

CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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RATES

No. 76

Saturday, 3rd March (De Sathairn, 3 Márta), 1973

Fermanagh's Political Prisoners

MARTIN Monaghan is a native of Ederney. He is 20 years old and is at present in Long Kesh concentration camp.

On the 18th of October, 1972, he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at a court in Omagh. On that day Martin won for himself and the cause he served the admiration of the Fermanagh people and all who read of his fearless stand. Standing in a hostile court, surrounded by hostile foreign soldiers and native RUC, on hearing the sentence pronounced this young man, instead of showing fear, showed remarkable courage. He shouted "Up the Republic! God save Ireland!" A burst of cheering followed from the public gallery that shook the court.

Martin was a keen Gaelic football player. He played with Ederney junior team. He is also a great Irish rebel song fan and a keen Irish dancer.

No doubt Whitelaw and his minions of oppression hope to break the spirit of Martin Monaghan and his comrades in Long Kesh. In this they will not succeed. British war dogs of the past tried this in Ireland; it failed and it will also fail now.

Fermanagh is proud of Martin Monaghan and her other gallant sons who share the suffering of Long Kesh. They have won a place in our hearts. While they are there they will have our prayers and support. When they come home we will give them a welcome that only the Irish can give.



Martin Monaghan

Re-Unification: Then What?

(Continued from last week)

by S. Mac EIREANN

THE Proclamation of 1916 called for a National Government representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women. It is interesting to note that this was BEFORE Britain introduced woman suffrage. In this single departure, I see an overt affirmation of democracy. It may appear a small matter to learn that all the signatories were in agreement upon the woman suffrage proposal, but in 1916 it was NOT a small matter, and so can be seen as indicative of men not serving vested interests but the people. I mention this because in the new constitution for the New Ireland, Eire Nua, we find this absence of discrimination because of sex stressed. This is so even though because of convenience rather than because of preference I use the masculine pronoun almost throughout.

I mentioned last week that the new constitution is the first of the three main features of the proposed new system. I shall now go on to say something about the constitution. Firstly, it would provide a charter of rights which would incorporate the principle of securing to the individual protective control of his conditions of living subject to the common good. Secondly, it would provide a structure of government which would apply this principle, by providing for the maximum distribution of authority at provincial and subsidiary level. Here you will notice a complete departure from the existing structure of government provided by the Dublin administration and the one-time structure provided by the former Belfast administration. Nobody can say that the former is, or that the latter was, distributive of authority.

THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS

The eight articles of the charter of rights are prefaced as follows:

"We the people of Ireland, resolved to establish political sovereignty, social progress and human justice in this island, do hereby pledge that we will practise tolerance and live in peace with one another in order to achieve a better life for all and we declare our adherence to the following principles." Then follow the eight articles of the draft charter of rights.

ARTICLE ONE: All citizens are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Every person is entitled to the rights of citizenship without distinction of any kind, such as distinction of race, sex, religion, philosophical conviction, language or political outlook.

ARTICLE TWO: Every person has the right to life, liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.

ARTICLE THREE: Every person has the right to freedom of conscience and religion and the open practice and teaching of ethical and political beliefs. This includes the right of assembly, peaceable association, petition and freedom of expression and communication.

ARTICLE FOUR: Every person has the right to participate in the government of the country and to equal access to public service.

ARTICLE FIVE: The basis of government is the will of the people. This is expressed in a direct participatory democracy and free elections by secret ballot. The right of the citizen as an individual to follow his conscience and express his opinion is valid against any mathematically contrived attempt to repress him.

ARTICLE SIX: Every person has the right to education according to personal ability, work and a standard of living worthy of a free citizen. This right extends to food, clothing, housing, medical care and security against unemployment, illness and disability.

ARTICLE SEVEN: Every person has the right to equal pay for equal work and to join a trade union for protection of his interests. Motherhood and childhood deserve society's special care and attention. Men and women have the equal right to marry and to found a family.

ARTICLE EIGHT: In the exercise of his rights, every person shall be subject only to such limitations as shall secure recognition and respect for the rights of others and the welfare of the democratic community.

An interesting addition: It is intended that the European Convention on Human Rights should be made part of the internal domestic law of the New Ireland, Eire Nua.

