault what happened in Enniskillen. I just love my daddy.

That's all.
Tanya.

REALITY

A Chairde,

As a Catholic who believes in socialism (I am a member of Sinn Féin), I totally reject the statement issued by the Catholic bishops which was read at Masses throughout Ireland on November 15th.

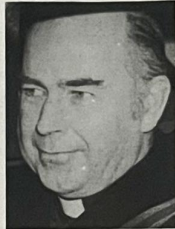
The situation that exists within the Six Counties has been there for over 60 years and, prior to that, throughout the entire island. Nationalist people have suffered injustice after injustice at the hands of the British establishment and its administrators in the British army, RUC, etc. When similar situations exist in South Africa, for instance, many

clerics support, or at least recognise, the right of people to self-determination and to defend themselves. Yet in our own country, the church buries its collective head in the sand and ignores what is happening in the Six Counties.

Church leaders issue hypocritical statements from their safe houses without trying to evaluate why Irishmen and women are fighting the British presence in Ireland.

The bishops ignore the everyday reality of oppression of nationalists by the British crown - just as they did when Irishmen and women fought a bloody struggle and gave their lives in the war against the British army, Black and Tans, and RIC which led to the formation of the 26-County state.

Denis O'Donnell,
Letterkenny.



THE BISHOPS

A Chairde,

As a republican sympathiser, I wish to challenge the bishops' pastoral on violence. The clergy are very naive if they assume that the pastoral was accepted by the silent majority in the churches. I was one of that silent majority and I don't accept it.

The majority of the Catholic clergy in the Six Counties have abandoned their people in their struggle against repression and discrimination. We are a flock without a shepherd. The Catholic clergy have always sided with the ruling junta. Praying in church for just reforms won't abolish Thatcherism, nor will vigils for peace. The root causes of the problems have to be tackled. The myths of burying your head in the sand and offering the other cheek are just not acceptable to a downtrodden people.

I would like to ask Bishop Edward Daly does he believe that, as an apostle of Christ, his refusal of a Requiem Mass for two IRA men could be considered a very Christian

act? Would "his master" have done likewise?

On the Protestant side there has never been a word of condemnation from the hierarchy, no matter how terrible the atrocities were. I am thinking of the Shankill Butchers gang, the Miami Show Band killers and the crown forces who carried out so many summary executions. No UVF or UFF paramilitaries were ever denied entry to churches for 'Christian burials'.

The officer who issued the commands on Bloody Sunday Queen a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth, who is head of the Church of England. It is my opinion that this latest condemnation of republicans is an orchestrated attempt by the bishops to drive their flock into the SDLP camp. Eighty thousand republicans have said 'no!'. We don't forget the SDLP's leadership when, in the aftermath of the rent and rates strike, bailiffs seized cattle to pay the rates arrears, and when pensioners and widows and people on low incomes faced starvation, when their allowances were drastically cut to pay back rent arrears.

Do I have to name the Finance Minister who used such jack boot methods? His name ranks highly in the SDLP party.

This is the party which has rejected the MacBride Principles. If the Catholic people in the Six Counties had as eminent a leader as Sean MacBride we might see some light at the end of the tunnel.

In conclusion, might I say, 'Be more subtle in your next pastoral. You are now dealing with an educated public who can decide what is 'ex-cathedra' teaching and what is not.'

Six-County Teacher.



JOY-RIDERS

A Chairde,

The punishment of local joy-riders and thugs by the IRA recently has been greatly welcomed.

For years these hoodlums have terrorised our communit-

ies with their thugery. Week in, week out, they come into our areas in stolen cars at all hours of the morning. Only two weeks ago, three more stolen cars were destroyed in the Lenadoon area. The people know who are responsible and, hopefully, Sinn Féin can organise something to stop this menace in the Lenadoon/Rossmore areas as we're harassed enough by the British army bully boys and the bigoted RUC.

Poibht Feirgach,
Beal Feirste.



