

# CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 111

Saturday, 3rd November (De Sathairn, 3 Samhain,) 1973

## Victory Ours For The Taking —O CONAILL

THE 69th Sinn Féin Ard Fheis was held in Dublin's Mansion House on Saturday and Sunday, 20th and 21st October. It was the greatest Ard Fheis since the founding of the organisation, according to the veteran of the Battle of Mount St. Bridge, Joe Clark, and four other survivors of the 1916 Rising who were present among the delegates.

Highlight of the Ard Fheis was the address of Daithí O Connail, who in spite of a large cordon of Gardaí and Special Branch escaped. This was the second escape of O Connail from police in Dublin. His appearance at the funeral of Captain James Bryson recently in Belfast and his dramatic escape afterwards in spite of the heavy cordons of British Army, RUC and UDR captured the imagination and respect of freedom lovers everywhere.

The following is the text of his address:

"Victory is ours for the taking," said a confident O Connail, and the audience went wild. "We smashed Stormont. We made direct rule impossible. The Assembly will go the same way. The major objective now is to force the British to withdraw from our country.

"The Leadership of the Republican Movement sends fraternal greetings to the delegates, visitors and friends of the Sinn Féin organisation assembled in national convention. We welcome the increased attendance at this year's Ard Fheis and we view it as an indication of the failure of British and Free State forces to smash the Movement over the last 12 months. Despite naked military terror in the North and vicious Free State oppression in the South, the Movement has held its own and forges ahead in the struggle for freedom.

"The British army terror campaign, initiated by the breaking of the Truce, and followed up by the launching of Operation Motorman, has been defeated. The British objective of isolating the IRA and breaking the will of the Northern people has not been secured. Despite the massacre on the New Lodge Road of February last and the massive extension of internment, the Irish Republican Army continued to spearhead the resistance to British military rule with the full support of a determined and unconquered people.

### BRITISH CASUALTIES

"Since Maudling's declaration of war on the Irish people, British forces have suffered almost 300 fatal casualties and thousands wounded. Their economy has been severely strained in maintaining the war effort and the futility of their policy is becoming clearer to the British public. No British soldier can walk with ease through any part of the occupied area today.

"In areas like south Armagh, Tyrone and Derry, enemy troops are prisoners in their own garrisons. The British army has all the attributes of a defeated occupation force wishing to hell it could extricate itself from an impossible military situation.

"From time to time we hear bombastic British claims as to making inroads into the IRA command structure. That some of our leadership personnel have been killed and imprisoned cannot be denied, but Britain should well know that, in a guerrilla army, there is always a reservoir of tried and trusted leaders who step forward to fill the breach caused by a fallen comrade.

"The leadership of today is of this generation, disciplined and seasoned by the vigours of the last four years and united in grim determination to pay any price and use whatever means are necessary to end

British rule in this country.

"We succeeded in smashing Stormont. We have made direct rule impossible and now we move forward to secure a British withdrawal. We must not underestimate our enemies or be in any doubt as to who they are. The British have obtained complete lordship over the Cosgrave-Corish regime. Mr. Whitelaw boasted at the Tory Party Conference that they had motivated the Dublin government towards increased harassment of Republicans.

"That motivation was secured by British agents exploding British bombs in this city last December; by British agents operating freely in the Dublin Special Branch; and by British agents being honoured guests in the Donegan political camp. The Free Staters of today in the government, judiciary and police are as willing servants of the British Crown as were their predecessors of 1922 and we must recognise them as such.

"We repudiate the claim of this quisling element to represent the interests of the Irish people. Their actions are totally inimical to the welfare of the Irish nation. They have turned the 26 Counties into a Stormont-type police State. They have jailed our people on the word of known public perjurers. And they now threaten to hand men and women over to the torture squads of the British army.

"We wish to state explicitly to the Dublin politicians that the Republican policy of non-military action in the South does not guarantee them immunity from the logical consequences of handing over any Irish Republican to the forces of the British Crown.

### SDLP BETRAYAL

"Like their counterparts in the South, the opportunist politicians of the SDLP have succumbed completely to the wiles of William Whitelaw. Their acceptance of the Constitution Act is an outright betrayal of the people's decision on the Border Poll, upon which the Act is based.