So there it is then: the proposed charter of rights, the FIRST of the three features of the New Ireland

system designed to replace the existing system of undemocratic partition rule in our country, North and South.

REACTION

A certain type of Christian with vested interests in maintaining the existing undemocratic system suddenly becomes a vulture for things ethical whenever he hears the word NEW. No doubt he will swoop down upon the eight articles of the charter of rights hopefully expecting to find a wounded moral morsel. He will be disappointed because from the ethical viewpoint I do not think that any TRUE Christian, of whichever persuasion, can legitimately find fault, or ground for complaint, on the moral plane, with ALL or any ONE of the eight articles. I also feel sure that I may say the same as far as members of the other credal religions are concerned. Nor indeed will those not affiliated to any credal religion have cause for worry or complaint. A second reading of the eight articles should make my claim abundantly clear.

I intend to speak about the second of the three features of the new system next time. It will deal with the proposed new governmental system or structure which would be federal in character and consisting of FOUR LEVELS.

Finally, always remember that a cursory reading of anything is never sufficient, so read once more the eight articles. Then send your copy of CONCERNED to a friend.

CAVAN GIRL ARRESTED ON WAY TO SCHOOL

A 17-year-old schoolgirl was arrested on the morning of Friday, 9th February. At the time the girl was on her way to school. Her crime: selling Easter Lilies.

While Free State politicians run around trying to fool the people this girl lies in Mountjoy Jail. Jack is standing idly by.

Select Grocers and General Hardware Merchants
Crown Paint and Wallpaper Specialist
PHONE: LISNASKEA 337

ELECTION HONOURS LIST

THE Women's League for Irish Freedom have awarded the following:

Mr. Jack Lynch—100 white feathers, for his cowardice for deserting his countrymen in the Six Counties and assisting his country's enemy in trying to finally liquidate them, but even Dermott McMurrough did not succeed in that.

Mr. Justice O'Keefe—50 white feathers, for his cowardice in not convicting the British spy, John Wyman, on secondary evidence, four days after convicting his countryman, John Kelly, Chairman of the Belfast Citizens' Defence Committee, whose shoes he is not fit to lick, on secondary evidence.

Of course, the judges in both the sundered parts of our country are not appointed on merit, but on political or sectarian grounds. Griffin first was made Attorney General because he was de Valera's son-in-law and while he was in that job he allowed Dr. Paul Singer, the stamp fraud swindler, to leave the country with the millions of money he had swindled from poor people after Singer had paid enough of the ill-gotten money into Fianna Fail's (Republican Party now dropped from the brackets) notorious Taca funds, the interest on which can pay all the party's election expenses every time.

Griffin defended his action in the Kelly case by saying he had made a declaration to uphold the constitution and the law, meaning that it was the legislators and not he who were responsible for the injustice. In the last century, two Nationalist MPs made the same specious excuse when they sold their principles for the price of being made judges. In that age, people were simple and not sophisticated like now and patriotism was still a virtue and treachery a crime. Judges Sadlier and Keogh, hoping to get higher offices, savagely sentenced, like now, the people who had honoured them by electing them as their representatives, but they had served their masters' purpose by splitting the nationalist movement and their masters only despised them, like the people who had paid Judas his 30 pieces and, like Judas, Sadlier went out to Hampstead Heath one Sunday morning and took poison. Exactly a month later, and on a Sunday morning, Keogh went out to the same place and did likewise. "What doth it profit a man . . . ?"

Fianna Fail Ministers and TDs, their election and personation agents, supporters and voters—40 white feathers for supporting the Offences Against the State Act and dropping Republican Party (in brackets behind the name).

Other TDs who supported the Act — 30 white feathers.

Supt. John Fleming—20 white feathers. As there is no hangman now, the felon setter is the lowest job. It would be real Irish if the man with the lowest job in the country should turn out to be the head of the British spy ring in the Guards. It is a possibility as stranger things have happened, like Leonard McNally, a British spy, defending in court the United Irishmen.