SECTION 31

A Chairde,

It is time for the debate on Section 31 to become a little less hysterical. Mr Eoghan Harris' outrageous views on censorship (November 29th 1987) could be treated as a laughing matter if I did not suffer the suspicion that there are those in RTE who might take them seriously.

Section 31 stops the public from hearing certain views relevant to political issues in Ireland. It denies those who hold these views the right to put them forward even though they attract significant support. It stops RTE journalists from doing their job and, equally importantly, it stunts their professional development since there are some views they never encounter professionally. This materially affects their questioning of the political opponents of those banned and places journalists in a close professional relationship to an assumed consensus in dealing with a sick society where none exists.

When this censorship is rationalised, as the Workers' Party supporter Eoghan Harris, the argument is reduced to politically motivated attacks on the banned party. This is why Section 31 is so intellectually corrupting. Its defence is now reduced to an argument against objectivity and factual reporting.

Brendan Kelly
Dublin

Republican Publications

OUT NOW!

THE THEME for this year's *Republican Diary* and *Republican Resistance Calendar* is '20 years of struggle'.

The diary details events since the founding of the Civil Rights Association to the worst single blow suffered by the IRA since the Tan War, when eight Volunteers were killed at Loughgall.

The calendar has colour photographs outlining that nothing has changed since 1968: British crown forces attacks on IRA Volunteers' funerals, IRA Volunteers on patrol and Belfast wall murals.



REPUBLICAN RESISTANCE CALENDAR 1988
£1.50 each



£3 each

1988



Christmas Cards

20p each.

From: 44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1 or 51/55 Falls
Road, Belfast

Please include postage and packing costs with all orders.

REVIEWS

MEDIA

HUSH PUPPY PROVOS

HAVE YOU NOTICED LATELY how the great Conor Cruise O'Brien and Stickey RTE producer Eoghan Harris have formed an alliance? Mr Harris has delivered himself of a paper entitled *Television and Terrorism*. This paper deals with Section 31 and suggests that it should never be removed because the Provos will win hands down every time they are interviewed! Interesting, eh?

Eoghan Harris found a friend last Saturday in the *Irish Independent*. The *Cruiser* thought he was absolutely right. The *Cruiser* went on to say that he doubted whether or not there was a majority in Leinster House with what he or Harris would call "a progressive, productive and modern patriotism".

And what of the document itself?

Well, first of all, television news should not be news at all. It should be drama. People are not interested in fact, they want emotions. The comment is sacred and the facts are free, Harris tells us. The document tells us that *Today Tonight* is very good because it doesn't really deal exclusively with facts. Mr Harris has selected his arguments in such a way as to avoid a lot of issues. He tells us he supports the Workers' Party, for example, but leaves out the part which is allegedly non-existent 'army' plays, right up to the present day.

Harris tells us, furthermore, that the reason

RTE is bound hand and foot is because of the "leaky national consensus". For people not in the know, this translates roughly as support for the Provos. Tut, tut, Mr Harris. Mr Harris has put all RTE producers on their guard. There are, he tells us, three types of people who want to get rid of Section 31. First of all, there are the liberals, and Mr Harris is very scathing of liberals, very scathing indeed. The liberal right to free speech, according to Mr Harris, extends to the right of people to shout 'fire' at a crowded U2 concert - Unforgettable Fire, as it were.

The second group within RTE that wants Section 31 removed is an honest bunch of reporters, producers and so on, who believe that its removal will 'expose' the Provo case, and that they would be able to make 'bits' of Gerry Adams. But, Harris argues, this is quite untrue. Look at the BBC and UTV. They have the bound Gerry on and they haven't made 'bits' of him. The inescapable conclusion

(gasp, shock, horror, oh no) is that Gerry would only benefit from TV appearances. Not once in all of this does Mr Harris face the other inescapable conclusion - that people might give their support because the case was just, and that the Provos might have the better argument. But enough, and on to the most interesting of the three categories who wish to have Section 31 removed.

