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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 154

Saturday, 7th September (De Sathairn, 7 Mean Fomhair), 1974

The Politics of Make Believe

AT the present time the Cosgrave Government in Dublin are acting rather in the manner of an imminent bankrupt trying to dodge his creditors. In the face of a rapidly deteriorating political situation in the Six Counties they preserve a tomb-like silence. The story from Cosgrave's publicity department is that the 26-County Government is maintaining a "low profile" (an asinine cliché in common use nowadays to denote that nothing at all is being done) in order not to exacerbate a potentially explosive situation. Off the record, political correspondents are being given a most improbable story that Cosgrave & Co. are engaged in the most intense diplomatic activity and putting strong pressure on the British Government to take a strong line with the extreme Loyalist elements in the Six Counties. Nobody at all is "buying" this story, and it is generally dismissed as a load of rubbish and a clumsy attempt to cover up their masterly inactivity.

The plain facts of the case are that Cosgrave and his Government have no policy at all for solving the problem. In fact, their so-called policy is to sit on their individual and collective posteriors and wait for Britain's next move. When that happens they will immediately seek a meeting with the British and offer some minor criticisms and amendments. This is what has been happening since 1970 and it amounts to a supine endorsement of British policy, however stupid and ill-advised, for the Six Counties.

NO POLICY, LITTLE INTEREST

...Unfortunately at the moment the Six Counties is not high on Harold Wilson's list of priorities, and he seems in no particular hurry to formulate a positive policy or face up to the wild men on the Loyalist side. This places the 26 County Government in a very embarrassing situation, and shows a downright lack of consideration on Wilson's part for their plight. After all, if the British Government refuses, or is not sufficiently concerned, to enunciate some kind of positive yet plausible policy for the Six Counties, Cosgrave & Co. will find themselves in the awful position of having to devise a policy of their own and come up with some definite proposals for a final solution. It is not really fair for the British Government to thrust such responsibility on them. Political pygmies should not be expected to devise solutions which require vision, leadership and the kind of courage necessary for an end to the turmoil in the Six Counties.

At all times in the past the 26 County Government has been most accommodating in giving effect to British proposals and it is rather a dirty

trick on Wilson's part to leave them in their present position. He knows very well that they really don't want a united Ireland on a federal basis. It would change the balance of political power in Ireland for all times and endanger their political future. Surely, they say, Harold understands their position and would not do anything to endanger it, by threatening to withdraw from Ireland and leave them holding the baby. It simply does not bear thinking about. If he has a shred of decency in him, say Cosgrave & Co., he will knock that shower of Loyalist heads together, tell them that the solution is a form of power-sharing, whether they like it or not, and get us (Cosgrave & Co.) off the hook. However, Wilson has other fish to fry at the moment, and trying to ease Cosgrave's position is the least of his worries.

THE NORTH—A POLITICAL FOOTBALL

A further source of worry and embarrassment to the 26 County Government at the moment arises from the new attitude of Fianna Fail, the opposition party. The latter are every bit as conservative and reactionary in their policies as Cosgrave's lot and have serious difficulty in trying to unearth issues on which to oppose Cosgrave. In a spurious attempt to try and con the public into thinking that they have a policy of their own on the Six Counties (which they have not) they are urging Cosgrave to adopt a "get tough" policy with the British and threatening to end the bipartisan agreement which they have with Cosgrave. This is, of course, an entirely agreed ploy by Fianna Fail, as they carried on in the same subservient way as Cosgrave when they were in office. They are berating the latter at the moment for pursuing non-policies and this attitude, it would appear, is based solely on jealousy. Fianna Fail, despite all their grandiose talk about "not standing idly by" and "second guarantors" were the originators of the non-policy on the Six Counties. As such, they feel that they have the sole rights to such "non-policies" and are deeply annoyed at the fact that Cosgrave is stealing their clothes, so to speak. Like the latter, they are not prepared to adopt a forthright attitude with Britain or make realistic approaches to the Northern majority. They are merely content to abrogate their responsibilities and sheepishly follow any expedient policy devised by the British.