The Free State Army personnel—Officers 10 feathers, men 5 feathers, for their courage in repulsing with fixed bayonets on 4th June, 1972, the peaceful protest march of the wives and children of the patriots in the awful Curragh detention camp, when they tried to present a petition against the horrible, inhuman conditions there. The army have now made good the loss of face they sustained when they retreated ingloriously before the Baluba warriors, armed only with bows and arrows, in the Congo. With a few more successes like that they might pluck up courage to halt the jeep-loads of British soldiers who roam across the Border at will and bring them before O'Keefe for possession of arms with intent to endanger life and see what excuse he will invent not to convict them.

The following was inadvertently omitted from Lynch's citation: "He feels that it is the lesser of two evils to allow half a million of his countrymen to be liquidated, as it would be unthinkable to coerce a million and a half quislings who have assisted in coercing three million of his countrymen (or are they, or is he an Irishman at all?) for generations." He said in a "Panorama" programme recently that he never knew how his father voted at elections!

BBC ANGERED

ON his daily appearances on TV, on radio, in the press and at public meetings Frank McManus continues to tell the American people the truth of the British involvement in this part of Ireland. So effective and successful has his campaign been that the BBC are now beginning to sweat with embarrassment.

They have been dishing out the British Army and British Government story (the "peace keeper" role) up till now.

Now the true voice of British occupied Ireland is being heard in the USA and so the complaints from the British propaganda machine are being heard. Perhaps they may seek Nixon's collaboration in making a "Fort Worth Six". Mr. Heath and his Army chiefs were delighted at the message given to America by Jack Lynch; not so with McManus.

DERRYLIN

DERRYLIN Civil Resistance Committee wishes to thank all who attended their dance in aid of internees and political prisoners' fund, and all those who were unable to attend but sent donations. The dance itself was a great success. The spacious hall was packed to capacity and a most enjoyable night was had by young and old. During the dance a beautiful hand-made wallet (designed and made by a Fermanagh prisoner in Crumlin Road jail) was raffled.

The gathering was addressed by T. Flatley, Danny Barr and Maurice McGrath, ex-internees, who were introduced by Mr. J. O'Rourke. They spoke on the need for more functions in aid of the dependants of imprisoned men, the conditions of Long Kesh and the need for more protests to end internment and the abolition of the Special Powers Act.

Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

in CENTRAL HOTEL, Bundoran
on

FRIDAY, 9th MARCH, 1973

Dinner at 9 p.m. sharp

Tickets £1.50. Available from 3 Queen St. or Committee Member for your area.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

DAITHI O CONAILL IN KERRY

SPEAKING at the South Kerry Annual Republican Reunion in Killarney on Friday, 23rd February, Mr. Daithi O Conaill said:

"It is remarkable that John Hume's call to the Southern political parties to spell out their policy towards the North during the current election campaign has been completely ignored. Apart from the perpetual condemnations of the Northern people and the Provisionals in particular, no party has come forward with one constructive idea for a resolution of the Northern conflict. This situation places a great responsibility on the Republican Movement to give leadership, North and South, and to grasp the opportunities in the present fluid situation.

In the North, old moulds are being broken, out-moded ideas are being discarded and a new awareness is dawning on Ulster people as regards a common identity and future. The connection with England no longer has the relevance of former years for either the loyalists or British people. Messrs. Craig and Taylor have come to articulate a new departure and while sincerity is always subject to proof, any attempt to cross the sectarian divide must be welcomed by Republicans. Those, like Conor Cruise O'Brien, who heap scorn on the statements of Craig and Taylor, are the real enemies of the Irish people. Devoid of ideas, they have nothing to offer the Irish people but a constant tirade designed to perpetuate themselves in the paltry politics of a divided Ireland.

For the last three years Republicans have offered a vision of a new Ireland embodying a recognition of the positive aspects of the diverse elements which make up our nation. The New Ireland will be one of self-governing communities in which the people control their own affairs; their own employment, their own natural resources, their own schools, their own wages and prices, their own housing and environment. For Ulster, it means a new parliament of Ulster people united in the common and immense task of creating a way that will be meaningful, rewarding and satisfying for all the inhabitants of that historic province.

Today Ulster wrestles in the last throes of a dying colonial era. Britain's days in Ireland are numbered and more British people are coming to realise that they themselves will never be really free until they leave behind the last vestige of a disreputable Imperial power.