NASTY THINGS

These people are titled 'Hush Puppy broadcasters'. These people are really Provos in RTE who never openly state support for the Provos, but Mr Harris has spotted them, and obviously knows who they are. They do nasty things. For example, Irish Congress of Trade Unions motions on the North are always amended to read 'peace with justice' instead of just peace. These same people talk about the Birmingham Six, or the Guildford Four at union meetings but allegedly stay very quiet on things like Enniskillen.

People like Nell McCafferty and Eamon McCann, states Harris, are invited onto radio as objective voices on the North. The Hush Puppy stories on Hush Puppy journals like *Magill* and *Phoenix* to "damage" honest broadcasters who vote for the retention of Section 31. Mr Harris plays a blinder.

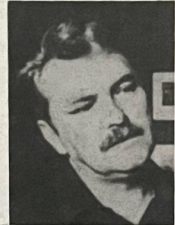
But, alas, it is a sad but indisputable fact that Mr Harris has been away from the reins of current affairs in RTE for quite some time now. He has produced and written the (very, very) odd play, drama you know. And now from the safety of his permanent and pensionable position in RTE, and cushioned against any real thought on the North by his Workers' Party ideology, he speaks.

The upshot of this 29-page document is a 20-point plan for rooting out all these Provos and Hush Puppies and people who think that the news should be the news.

Everybody at all times to be asked if they support the armed struggle - no ifs and buts, just yes or no. Hush Puppies to be asked to do editorials on the North, all the better if after Enniskillen.

All news to have close ups of dead bodies. Re-runs of some of O'Casey's plays, and Behan's *The Hostage*.

A school series to dispel the myths surrounding the penal laws. Two films on poor Protestants of Donegal and West Cork.



● EOGHAN HARRIS

A programme explaining the progressive role of William of Orange. A documentary on militant Catholicism.

A series on the role of the Catholic Church in the North since 1900. A programme on atrocities against Protestants in 1641 and 1798.

And so on. And there I was thinking that there was going to be some real drama. What emerges from Mr Harris's proposals is that television is going to be even more boring than ever, and as he is now a drama writer, presumably he will be writing most of the scripts for these things himself.

Harris has circulated his document among pro-

ducers at RTE, where everyone is getting great laughs for free reading between the lines.

PROVOS WIN DEBATES

What was to worry Mr Harris is the fact that the Provos will always win a TV debate. He simulated the conditions, and this was so, he says. But he was training people at the time. There wasn't a mention of the fact that if someone disagreed with Mr Harris, they too would fall into one of the three groups of people who simply cannot be trusted to do their job to the best of their ability.

Picture this. You are a trainee. Mr Harris tells you the score. You are looking to get a job in RTE. What else are you going to say to Mr Harris only that he is right. But Mr Harris has done something much more significant than just produce a zany document which is great for laughs. He has attempted to switch the agenda completely, so that the North cannot be discussed at all on RTE.

It is to be regretted that he is not in any position of influence so that he could put his great plan for broadcasting into action.

Mr Harris is a self-confessed supporter of the Workers' Party. It is to be wondered if they support him. But one question. Does Mr Harris also support the activities of the non-existent 'Official' IRA, still operating in Newry and Belfast and Dublin?

The best argument against Mr Harris's document is the fact that it could not be broadcast on RTE. It would come under Section 31 or 18. Neither could the simulated discussions take place. Mr Harris hasn't got so much publicity since his abrupt departure from current affairs some years ago. Hopefully, it will be as long again before we hear from him.

They fought with heart and hand

ONE OF THE most successful military actions ever carried out by republican guerrillas was remembered by the people of Cork last weekend when hundreds joined the annual Kilmichael commemoration.

Piper Tony O'Loahaire led the march to the monument marking the site of the ambush of crown forces by the IRA 67 years ago and commemorating the Volunteers who lost their lives in the engagement. Up to 1,000 people were in attendance including 95-year-old Ned Young, who is the last survivor of the Kilmichael ambush. He laid the wreath at the monument.

