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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 149

Sat. Saturday, 3rd August (De Sathairn, 3 Lunasa), 1974

The Mystery of Patsy Kelly

AT approximately 12.15 a.m. on Wednesday, 24th July Patsy Kelly locked up his pubhouse in the village of Trillick and got into his car to drive the 2½ miles to his home at Golan. He never arrived. At approximately 12.20 shots were heard at a spot about half a mile from Patsy's home. His white Mazda car was found two days later burned out near Brookboro', but Patsy himself has not been seen since.

Patrick Joseph Kelly was aged 33 years. He was married with four children aged between 6½ and 1 year 4 months. He was a member of Omagh District Council. A small farmer, he had only recently taken over the running of a pubhouse out of which a Catholic family had been intimidated.

These are the essential statistics of Patsy Kelly. But like all statistics they may be accurate but they are cold. They tell us nothing at all about the warm and wonderfully concerned and courageous man that was Patsy Kelly. As one local man who knew him well said with tears in his eyes, "Patsy was as fine a man as you could hope to meet". And indeed he was.

He was the founder and driving force behind the Civil Rights movement in the Trillick area. He was passionately in favour of civil rights for all and just as passionately opposed to injustice in any form. He never missed a protest meeting in Enniskillen or anywhere else within reasonable distance and was always bringing local abuses to the attention of those who were in a position to cure them or highlight them.

Because of this activity, which he carried on successfully as an elected councillor, he knew that he was a likely target for the assassin. But this did not deter him in the least. Patsy Kelly was in truth a man among men and since his disappearance Trillick has experienced a deep and abiding sense of loss. The people of Trillick, and indeed of both Fermanagh and Tyrone, have borne witness to the greatness of Patsy Kelly in a most dramatic way.

Since his disappearance a truly massive search has been continuing every day. It is most edifying and impressive for the observer and most heartwarming for the wife and relatives to see the throngs of people who go out day after day driven by one thought: to find Patsy Kelly.

Literally thousands of people have been involved in what is acknowledged to be one of the biggest searches of its kind in Ireland. These people range in age from 75 to 12 and with every day that passes their determination grows to find Patsy



Patsy Kelly and his wife pictured on their wedding day.

and thwart the fiends who are inflicting this torture on his wife.

On last Sunday alone over 2,000 people left in organised groups from Trillick football field to search. Monday evening saw one of the most impressive sights it has been our privilege to witness. We saw over 500 people five yards apart moving in a straight line up the face of Brougher Mountain. Every person was there because he knew and respected Patsy and felt that it was his duty to search for him. No man could have a greater tribute paid to him and no man more richly deserved that tribute.

The most likely reason why Patsy's body was concealed is that he was probably shot by a legally held gun and the body contains vital clues.

The search for Patsy Kelly will continue until he is found, and if you want to help you will be at Trillick G.F. grounds today at 1 p.m.

IRELAND'S MINERAL WEALTH BEING EXPLOITED?

The question of mineral wealth in the soil of Ireland has become a burning issue in the past year. Hitherto it was the accepted opinion, duly brainwashed into the people, that Ireland was "a poor country with no natural resources". As late as 22nd February, 1973, the Southern Prime Minister, Mr. Liam Cosgrave, publicly stated: "In this country we have few natural resources except arable land. Compared with other countries we have no great natural reserves of raw materials, nor minerals capable of exploitation."

THE NAVAN MINES PROJECT

This neo-colonial type indoctrination has been exploded with the discovery at An Uaimh (Navan), Co. Meath, of one of the richest known zinc-lead deposits in the world. The gross metal value of the Navan mine is now generally accepted as being at least £2,000 million calculated on the basis of an estimate for 77 million tons of zinc and lead ore. However, if there was a proper State resources development plan to utilise this enormous wealth to its full capacity, involving all stages—extracting, smelting and processing to consumer goods—that figure of £2,000 million could be multiplied by as much as a factor of 10.

THE TYNAGH MINES PROJECT

At Tynagh Mines, Co. Galway, we have seen the results of the economic policies of a quisling government. Thousands of tons of zinc have been shipped out of the Galway port at the extractive stage. And so the impoverished areas of the West of Ireland have given their own natural wealth to enrich the economies of Britain, Canada and the USA. This rape and pillage was carried out with the full permission and protection of the Southern Government.

SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

No developing country can afford to give away its mineral resources. Ireland is a poor country trying to survive. No developing country can afford to give away the North and neo-colonialism in the South. Inflation is racking the country. We have a chronic housing problem and the huge figure of 80,000 people living in poverty. Our education system is highly unsuitable to Irish needs and requires a radical overhaul. The health and social welfare services are particularly bad in the South. Yet the Southern Government, like the British Government in the North, has persisted in giving all support to multinational monopolies, to plunder our people of what is rightly theirs.