"The promises made to the electorate last June are now forgotten in the indecent haste to share the crumbs of Whitelaw's table. The internment of school children must be condoned so as not to embarrass Heath. British army terror must be accepted for fear of offending Whitelaw, and the 200-odd sectarian killings must not be mentioned in case Brian Faulkner withdraws his co-operation to form an executive.

"British puppets are the same to us, whether the name is Faulkner or Fitt. The system they are now trying to establish will be no more acceptable than the old Stormont, which we destroyed. Like fools and knaves, they have prostrated their bodies across the path of an inevitable British withdrawal and, while such heroic action may be pleasing to a "benign" British government, it is contemptible in the context of our nation's long struggle for freedom. If the English came to Ireland to the welcome smiles of Diarmuid Mac Murchadha, they shall depart to the screaming curses of a trampled Gerry Fitt.

"In the months ahead, the Republican Movement will pit its strength against the unholy alliance of British Tories, Free State puppets and opportunist Northern politicians. We have the capacity, strength and courage to fight and defeat these forces. Our successes to date have driven them together to defend the last vestige of British imperialism in this country.

## FREEDOM FIGHTERS FREED

THREE Provisional Irish Republican Army leaders were successfully rescued from Mountjoy Jail on Wednesday evening last in what must be described as the most daring escape ever attempted in this or indeed any other country.

The men, Mr. Séamus Twomey, former OC of the Belfast Brigade, Mr. J. B. O'Hagan of Lurgan, and Mr. Séamus Mallon, who hails from Coalisland, were exercising with other Republicans in "D" wing of the prison when a helicopter landed in their midst. The three men jumped aboard and flew to Baldoy racecourse and to an unknown destination.

The whole operation only lasted a minute and credit must go to the brave men of "D" wing who formed the escape circle, thus allowing their leaders to escape.

We applaud their achievement and offer the Republican movement our congratulations.

## "I WAS IN THE IRA FROM 14

BUNBEG is the picturesque seaside resort in North Donegal where the SDLP men usually go for their big "think-ins". It was in an hotel in this village late one night last summer that one leading SDLP member decided to impress some Southern friends. One of the Southern gentlemen tells the story as follows: "We were having great crack, lots of drink—and them, boys can buy—when suddenly Mr. — pulled out a gun, a bloody big thing. He has it with Government permission for his own protection, he said. Sid I to him: 'What good is it to you without knowledge of how to use it?' Mr. — grabbed his gun and said: 'Know how to use it? I was in the IRA from 14 and know as much about a gun as anyone else.' We are not telling you the SDLP man's name, but we will give you a little clue—he is one of the fat ones."

Come to think of it, Bunbeg was the birthplace of Pat O'Donnell, the man who was hanged for shooting the traitor James Carey. A fine memorial stands in the village to O'Donnell. In later years during the Land League days an RIC inspector who attempted to arrest a priest during Mass was attacked by the congregation and kicked to death. Bunbeg is also the birthplace of De Barra, one of the recent Mountjoy hunger-strikers.

With such a history one would think it a most unusual place for SDLP think-ins!

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(Continued on page four)