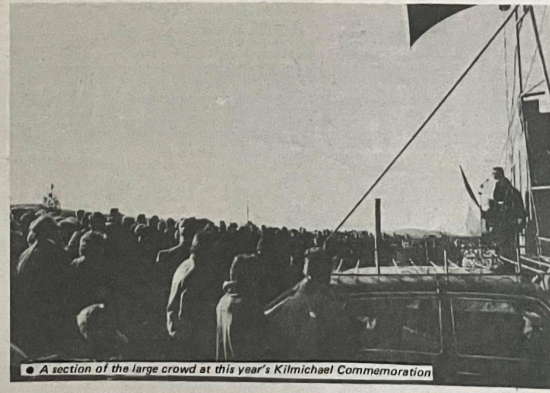
Chairperson John Hayes introduced the main speaker at the Sunday ceremony, Father Des Wilson of Belfast. Wilson delivered an impassioned condemnation of extradition. He said any proposal "to send our citizens, or anyone, into the hands of a tyranny of people who have been shown to be torturers and killers would be unacceptable."

"There must be no extradition and there must be no deals," said Fr. Wilson. Referring to the raids by the Gardaí in the 26 Counties he said:



● FR DES WILSON

"It is well to remind the politicians and everyone else who has power and influence, to remind them what we now suffer in the North East of Ireland began just like that. It began with soldiers and police coming with warrants pretending they were looking for arms



● A section of the large crowd at this year's Kilmichael Commemoration

when everybody knew they were looking for people who had the honour and decency to have a thought for their country. We began that way - look how we have finished. And unless this abominable and reprehensible behaviour of your government is stopped

and nipped in the bud then your people are in for great suffering indeed."

Ag tús na hórda dúirt Des Wilson go bhfuil daoine cosáil leo síúd a throid ag Cill Mhícheál ag obair agus ag troid mar an gcéanna inniu. "Is é seo an caibidil deirneannach i

scéal fada saoirse na hÉireann" a dúirt sé.

Ned Young spoke briefly and said:

"We came here to fight for freedom with our heart and hand and a promise that we wouldn't retreat."

IMEAGHTAÍ

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
Tallie £3

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

ANTI-EXTRADITION PROTEST
1pm Saturday 5th December
Assemble Sinn Féin Centre
TRALEE
County Kerry

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

VOL ANTOINE MAC GIOLLA BRIGHIDE ANNUAL COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 6th December
St Mary's Church
Coolcaml
DESERTMARTIN

GUILDFORD FOUR CAMPAIGN PUBLIC MEETING
Chaired by Sean MacBride
Speakers: Ken Livingstone MP, Gareth Pierce and Mike Fisher (solicitors) and Errol Smalley (relative).
8pm Wednesday 9th December
Liberty Hall
DUBLIN

IRISH NIGHT
8.30pm Friday 11th December
Forge Inn
PORTLAW
County Waterford
Tallie £1
In aid of the PDF

SOCIAL NIGHT
Featuring 'Poitin'
Friday 11th December
Conlon's Lounge
CASTLEBLINGHAM
County Louth
Tallie £2.50

AN CHUMANN CABHRACH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
Saturday 12th December
Dundalk Bar
Church Street
DUNDALK

BALLAD SESSION
The Irish Brigade
Sunday 13th December
Wexford Inn
DUBLIN
Organised by the Naíomh Padraig Celtic Supporters Club
In aid of Scoil Seachtá Laoch
Tallie £3

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

TORTHAÍ CRANNCHUR

Dunloy Sinn Féin
Grand Draw
Harp: D. McKillop, Loughglie; £50;
S. Martin, Dunloy; Bottle of Whiskey; Mr Brennan, Toomebridge.