LOYALIST SPLIT ON "THIRD FORCE"

The babel of dissension amongst Loyalist and Unionist elements grows louder by the hour. Paisley, Craig, Taylor and West are covertly sup-

porting the establishment of a "Third Force" (an armed Protestant militia). The determination on the part of the Ulster Defence Association, Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Workers' Council not to be exploited by Craig, etc., and their avowed intention to represent themselves politically has sent a shiver of fear through the political demagogues. After all, without the support of the working-class Loyalist, Paisley, Craig and Taylor carry very little political "muscle". The establishment of a "Third Force" similar to the disbanded B-Specials in the rural areas of the Six Counties would give them the kind of militant "back-up" necessary for their political survival. The Ulster Defence Association, etc., are strongly opposed to the proposed "Third Force" because they see it as a divisive force among the Loyalist working class and a further attempt by careerist politicians to carry on the exploitation of gullible Loyalists for their own selfish ends. Momentarily the wind has been taken out of their sails by the proposed enlargement of the UDR and RUC Reserve.

SDLP—A DEPENDENCY PROBLEM

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic and Labour Party continue in their desperate attempts to regain their political position. Driven to desperation by the deliberate waffling of Rees, they flew to London and saw Heath and Thorpe. Wilson gave them the cold shoulder and so they flew to Dublin looking for reassurances. They are suffering from what psychiatrists call a "dependency problem" and Dublin and London are a poor dependence. Mr. Gerry Fitt, as always, assures the public that he "has made his position crystal-clear" to Wilson, Heath, etc. Unfortunately, his trouble is that the latter two gentlemen, in company with Cosgrave, are deliberately not making their position clear. And so the circus goes on and on.

As a further and more recent confirmation of what the Dublin Government think of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Mr. John Kelly, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Cosgrave, said in a radio interview on 27th August, 1974, and we quote:

"The Government here had its own perspective of the Northern situation, and it was a unified one . . . the Social Democratic and Labour Party was not a uniform party and their statements were not uniform; certain individuals in that Party were always ready to shoot their mouths off, etc. The Dublin Government acts irrespective of what the Social Democratic and Labour Party or anyone else wants."

That Magnificent Escape

THE biggest search operation ever in Ireland was undertaken after the great escape of nineteen Republicans held in the Portlaoise prison fortress in the "Free" State. Thousands of soldiers and police combed out the whole Leinster area south of Dublin.

All Co. Wexford was systematically searched, leaving hardly a house or blade of grass untouched from Tuesday (20th) to Thursday (22nd). About 4,000 heavily-armed soldiers took part in the search. At the same time roadblocks were set up right across the centre of the country.

On Friday (23rd) Co. Wicklow was combed. Then on Saturday (24th) the Southern navy was called in and patrolled the whole South-East coast. On land the searching thousands, armed to the teeth and accompanied by vicious dogs were replaced in relays by thousands more. Armoured cars and helicopters were also in full use. But all to no avail. Midway through the week the soldiers and policemen were fagged out. The South-East terrain, composed of heavily wooded fences, deep drains and woodland, could provide cover for any army of men. The "Free State" forces were reduced to searching it field by field, covert by covert. And there were grumbles from the men on the ground. By mid-day they were fairly certain that the fugitives had long gone but, just in case, the search had to be completed. A young policeman, sprawled in a ditch after 34 hours' continuous duty, remarked:

"What amazes me is that the officers in both the army and police realise that these things (searches) are futile, and still they go on." A soldier's comment was shorter and earthier.

THE PEOPLE RISE TO THE OCCASION

Meanwhile, the local people throughout Wexford and Wicklow were active. Police headquarters were jammed with bogus calls, sending them on one wild goose chase after another. Footsore and dejected, "Free" State forces were met with the grinning faces of the people, elated at the escape. The usual stories were told, jokes circulated and even the new songs were spontaneously composed.