## HISTORIC IRISH DATES IN OCTOBER

- 2 Statue to Charles Stuart Parnell unveiled in O'Connell St., Dublin, 1911.
- 2 Cromwell attacks Wexford, 1649. English Parliament decreed a day of thanksgiving for the massacre of 3,000 men, women and children by Cromwell in Drogheda.
- 3 Cromwell orders massacre of civilian population of Wexford, 1649. Treaty of Limerick signed, 1691.
- 4 IRA destroys RIC barracks at Frenchpark, 1920.
- 5 The Irish Army marched out of Limerick, 1691, to fight against England in Europe. They became known as the "Wild Geese".
- 6 Insurrection Bill passed, 1798. Parnell died, 1891.
- 7 Clontarf meeting banned, 1843.
- 9 Irish Citizen Army commanded by James Connolly carry out sham attack on Dublin Castle, 1915.
- 10 Wolfe Tone and a few French naval vessels arrive in Lough Swilly, 1798.
- 11 Battle of Lough Swilly, 1798. Recognition of Irish Republic sought at Geneva, 1919.
- 12 Rising of the O'Byrnes of Wicklow, 1641. After fierce naval battle Wolfe Tone is arrested, 1798. IRA ambush British at Kanturk and Roscommon, 1920.
- 13 Parnell arrested, 1881. Sean Treacy and Dan Breen kill nine British soldiers in fierce gun battle at "Fernside", Drumcondra.
- 14 Sean Treacy killed in Talbot St., Dublin, by British Army. Treacy killed two British special agents before he was shot in the back by a third agent.
- 15 Battle of Fochairt and death of King Edward Bruce, 1318. Republicans on hunger strike in Mountjoy, 1919. William Orr hanged, 1797. Thomas Davis born, 1814.
- 16 Lord Edward Fitzgerald born, 1763. Arrest of Australian Army chaplain by British in Dublin, 1919.
- 17 M. Fitzgerald died after 50 days' hunger strike in Cork Jail, 1920.
- 18 Smith O'Brien born, 1803. Death of Fr. Eoghán O'Growney, 1899.
- 19 "No rent" manifesto issued by Land League, 1881.
- 20 Kevin Barry court-martialled, 1920. Thomas Russell executed by British, 1803.
- 21 Insurrection of O'Toole and O'Kavanagh, 1641.
- 22 Great national uprising of 1641 against British rule. Land League founded, 1879.
- 23 Land League publishes Plan of Campaign, 1886.
- 24 Confederation of Kilkenny constituted, 1642.
- 25 United Irishmen formed, 1791. Terence McTwiney, Republican Lord Mayor of Cork, died in Brixton Prison after a hunger strike lasting 74 days, 1920.
- 26 J. Murphy died in Cork Jail after 76 days on hunger strike, 1920.
- 27 Limerick surrendered to Ireton, 1651. Black 'n Tans suffer heavy losses in IRA ambushes in Co. Cork.
- 28 Kevin Barry sentenced to death, 1920.
- 29 Nineteen newspapers suppressed and large numbers arrested in Ireland by British, 1919.
- 30 Irish inhabitants of Galway City banished, 1655. A proclamation read, "An O' or a Mac shall strut nor swagger on the streets of Galway." But it seems they did for later a sign could be read on the West Gate, "From the fury of the O'Flarthaigh, good Lord deliver us."
- 31 Bishop O'Brien executed by British, 1651.

## CAVANACARRA DANCE

A VERY successful dance was held in the local hall on Friday night last in aid of internees' dependants. A raffle for a beautiful hand-made Long Kesh harp took place during the dance. The lucky winner was Kieran McGuigan from Fintona, County Tyrone. Music (Irish and old-time) was supplied by the Maguire family.

The organisers, Cavanacarra Resistance Committee, wish to thank all who supported this worthy cause.

## AND HE COULD ALL THE LUSTRE SEE

I COULD not remember when Seana Padraic was born and having consulted many learned books I discovered in the Dictionary of Irish Writers that he entered the world in "the City of the Tribes" sometime during 1883 and died at the relatively early age of 45 in Dublin in 1928.

He went to school in Rosnare, Co. Galway, and then to Blackrock College, and was therefore excellently educated. Of course, he was not really the kind of vagrant rambler suggested by his very casual appearance so excellently portrayed in the raw limestone statue erected to his memory in Eyre Square, Galway, where he sits tieless in unpressed trousers and badly laced boots. I think this is a better work of art than those in memory of Goldsmith and Burke in Dublin or any of the literary men similarly commemorated at Westminster Abbey. The statue may be slightly exaggerated.

In recognition of his writings Padraic was awarded the Oireachtas Prize for literature in 1904 when he was twenty-one. He was not completely dependent on his writings as he also worked in the British Civil Service and as a sailor.

He returned to Dublin in 1914 and had many publications, including the beautifully titled "An Crann Geagach", a set of essays that appeared in 1919.

There is some mystery attached to the delay in publishing some of the best works. "Fear fasa Mac Feasa" did not appear until 1930 and his inimitable "M'Asal Beag Dubh" made its debut in 1944. The latter, in my opinion, is one of the best books for children ever written in any language and is comparable with the works of Hans Christian Andersen and Oscar Wilde.

His attitude and philosophy were very similar to those of the romantic Sligo poet, Bernard Tansey, who wrote of himself: "I care not for the opinions of learned critics, I wish only to please youth and beauty."