LUNDY, Joe (1st Anniversary). The member of the Martin McKenna Sinn Féin Cumann, Dublin North East, remembered with pride our Eanáir, and comrade Joe Lundy, who died on November 30th 1986. Ní dhánfáimid dearmad air.

McGIBB, Tony (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Tony McBride, who was murdered by British forces on December 2nd 1984. RIP. You were always so gentle and kind and you will always be remembered by the Davey family, Gulladuff.

MACGIOLLA BHRIGHDE, Antoine (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, who was killed in action in Fermanagh on December 2nd 1984. Ó Mhuirne na nGael guidhe air. Always remembered by the James McElinn Sinn Féin Cumann, Killesnoe, South Derry.

MACGIOLLA BHRIGHDE, Antoine (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, who died while on active service on December 2nd 1984. While Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace. Always remembered by Frankie Quinn and Jim Clarke (Portlaoise).

Mac GIOLLA BHRIGHDE, Antoine (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Antoine Mac

Giolla Bhrighde, who was killed on active service on December 2nd 1984. Never forgotten by Michael from Gelnhausen/Frankfurt, Germany.

Mac GIOLLA BHRIGHDE, Antoine (3rd Anniversary). In fond and loving memory of our dear friend Tony, shot dead by the SAS on December 2nd 1984. Always remembered by Tom and Vera.

McGIRR, Colm (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear friend and brother Vol Colm McGirr, who was murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by his loving mother, father and brother Brian.

McGIRR, Colm (4th Anniversary). The Campbell family remember with pride Vol Colm McGirr, who was killed while on active service on December 4th 1983. I miasc laochra na nGael go raib sé.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Colm McGirr and his comrade Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Paul, Marie and family.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Colm McGirr and his comrade Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Gerard, Betty and family.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Colm McGirr and his comrade Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Frank, Eilish and family.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Colm McGirr and his comrade Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Carmel, Patsy and family.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Colm McGirr and his comrade Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Frank, Eilish and family.

Vol Colm McGirr and his friend Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Michael, Ellen and family.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our brother Vol Colm McGirr and our friend Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Maura, Alphy and family.

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Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Patricia, Barney and family.

McGIRR, Colm; CAMPBELL, Brian (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our uncle Vol Colm McGirr and his comrade Vol Brian Campbell, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were murdered by the SAS on December 4th 1983. Always remembered by Anne, Brian and Colm.

MARLEY, Michael (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Flan Michael Marley, who was shot dead by British forces on November 24th 1973. Fuair sé bás ar son saoirse. Always remembered by the Lower Falls commemoration committee.

THE SOUTH TYRONE SINN FEIN Comhairle Ceantair remembers with pride Vol Brian Campbell and Colm McGirr, Oglagh na hÉireann, who were shot dead by the SAS on December 4th 1983. I miasc laochra na nGael go raib sé.

WALKER, Joe (14th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Joe Walker, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who was killed in action on December 3rd 1973. Fuair sé bás ag tróid ar son saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

la shona dúd. On clann Iomán. ROONEY, Gerard (Portlaoise). Hope you are still able to popo around the yard again. From Scrooge and Jack; also 'Kissy, Kissy' from Mick Burns.

COMHBHRÓN

CLARKE. Deepest sympathy to Jackie and family on the death of their mother. From Mayo Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair.

CLARKE. Deepest sympathy is extended to Jackie and family on the death of their mother. From Killaish Sinn Féin.

DEERY, MSHEFFREY. Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of Vols Paddy Deery and Eddie McSheffrey, who died in an accidental explosion on October 28th. "Life springs from death and from the

graves of patriot men and women spring living nations." Will never be forgotten by Gary McDonnell (Lester) and wife Sheila.

McKEVITT. Deepest sympathy to the McKevitt family on the death of Jimmy. From Newry Sinn Féin.

McKEVITT. Deepest sympathy to the McKevitt family on the death of their father Jimmy. From Brian Tumety.