FORCED TO SAY "STOP"

Public opinion has, however, brought pressure to bear on the quisling Government in this aspect of Irish life. In an attempt to survive public outrage at handing away the wealth of Ireland, the Southern Government has tried to act worried and concerned. When Irish speculators tried to sell potential mineral-holding land on the foreign market, a public scandal was only avoided by the government heading off a small part of the speculation and making great noises about their efforts. Now the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Justin Keating, a well known pro-British politician, has found it necessary to take what he would call "drastic" steps to enable his Government to survive. In secret deals with two monopoly companies, Tara and Bula, he has arranged that the State will have a 50 per cent stake in the holding of the Canadian Tara Mining Company in Navan.

This might be viewed as a "white elephant", or just another ruse to persuade the people that the Government is "doing its best". However, in yielding somewhat to public opinion, Mr. Keating is admitting that the policy of the Republican Movement is the best one. In a policy statement

"Mining and Energy" issued in April this year, Sinn Féin stated:

"The first priority is to set up an Irish mining exploration and research department which would provide information we need in any deals that have to be done with the multi-national companies. Such a national body would not only engage in research, however, but would develop as many new resource discoveries as our technical resources would permit."

"The second aim of this national body would be to co-ordinate the mining and energy developments in the country and to maintain strict control on any multi-national companies that would be interested in developing any particular sectors of the wealth. In this respect an attitude similar to the present policy of Norway would be adopted. Thus while the Irish tax rate on profits from exploration at about 50 per cent is rather similar to the profits imposed in Norway, Sinn Féin would also insist, as Norway does, that the state company have a share in the development and that a permanent royalty be paid where a successful strike was made."

In partly yielding to this demand, the Government now considers it has preserved the "security" of the exploiters and speculators in all the other mineral holdings as well as the oil wealth in the sea-bed surrounding Ireland. The authorities hope that they can head off the more radical demands made by the Republican Movement, and by an ever-increasing body of opinion in the country at large.

Yet by yielding and having been forced to make a concession, the sell-out Government is objectively admitting that the only realistic policies are held by those whom they are continually jailing and trying to provoke into civil war. But with the British Government in the North facing defeat in the economic as well as military and social fronts, how can their puppets in the Southern Government be expected to achieve success over Republicanism. They can hardly be expected to keep 75 per cent of the State's wealth in the hands of 5 per cent of the people much longer.

ASSOCIATION'S LETTER

To the Editor of CONCERNED

Dear Sir,

The Association for Legal Justice, Dublin Central Branch, wishes to make public the text of a letter sent to the British Home Secretary, Mr. Roy Jenkins, in respect of the prisoner Francis Stagg, at present recovering from hunger strike in Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Minister,

This Association has received a very disquieting report concerning Francis Stagg, who is recovering from hunger strike in Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

We are informed that the physical condition of this prisoner is a cause for concern to his family, and that a request by them for an independent medical opinion has been refused. We are aware that the prison doctor advised that Francis Stagg be placed in a ward in company with other prison patients, having due regard to his depressed condition which was brought upon by the effects of his hunger strike, which was in the first place undertaken as a protest against barbarous and inhuman treatment.

We are appalled to learn that a transistor radio which he was using with the aid of an earphone was taken from him, on the spurious allegation that this was causing annoyance to the other patients. We regard this incident as an act of petty persecution which cannot be condoned or defended on any grounds whatsoever.

We request you to remedy this situation as we doubt that you would knowingly condone such inconsiderate treatment.

Yours faithfully,
Carmel Murphy,
Secretary."

ANTI-CATHOLIC BIAS IN NORTHERN COURTS

A REPORT published by the Association of Legal Justice after a two-month study of court decisions in occupied Ulster condemned the Royal Ulster Constabulary for its anti-Catholic bias and goes on to say that Protestant law-breakers have three times a better chance of escaping imprisonment than Catholics. The report goes on to say that Catholics of the North feel that the "Free State" has deserted them and asks the Southern Government to abandon plans for extra-territorial courts and the proposed security conference, and to pursue its case against Britain which is before the European Commission "with all possible efficiency and dispatch". It goes on to call on all people interested in furthering the case of human rights to join in a concerted campaign to secure a court system in Northern Ireland free of anti-Catholic bias and an end to anti-Catholic activities of the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The study, conducted in April and May last, shows that the average prison sentence received by a Catholic was just over twice that received by a Protestant. During the study period the report states that 10 per cent of Catholics and 31 per cent of Protestants were dealt with by penalties less than imprisonment. It continues by telling Catholics that they could expect an average prison sentence of 6.5 years, while Protestants could expect an average of 3.2 years. Members of the occupying forces tried on serious charges received an average of 2.7 years.