The bridges along the roads were daubed with slogans reading "Brits out". And on a signpost not a mile from where the men were thought to be hiding on Wednesday, someone had written in blue marker pen: "Up the Provos. We were here, all 19 of us."

WILD AND INACCURATE STATEMENTS

Driven to desperation by the futility of the whole affair, police and army chiefs began to issue wild statements. As late as Saturday (24th) a police statement claimed that they would surely catch the Republicans. One boasted "definite lead" followed another, but the only results were loud complaints of hunger and weariness from the searching horde of soldiers and police. In a last wild statement on Saturday, armoured cars, soldiers and helicopters, secret police and uniformed police, were sent out combing the countryside in Co. Donegal, at the other end of the country. But again, nothing.

The full cost of the search has now topped the £200,000 mark, a disgraceful exercise in paying Irish taxpayers' money to support and uphold the British murder squads, North and South. This while unemployment and poverty is rife in Ireland.

BAN ON FOOD IN PRISONS

The latest move by the Southern Government is a permanent ban on all food parcels going into all prisons throughout the state.

The Government statement announcing the ban—which takes immediate effect—said no evidence was yet available as to how the explosives

used in the Portlaoise escape were smuggled in and it admitted such evidence "may be impossible to uncover". The statement continued:

"There can be no absolute guarantee that such parcels cannot be used as a means of sending in small quantities of explosives concealed in, or disguised as food."

In view of the latest escape, it said, the risk involved was no longer regarded as being acceptable and the privilege was now withdrawn. The ending of food parcels was to apply to prisoners generally and not only to Portlaoise, the Government Information Service statement emphasised.

REPUBLICAN COMMENT

So in the crowded prisons all prisoners can now hope for is the sub-standard "food" offered them by the Fascist Government. Mr. Ruairi O Bradaigh, President of Provisional Sinn Féin, described the latest Government moves as "mean and petty victimisation and collective punishment".

"Are we now to witness a British-style gradual

whittling away of the rights of political treatment so dearly won over the past few years?" he said.

The following statement was issued on 26th August by the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau and signed P. O'Neill, Secretary:

"The Government ban on food parcels to political and other prisoners is causing great concern within the jails. There is a real possibility of trouble erupting inside prisons over this measure, which is childish, spiteful, and purely vindictive. Though a greater number of escapes have taken place in the North than in the South, the British have not impeded the supply of food parcels. Even Nazi Germany, at the height of its terror, permitted food gifts to P.O.W.s. The extra food is essential for the welfare of all prisoners as the prison diet is inadequate from a health viewpoint. The Republican Movement calls on public bodies and the general public to protest against the punitive policies of the Government. The events of the last week demonstrated the practical concern of the general public for prisoners, escaped or otherwise."



"I'm afraid he's out."

THE THIRD FORCE

AS a further concession to the hard-line Unionists the British Government are willing to allow any and every type of criminal into the so-called security forces.

Be they male or female, long or short, eighteen or eighty a place and uniform will be found for them. Already there has been much amusement at the unsightly and uniformed objects roaming the streets in the uniform of police. Many is the lad has had a good laugh at the broad based, bow legged and knock kneed females in the UDR, but what sights will be seen from now on! They should be a great tourist attraction.

If ever a man set out to destroy a police force, Merlyn Rees would seem to have this in mind. The sight of the objects who will be appearing as police from now on will completely undermine the morale of the professional RUC man. One can imagine the assumed importance of these latter-day recruits, each one seeing himself as a Sherlock Holmes.

For the average decent citizen all respect for the law enforcement agencies must completely disappear as the whole spectacle unfolds itself.

Imagine a law abiding person being forced to submit to being searched by some pickpocket or other.