Many are the fables and wild stories told about the great little man "Seanna Padraic" by the old hearthstones in rural Ireland and one of the best relates to his visit to a large drapery store in Galway to buy a new suit. "Sure and begorra," said the haughty draper, "thinking that he addressed an illiterate beggar, 'I'll give you a new suit if you can read this new Greek book.' He produced a copy of 'An Crann Geagach', which Padraic read and quoted copiously even with his eyes closed! The embarrassed shopkeeper grabbed the best suit he could find and gave it to him.

He loved the underprivileged and the young and loud were the lamentations among the poor, poor people of Galway when he died in 1928. Having lived during the winter in the city and wandered the hillsides in the summer sleeping beneath his little spring cart on a "Leaba breia luasca" made of branches and twigs and covered with a sheet of canvas. Like Good Pope John, he was loved by all and hated by none.

Tomás Ó Dalaigh

## N.I. COMMISSION

### "WILL TRY"

IF the Northern Ireland Community Relations Commission begins to receive a large number of letters in Irish its director and some staff will "try to revive their receptive knowledge of the language."

This was stated by Mr. David Rowlands, Director, in a letter to an *Athair Mac an tSagairt*, St. Patrick's Academy, Dún Geannainn. However, Mr. Rowlands said his letter in reply would be in English. By this he intended no slur on "Gaelic", but he was merely following precedent in a previous post he held in which he used English in replying to letters in Russian, Spanish, German and French.

Mr. Rowlands went on: "All the Gaelic that was painfully learnt (by rote and ruler) during my childhood in Dublin left me very quickly when there was no opportunity to use it." He apologised for an earlier reply to Conradh na Gaeilge in which he said the Commission asked all correspondents to write to them in English.

## COSGRAVE IN SORDID DEAL

MR. MICHAEL FARRELL, speaking at a meeting in Dundalk on Saturday night last, said that the Cosgrave Government was engaged in a sordid political deal in which they were selling the freedom of political refugees in the South in return for a powerless Council of Ireland.

"This squalid barter of other people's liberty is every bit as immoral as the slave-trading of old," he said.

He said if the 12 men and women currently involved in extradition proceedings have been involved in violence in the North it could only have been as a result of British rule there and the vicious persecution the anti-Unionist population have had to undergo. If the Southern Government would do nothing to end the British Army's reign of terror in the North, they should, at least, give sanctuary to those who had to flee from it.

Mr. Farrell said the extradition deal and the judicial internment of Republicans by the Special Criminal Court was rapidly turning the South into a police state as well. That was the price of collaborating in the British settlement. Any Irish Government which joined hands with Britain in the scheme to perpetuate the six-county state, he said, would find themselves forced to use repression against their own people—to turn themselves into a glorified RUC.

"The extradition of 10 men and two young women to the North where they face certain internment if they are not convicted will solve nothing," Mr. Farrell said. He appealed to the people of the South to act now "to stop this cruel barter and prevent their leaders from rushing headlong into the arms of Brian Faulkner and the British Army."

## COME CLEAN OVER SPY - TD's CALL

THE 26-County Minister of Justice, Mr. Patrick Cooney, was urged this week to "come clean" and give more details about convicted spy Patrick Crinnion.

Mr. Neil Blaney, T.D., called for details of Crinnion's career from the time he joined the Irish Special Branch until he was dismissed.

Crinnion, who worked in the Chief Superintendent's office at Special Branch headquarters in Dublin, was convicted earlier this year of passing on secrets to British spy John Wyman.

Crinnion was given a three-month prison sentence but was released almost immediately and flown out of Ireland, to London.

Mr. Blaney said it was in the public interest to reveal how much of a risk Crinnion had been and whether he had been "checked out" before his appointment. Crinnion, he said, was now abroad enjoying the proceeds of his spying. Many people had suffered because of his activities.

The T.D. suggested he had probably been connected with all that had "gone on" in the last four years.

Lands Minister, Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick, replying for Mr. Cooney, said he was not prepared to give any details about Crinnion's career. He failed to see what purpose it would serve.

Crinnion had been charged, tried and sentenced, and it would not be reasonable to go any further into the matter.