McKEVITT. Deepest sympathy to the McKevitt family on the death of Jimmy. From the Morgans, Derrybeg.

McKEVITT. Deepest sympathy to the McKevitt family on the recent bereavement. From Sean and Marian Mathers.

McKEVITT. Deepest sympathy is extended to the McKevitt family. From Phyllis and Mickey McCann.

Happy birthday and best wishes from the Frank Stag Sinn Féin Cumann, Dublin.

DOHERTY, Hugh (Long Lartin). Happy birthday Hughie. Always in our thoughts. From the Shells family, Fanad, County Donegal.

DOHERTY, Hugh (Long Lartin). Love and best wishes on your birthday Hughie. You are always in our thoughts. From Pat, Mary, Maria, Rosaleen, Kathleen, Danny and Michael.

DOHERTY, Hugh (Long Lartin). Best wishes on your birthday Hughie. Tíocfaid ar la, Monica.

GALLAGHER, Sa. Happy birthday in 'sa. Please to see you soon. From Mickey.

ROONEY, Gerard (Portlaoise). Breith-

la shona dúd. On clann Iomán. ROONEY, Gerard (Portlaoise). Hope you are still able to popo around the yard again. From Scrooge and Jack; also 'Kissy, Kissy' from Mick Burns.

CHUIMNÍ BREITHLA

HARKER, Tony. Birthday memories of Tony Harker whose birthday would have occurred on December 1st. Always remembered by Frank King, Pat McGovern and all his friends in Dublin.

Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act REMEMBERING THE PAST

Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act

DURING the early 1970s the Fianna Fail government introduced one of the most oppressive and draconian pieces of legislation for over 30 years - the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act (OASA). In June 1969, the OASA, a version of the North's Special Powers Act, was brought into effect in the 26 Counties by Fianna Fail. Its aim was to smash the Republican Movement. The Act provided for the establishment of special courts, the introduction of internment without trial, and detention of republicans for 48 hours under Section 30. During the years 1939 to 1946, hundreds of republicans were interned and sentenced to long periods of imprisonment under the OASA. In 1957, at the height of the IRA Border Cam-

Minister (and now leader of the Progressive Democrats) introduced a draconian amendment to the OASA 1939 whereby republicans could be imprisoned on the word of a Garda chief superintendent. The onus of proof was now to be on the accused, who was automatically guilty of membership of the IRA until he or she could prove otherwise. The Bill to amend the OASA met with fierce opposition from, among others, Fine Gael, Labour, Neil Blaney and Fianna Fail grassroots. One of the most outspoken critics of the Bill's arbitrary provisions at one stage was Paddy Cooney, who declared: "There is a limit to the measures a democracy is entitled to adopt in order to protect itself... These draconian powers are totally and completely abnoxious and repugnant to the basic principles of justice and liberty." During the following years, Cooney, Justice Minister in the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition government, was to introduce some

of the most oppressive legislation since the Cumann na nGaedheal era of the 1920s. At 11pm on Friday night, December 1st 1972, just hours before the crucial final vote on the Bill and amid mounting opposition from deputies who had grave reservations about its arbitrary and repressive provisions, when it looked like the Fianna Fail government might be defeated, two booby-trapped car-bombs exploded at Sackville Place and Liberty Hall in the centre of Dublin, killing two bus conductors and injuring 127 people. To ensure the safe passage of the Bill through Leinster House, British Intelligence agents exploded the bombs in Dublin, knowing that the IRA would be blamed. In this they succeeded. The bombings could not have been better timed. Several hours after the bombings, in a wave of anti-IRA hysteria, Fine Gael abandoned its opposition, and the Bill to amend the OASA was passed by 70 votes to 23.