Of course, the real aim of Rees is to placate the self-seeking career politicians such as Baird, Craig, West, Taylor and Paisley and by giving them this sop hope to stem their demands for the so-called Third Force publicly. Rees has admitted he does not expect the Nationalist population to join in this new expanded wing of the "security forces". In other words he does not give a damn whether they do or not. His contempt for the collaborators of the SDLP is now showing very clear indeed.

All these latest developments point to one thing and that is that the Nationalist community must get rid of the traitors and self seekers who have posed as their leaders and spokesmen and throw their weight firmly behind those who are seeking to smash the British connection and the Northern sectarian statelet. Only in a United Federal Ireland free from British interference and domination can true peace, justice and freedom for all Irish people be found.

Time To Recall

DURING the debate on the amendment to the Offences Against the State Act in the Southern Parliament on 1st December, 1972, many remarkable statements were made. The Amendment Act was introduced to jail Republicans; no evidence is necessary, just the mere opinion of a police superintendent that the person is guilty is taken as conclusive evidence which carries a minimum sentence of one year's imprisonment under the present government. Of particular interest at this time are the contributions to the debate made by leading members of the present Coalition Cabinet.

The notorious piece of legislation was passed as the Fianna Fail Government was tottering through its last months of office. The Bill was bitterly opposed, from its introduction, by all members of the present Coalition, but shortly after British agents planted two bombs in the centre of Dublin, killing two people and injuring hundreds, the Fine Gael faction of the Coalition meekly followed Fianna Fail into the division lobby.

Three months later the Coalition Government of Labour and Fine Gael came to power and instead of immediately repealing this piece of legislation, which they found so objectionable while in opposition, they set about implementing it with an enthusiasm comparable to the notorious reign in the twenties of the previous Fine Gael Government headed by the late father of the present Prime Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF "JUSTICE"

Mr. Paddy Cooney, the present Southern Minister for Justice, wanted to know how the (then) Minister for Justice, Mr. O'Malley, could come into parliament and ask to support a Bill the equal of which could only be found on the statute books of South Africa. "He is asking this Parliament to pass a piece of legislation described rightly in our amendment as repugnant to the basic principles of justice and liberty."

Since coming to power Mr. Cooney's political principles have gone into a steady decline, calling for people to inform on the IRA, stop contributing financial aid to the dependants of relatives of those in jail and threatening to close down friendly houses who harbour men "on the run", i.e. evictions.

DEPARTMENT OF "DEFENCE"

Mr. Paddy Donegan, the Southern Minister for Defence, thought there was "much that was unnecessary and excessive in the Bill and that it was repugnant to the basic principles of justice and liberty and the long established fundamental rights of citizens". Mr. Donegan's reference to the "fundamental rights of citizens" was indeed ironic as he himself had been convicted by a Southern Court a short time earlier for discharging a loaded shotgun at some itinerants who had an encampment adjoining his land.

DEPARTMENT OF "FOREIGN" AFFAIRS"

Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, the Cabinet's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said: "It is a very bad Bill. There are aspects of this Bill which are totally objectionable to this party and which we will not accept. Unless the Government back down, we will be voting against them." Garrett Fitzgerald is a close friend and ally of Conor Cruise O'Brien and shares many of that individual's fascist views on Irish culture, censorship and the manipulation of the media, plus a pathological hatred of Republicans.

DEPARTMENT OF "FINANCE"

The Cabinet's Finance Minister, Mr. Ritchie Ryan, roundly condemned the Bill as being "bad, evil, oppressive, dangerous, excessive and open to abuse". He said that "Section 3 of the Bill was tantamount to internment, and using the courts as a camouflage for the government's intentions".

LABOUR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Brendan Corish, Leader of the Labour Party and Deputy Prime Minister, also Minister for Health in the Coalition Cabinet, said that the kernel of the Bill was that it was a drastic departure from the rule of law that a person could be deemed guilty into he could prove himself innocent.

Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien said that "the Bill did not support law, but in fact brought it into disrepute, because it compelled the court to convict people without what would be regarded as evidence in common law".

He then went on to say that he could not possibly support it without utterly discrediting himself and that "this law could be on the statute books for a very long time if a new government coming into office did not repeal it".

The blasé arrogance and blank refusal of these seven leading Government Ministers to repeal this reprehensible piece of legislation leaves no doubt in the minds of all nationally minded people concerning the Dublin Government's policy on Northern Ireland. The maintenance of two fascist statelets is now part and parcel of Free State (Southern Government) policy and the cynical utterances of Conor Cruise O'Brien and Garret Fitzgerald reflect more and more their hatred and contempt for people North or South of this island who aspire to a united Ireland, free from British interference.

NEWRY BLACKOUT

AS the Newry power crisis, now in its third week, continues, a stalemate exists between Newry Provisional IRA Command and the British Army. The cynical exploitation of this dispute by the Social Democratic and Labour Party is a desperate effort to rehabilitate their political credibility and must now be seen for the shabby posturing which it was.

The Provisional IRA have for long been a thorn in their side, a reminder of the broken promises on internment, on no talks, etc. They calculated that if the people were made to suffer sufficiently, and if that suffering was presented by means of SDLP statements and interviews backed by British Army handouts as caused by Provisional intransigence and stupidity, then the people would denounce, reject and hand over the Provisionals to the British Army. In the event this proved to be a costly miscalculation by the Social Democratic and Labour Party. The British Army dug in its heels and showered the housing estates with anti-Provisional literature. The local SDLP men, O'Hanlon and Feeley, spared no effort in their anti-Provisional campaign.

On the evening of 15th August things started to go wrong for Feeley and O'Hanlon when they had to call off an anti-Provisional meeting because support was not forthcoming from the people. At this stage anti-British Army feeling was hardening as people realised that one had to come down on either the side of the British or the Provisionals.

In accordance with the wishes of the people of Newry the Provisional IRA are demanding the return of control of the town's lighting to the Electricity Board. The dispute arose initially after the arrival in the area of a regiment of the Royal Commandos, who seized control of the town's power supplies and habitually plunged the Nationalist areas of the town into darkness. This has so far resulted in several fatal road accidents in the town and residents claim this terror tactic has led to rampant intimidation of the people by this regiment.

The Northern Ireland Office has offered to hand back control of lighting in the outlying housing estates, but insist that the British Army maintains control of power in the town.

The attitude of the Northern Ireland Office was crystallised in their statement which says "At no time would we place at risk the lives of British soldiers". At no stage in their statement did they refer to the many civilian deaths which so far have been caused in the town by their tactic.

The Provisionals described the Army offer to confine its control of street lighting to the centre of the town as "totally unacceptable; the people of all classes and creeds are 100 per cent behind us". The statement continued that once control of street lighting was handed back to the Electricity Service, workmen would be free to fix the faults which have blacked out the town. It was not their wish to leave people without power or lights, but the British Army offered no way out of the stalemate.

The statement added: "The street lighting belongs to the people of Newry by right and should not have to be begged and bargained for as some sort of concession from England."

The Northern Ireland Office could end the dispute in five minutes by acceding to this simple request.

EVICTIION OF FR. CONNOLLY

IT is with great sadness that I learned that Fr. Michael Connolly is being evicted from his home in Wolverhampton. The home and church which he built were very largely completed with the help of the Wolverhampton Irish community.

Quite clearly Irish Catholics have nothing in common with their English counterparts.

—B. K. O'DONOVAN

94 Jardine Crescent,
Tile Hill North,
Coventry.

LONG KESH

The Iniquity of Internment

August 9th 1971 — August 9th 1974



Compiled by

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with some material of the Association of Legal Justice

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PROCEEDS TO HELP INTERNEES

AN EXILE'S VIEW

NOT since the days of the Black and Tans have we watched the so-called Security Forces in the 26 County statelet get themselves into such a panic as the result of the Portlaoise escape. Their every move has been a good laugh—much better than Dad's Army on TV.