### FERMANAGH CITIZENS' ADVICE SOCIETY

## WON £5 EACH

### THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

MRS. J. O'NEILL,  
Bridge Street,  
Newtownbutler

MR. THOMAS BLAKE,  
Coragh,  
Derrylin

# Southern Diary

ANTI-REPUBLICANISM by the "mandated" traitors in Dublin, though nobody in the street will admit to giving such a mandate, knows no bounds. Consider the recent case of James O'Gara in New York. James was accused of conspiring to smuggle arms to the six-counties—and guess who gave evidence against him? Yes, garda officials from Dublin sent over at great expense by the Dublin Government, or, more specifically, successive Ministers for "Justice" like Des O'Malley and Paddy Cooney. I report in full a letter sent to me by Paul O'Dwyer, the noted New York attorney:

"The case of James O'Gara is over. O'Gara, a native of County Roscommon, Ireland, was indicted for conspiracy to smuggle arms from the United States into Northern Ireland. The Department of Justice brought several Irish police officials here from Dublin to testify in court against him.

O'Gara was represented at the trial by Frank Durkan, of the firm of O'Dwyer & Bernstein. After a lengthy cross-examination the case of conspiracy against O'Gara was dismissed, leaving for jury's consideration the remaining charge of falsifying records in connection with the purchase of guns from a gun dealer. On that charge the jury convicted O'Gara.

"On September 17, 1973, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, O'Gara was given a suspended sentence and two years of probation by Judge Edward Weinfeld.

"Frank Durkan, attorney for the defendant, in his plea to the court, pointed out the exemplary record of the 31-year-old defendant, who is married and the father of three small children. He alluded to the fact that his client has been gainfully employed with a local bus company for the past ten years. 'O'Gara,' he said, 'is no criminal.'

"Commenting on the technical nature of his client's conviction, Durkan reminded the court that all evidence indicated his client was responding to the cry of distress from his brothers and sisters in Northern Ireland whose plight was no different from that of our own country 200 years ago when the Colonists cried out against the oppression of the British Government. 'It should be noted that, after a lapse of two centuries, the oppressor remains the same,' Durkan told the court.

"Judge Weinfeld took cognisance of the defendant's previous good record and suspended his sentence. O'Gara, who did not take the stand during the trial, had no comment to make to the court on sentence and refused to discuss the case with the press on leaving the court, directing all inquiries to his lawyers."

It is obvious from that report that James O'Gara stood by the Republican tradition in not recognising the farce of his "trial", which must have been something of a shaker for those inheritors of the fruits of that Republicanism who made the trip from Dublin to try to pull him down. I wonder just how many Irishmen would vote the money that trip cost for that particular purpose? Mandate, how are you?

MICHAEL Kitt, Michael Kitt, where have you been?

"I've been up to London to visit the Queen."

The electors of North-East Galway were delighted to learn that their Fianna Fail Deputy in Dail Eireann and the Mrs. have recently rubbed shoulders with Brit royalty. Michael was one of two Dail representatives that attended the 19th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London. It sure is a far cry from Lehanagh, Castleblakeney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, to Marlborough House and Hampton Court Palace, but Michael and the Mrs. made it.

You'd never guess who the other Dail Deputy was? Of course, right first time. It was Gerry L'Estrange, Fine Gael T.D. for Longford-

Westmeath, who trekked all the way from Killentown, Multyfarnham, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, with his missus. Gerry well remembered for his vicious spouting against the Provos and a personal vendetta against Ruairi O Bradaigh during the Fine Gael opposition days.

But back to Michael Kitt. Michael, former Parliamentary Secretary to George Colley when George had the Ministry of the Gaeltacht, has only one claim to fame. His ability to doze off, fat chin slumped into fat neck over an obese body, when matters of note are being discussed—an edifying spectacle, no doubt, for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers and proof, if proof were needed, that the elected representatives are a dozy lot down here.

And what big news did Michael bring back—weighty comments on world affairs...? Michael came home to announce proudly to his electorate that the missus had met the Duchess of Kent and the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of London and, breathless now, she visited the Royal Mews and the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. Wowee!

Michael did do one thing. He managed to find time to fawn at the feet of the deputations from France and the Netherlands and scrounge an invitation to visit them soon—all at our expense, of course—and Gerry and the missus go, too. Maybe one day these two will get around to doing the job they were elected to do, look after the interests of their constituents.