The report states that the discrepancy in sentencing "is partly accounted for by the anti-Catholic bias of the Royal Ulster Constabulary which supplies the information to the Director of Public Prosecutions, and partly due to the refusal of many Republicans to recognise the court, while Protestants often plead guilty to lesser charges."

"Nevertheless, it still remains true that a Catholic is liable to twice as long a sentence as a Protestant because the judges in the courts of Northern Ireland are biased against Catholics."

COLLABORATION: JUST SO FAR AND NO FURTHER

TOP-RANKING police officers have refused to increase co-operation with the Royal Ulster Constabulary until such time as that body proves that it is unbiased, "comparable to police forces in other places".

The Police Commissioner, on instructions from the Minister for Justice, Mr. Cooney, asked high-ranking police officers to meet men of equal rank in the Six Counties to discuss measures for closer collaboration. The police complain that, from evidence available to them, both the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary sided "against the forces of law and order in the North" during the recent Ulster Workers' Strike. The Commissioner conveyed the officers' refusal and the reasons for it to Minister Cooney, who has taken no action since.

A meeting with Royal Ulster Constabulary executives in the North had to be postponed. No reason for the indefinite postponement was given to the R.U.C. by the Dublin Department of Justice.

Officers, NCOs and men of the 26-County military were also reported as being unhappy at the collaboration with the British military, enforced on them by the Dublin Defence Department. The military, however, are not as free as the police to refuse to take part in such collaboration. The only effective way they have to voice disapproval—to the moment—is to resign.

"CRACKS" IN THE LOYALIST SET-UP

THE solidarity and unity of purpose which existed between the Loyalist Ulster Workers' Council and the various Protestant para-military groups during the recent general strike is beginning to show distinct signs of strain. This is not an entirely unexpected development. To bring down the Faulkner Executive gave them a common purpose in unison with Paisley, Craig and West. However, having achieved that immediate objective, it is now clear that there is strong divergence of opinion between them as to the next step. The Ulster Defence Association, which is numerically the strongest, wants to talk to Nationalist groups and has very graciously consented to correspond with the IRA. Some members of the Ulster Workers' Council are in agreement with this move, others are strongly opposed to it and are getting rather annoyed with the Ulster Defence Association as a result. In addition the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force are engaged in a rather bitter row. It appears that the UVF, who are a tightly disciplined outfit, recently decided to teach rowdy elements in the UDA a lesson. This took the form of blowing up some public houses frequented by the UDA and pistol-whipping the rowdy UDA members. Naturally, this is not producing an atmosphere of sweetness and light between the two organisations concerned, and generally weakens the solidarity of the combined Loyalist workers and para-military groups.

STATE OF "LIMBO" FOR POLITICIANS

With the dissolution of the Northern Assembly the professional politicians are languishing in a limbo-like state. The SDLP are making painfully obvious attempts to rally some of their lost support by strong criticism of the British Government and Merlyn Rees in particular. Of course, they were always very good with the words, but were rather badly deficient in principle and tenacity of purpose. Their present role fits them rather well. Hard-line statements are relatively easy to make when they are not accompanied by any obligation to deliver the goods.

West, Paisley and Craig's position is rather more complex. At the moment they are engaged in an exceedingly delicate balancing act. On the one hand they are obliged to engage in just enough hell-raising to retain the support of the more militant section of the Loyalist support. On the other hand they must be extremely careful not to frighten the middle-class, conservative Loyalist element by excessive militancy, which they don't sincerely feel anyway. A further pressing difficulty for them arises in the United Loyalist Council. The Ulster Workers' Council and the UDA, etc., have made it pretty clear that they will choose their own political representatives and, consequently, are threatening to steal the clothes off the established political demagogues such as Messrs. West, Paisley and Craig. If the groups referred to above succeed in capturing the working-class Loyalist vote to any degree, it will greatly weaken the political potency of the three leading Loyalist politicians and their parties. West would be thrown back on the support of the Unionist middle-class and rural vote. Paisley and Craig would be bidding for the militant working class vote against the para-military groups, who exceed them in militancy, and the Ulster Workers' Council who would have a strong Socialist appeal for the workers.

It can best be described as a political minefield for West, Paisley and Craig and it remains to be seen if they come through unscathed. Their prospects don't exactly look rosy.

RELEASED

ELIZABETH McKee (21), the first woman to be interned in the Six Counties under the Emergency Provisions Act, has been released. Elizabeth spent 17 months in Armagh Jail.