We were told that Lord Mountbatten will be well protected by crack units who are second to none in finding subversives and as an additional precaution a helicopter is always available. I wonder who pays the bill for his Lordship's protection? I guess the poor Irish taxpayer.

Our eyes were diverted with avid interest towards Tralee last week to await the arrival of some £200 million of hush money from Fenit. We were shown armed troops in the town. I wonder who or what they were supposed to be protecting?—could it be the illicit gains of some near-bankrupt English company or were they bolting before nationalisation? If so the forces of law and order in the South are not averse to condoning robbery on a massive scale. Or do we have shades of Casement at Banna Strand?

Then came the story of how Free State troopers gallantly shot down an innocent man on his way home after a drink in Co. Monaghan. We were then told an enquiry will take place—in private, of course. I have no doubt that the criminal will receive the appropriate award in due course—like a neighbour of mine who was raised to the rank of corporal for shooting a donkey.

Later last week a further laugh was added to the men when we were told Paddy-the-transome Donegan's fleet was on full alert for escaping Provos—they were probably en route to the Isle of Man to meet the leaders who are assumed to be living it up there.

A word of advice to Cooney: please call in little Des O'Malley. I am told he is in training for a return to his former post if Jack the lackey Lynch returns to power.

Now it's time to leave the laughable and lamentable South and look northwards. We see the open mobilisation of the ex-B-Specials continuing apace, with the benevolent approval of the British Government.

It is a well known fact that Merlyn Rees is God's gift to the Craig-West-Paisley consortium. We were treated to a photograph of Mrs. Rees on a harassment patrol in Catholic Andersonstown: very good appeasement propaganda for the so-called Loyalists as the process of disengagement is set in motion with the approval of all parties.

One wonders how stupid the SDLP can get. Poor Gerry Fitt came to see Wilson, but as Harold was on holidays and could not be bothered he was told to see Merlyn Rees. But alas he was also on holidays—so much, Gerry, for the good old days in the Irish Club when your pal was in opposition. You should know by now that you and your party are of no further use to the British political parties—they do not trust you. Seeing the illusion of power in the so-called Executive you betrayed the minority in Northern Ireland for 30 pieces of English silver. I wonder if you will have the effrontery to present yourself to the people again. Please don't. Return to sea. I am sure Paddy Donegan could fit you up in his fleet—to patrol the eastern section of Ireland.

MRS. TERESA KELLY

THE courage of Mrs. Teresa Kelly (wife of Patsy Kelly, the murdered Community Councillor) in putting herself forward to fill the vacancy caused by her husband's death is to be admired by all.

By offering to continue the great work he did Mrs. Kelly is showing great love and devotion to her husband, and indeed no greater memorial could be raised to his memory. She also shows she possesses the great Christian spirit for which Patsy was so well known. Her action will be a source of inspiration to the oppressed and the suffering.

Once again an Irish mother has shown the courage and fidelity of her race.

FORTRESS BLASTED

DURING the past week the fortress which housed the British Army, RUC and UDR in the village of Kinawley was bombed and destroyed by the Irish Republican Army. The blast was heard over most of Fermanagh and a great feeling of jubilation spread throughout the Nationalist community at the news. Kinawley RUC barracks had become notorious for the villains and ruffians who skulked and sheltered behind its massive fortifications.

From this fortress sallied forth the British Army in army vehicles, in unmarked vans and even in stolen cars to terrorise the people of the locality by selective searches, photography and arrests.

Many a family discovered one of these thugs concealed in a haggard or hedge observing their every move. Many is the call that Jim Murphy and Louis Leonard (RIP) had from these same monsters, and many is the time both men had been taken to Kinawley barracks on one excuse or another.