I HAVE it on reliable authority that Garrett Fitzgerald has not gone around in so many circles that he has disappeared up an orifice. Garrett is still buzzin', honey chile.

## RELEASE BOYS NOW: LONG KESH CAMP COUNCIL

IN a statement the Long Kesh Camp Council said that they were informed on Thursday of last week that the Secretary of State had ordered the removal of the three schoolboys detained in the camp from there to Magilligan.

The statement continues: "We insisted that we be given time to ascertain if this was what the boys, their parents, and others who have shown interest, wanted. We were informed that as the order came from the Secretary's Office, it could not be rescinded and their removal from here was to go ahead.

"Our suggestion then was that we take the boys into the latest cage in the camp, Cage 22, which has by far and away the best conditions yet provided, as we saw certain problems arising from the boys going to Magilligan. One, it is a camp holding young prisoners who are in jail for a variety of offences, most of which are purely criminal and not political, though we realise that there are also boys there who should have political status. However, we do not consider it to be an "improvement" on the conditions prevailing in Long Kesh. Two, it is eighty miles away from where the children concerned live and would entail great hardship both for them and their parents. Three, we see this attempted removal as a ploy on behalf of Whitelaw to forestall the mounting wave of revulsion that exists because children of this age are detained indefinitely.

"The boys were removed to Cage 22 on Friday morning, 26-10-73, and though they are still among older men, here an eye can be kept on them and their attendance to their studies can be ensured, but, and we would insist that for all those, teachers, school children, organisations and politicians who have demonstrated their abhorrence of these imprisonments, this is only a short term measure and that, as with all internment, we demand their unconditional release. In the cases of Alex Murphy, Kevin Donnelly and Seamus Hinnucane, we want them released now."

## OUR SHAME

A Chara,

The enclosed verses were inspired by the sight of a police car leading a jeep full of Free State soldiers out of the Monaghan Garda Station. Their errand? The watching, for England, of that Border for so long described by our Southern politicians as UNJUST, UN-NATURAL, IMMORAL, imposed by the threat of immediate and terrible war! The sight evoked a feeling of revulsion and contempt for the "leadership" that commits young Gardaí and soldiers to such an unholy and traitorous purpose.

Le gach dea-ghui,

M. O Cinneide.

If I were now to list the things  
That bring a blush to me  
My heart would break before the end  
Of my long litany.

The hundreds in the prison camps  
The Curragh and Mountjoy,  
Designed by Paddy Donegan  
Their spirits to destroy

And in the Glorious Northern land  
Long Kesh, that hole of Hell;  
The torment there endured by men  
Defies my pen to tell.

The Garda massed by Braggan's heights  
And Armagh's hills so fair,  
And soldiers in the once-proud green  
Their shameless allies there.

Ignoble is the work they do,  
They're England's lackeys all,  
Despised by every Irishman  
Who heeds his country's call.

I've seen them from their barracks go  
On their unholy quest,  
The fearless fighting Northern men  
To harry and arrest.

The awful deeds of treachery  
Of Lynch—who just forgot?  
Of Des O'Malley, Cruise O'Brien,  
Of Cosgrave and the lot.

Their cowardice caused brave men to die  
And suffer in this land  
In proud assertion of the things  
For which our people stand;  
Unfettered FREEDOM, HONESTY,  
The Heritage of Kings;  
That PRIDE and PEACE which is our right  
And only FREEDOM brings.

## Sale of ConcERNEd

DUE to increased production costs we are forced to request you, our readers, to increase your contribution to 5p per copy. This is the first increase we have sought in two years, though the cost of production has risen by more than 50%.

As we are well aware that many of our readers contribute 5p and 10p, we make this request to those who have been donating 2p. We regret having to make this appeal, but circumstances outside our control dictate it. We have no doubt, however, that it will be met by a generous response. May we take this opportunity of thanking you for your support in the past and hoping we can rely on it in the future.

After costs have been met any surplus monies will be donated to the Internees' Dependents' Fund.

## VARIETY CONCERT

in  
Parish Hall, Newtownbutler  
on

Monday, 5th November, 1973

Commencing 8.30 p.m.