If Britain's future lies with Europe, then Ulster's future is with Ireland—not the Ireland of the past, strife torn, riddled with dissension and a prey to a now forgotten Empire.

A new Ulster can be the prelude to a new Ireland. We have but need of courage, a thick skin against our detractors and the will and ability to forge ahead to realise the dreams of many generations."

MILITARY TRIBUNAL



NO SIR,
EVEN IN THE
Toughest OF SITUATIONS
WE SOLDIERS DO NOT
LOOSE OUR HEADS



PRIVATE PERKINS:
DID YOU DO ANYTHING RASH
AT ANY TIME DURING
THE CONFRONTATION?

The following advertisement appeared in English daily newspapers. We reproduce this with some slight changes:

A BRITISH ARMY OFFICER! WHAT KIND OF CAREER IS THAT FOR AN INTELLIGENT BOY?

AT one time, if you were rich and well born you could get a commission in the British Army simply by buying it.

Not any more.

Wealth and position won't get you past the Officer Selection Board these days.

We don't care who your parents were; you probably didn't even know you had some. As for money, forget it; you might not live long enough to spend it anyway.

The weapons, the equipment and the problems facing British Army officers are immensely more complex than they used to be. Now you need brains.

Which probably accounts for our high list of self-inflicted casualties. But we live in hope.

You could be in charge of 30 men

Before your 20th birthday you could be in charge of 30 of the best trained soldiers you could hope to meet and we hope to meet them too. Some of them will be 9-year men now entering the second stage of their basic training. Highly professional.

As things stand, you could easily find yourself facing a riot in Belfast with them.

You'll be responsible for their mental and physical well-being on and off duty, 24 hours a day, if you last.

For all this you'll get £1,748 p.a. Which is not bad going for a chap of nineteen. If, there again, you lie to spend it.

There's room at the top

On the way you could go to Staff College, the Royal Military College of Science and later the National Defence College where you'll do joint courses with Royal Navy and RAF officers.

In fact, you'll very likely spend more of your time in mental homes as a senior officer than you did as a junior.

If you ever reach your late 30s or early 40s you will definitely be a physical and mental wreck. At this stage in your career you will probably be promoted to a colonel in command of at least 500 similar weirdos.

If, by some freak act of fate, you reach the general class, it's likely that you won't look back on your early days, as by this time your mind will have completely gone on the blink.

There is nothing whatever to prevent you becoming a general, except the IRA or the UDA or a petrol bomb, malaria, or hari-kari.

So, if you are under 29 and you think the British Army is your kind of career, stop and re-think. If you still join then obviously you had nothing between your ears to think with.

Drop a line to Major K. S. Robson, c/o Dept. A10, Handsdowne House, Birkley Sq., London.

If unavailable at this address you might try any possible asylum or home for the incurables.

FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE
SOCIETY

WON £5 EACH

Mr. JAMES SWIFT,
Drumharvey,
Irvinestown

Mrs. K. McAVINNEY,
Magheraveely,
Enniskillen

Letter to the Editor

UNHOLY CHASTE OF POLITICIANS AND PARTIES

A Chara,

From the statements appearing in the Press following Mr. Craig's call for a "Dominion Ulster", it would seem that we are headed for another 1922. Not, I hope, in terms of a civil war, but in the unholy haste of politicians and political parties to join Mr. Craig and the enemies of this nation in a re-structured Partition of Ireland.

No matter how you look at it, Mr. Craig's solution is a last desperate move to salvage what is left of his political career.

He is not acceptable to either Britain or the Six County Unionists, and some minority politicians are falling over themselves to line up with him and his UDA and Loyalist Council who were responsible for the attacks on minority homes and businesses, the desecration of two Catholic churches and a convent home for disabled children on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. Craig in his statement made it clear that power-sharing in his new Dominion "could only be effectively done within a majority framework".

No matter how it is dressed up, this proposal of Mr. Craig's is a trap to woo the Six-County minority to give approval for the further reinforcing of Partition.

Has any Republican ever dreamed of giving allegiance to a permanent Six-County state? The one thing which kept Republicanism alive in Ireland

was the refusal of Republicans to accept the Six-County entity as a lasting and permanent settlement under Orange domination and guaranteed financial backing from Britain.