From this same barracks came the uniformed louts who harassed the neighbours and friends of Jim Murphy after his murder and particularly on the day of his wake.

It was at this barracks that another local discovered his car which had been stolen months before from outside his own house. To his amazement he discovered it was being driven by plain clothes British Army men.

The sectarian UDR attached to this barracks had earned themselves a reputation for bully boy tactics such as knocking out teeth from a teenage boy with a rifle butt. In the past people have been held up and deliberately delayed on their way to and from Mass.

Well armed swaggering bullies have on more occasions than one forced their way into the local Parish Hall during dances and other functions.

Is it any wonder then that there is such widespread joy at the disappearance of these terrorists' cover, and many is the local who has blessed the hands which helped to remove it.

Kinawley is the richer for the loss of this evil den.

HOW TO ACHIEVE A LASTING PEACE

THE only way to a lasting peace in "Occupied Ulster" is the emergence of a Nine-County Ulster, along the lines of Eire Nua, according to the former head of the African S.A.S. during the Second World War, and the General in Charge of anti-IRA activities during the 1956-1962 campaign, Sir John Hackett.

In an interview published in the London magazine Time Out, Sir John said that the discontent which led to the Provisional IRA units taking to the streets must be studied and an attempt made to solve it before any peace can come to the North. He said the real chance for lasting peace in the North was missed by the British Government in 1962 when the IRA signed a peace pact ending their campaign.

"In the years after that there was an opportunity to investigate the real cause, but it was missed. I was more and more restless, observing the failure to use that breathing space to study and put right the underlying cause of disorder and I could see it all building up again."

He went on to say that army morale would not break down entirely, but that discipline has become hard and will become harder to maintain.

"The job which the Army are doing in Northern Ireland is not the job for which soldiers were recruited and trained. The fact that they have to do it does not make it any easier to maintain standards of efficiency," he said.

BRITISH ARMY THUGGERY

REPORTS of British Army harassment came from many parts of the county over the past few weeks. In the Garrison area people have been prevented from returning to their homes after Mass. Lunatic soldiers deliberately damaged cars of people attending Mass at Cashel. One mad Saracen driver knocked down a telephone pole. The local priest was held up and prevented from going on a sick call. People held at "road checks" have been asked such non-important questions as their age and have been told by either drunk or drugged soldiers they would have their heads blown off if they refused to answer.

In the Trillick area the family and friends of Patsy Kelly are being harassed by the British Army—so much for the efforts of the "security forces" to find his murderers. And this is the army the SDLP is begging to remain in this part of Ireland.

POWELL "FOR GOD AND ULSTER"

NOBODY was surprised at the announcement of Enoch Powell's nomination as the Official Unionist candidate for South Down in the forthcoming Imperial Elections. For some time now Powell has been playing with the Orange Unionist fascist faction here. A fair deal of water has flowed around Enniskillen since the West-Cooper outfit first invited Enoch to address the faithful in the old Regal. His speech on that night did not altogether please them, especially his bit about full integration. They saw in his proposals the danger of losing "the Protestant Parliament for a Protestant people". Powell has changed little since then in his political outlook with regard to the Irish Six Counties, but at this stage a marriage of convenience would suit him as the dowry of a Westminster seat appeals greatly to him. Yet the marriage could prove to be an unhappy and troublesome one, for not all Unionists have agreed to attend the wedding or give the contracting parties their blessing.

BRITAIN FOOTS THE BILL

SEVERAL hundred letters were sent by the Provisional IRA, Derry Brigade, last week in envelopes captured from the enemy. The envelopes marked OHMS (meaning On Her Majesty's Service) contained a circular asking citizens of Derry to help save lives and combat British terrorism by reporting all enemy movements to their local Provisional Army Intelligence Officer.

British Army chiefs and Derry postal authorities were nonplussed last week by this new and resourceful move on the part of the Derry Provisionals.

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