ADMISSION 50p

Children—25p

Comper—CHARLIE McNALLY

## SWANLINBAR LAMENT

No drúas were heard,  
Nor anthem note,  
As our glasses from the counter we carried;  
Few were the words we spoke,  
We uttered a couple in sorrow,  
Silently thinking of heroes long gone  
And bitterly looking ahead to the great to-morrow.

We headed home in the dark of night,  
The lights from our headlights flashing;  
Mullan border was soon in sight,  
"Welcome to Fermanagh" the large sign was splashing.

Somewhere in the dark a drum was heard,  
Then a few bars of our anthem were aired;  
Were we still in Swanlinbar—or  
Had we reached the great tomorrow?

"Swaddy"

## GLEESON'S COMANDEERED HORSES

THE story goes that when Oliver Cromwell was going through Ireland with his plundering army he came to a long hill in North Tipperary called Cruaghshana Hill. His horses tried vainly to drag the heavy siege-artillery up the hill. So Cromwell at length commandeered other horses from the nearest Irish farm, which happened to belong to the Gleesons. The Irish horses pulled the guns over the top. Ever since that day, if you want to annoy a Gleeson, you have only to enquire if he is one of "the Gleeson helpers".

It is a long time since Cromwell stalked Irish soil and a long time since Gleeson was forced to hand over his horses, against his will, but the incident goes unforgotten.

### SDLP—THE UNCOMANDEERED HORSES

Oliver is gone, but another Cromwell stalks Irish soil. He came up against a similar problem—"the long haul". He did not, like his notorious antecedent, have to commandeer Irish horses; they volunteered. They offered their "pull" to get him to the top of the hill. Cromwell Whitelaw's horses (volunteers) are bipeds and are owned by one Gerry Fitt. The breed is known as the SDLP and are singularly strong pullers. But they are "weak in the mind" and I cannot see them reaching the top even though there is tempting "oats" if they can do it. Some of Gerry's horses are crossed with mules and if you know anything about mules you will know that that means they are "nothings". Do you get it?

### "ARE YOU ONE OF THE FITT HELPERS?"

Fifty years from now people will stop a Curry, Hume, O'Hanlon, Daly, Devlin, Larkin, etc., and ask you one of "the Fitt helpers"? If it is discovered that the unfortunates are indeed such, I fear very much the reaction will not be jocular. Gleeson's horses were commandeered by the first Cromwell. Gerry Fitt's horses are voluntary pullers of our Cromwell Whitelaw's load.

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## GAEILGE LINN

le SEAMUS ÉIRNE

THIS week we commence the first in a series of lessons in the Irish language. These are especially designed to help those who have little or no Irish themselves. It is essential, however, that each lesson should be carefully followed and repeated at intervals during the week in order to prepare for next week's work. To begin we can take a few simple words such as:

peann—pen  
doras—door  
stól—stool  
clár dubh—blackboard  
crínlín—desk  
glantóir—duster  
mála—bag  
peann luaidhe—pencil

Learn the above vocabulary.

Now study the following:

1. Is stól é sin—That is a stool
2. Ní peann é seo—This is not a pen
3. An mála é seo?—Is this a bag?
4. An peann é?—Is it a pen?
5. Cad é seo?—What is this?
6. Cad é sin?—What is that?
7. Is stól é—It is a stool
8. Ní peann é—It is not a pen

Next week I intend to give some oral exercises on the above lesson which will be most interesting.

In order that you should know the Irish version of places in Co. Fermanagh, I will give a few each week.

Aghalane—Achadh Leathan  
Ballinamallard—Béal Átha na Mallacht  
Ballindarragh—Baile na Dara  
Ballycassidy—Baile Uí Chaiside  
Belcoo—Béal Cú  
Bellanaleck—Bealach na Leice

After the eighth lesson I propose we have a little examination on your work. Details will be given in CONCERNED. This examination will be held before Christmas and there will be prizes, too.

If I can be of help in any way please contact me, Seamus Éirne, c/o 3 Queen St., Enniskillen.

## ROAD SCANDAL

THERE is a major road works in progress near Bernalleck. The road in question is the main Enniskillen-Belurbet link. The contractor has come up against many snags. The excavations required have reached a depth of almost 40 feet in places. The firm supplying the gravel had to purchase a limestone quarry in order to fulfil their commitments.