Even today, under Direct Rule, Britain is pouring her millions into sectarian-controlled industries in the Six Counties.

Mr. Craig in his wild dream would hope to still benefit from the coffers of the British treasury even though he would be operating UDI.

I cannot forecast whether Mr. Craig will succeed in wooing minority politicians to his side. It is quite possible that from the tone of some utterances he might just do that.

If he does, then it will be God help the people of the minority.

Any settlement of our problems should be on a basis of negotiation by all the groups involved. National unity even on a deferred basis of some short term of years must be acknowledged. The Loyalists say that unity with the 26 Counties is not on. So what have we?

We are no further on in terms of political sagacity than we were in 1969. If anything we are more confused.

We were at least united on the minority side in 1969. Today we have a multiplicity of parties and groups all seeking our support. None of them has the right to decide on or accept any arrangement with Mr. Craig or Mr. Whitelaw which does not guarantee the freedom of the Six County minority from Unionist or Loyalist domination and the acceptance of the principle of National unity.

Is this what Mr. Craig means?

Is mise le meas,

Sean Mac Conuladh

ULSTER: THE FACTS

THE violence in Northern Ireland has tended to obscure the underlying causes of the Ulster conflict. Instead of applying a political solution to what is essentially a political problem, the British government has sought a military solution. All political freedoms have been suspended. Belfast has what is essentially a military government made up of the army and William Whitelaw, a one man administrator. The army is the law and the law is the army. This sequence of events brought about the present crisis.

1. In August, 1969, Prime Minister Harold Wilson publicly admitted (a) the Belfast government needed reforms, (b) civil rights would be established and second class citizenship for Catholics would end. In the now famous "Downing Street Declaration", Irish Catholics were guaranteed equal rights with other United Kingdom citizens.

2. Within 90 days of this declaration, local elections in the Six Counties were cancelled. They remain so. No reform programme was enacted. Civil rights remain suspended under the Special Powers Act.

3. In June, 1970, Prime Minister Heath took office. He immediately set the army on the civilian population in Catholic areas of Belfast and Derry.

4. In March, 1971, Britain set up Brian Faulkner as Prime Minister in the Six Counties. He openly "declared war" on political dissidents. In August he interned without charge or trial several hundred political opponents in Long Kesh. Internees included lawyers, teachers, labour leaders and working men. During his 12 months in office, Mr. Faulkner issued gun permits to an additional 30,000 of his political supporters. He then threatened what he called a "Protestant backlash": 107,000 Unionists now hold private arms licensed by the government.

5. In March, 1972, the British government removed Mr. Faulkner because of his many blunders and imposed direct rule from London. Conditions have deteriorated since. The army has become even more repressive. Thousands of Catholic homes have

been raided by the army, some 40 to 50 times. Entire areas have been placed under curfew. Many Catholic ghetto residents are confined to their area by the army. This system of military reservations is in reality a form of internment. Since 1st July, over 80 Catholics have been murdered by private gangs. Police protection is non-existent.

6. On 1st October, 1972, Britain was placed on trial by the Council of Europe because of the misdeeds outlined above. This was a landmark decision. It placed Britain in the dock. It could prevent her entry into the Common Market. If found guilty, Britain could be expelled from the Council of Europe.

The Civil Rights programme started in 1968. Four years later conditions are the same. There is less freedom than ever. Over 700 have died. Despite world-wide criticism, Mr. Heath continues to seek military solutions. We ask our friends overseas, Catholic and Protestant alike, to educate the public to the facts. World-wide public opinion can force Britain to change her disastrous course and end the bloodshed.

SPY TRIAL

WHY has London solicitor Michael Gilbert been allowed to attend the spy trial, after judges ruled that only those directly involved be admitted? Even the British Government was refused an observer. Gilbert is a writer of crime thrillers. Perhaps he is looking for Jack Lynch to play the part of "The Jailer" in his new book.

Fermanagh Citizens' Advice Bureau

COMMITTEE MEETING

on Monday, 5th March, 1973, at 9 p.m.
FULL ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

When in Lissnaskea, call at . . .

FRANK'S BAR

Home of Traditional Song and Music

MAIN STREET

LISSNASKEA