At present 23 other women are interned in the prison without trial. The food is poor and the conditions cramped, but they were not ill-treated, she said. Her detention began on Friday, 29th December, 1972, when she was taken to Fort Monagh Barracks by British troops. Later she was moved to Castlereagh Royal Ulster Constabulary station for interrogation before being put into Armagh Prison. There she celebrated her 20th and 21st birthdays, and in March, 1973, made a bid for freedom with four other women.

The five climbed onto a 30 foot wall, but were caught as they jumped down and fell into strands of barbed wire.

ENGLISH S.B. ACQUIT THEMSELVES

A SECRET Scotland Yard inquiry has cleared Britain's Special Branch of all allegations of "irregularity" in their dealings with Kenneth Joseph Lennon, the Irishman who was found shot dead in a Surrey lane on 13th April last. The police report, which will be published later, alleges that Lennon offered to operate as an informer for the Special Branch and was never used as an agent provocateur.

Three days before his death, however, Lennon had made a long statement to the English "National Council of Civil Liberties" in which he stated that he was afraid of being murdered, not by any "illegal" group but by the Special Branch. And now the Council has revealed that they were not invited to submit evidence to the inquiry, although Mr. Lennon had made his allegations to them.

Essentially, Lennon claimed that he had been blackmailed into acting as an informer for the Special Branch who, he said, had encouraged him to set up crimes for which suspected Republicans could be jailed and that the police assisted in "doctoring" evidence in a Birmingham case which allowed him to go free. In particular, he claimed that he was used as an agent provocateur in the case of the "Luton Three" (Phillip Sheridan, Jeremiah Mealey and John Campbell), who are currently serving ten year sentences in Wormwood Scrubs prison—and are receiving no visitors.

The inquiry has found that Lennon's allegations of "blackmail" and activities as an "agent provocateur" could not be substantiated. Several Labour MPs are likely, however, to support the National Council for Civil Liberties' charge that the report is a "whitewash" and that only an independent inquiry could be expected to present an unbiased report.

The inquiry findings coincide with mounting pressure for an independent inquiry into possible police involvement in the death of student Kevin Gately some weeks ago during an anti-National Front protest and at a time when there is increasing popular support for an investigation into the whole question of, to say the least, questionable police behaviour.

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ANTI-INTERMENT RALLY

ON Friday, 9th August, 1974, internment will be three years old. It has now been accepted by all who believe in justice and fair play that internment is a monstrous evil, immoral in the extreme, a terrible crime against the freedom of the individual. It is the duty of all opposed to it to come out and protest against it at every opportunity. Such an opportunity will be offered to the Fermanagh people on Friday, 9th August in Enniskillen at 8.30 p.m.

Don't just pay lip service to the Anti-Internment Campaign — join in public protest.

GREEN JACKETS HAVE

ENOUGH

DISMAYED at the thought of another duty spell in Ireland, 100 riflemen of the Royal Green Jackets seized Land-Rovers and left the camp.

The Royal Green Jackets were stationed at Bergdorf, Federal Germany, BFPO 23. The men believed that they had completed more than their fair share of duty in Ireland and did not anticipate having to return. However, it was decreed that a sixth tour was in the offing in the near future.

INTERMENT

THE running sore of internment evoked two surprising statements in the past weeks. The first came at the end of the Conference at Oxford organised by the British-Irish Association. It was issued by politicians representative of the Faulkner Unionists, Alliance, Social and Democratic Labour Party and Mr. Harry Murray of the Ulster Workers' Council, and called for an immediate end to internment.

This brought the wrath of "Gaultier" Craig down on poor Mr. Murray. A few days later Mr. Murray resigned his position as Chairman of the Ulster Workers' Council because of criticism within the latter body. However, he has since been reinstated.

The Ulster Defence Association came out in support of Mr. Murray and hurled a few broadsiders at Craig, without actually naming him. Obviously they have no intention of acting as cannon fodder for Craig, etc., in the future.

The second and even more significant statement came from Mr. Rowlands of the Six County Department of Community Relations. He condemned it strongly, and gave it as his considered opinion that it was a fundamental cause of continuing instability and violence. It is the one issue which unites both Loyalists and Republicans, and that is some indication of its abhorrent nature. As Mr. Rowlands is not a politician his condemnation carries additional weight. There is a certain comic irony in the virulent Loyalist condemnation of internment. When Republicans were the only ones being interned, their attitude was one of approval. Now that Loyalists are "behind the wire" they have rather belatedly discovered what an evil it is. Their conversion has come rather late in the day, but is welcome even if their reasons for opposing internment are rather expedient.