As a result of these road works one family are marooned in their home. The walls of their house are cracked. Another farmer is completely cut off. He has got to carry his milk cans across a swamp in order to contact the milk collection van. A garage owner has had to close down his garage without any compensation or help to support his wife and family. While this state of affairs exists a Co.C. is busy preparing for a tourist boom. In co-operation with the N.I. Tourist and Orange Board he is having part of his property thatched in traditional "olde English" style.

The great inconvenience in the area could have been avoided had the road by-passed Bernalleck village and over the nearby hills. This alternative route was vetoed by Fermanagh Co. Council. This infamous body could not leave the Councillor out in the cold. They were not concerned when it was a handful of Catholics who had to suffer.

The local so-called Nationalist newspaper, "The Fermanagh Herald", has given the road scheme much coverage recently. The "Herald" would be better employed if it helped to highlight the hardship imposed on the people of Bernalleck and the obvious political undertones surrounding the entire scheme.

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"For four years we have fought the only revolutionary war in Europe and, with the experience of the past and the resources of the present, we shall bring that struggle to a successful conclusion and our nation into the full light of freedom.

"Our struggle will be developed on a number of fronts. In the South, a vigorous campaign of political action will expose the quising policies of the Cosgrave-Corish regime. We warmly welcome the intensive programme of political education now under way in the organisation. The basic political, social and economic policies formulated for the New Ireland must be further developed and made known to the public as a credible alternative to the disastrous policies of the present regime.

"The Movement's stand on the EEC has been fully vindicated when we observe the appalling rise in the cost of living and the realisation by the public that they were tricked into a bad bargain by shortsighted politicians.

### VIGOROUS STREET POLITICS

"An immediate concern for Sinn Féin in the South is to wage a strong campaign of street politics on the issues of extradition, repressive legislation and the oppression within the jails, particularly the Curragh.

"The victory of the prisoners in Mountjoy must be shared by our comrades in the Curragh and, until decent conditions are conceded to them, the politicians must be confronted, day in and day out, in their homes, clinic and councils.

"Imprisonment, harassment and censorship must not deter us in putting our policies before the people and exposing the fascist regime of the 26 Counties state. A steady flow of material on Free State corruption is now being fed to various agencies in the United States, the Continent of Africa, and the sales of "Freedom Struggle" have passed 25,000 copies.

"The betrayal of the people's struggle by the SDLP must also be highlighted. Our northern comrades have repeatedly demonstrated the value of dynamic street politics and the role played by them during Michael Farrell's hunger strike made possible the epic victory secured.

"A grave responsibility now rests with Sinn Féin in the North to provide the political leadership which will lead the people of Ulster from the morass of spoils-sharing politics, beneficial for the few and disastrous for the many.

"We are confident that Sinn Féin will rise to the challenge of establishing the fact that a new Ulster parliament, based upon the old historic province, guarantees the best basis for harmonising diverse traditions and moving forward to the creation of a New Ireland.

### MAJOR OBJECTIVE

"We shall never see a New Ireland until the British make a commitment to leave our land. That is the major objective before the Republican Movement now. There are those who say it cannot be achieved; but these were the very people who said Stormont could not be abolished.

"It was abolished. We destroyed it and we shall go on to secure a British withdrawal. The full resources of the IRA will be directed towards that end and our forces will strike when and wherever it is deemed necessary, opportune and advantageous. We guarantee the British no peace until they commit themselves to leaving our country.

"We have defined our current major objective. Securing it will be a momentous turning point in almost 1,000 years of Irish history. Many generations have sought this valued prize; 120 of our comrades have paid the supreme sacrifice to achieve it.

"Our boys and girls, women and men, in British and Irish jails, remain steadfastly loyal in their determination to see an end to British rule. Above all, the people who have stuck, through thick and thin, with this Movement, have an implacable faith in our ability to achieve it.

"We will achieve it and give effect to the Declaration of Independence promulgated in the very room you now occupy, by the only legitimate and lawful government ever established in this country.

"The authority of that Government is vested in the Republican Movement and enhanced by the God-given right of this nation to full freedom and sovereignty. Let us go forward with confidence to fulfill the historic task for which this great Movement was founded."