The IRA categorically denied responsibility for the bombings. It later emerged that four British Intelligence officers - two of whom were later identified as Major Thompson and Major Fleming, attached to MI6 - drove to Dublin from Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, with the two car-bombs and returned to Enniskillen an hour before the bombs exploded. During the following years, Section 2 of the OASA was extensively used by the 26-County authorities to imprison hundreds of republicans who were sentenced in the Green Street Special Court on the word of a Garda chief superintendent. The amendment is still used. Although the draconian amendment was introduced to crush the Republican Movement, the past 15 years have clearly shown that the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act, came into force on December 2nd 1972, 15 years ago this week.

THE NEW YORK DEMONSTRATION AGAINST STRIP-SEARCHING

ON SUNDAY, November 8th, rallies against the forcible strip-searching of women political prisoners in Irish and British jails were held in 12 US cities. The New York rally of about 200 people was held in front of the British Consulate. The rally was addressed by Christine Beattie, who served 8½ years in Armagh Prison on political charges. She spoke about the humiliation of having up to eight hostile guards strip her and tear about her body. She said that since 1983 there have been over 4,000 strip-searches on a prison population that has never exceeded 35 women. Fr Des Wilson, who was in the US on a speaking tour, said that Americans must protest against both strip-searching and extradition.

Victor Mashabela (African National Congress) expressed his solidarity with the rally and said that strip-searching reminded him of electric shock, sexual torture used on women, and even children by South Africa's apartheid regime. Kate Woods (New Jersey), NOW, expressed her disenchantment with the women's movement in the US for not taking this issue up in an active way. She urged feminist to protest, using civil disobedience until strip-searching is stopped. Christine Beattie ended

humanity." She compared the prison torture of Irish and Puerto Rican political prisoners. Victor Mashabela (African National Congress) expressed his solidarity with the rally and said that strip-searching reminded him of electric shock, sexual torture used on women, and even children by South Africa's apartheid regime. Kate Woods (New Jersey), NOW, expressed her disenchantment with the women's movement in the US for not taking this issue up in an active way. She urged feminist to protest, using civil disobedience until strip-searching is stopped. Christine Beattie ended

the strip-searching of Irish women prisoners. Mary Nelis (Derry), spoke at the demonstration and solicited greetings from the women POWs in Maghaberry and Durham were read by Maureen Clancy. Other speakers were Godfrey Siltiole (African National Congress), Cathy Blount (Martin Luther King Anti-Apartheid Organisation), and Barbara Pryor (an American victim of British strip-searching). Similar demonstrations were held in over 30 cities throughout the world on November 8th. For further details of follow-up activities in the Philadelphia area contact PO Box 14648, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Part of the crowd at the Stop the Strip-Searches rally in Philadelphia on November 8th the rally by reading a letter from the women in Maghaberry Prison in which they stressed that only protests from supporters around the world would stop the degrading practice of strip-searching. As Beattie vowed, "Republican women will never conform." The largest crowd ever attempted to attend the third 'Stop the Strip-Searches' demonstration on November 8th. More than 350 people gathered across the street from the Liberty Bell and marched in protest

EXTRADITION FLOODGATES OPEN

THE EXTRADITION ACT came into force on Tuesday, December 1st, and the way is now open for the wholesale extradition of political fugitives living in the 26 Counties into the hands of the British authorities.

The legislation first framed by the Fine Gael/Labour Coalition, opposed by and then in government adopted by Fianna Fail came into effect automatically while the debate on the Dublin government's spurious safeguards went on in Leinster House. Charles Haughey had stifled opposition to the implementation of the Extradition Act in his own party with these amendments to the 1965 Extradition Act last week. On Thursday, Haughey was threatening a general election if the opposition parties defeated the so-called safeguards in Leinster House. This sabre-rattling was meant to show people in his own party that he was 'committed' to the paltry changes in the legislation and to whip the opposition into line.

But the sparring on the issue of the Attorney General's role in 'safeguarding' extraditees' rights was no more than shadow boxing. There was complete cross-party agreement on the real issue of extradition with the sell-out becoming complete at midnight on Monday, November 30th. One party was not completely satisfied, though.

DISAPPROVAL

On the day Haughey was holding out the prospect of a general election if his government was defeated, direct-ruler Tom King was expressing British disapproval of the proposed changes.

King claimed they would make extradition more difficult and this was echoed on Tuesday with an outburst from Margaret Thatcher in the House of Commons. This took the form of a severe dressing down of the Dublin government for daring to change the legislation.

Thatcher said that it would make Britain the "least-favoured nation" for extradition from the 26 Counties. Even the addition of another rubber stamp of British demands was too much for Thatcher.

COALITION BACK IN BUSINESS

By Tuesday in Dublin, the unofficial Fianna Fail/Fine Gael Coalition was back in business and the threat of a general election — which no-one wanted or really thought would happen — had passed. Fine Gael allowed the extradition amendments to go through their second stage in Leinster House with Fianna Fail winning a comfortable majority.

Swelling with pride at his government's latest concession to Britain, Brian Lenihan told Leinster House that the Extradition Act would "bring new vitality to the relationship now established between the two governments". But even as he

spoke the Thatcher government was looking for more, and Tory backbenchers were saying that the paltry changes threatened the Hillsborough Treaty.

The true feelings in the corridors of power in Whitehall, though, are of satisfaction that Haughey is succeeding in delivering the goods substantially as Britain wants. For Haughey himself, Thatcher's words of disapproval allowed him to pose as standing up to her while he was, in reality, making one of the most blatant surrenders of Irish sovereignty in the history of Dublin governments.

The full implications of that surrender — not least within Haughey's own party — remain to be seen but opposition to it did not disappear on December 1st. In Cork there are rumours of resignations from large sections of Fianna Fail over extradition and in anger at recent Garda raids.

In Shannon, County Clare, hundreds of people took part in an anti-extradition rally on Saturday, November 28th. A similar rally was held in Cavan town on the same day.

Commenting on the week's events, Sinn Fein's Party Chairperson Sean MacManus said:

"It was to stifle such opposition that the amendments to the 1965 Extradition Act were introduced. But even these paltry changes are too much for the British to accept. The 1986 Extradition Act should be scrapped altogether. Anything less is a surrender to British bullying and condemns more Irish people to British injustice."

INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION

"We in the US are appalled at what is going on here," New York-based constitutional lawyer Paul O'Dwyer told a press conference organised by the Irish Anti-Extradition Committee last Saturday.

O'Dwyer was introduced by the IAEC's Alasdair Rutherfordale as a man who has an impeccable record over more than 50 years of defending human rights.

Outlining the case against extradition, Paul O'Dwyer said that he was of the opinion that no further extradition legislation was desirable or necessary. Those criminally or politically involved could be brought before a 26-County court.

The "political exception" is deep-rooted in international law, and was actually first established by the British themselves in the Castioni case, he said, and there were many examples of it being adhered to in the United States.

O'Dwyer has spent the last week in the Old Bailey, observing the Birmingham Six appeal. "It must now be abundantly



● Anti-Extradition picketers outside Leinster House



● Gardaí attempt to clear the way for the removal of Seamus Clarke and Tony Kelly to Portlaoise Prison

clear to all," he told journalists, "that no Irish person will get a fair trial in Britain."

"Has anyone forgotten that Britain was brought before the European Court of Human Rights? Let my learned friends in the Dail beware — abandon hope all ye who enter here!"

APPEAL

Leinster House TDs Neil

CHARLES HAUGHEY WON'T HELP — YOU CAN

THE EXTRADITION CASES being taken in the 26-County courts to prevent political refugees and activists from the sectarian Six-County state being handed back to Margaret Thatcher by Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail government cost lots of money (there is no legal aid available to extradition victims).

Please send whatever you can — whether its £1 or £100 — to the Sinn Fein Anti-Extradition Fund.

Putting your hand in your pocket can halt stop Irish citizens being put in British jails.

All donations to: Sinn Fein Anti-Extradition Fund
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1